

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512  
www.energy.ca.gov

**DOCKET****07-AFC-5**DATE 03/17/10RECD. 03/17/10

March 17, 2010

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM FOR  
THE PROPOSED IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT  
(07-AFC-5)**

The enclosed Final Staff Assessment Addendum (FSA Addendum) contains the California Energy Commission staff's updated final engineering and environmental evaluation of the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) Application for Certification (07-AFC-5).

On February 11, 2010, the applicant filed a biological mitigation proposal referred to as Mitigated Ivanpah 3. Mitigated Ivanpah 3 is primarily designed to mitigate impacts to special-status plants to a level that is less than significant as staff recommended in its Condition of Certification BIO-18 of the Final Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FSA/DEIS) published on November 4, 2009.

The purpose of this Final Staff Assessment Addendum (FSA Addendum) is to update Energy Commission staff's analysis of the ISEGS project inclusive of the Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal from that presented in the FSA/DEIS. The FSA Addendum conforms with the Energy Commission's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, while Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be separately preparing a DEIS Supplement to conform with its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Energy Commission's ISEGS Committee will hear the various parties' views on this FSA Addendum, and the overall Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal in an Evidentiary Hearing scheduled for March 22, 2010 beginning at 9:30 AM in Hearing Room A of the California Energy Commission in Sacramento. The hearing has been noticed separately and the public and agencies are welcome to offer comments either in-person or by phone.

As background, the applicant filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) on August 31, 2007, seeking permission to develop the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project. The applicant filed four right-of-way (ROW) applications with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the ISEGS project on August 29, 2007. BrightSource Energy, Inc. (BrightSource), is a technology and development company and the parent company of the four limited liability companies. The applicant will use BrightSource's solar thermal technology to develop ISEGS. The four ROW applications filed by BrightSource are for projects that are designed and intended to operate while sharing certain common areas and facilities.

**Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Preliminary Findings**

The updated analysis of project-related direct and indirect impacts within this FSA Addendum shows that, with the exception of Visual Resources, the ISEGS project's

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potential direct and indirect impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level. With respect to Visual Resources, staff believes the direct impacts to Visual Resources remain significant and unmitigable to existing scenic resource values as seen from three Key Observation Points in the Ivanpah Valley and Clark Mountains. With respect to Biological Resources, staff believes that the direct and indirect impacts of the project on special-status plant species would be mitigated to a less than significant level with the Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal combined with staff's recommended mitigation in Condition of Certification BIO-18. Prior to receiving the applicant's Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal, staff concluded in the FSA/DEIS that the direct and indirect impacts to special-status plants from the project as previously proposed were significant and unmitigable.

Staff's analysis has also identified cumulative impacts which are significant and unmitigable in the areas of Land Use, Traffic and Transportation, and Visual Resources. With respect to Land Use, impacts of the ISEGS project would combine with impacts of present and reasonably foreseeable projects to result in a contribution to cumulative impacts in the Ivanpah Valley area related to land use which would be significant with respect to CEQA. Impacts of the ISEGS project would also combine with the potential impacts of reasonably foreseeable renewable energy projects in the Southern California Mojave desert to result in significant and unmitigable regional cumulative impacts related to Land Use. With respect to Traffic and Transportation, staff has determined that with the implementation of the Traffic Control Plan required by proposed Condition of Certification **TRANS-1**, construction and operation of the ISEGS would not cause a direct significant impact on northbound I-15 on Friday afternoons, but would contribute to a cumulatively considerable significant impact on northbound I-15 on Friday afternoons.

Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to John Kessler, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679 or [jkessler@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:jkessler@energy.state.ca.us). The status of the project, an electronic copy of the AFC, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah/index.html>

Sincerely,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
EILEEN ALLEN, Office Manager  
Energy Facilities Siting Program

Enclosure

Mailed to list:  
7257 - Agency



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT  
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
FOR THE *IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING SYSTEM*

DOCKET No. 07-AFC-5  
PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 3/11/10)

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on March 17, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached, Agency Leter for the Ivanpah Final Staff Assessment Addendum, dated March 17, 2010. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah)].

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

*(Check all that Apply)*

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery;
- by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

**AND**

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

- sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

**OR**

- depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-5  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
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[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Original Signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Santourdjian