



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
**RIDGECREST SOLAR
POWER PROJECT**

DOCKET No. 09-AFC-9

DOCKET
09-AFC-9

DATE AUG 27 2010

RECD. AUG 27 2010

**REVISED SCHEDULING ORDER
AND
ORDER GRANTING APPLICANT'S REQUEST TO CONDUCT A TWO-YEAR
BIOLOGICAL STUDY**

By a letter dated June 30, 2010, applicant Solar Millennium LLC (Applicant) asked the Energy Commission and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to suspend their respective proceedings related to the Applicant's proposed Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP). The Applicant specifically asked for a two-year suspension to further analyze connectivity of the Mojave Ground Squirrel (MGS) on, and in the vicinity of, the RSPP site.

On July 8, 2010, the Committee conducted a Mandatory Status Conference that included discussion of the Applicant's June 30 request and its possible impact of a two-year suspension on Commission and BLM processes and resources. Thereafter, by a letter dated July 13, 2010, the Applicant amended the June 30 suspension request and instead asked the Energy Commission and BLM to allow the proceedings to continue with modified scheduling milestones to accommodate the two-year MGS study.

In a status report dated August 4, 2010, Energy Commission staff (Staff) advised the RSPP Committee that it has no objection to the Applicant's July 13 request and will coordinate a workshop to include BLM, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to discuss the proposed MGS study. By a letter dated August 9, 2010, BLM granted the Applicant's request to complete the two-year MGS study.

Thus, for good cause shown, the Committee hereby **GRANTS** the Applicant's request to modify the AFC scheduling milestones to accommodate the two-year MGS study.

The Committee further **ORDERS** that:

- (1) The Revised Committee Schedule dated June 8, 2010, be vacated and superseded by the attached Revised Committee Schedule;
- (2) All RSPP communications involving Staff shall continue to be subject to statutory and regulatory ex parte requirements. All written communications with Staff shall be docketed and in-person and telephone communications with Staff shall be summarized in docketed records of conversation; and
- (3) The parties, including any intervenors, shall submit quarterly status reports to the Committee on or before the last day of September, December, March, and June, commencing with September 2010, until such time that the Committee orders otherwise.

Dated: August 26, 2010, at Sacramento, California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James D. Boyd", written over a horizontal line.

JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Ridgecrest Solar AFC Committee

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Eggert", written over a horizontal line.

ANTHONY EGGERT
Commissioner and Associate Member
Ridgecrest Solar AFC Committee

**REVISED
COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
FOR THE
RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT
(09-AFC-9)**

ACTIVITY	DATE
Commission's determination that AFC is complete	11/18/09
Staff files Data Requests	12/22/09
Staff files Issues Identification Report	12/23/09
Technical staff receive final comments and conditions from appropriate agencies	1/4/10-1/10/10
Energy Commission Informational Hearing/Site Visit and BLM Public Scoping Meeting	1/5/10
Applicant provides Data Responses	1/22/10
Data Response and Issue Resolution workshops	As needed
Local, state and federal agency draft determinations AQMD files PDOC	2/18/10 and after
Mandatory Status Conference	2/24/10
CEC Publishes and Files SA/DEIS	3/26/10
EPA Publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) for SA/DEIS in Federal Register (90-day comment period begins)	4/9/10
BLM Submits Biological Assessment (BA) to USFWS	4/21/10
Staff Assessment Workshops/DEIS Public Meetings	4/22/10 – 4/23/10
Mandatory Status Conference	4/27/10
Staff Assessment Workshops/DEIS Public Meetings (Biological Resources)	5/3/10 – 5/4/10
Mandatory Status Conference	5/17/2010
Staff Assessment Comment Period Ends	5/21/10
Staff Assessment Workshops/DEIS Public Meetings (Biological Resources)	June 2010
Mandatory Status Conference	7/8/10
Staff Assessment Workshops/DEIS Public Meetings (Biological Resources)	July 2010
Workshop re the Applicant's Proposed Mojave Ground Squirrel Connectivity Study	TBD
Applicant Prepares for and Conducts Two-Year Mojave Ground Squirrel Connectivity Study	Completed by Spring 2013

ACTIVITY	DATE
AQMD files FDOC	TBD
BA Determined adequate by USFWS	TBD
USFWS issues Biological Opinion (90 days after consultation initiated) and Incidental Take Statement	TBD
EPA Publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) for FEIS in Federal Register	TBD
BLM Plan Amendment Protest Period Ends	TBD
Expedited Governor's review period ends	TBD
CEC Publishes Revised Staff Assessment	TBD
BLM Resolution Period Ends (assuming protest was filed)	TBD
Prehearing Conference and Evidentiary Hearings	TBD
Presiding Members Proposed Decision (PMPD) - Issued for 30-Day Comment Period	TBD
Committee Hearing on PMPD	TBD
BLM Record of Decision/Right of Way (ROD/ROW) issued	TBD
BLM Notice to Proceed	TBD
Commission Decision	TBD

Dated: August 25, 2010

TBD – To be Determined.



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For the *RIDGECREST SOLAR*
*POWER PROJECT***

Docket No. 09-AFC-9

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 7/9/2010)**

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ENERGY COMMISSION

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maggie Read, declare that on, August 27, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Revised Scheduling Order & Order Granting Applicant's Request to Conduct a Two-Year Biological Study, dated August 26, 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: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_ridgecrest].

The document has 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. 09-AFC-9

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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:

Maggie Read
Hearing Adviser's Office