

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



February 4, 2010

DOCKET**09-AFC-9**

DATE FEB 04 2010

REC'D FEB 04 2010

Billy Owen, Senior Project Manager
Solar Millennium LLC
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709

**RE: RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT (09-AFC-9), DATA REQUESTS
SET 3**

Mr. Owens:

Pursuant to Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Section 1716, the California Energy Commission staff seeks the information specified in the enclosed data requests. The information requested is necessary to: 1) more fully understand the project, 2) assess whether the facility will be constructed and operated in compliance with applicable regulations, 3) assess whether the project will result in significant environmental impacts, 4) assess whether the facilities will be constructed and operated in a safe, efficient and reliable manner, and 5) assess potential mitigation measures.

This set of data requests is being made in the areas of Cultural Resources, Noise, and Traffic and Transportation. Written responses to the enclosed data requests are due to the Energy Commission staff on or before March 4, 2010 or at such later date as may be mutually agreeable.

If you are unable to provide the information requested, need additional time, or object to providing the requested information, you must send a written notice to both the Committee and me within 20 days of receipt of this notice. The notification must contain the reasons for not providing the information, the need for additional time, and the grounds for any objections (see Title 20, California Code of Regulations, Sec.1716 (f)). If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 651-0966 or email me at esolorio@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

Eric K. Solorio
Project Manager

Enclosure (1)

**RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT, (09-AFC-9)
STAFF DATA REQUESTS - SET #3**

Technical Area: Cultural Resources

Author: Glenn Farris

BACKGROUND

Staff is evaluating several alternative projects¹ (1, 2 and 3) to the configuration of its Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP) since the public meetings and workshops of December 14-15, 2009 and January 5-6, 2010. In order to adequately review the potential impacts of these new configurations on the RSPP, Staff needs to have high quality maps showing the placement of the solar fields and related facilities on maps equivalent to the USGS 7.5' quad maps that cover the APE. These maps are scaled at 1:24,000.

DATA REQUEST

262. Please provide 2 copies each of quad scale (1:24,000) maps showing the placement of Alternatives 1, 2, and 3 that will facilitate the comparison of archaeological site map data for sites identified within the RSPP ROW.

¹ Please refer to the table on page 5.

Technical Area: Noise and Vibration
Author: Erin Bright

BACKGROUND

The reconfiguration of the site plan for the project includes relocating the power block north of Brown Road, closer to the nearest sensitive receptor. Given that the power block is the main source of noise during both construction and operation for the project, noise impacts at the nearest sensitive receptor could be greater than stated in the AFC for the reconfiguration.

DATA REQUEST

263. Please quantify the distances from the nearest sensitive receptors to the power block for the reconfigured site plan.
264. Please provide a revised Figure 5.8-1 showing the locations of the nearest sensitive receptors in relation to the new site configuration.

Technical Area: Traffic and Transportation

Author: Robert Fiore

BACKGROUND

This data request applies only to alternatives 1, 3 and 4. Data and assessment of the data contained in the AFC reflects the original project traffic and transportation system conditions and projected impacts.

DATA REQUEST

265. Please provide traffic counts for the new project and alternatives.

BACKGROUND

This data request applies only to alternatives 1-4. BLM, Caltrans and Kern County have jurisdictional authority over the project areas and affected environment. BLM managed lands are bordered by Caltrans and Kern County right-of-way.

DATA REQUEST

266. Please provide documents and maps pertaining to each jurisdiction's ownership, easement or right-of-ways (including any alternative access point considered) within the project areas and for areas affected by the project's access.

267. Please provide any available as-builts, improvements plans, etc. illustrating roadway conditions and actual right-of-way of roadways within the project areas and for areas affected by the project's access.

Proposed Project		Applicability	Disturbance Area (Acres)	MW
1	Reconfigured Proposed Project (Reconfigure existing fields to avoid El Paso Wash, add additional fields north and south; move power block to north, adjust transmission interconnection)	NEPA, CEQA	1944 + 58.2 acres for power line realignment = 2002 acres	250
Alternatives (addressed in each technical section)		Applicability	Disturbance Area (Acres)	MW
2	Northern Unit Only	NEPA, CEQA	1118 (everything north of Brown Rd) + 16.3 acres for water line = 1134 acres	-146
3	Southern Unit Only	NEPA, CEQA	809 + 16.3 acres for water line + 18 acres for power block area + 3.2 acres for switchyard + 3 acres misc. + 58.2 acres for power line realignment = 908 acres	-104
4	Original Proposed Project	NEPA, CEQA	1742 + 18 acres for water line + 33.7 acres for power line realignment = 1794 acres	250
5	No Project/No Action	NEPA, CEQA	0	0



**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

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 2/4/2010)**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, April Albright, declare that on, February 4, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Data Request Set 3, dated February 4, 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 or by depositing in the United States mail at _____ with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above 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.

Original signed by: _____
April Albright