



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

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-AFC-9</b>	
DATE	JAN 22 2010
RECD.	JAN 25 2010

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE  
 RIDGECREST SOLAR  
 POWER PROJECT**

**DOCKET No. 09-AFC-9**

**COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER**

**Background**

On September 1, 2009, Solar Millennium LLC, (Applicant), submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the Energy Commission to construct a solar thermal power plant facility in the high northern Mojave Desert in northeastern Kern County, California, about five miles southwest of the City of Ridgecrest, California.

The Energy Commission found the AFC data adequate on November 18, 2009 and assigned a Committee to conduct proceedings on the AFC. The Committee held a public Site Visit and Informational Hearing at Ridgecrest City Hall on January 5, 2010, to discuss the review process and to identify issues that could affect the schedule. Pursuant to Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1709.7(c), the attached Committee Schedule is based upon Applicant and Staff’s proposed schedules and related discussions at the Informational Hearing.

The schedule contains a list of events that must occur in order to complete the certification process. The Committee encourages the parties to consider the dates in this schedule as final deadlines and endeavor to complete the tasks ahead of these dates. Some deadlines are contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies. The Applicant must provide sufficient review time for the responsible agencies to meet the deadlines specified in the schedule.

Technical issues regarding biological resources, cultural resources, land use, traffic and transportation, transmission system engineering, water resources, visual resources and cumulative impacts have been identified by Staff as significant. Resolution of these issues, and any others which may develop, shall be addressed during the data exchange process and in public meetings with the parties and interested governmental agencies. Given the complexity of resolving the issues, the parties hereby notified that the Committee may modify the schedule at any time upon either its own motion or that of a party. [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1709.7(c).]

## Status Reports and Status Conferences

Typical Committee scheduling orders require status reports to be submitted on a regular basis by all parties to allow the Committee to determine whether case development is progressing satisfactorily and to bring potential schedule delays or other relevant matters to the Committee's attention. In this case, Solar Millennium, LLC has requested that the Committee include in the Scheduling Order three Status Conferences on dates certain, for the purpose of giving the parties a public forum for discussion of obstacles to timely completion of the processing of the AFC that may have arisen.

The Committee understands that Commission Staff are currently carrying an unprecedented workload, coupled with a requirement for several solar projects to commence construction before the end of this year in order to receive ARRA funding, meaning that AFCs must be processed to completion at a rapid pace. Thus, the Committee favors the elimination of unnecessary tasks, allowing Staff to focus on resolution of issues and timely preparation of the Staff Analysis. Accordingly, the Committee **orders** that the parties work with diligence to meet the schedule deadlines, **and further orders** that the parties promptly inform the Committee via memo, email, or telephone contact with the Hearing Adviser, of anything causing inability to meet a deadline. Any such communications shall be promptly docketed as appropriate. If the parties comply with the above, there will be no need for regular written status reports.

The Committee respectfully **declines** Applicant's request to include dates certain for status conferences in the Schedule. Instead, the Committee encourages the parties to **request a Status Conference whenever needed**. In order to provide sufficient notice, the Committee asks that requests for status conferences be submitted to the Hearing Adviser at least 15 days prior to the proposed date for the status conference. In order to conserve time and resources, the Committee will allow remote attendance at any status conference.

## Public Participation

The Energy Commission Public Adviser is available to assist the public in participating in the application review process. For those individuals who require general information on how to participate, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228 or e-mail: [\[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us).

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in any scheduled event, contact Lourdes Quiroz no less than five days prior to the hearing at (916) 654-5146 or e-mail: [\[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us).

## Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, the Hearing Officer, at (916) 651-2020 or e-mail: [\[rrenaud@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:rrenaud@energy.state.ca.us).

Technical questions concerning the Project should be addressed to Eric Solorio, the Staff Project Manager, at (916) 651-0966 or e-mail: **[[esolorio@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:esolorio@energy.state.ca.us)]**.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail: **[[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us)]**.

Technical questions concerning the BLM permitting process should be addressed to Janet Eubanks, the BLM project manager, at (951) 697-5376 or e-mail: **[[carspp@blm.gov](mailto:carspp@blm.gov)]**.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: **[[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ridgecrest/](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ridgecrest/)]**.

Dated: January 22, 2009 at Sacramento, California.

*Original signed by:* \_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES D. BOYD  
Vice Chair and Presiding Member  
Ridgecrest Solar AFC Committee

*Original signed by:* \_\_\_\_\_  
ANTHONY EGGERT  
Commissioner and Associate Member  
Ridgecrest Solar AFC Committee

**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
Data Request Workshop	TBD
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
Administrative Staff Assessment/Draft EIS (SA/DEIS)	1/25/10
Local, state and federal agency draft determinations AQMD files PDOC	2/12/10
Notice of Availability of SA/DEIS in Federal Register; SA/DEIS filed and 90-day comment period begins; BLM submits Biological Assessment (BA) to USFWS	2/19/10
Staff Assessment (SA) published	3/3/10
Staff Assessment Workshop	3/17/10
BA determined adequate by USFWS	3/19/10
Local, state and federal agency final determinations AQMD files FDOC	4/9/10
Staff Assessment Addendum (SAA) prepared	4/30/10
Prehearing Conference*	TBD
Evidentiary hearings*	TBD
Close BLM comment period	5/20/10
Response to comments, prepare Staff Assessment Addendum(SAA)/FEIS	7/1/10
Administrative SAA/FEIS circulated for agency staff review	7/9/10
USFWS issues Biological Opinion	7/15/10
SAA/FEIS distributed; NOA of SA/FEIS in Federal Register	7/30/10
BLM Plan Amendment Protest Period ends; Expedited Governor's review period ends	8/30/10
Presiding Members Proposed Decision (PMPD)*	TBD

Committee Hearing on PMPD*	TBD
Addendum/Revised PMPD*	TBD
BLM Record of Decision/Right of Way (ROD/ROW) issued; Energy Commission Decision*	TBD

\* The assigned Committee will determine this part of the schedule.



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**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
For the *RIDGECREST SOLAR  
POWER PROJECT***

**Docket No. 09-AFC-9**

**PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 1/25/2010)**

**APPLICANT**

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**INTERESTED AGENCIES**

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California ISO  
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**ENERGY COMMISSION**

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**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, Maggie Read, declare that on, January 25, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Committee Scheduling Order and new Proof of Service list. 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](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:**

  x   sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

  x   by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, California 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:**

  x   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](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original signed by:  
Maggie Read  
Hearing Adviser's Office