

March 16, 2010

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Project Manager  
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

<b>DOCKET</b>	
<b>09-AFC-4</b>	
DATE	APR 08 2010
RECD.	APR 09 2010

Dear Sir,

We are writing to you to heighten your awareness that by allowing the disturbing of the large area of dry land south of Inyokern for the Solar Millennium Power Plant, you are endangering the lives of those living in Ridgecrest. Ridgecrest lies directly in the path of the prevailing winds from the selected site. Winds have been shown to carry the nasty lung disease, Coccidiomycosis (San Joaquin Valley Fever or Valley Fever) from areas of disturbed earth. It is well documented that this fungus is prevalent in the soil of our Indian Wells Valley and winds will carry it to our valley's residents from disturbed soil. Those who are pregnant or those who are immunocompromised due to organ transplants, Hodgkin's disease, diabetes, and chronic corticosteroid therapy, or those with Cystic Fibrosis will be at risk for developing Valley Fever.

The huge arid disturbed plot of land being proposed for this project will be the source of fungal spores that will be inhaled by our residents. About ten years ago, when the Navy demolished old housing and uprooted trees directly east of Ridgecrest, it was noticed by area doctors that there was an unusual increase in the reported cases of Valley Fever.

For our family, Valley Fever is very real and serious. In the early fall of 1966, my wife developed a severe case of Valley Fever. Her memory of the events during that period of three months is blank. It took almost a year to regain her feeling of normalcy, and since then, doctors have continually noted her compromised lungs.

My wife and I have two granddaughters, ages 3 and 6, who live in Ridgecrest and who struggle daily with the lung disease Cystic Fibrosis. Each morning and evening they inhale multiple drugs and endure strong vibrational treatments to maintain their fragile lung health. Do you want to have them exposed to the Coccidiomycosis spores, when it is not necessary, and could

be fatal to them? Is this really what you want to do? Don't endanger these young lives and those of others in our Ridgecrest area.

We of the Indian Wells Valley have spent years campaigning to the state with regard to the Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power and their lack of control of the levels of dust and particulate matter blown up from the dry Owens Lake. This also causes severe lung problems. Finally, some progress has been made.

Some may promise that this dust created by this solar project will be mitigated through the application of water during construction. The Navy did just that on their much smaller scale project ten years ago, without avoiding the Valley Fever cases attributed to that project. There is already documented evidence of the lack of water resources in the valley, especially important when such large usage is planned for the construction of this power project. Not only would the water be wasted but, demonstrably, will not prevent the increase in Valley Fever.

We adamantly oppose your disruption of a huge parcel of land for this power project for the important reasons above and hope you will reject the Solar Millennium proposal.

So you can appreciate the Cystic Fibrosis treatments and fully understand our concern of this project, we've enclosed a photo of our granddaughters during their treatment.

Very sincerely,

*Belmont Frisbee*

Belmont Frisbee  
Retired Naval Physicist

Christine M. Frisbee  
Retired School Teacher

