

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****11-AFC-2**

DATE AUG 19 2011

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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF AN  
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR  
THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM  
(11-AFC-2)**

On August 5, 2011, Hidden Hills Solar Holdings, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS). HHSEGS will be located on approximately 3,277 acres of privately owned land leased in Inyo County, California, immediately adjacent to the Nevada border. The project site is approximately 18 miles south of Pahrump, Nevada, and approximately 45 miles west of Las Vegas, Nevada.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

HHSEGS will comprise two solar fields and associated facilities: the northern solar plant (Solar Plant 1) and the southern solar plant (Solar Plant 2). Each solar plant will generate 250 megawatts (MW), for a total net output of 500 MW. Solar Plant 1 will occupy approximately 1,483 acres (or 2.3 square miles), and Solar Plant 2 will occupy approximately 1,510 acres (or 2.4 square miles). Each solar plant will use heliostats—elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on a pylon—to focus the sun's rays on a solar receiver steam generator (SRSG) atop a 750-foot tall solar power tower near the center of each solar field. Each plant will consist of the following elements:

- One heliostat array with about 85,000 heliostats;
- A power block containing a Rankine-cycle non-reheat steam turbine, SRSG, feed water heaters, a deaerator, an emergency diesel generator, and a diesel fire pump;
- Five natural-gas-fired boilers, ranging in size from 1.2 MW to 50 MW;
- An air-cooled condenser to minimize water use in the desert environment; and,
- Access roads and drive zones will also be developed on the project site to facilitate operations and maintenance activities, emergency access, and site security.

Additionally, six onsite groundwater supply wells will be drilled and developed to provide raw, process water for the HHSEGS; two new wells per power block (primary and backup) and two wells at the common administration complex shared by both plants.

The transmission and natural gas pipeline alignments will be located in Nevada, primarily on federal land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), except for one small segment of the transmission line between HHSEGS and the Nevada border, and another in the vicinity of the Eldorado Substation in Boulder City, Nevada. A detailed environmental impact analysis of the transmission and natural gas pipeline alignments will be prepared by Nevada BLM.

Following completion of project licensing and close of financing, HHSEGS will be constructed in approximately 29 months (target completion by fourth quarter 2014 / first quarter 2015), with a commercial on-line date of first quarter 2015 for Solar Plant 1, and the second quarter of 2015 for Solar Plant 2.

## **ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The first step in the review process is for Energy Commission staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information and data required by our regulations. When the AFC is deemed complete, we will begin the discovery and issue analysis phases. At that time, a detailed and thorough examination of issues will occur.

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that requested placement on the mailing list during the pre-filing period and to property owners located within 1000 feet of the proposed project site and 500 feet of a project linear feature (e.g. pipeline). By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices when documents related to the proposed project's evaluation are available for review. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Mineka Foggie, Project Assistant, at (916) 654-3836, or by e-mail at [mfoggie@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mfoggie@energy.state.ca.us). Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Mike Monasmi, Senior Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at [mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us). If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at [publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us).

## AVAILABILITY OF THE AFC DOCUMENT

Copies of the AFC are available for public inspection at the following public libraries:

<b>Pahrump Community Library</b> <b>701 East Street</b> <b>Pahrump, NV 89048</b>	<b>Barstow Branch Library</b> <b>304 E. Buena Vista Street</b> <b>Barstow, CA 92311</b>
<b>Tonopah Library District</b> <b>167 S. Central Street</b> <b>Tonopah, NV 89049</b>	<b>Inyo County Library</b> <b>410 Hot Springs Rd</b> <b>Tecopa, CA 92389</b>

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at California public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Sincerely,

Chris Davis, Manager  
Energy Facilities Siting Office

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

