

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	09-AFC-07C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Palen Solar Power Project - Compliance
<b>TN #:</b>	202581
<b>Document Title:</b>	Email Re: Recent ASRS Report, dated April 9, 2014
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Alicia Campos
<b>Organization:</b>	California Energy Commission
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Commission Staff
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<b>Docketed Date:</b>	6/24/2014

## Adams, Jim@Energy

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**From:** CONNELL, LINDA (ARC-TH) [linda.j.connell@nasa.gov]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 09, 2014 5:54 PM  
**To:** Adams, Jim@Energy  
**Subject:** Recent ASRS report  
**Attachments:** 1156120.pdf

Jim

Attached is the most recent report we have received here at ASRS. This report was received in March from a Captain of a corporate aircraft. This pilot reports being on the KPEC3 arrival to Las Vegas when encountering "mirror reflections". The pilot reports this was at 13,000 ft (Mean Sea Level).

Regards,  
Linda

Linda Connell, NASA ASRS Director  
NASA Ames Research Center  
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## **Events**

Anomaly.ATC Issue: All Types  
Anomaly.Flight Deck / Cabin / Aircraft Event: Illness  
Anomaly.Deviation - Procedural: Published Material / Policy  
Detector.Person.Flight Crew: Flight Crew  
When Detected: In-flight  
Result.General: Physical Injury / Incapacitation  
Result.Flight Crew: Requested ATC Assistance / Clarification  
Result.Flight Crew: Took Evasive Action

## **Assessments**

Contributing Factors / Situations: Airspace Structure  
Contributing Factors / Situations: Environment - Non Weather Related  
Contributing Factors / Situations: Human Factors  
Contributing Factors / Situations: Procedure  
Primary Problem: Ambiguous

## **Narrative: 1**

While on the KEPEC3 arrival into LAS we were temporary blinded by bright lights (reflections) from the ground. These reflections, coming from the new solar power station were so bright that any attempt to look outside the plane was met with pain and temporary blindness even when looking back inside. Any attempt to see and avoid was useless and trying to find the airport during this time was painful as well. Exposure lasted about 5 minutes. We notified ATC and were told that they get a lot of complaints about these reflections.

## **Callback: 1**

The reporter stated that he was in the left seat and viewed the mirror reflections for only seconds then was able to get his head sheltered below the glareshield and away from the light. However even after the brief exposure, he had blue dots in his vision for about 5 minutes. The First Officer had no way to avoid the light even while not looking directly at it. The First Officer was literally blind for a greater than five minutes and neither pilot's vision was capable of detecting objects outside of the cockpit for a period of time. When the crew reported the event to ATC, the response was "Yes, we get lots of complaints."

## **Synopsis**

A Captain flying the LAS KEPEC3 arrival near the CLARR waypoint reported his vision distortion and First Officer's temporary blindness after encountering the intense sunlight reflection at 13,000 FT.

## **ACN: 1156120**

### **Time**

Date: 201403

Local Time Of Day: 0601-1200

### **Place**

Locale Reference.ATC Facility: ZLA.ARTCC

State Reference. : CA

Altitude.MSL.Single Value.MSL: 13000

### **Environment**

Flight Conditions: VMC

Light: Daylight

### **Aircraft: 1**

Reference.X: X

ATC / Advisory.Center. : ZLA

Aircraft Operator: Corporate

Make Model Name: Light Transport, Low Wing, 2 Turbojet Eng

Crew Size.Number Of Crew.Flight Crew Size: 2

Operating Under FAR Part: Part 91

Flight Plan: IFR

Mission: Passenger

Nav In Use: FMS Or FMC

Flight Phase: Descent

Route In Use.STAR. : KEPEC3

Airspace.Class E. : ZLA

### **Person: 1**

Reference. : 1

Location Of Person.Aircraft. : X

Location In Aircraft: Flight Deck

Reporter Organization: Corporate

Function.Flight Crew: Captain

Function.Flight Crew: Pilot Flying

Qualification.Flight Crew: Air Transport Pilot (ATP)

Qualification.Flight Crew: Multiengine

Experience.Flight Crew.Total. : 5000

Experience.Flight Crew.Last 90 Days. : 45

Experience.Flight Crew.Type. : 2400

ASRS Report Number.Accession Number.ACN: 1156120

Analyst Callback: Completed

## Adams, Jim@Energy

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**From:** CONNELL, LINDA (ARC-TH) [linda.j.connell@nasa.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 10, 2014 8:57 AM  
**To:** Adams, Jim@Energy  
**Subject:** Re: Recent ASRS report

Thanks to you for pursuing this to a good solution. We will keep you posted about any other safety reports that may be received here.

Linda

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 10, 2014, at 8:52 AM, "Adams, Jim@Energy" <[Jim.Adams@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Jim.Adams@energy.ca.gov)> wrote:

Thanks Linda...I sent this to my contacts at FAA and Caltrans Aeronautics. We would like to meet with FAA staff at Palmdale and talk about developing a better process for getting relevant information about glare incidents in a more timely manner.

Jim

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