

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



Notice of Joint Workshop for the Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04) and Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (11-AFC-02)

The California Energy Commission staff will conduct a workshop for the proposed Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (Rio Mesa SEGF) and Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS) projects. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate.

The workshop will be held:

**WEDNESDAY, August 8, 2012
Beginning at 10:00 AM**

**California Energy Commission
First Floor, Hearing Room B
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
(wheelchair accessible, map attached)**

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED
11-AFC-2**

TN # 66350

JUL 26 2012

**Remote Access Available by Computer or Phone via WebEx
(Instructions attached)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of the workshop is to allow staff, the applicant, interested agencies, and the public the opportunity to discuss Biological Resources generally, and more specifically the applicant's Data Response to Data Request No. 159, associated with the Rio Mesa SEGF, related to solar power intensity and potential impacts associated with it. The workshop is being conducted jointly because both projects share the same technology, applicant (BrightSource Energy, Inc.), and potential for impacts to birds and bats species. Other topic areas or issues related to staff review of the proposed projects may also be discussed.

BACKGROUND

Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility

On October 14, 2011, Rio Mesa Solar Holdings, LLC (subsidiary to BrightSource Energy, Inc.), submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Rio Mesa SEGF. On December 14, 2011, the Energy Commission approved the Executive Director's recommendation that the AFC was deemed complete for purposes of commencing the Commission's siting review process. The staff will use the information obtained from the workshop discussions to prepare its Preliminary Staff Assessment for the project.

Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

On August 5, 2011, Hidden Hills Solar Holdings, LLC, (subsidiary to BrightSource Energy, Inc.), submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS). On October 5, 2011, the Energy Commission approved the Executive Director's recommendation that the AFC was deemed complete for purposes of commencing the Energy Commission's siting review process. The staff will use the information obtained from the workshop discussions to prepare its Final Staff Assessment for the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility

As currently proposed, the Rio Mesa SEGF would comprise two solar fields and associated facilities encompassing a total of approximately 3,805 acres and would be located on the Palo Verde Mesa in Riverside County, California, approximately 13 miles southwest of the City of Blythe. If approved, the two power plants, solar fields, and associated facilities would be located on private land leased from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The project gen-tie line, emergency and construction electrical power supply line, and primary access road would be located on federal land administered by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM). If approved, each solar plant would generate 250 megawatts (MW), for a total net output of 500 MW and would use heliostats – elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on pylons – to focus the sun's rays on a receiver steam generator located atop a 750-foot tall solar power tower near the center of each solar field. Each solar plant would utilize approximately 85,000 heliostats.

Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

As currently proposed, the HHSEGS would comprise two solar fields and associated facilities encompassing a total of approximately 3,277 acres of privately owned land leased in Inyo County, California, immediately adjacent to the Nevada border. The project site is approximately 8 miles southeast of Pahrump, Nevada, and approximately 45 miles northwest of Las Vegas, Nevada. If approved, each solar plant would generate 250 megawatts (MW), for a total net output of 500 MW and would use heliostats – elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on pylons – to focus the sun's rays on a receiver steam generator located atop a 750-foot tall solar power tower near the center of each solar field. Each solar plant would utilize approximately 85,000 heliostats. The transmission line and natural gas pipeline are both located wholly within the state of Nevada on federal land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The components for both projects located within federal lands noted above, along with the entirety of the projects, as connected actions, will be reviewed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), for which the BLM is the lead agency.

PARTICIPATION

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions related to the Rio Mesa SEGF project to Pierre Martinez, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 651-3765, or by e-mail at pierre.martinez@energy.ca.gov and for those related to HHSEGS, to Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at mike.monasmith@energy.ca.gov. If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of either 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.ca.gov. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 or via email at lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov at least five days in advance.

News media inquiries should be directed to the media office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov. The staff's Data Requests, applicant's Data Responses, status of the proposed project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the project web sites: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html> for the Rio Mesa SEGF project, and <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/index.html> for the HHSEGS project. If you are unable to attend the workshop, written comments may be sent to the staff's project manager electronically or at the Energy Commission's street address shown on the letterhead of this Notice.

You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements from the respective project website through the List Server. By being on this e-mail list, you will receive notification of and links to all project-related notices and documents pertaining to each project's evaluation and review.

Date: _____

ROGER E. JOHNSON, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission & Environmental
Protection Division

cc: Rio Mesa SEGF
Docket (11-AFC-04)
Proof of Service List
Property Owner List No. 7412
Agency List No. 7413
Library List No. 7414

HHSEGS
Docket(11-AFC-02)
Proof of Service List
Property Owner List No. 7402
Agency List No. 7403
Library List No. 7404

**ENERGY COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP
Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04) and
Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (11-AFC-02)**

**WEDNESDAY, August 8, 2012
Beginning at 10:00 AM**

**California Energy Commission
First Floor, Hearing Room B
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
(wheelchair accessible, map attached)**



**WebEx Call-in toll-free number: 1-866-469-3239
Access code: 929 676 694
Meeting Password (case sensitive): Meeting@10

(please see attached instructions for WebEx)**

PARTICIPATION IN THE

August 8, 2012
ENERGY COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP
Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04) and
Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (11-AFC-02)

THROUGH WEBEX

1. COMPUTER LOG-ON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter **929 676 694**
- When prompted, enter your information and **Meeting@10** (case sensitive)

After you login, a prompt will appear on-screen for you to provide **your** phone number.
In the **Number box**, type your area code and phone number and click OK.

You will receive a call back on your phone for the audio portion of the meeting.

2. COMPUTER LOG-ON FOR CALLERS WITH AN EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER, ETC:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter **929 676 694** and **Meeting@10** (case sensitive)
- *After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. Click **"CANCEL."***
- *Instead call **1-866-469-3239**. When prompted, enter **929 676 694** and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your computer screen after you login.*

3. TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS):

- Call **1-866-469-3239** and when prompted enter **929 676 694**

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at **1-866-229-3239**. To see if your computer is compatible, visit [<http://support.webex.com/support/systemrequirements.html>]. Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.

WebEx Call-in toll-free number: **1-866-469-3239**
WebEx Access code: **929 676 694**
WebEx Meeting Password (case sensitive): **Meeting@10**



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 *HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM***

DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-02
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 6/18/2012)

APPLICANT

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Cenne Jackson, declare that on July 26, 2012, I served and filed copies of the attached, dated July 25, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html>].

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "e-mail preferred."

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- by sending electronic copies to the e-mail address below (preferred method); **OR**
- by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT
Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-4
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission
Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel
1516 Ninth Street MS-14
Sacramento, CA 95814
mlevy@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally signed by Cenne Jackson