



BrightSource

DOCKET

11-AFC-4

DATE MAY 30 2012

RECD. MAY 30 2012

May 30, 2012

Pierre Martinez
Project Manager for Rio Mesa SEGF
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: Notification of Submittal of Environmental Enhancement Proposal for Rio Mesa Solar Project.

Dear Mr. Martinez,

This letter is BrightSource Energy's formal notification that it intends to pursue Alternative 3 as defined in the AFC as the new "Preferred" Alternative for the Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (RMS) project. During the Discovery Phase of the project BLM, CEC, Intervenors, and REAT representatives brought up concerns with RMS as originally proposed. Areas of concern included cultural resources, biological resources, transmission corridor conflicts, and schedule concerns (BLM). In response to these concerns, and as is contemplated as a possibility in pursuing a project permit through the CEC's modified CEQA process, BrightSource has elected to pursue an Environmentally Enhanced 2 Unit project configuration with all solar plant equipment located on private land. One of the permanent project access roads, gen-tie line, and construction/emergency backup power would access the site via public (BLM) land. No new land impacts are contemplated for this alternative. The primary differences between the Environmental Enhancement and the originally proposed "Preferred" alternative include:

1. Removal of the northern generating Unit
2. All solar generating plant equipment is located on private land
3. Common Area Facilities including the project switchyard are relocated west of the WAPA and Transcanada transmission lines
4. Natural Gas tap/meter station is relocated to the south at the terminous of the Unit 1 eastern spoke road.



BrightSource

BrightSource is diligently preparing a supplemental filing to the various Data Responses through which all pertinent information covering the project changes. We expect to submit the full package of information in early July 2012.

Any questions can be directed to me via email or at 510-550-8908.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd Stewart
Sr. Director Project Development
Project Manager, Rio Mesa Solar
BrightSource Energy, Inc.



**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 *RIO MESA SOLAR*
*ELECTRIC GENERATING FACILITY***

DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-04
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 5/3/12)

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Michelle L. Farley, declare that on May 30, 2012, I served and filed a copy of the attached Notification of Submittal of Environmental Enhancement Proposal for Rio Mesa Solar Project, dated May 30, 2012, 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.ca.gov

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
michael.levy@energy.ca.gov

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.



Michelle L. Farley