

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS L.L.P.

ANNE J. SCHNEIDER
1947-2010

CHRISTOPHER T. ELLISON
JEFFERY D. HARRIS
DOUGLAS K. KERNER
ROBERT E. DONLAN
ANDREW B. BROWN
GREGGORY L. WHEATLAND
CHRISTOPHER M. SANDERS
LYNN M. HAUG
PETER J. KIEL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

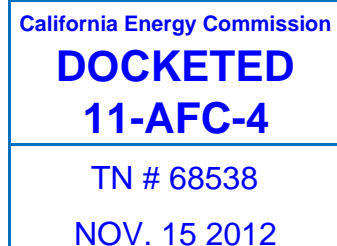
2600 CAPITOL AVENUE, SUITE 400
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95816
TELEPHONE: (916) 447-2166
FACSIMILE: (916) 447-3512
<http://www.eslawfirm.com>

BRIAN S. BIERING
JEDEDIAH J. GIBSON
CHASE B. KAPPEL
SHANE E. C. McCOIN
SAMANTHA G. POTTENGER

OF COUNSEL:
ELIZABETH P. EWENS
CHERYL L. KING
MARGARET G. LEAVITT
RONALD LIEBERT

November 15, 2012

Commissioner Karen Douglas
Commissioner Carla Peterman
Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (11-AFC-2)
Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04)
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



Re: Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (11-AFC-2) and Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04): Notice Pursuant to 20 C.C.R. 1716(f): Staff Data Requests Set 3.

Dear Commissioners Douglas and Peterman:

Pursuant to Section 1716(f) of the Commission's regulations, Hidden Hills Solar I, LLC and Hidden Hills Solar II, LLC, and Rio Mesa Solar I, LLC and Rio Mesa Solar II, LLC (collectively, the "Applicants") hereby file this notice of objection to Data Requests Set 3, issued by Staff on October 26, 2012 ("Set 3").

I. GENERAL OBJECTIONS

Section 1716(e) of the Commission's regulations provides: "All requests for information shall be submitted no later than 180 days from the date the commission determines an

application is complete, unless the committee allows requests for information at a later time for good cause shown.¹

The Commission determined the Application for Certification (“Application”) of the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (“HHSEGS”) to be complete on October 5, 2011. As a result, the deadline for submitting requests for information was 180 days thereafter, or by April 2, 2012. These data requests were promulgated over a year later on October 26, 2012. The Commission determined the Application for Certification (“Application”) of the Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (“RMS”) to be complete on December 14, 2011. The deadline for submitting requests for information was September 21, 2012, pursuant to an order from the Committee in that proceeding. Therefore, Applicants object to Set 3 in its entirety as untimely.

Moreover, as Section 1716(e) provides, only the Committee can allow for later requests. Staff or any other party must first make a specific request to the Committee for leave to file based on the Committee’s finding of good cause. A party cannot simply assert good cause and promulgate further data requests without first asking the Committee for leave and having such leave granted. No such request was made in this case. No finding of good cause has been made by the Committee in either proceeding.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, although Set 3 is untimely, without waiving such objections, Applicants will respond to those specific requests that are relevant and for which information is reasonably available. Applicants will file, in a timely manner, these responses to Set 3, on or before November 23, 2012.

II. SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS

Section 1716 of the Commission's regulations provides:

Any party may request from the applicant any information reasonably available to the applicant which is relevant to the notice or application proceedings or reasonably necessary to make any

¹ 20 C.C.R. § 1716(e); emphasis added.

decision on the notice or application. All such requests shall include the reasons for the request.²

Pursuant to Section 1716, a party may request from an applicant information that is *reasonably available* to it and relevant to any decision the Commission must make. Factors considered by the Commission to determine whether the information requested is discoverable include the following: (1) the relevance of the information; (2) whether the information is available to the applicant, or from some other source, or whether the information has been provided in some other form; (3) whether the request is for data, analysis, or research; and (4) the burden on the applicant to provide the data.³ As explained in further detail below, Applicants object to the following data requests as not meeting the requirements of Section 1716.

A. Data Request 200

Data Request 200 asks whether Mr. Santolo had “direction provided to him under a contract or purchase order”, and requests that the Applicants “provide a document that lays out the direction that BSE provided to him.” Applicants object to this data request as argumentative, as it assumes that specific “direction” was given to a scientist. Moreover, this information is privileged, is not relevant to this Application, and is not reasonably necessary to make any decision on the Application. Notwithstanding these objections, Applicant will provide the scope of work developed by Mr. Santolo that provided the basis for the flux study in its responses to Set 3.

B. Data Request 202

Data Request 202 asks whether a “final report or summary was prepared for Mr. Santolo’s activities at SEDC,” and requests information relating to such a report. Applicants object to this data request as it requests privileged information, and as a matter of public policy,

² 20 C.C.R. § 1716(b).

³ See, Committee Ruling on Intervenor Center for Biological Diversity’s Petition to Compel Data Requests, Docket No. 07-AFC-6 (Dec. 26, 2008).

Applicants' consultants must be afforded the ability to engage in academic studies, reach conclusions, and make recommendations without fear of publicity of nascent analysis (the policy set forth in Government Code section 6255), and to enjoy the protections for drafts, notes, and preliminary personal memoranda (the policy set forth in Government Code Section 6255(a).) Moreover, Data Request 202 requests information that is neither relevant nor reasonably necessary for a Commission decision in this proceeding. Therefore, Applicants object to Data Request 202 for the reasons set forth above. Notwithstanding this objection, Applicants will be submitting a report prepared by Mr. Santolo, which is responsive to Data Request 202, on or before November 23, 2012.

C. Data Requests 205, 206, 207 and 208

Data Request 205 requests "a functional electronic copy of the models used to produce the data and the flux isopleths figures" provided in response to Data Request 159 issued by Staff in the Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04). Companion Data Request 206 requests "all documentation and manuals necessary to operate the model." Data Request 207 requests "a copy of all model inputs used to derive the figures provided in response to Rio Mesa data request #159." Finally, Data Request 208 asks if "portions" of this information can be provided under confidential cover. Applicants object to these Data Requests as follows.

The information requested is privileged and not subject to production because it is a trade secret.⁴ California Civil Code section 3426.1(d) defines a "trade secret" as follows:

(d) "Trade secret" means information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique, or process, that:

(1) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to the public or to other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use; and

⁴ See, Cal. Evidence Code § 1060.

(2) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

The model and related information are trade secrets because the information is the foundation of Applicants' parent company's, BrightSource Energy, proprietary technology, and the information derives independent economic value from not being generally known to the public or to other persons or competing companies who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use. The information requested, and the proprietary model in particular, contains trade secrets and otherwise commercially sensitive data the disclosure of which would cause loss of a competitive advantage. As entities operating in the competitive and dynamic renewable energy market, the Applicants hold such information in the highest confidence. Moreover, this information is the subject of efforts to maintain its secrecy, and is not publicly available. Therefore, as trade secrets, this information is privileged.

Second, even if the information requests were not a trade secret, a "functional electronic copy of the models" is not readily available to Applicants in a form that can be provided to Staff, and would be burdensome for the Applicants to provide. The proprietary models are not simple computer programs that can be transferred onto a compact disc and downloaded onto a typical desktop computer for use. Instead, the models are generated using multiple proprietary programs that require specialized computer software and hardware, in addition to extensive training, to operate.

Finally, the information requested is both redundant and untimely. It is redundant in that the HHSEGS Applicant⁵ and the RMS Applicant⁶ have already provided substantial modeling data (for example, see Data Response Set 2D-2) on April 16, 2012. These prior filings included information relevant to the projects, which were generated using the same models that produced

⁵ http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/documents/applicant/2012-04-16_Data_Response_Set_2D-2_TN-64906.pdf

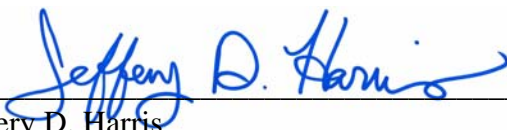
⁶ http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/documents/applicant/2012-04-16_Applicants_Supplemental_Response_2_to_DR_Set_1A_TN-64814.pdf

the responses to Rio Mesa Data Request 159. In terms of being untimely, any questions or issues with such information should have been raised earlier in this proceeding, rather than six months after such information was submitted. Applicants object to Data Requests 205, 206, 207, and 208.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER & HARRIS L.L.P.

By 
Jeffery D. Harris
Christopher T. Ellison
Brian S. Biering
Samantha G. Pottenger
Attorneys for Applicants

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION)
for the RIO MESA SOLAR ELECTRIC) Docket No. 11-AFC-04
GENERATING FACILITY)
_____)

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Karen A. Mitchell, declare that on November 15, 2012, I served the attached *Notice Pursuant to 20 C.C.R. 1716(f): Staff Data Requests Set 3* via electronic and U.S. mail to all parties on the attached service list.

I declare under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.



Karen A. Mitchell

SERVICE LIST
11-AFC-04

APPLICANTS' AGENTS

BrightSource Energy, Inc.
Todd Stewart, Senior Director
Project Development
Bradley Bronlow
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 2150
Oakland, CA 94612
tstewart@brightsourceenergy.com
bbrownlow@brightsourceenergy.com

BrightSource Energy, Inc.
Kwame Thompson
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 2150
Oakland, CA 94612
kthompson@brightsourceenergy.com

BrightSource Energy, Inc.
Brad DeJean
1999 Harrison Street, Suite 2150
Oakland, CA 94612
e-mail service preferred
bdejean@brightsourceenergy.com

APPLICANTS' CONSULTANTS

Grenier and Associates, Inc.
Andrea Grenier
1420 E. Roseville Parkway,
Suite 140-377
Roseville, CA 95661
e-mail service preferred
andrea@agrenier.com

URS Corporation
Angela Leiba
4225 Executive Square, Suite 1600
La Jolla, CA 92037
Angela_leiba@urscorp.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANTS

Ellison, Schneider, & Harris
Christopher T. Ellison
Brian S. Biering
2600 Capitol Avenue, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95816-5905
cte@eslawfirm.com
bsb@eslawfirm.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District
Chris Anderson, Air Quality Engineer
14306 Park Avenue
Victorville, CA 92392-2310
canderson@mdaqmd.ca.gov

California ISO
e-mail service preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

Bureau of Land Management
Cedric Perry
Lynnette Elser
22835 Calle San Juan De Los Lagos
Moreno Valley, CA 92553
cperry@blm.gov
lelser@blm.gov

Office of Riverside County Counsel
County of Riverside
Katherine Lind
Tiffany North
3960 Orange Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501
e-mail service preferred
klind@co.riverside.ca.us
tnorth@co.riverside.ca.us

INTERVENORS

Center for Biological Diversity
Lisa T. Belenky, Senior Attorney
351 California Street, Suite 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
e-mail service preferred
lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org

Center for Biological Diversity
Ileene Anderson
Public Lands Desert Director
PMB 447, 8033 Sunset Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90046
e-mail service preferred
ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

ENERGY COMMISSION – DECISIONMAKERS

Carla Peterman
Commissioner and Presiding Member
carla.peterman@energy.ca.gov

Karen Douglas
Commissioner and Associate Member
e-mail service preferred
karen.douglas@energy.ca.gov

Kenneth Celli
Hearing Adviser
e-mail service preferred
ken.celli@energy.ca.gov

Galen Lemei
Advisor to Commissioner Douglas
e-mail service preferred
galen.lemei@energy.ca.gov

Jennifer Nelson
Advisor to Commissioner Douglas
e-mail service preferred
jennifer.nelson@energy.ca.gov

Jim Bartridge
Advisor to Commissioner Peterman
jim.bartridge@energy.ca.gov

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF

Pierre Martinez
Project Manager
pierre.martinez@energy.ca.gov

Lisa DeCarlo
Staff Counsel
lisa.decarlo@energy.ca.gov

Eileen Allen
Commissioners' Technical
Advisor for Facility Siting
e-mail service preferred
eileen.allen@energy.ca.gov

ENERGY COMMISSION – PUBLIC ADVISER

Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser's Office
e-mail service preferred
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us