

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street, MS-15  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



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

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

The workshop will be held:

**WEDNESDAY, December 5, 2012  
Beginning at 9:00 AM**

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

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED  
11-AFC-4**

TN # 68621

NOV 20 2012

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

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of the workshop is to allow staff, the applicant, intervenors, interested agencies, and the public the opportunity to discuss **Biological Resources** – specifically, the applicant's Data Responses to Data Request Set 3, issued on October 26, 2012, related to solar power convective heat and radiant flux and associated potential impacts:

[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/documents/2012-10-26\\_Staff\\_Data\\_Request\\_Set\\_3\\_199-208\\_TN-68255.pdf](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/documents/2012-10-26_Staff_Data_Request_Set_3_199-208_TN-68255.pdf).

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.

**BACKGROUND**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 Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) was filed on May 24, 2012. The staff may use any new information obtained from the workshop discussions, as applicable, to complete its Final Staff Assessment for the project.

Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility

On October 14, 2011, Rio Mesa Solar Holdings, LLC (subsidiary to BrightSource Energy, Inc.), submitted an 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 PSA was filed on October 15, 2012. The staff will use the information obtained from the workshop discussions to prepare its Final Staff Assessment for the project.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

### Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System

As currently proposed, the HHSEGS would comprise two solar fields and associated facilities permanently encompassing a total of approximately 3,097 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).

### 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.

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.

## **Status of Project Review**

To date, staff has conducted four Hidden Hills PSA workshops, on June 14 and June 27, 2012, July 3, 2012 and August 28, 2012. Staff has conducted two Rio Mesa PSA workshops, on October 29, 2012 and November 14, 2012. Based on the workshops and written comments received, staff may refine its analyses, correct errors, and finalize its approved conditions of certification. These revisions and changes will be presented in a Final Staff Assessment (FSA) that will be published and made available to the public and interested agencies for each project. The FSA for both proceedings will act as staff's testimony, and is only one piece of evidence that will be considered by the respective Committee (two Energy Commission Commissioners who have been assigned for each project) in reaching a decision on whether or not to recommend that the full five-member Energy Commission approve the proposed projects.

## **PARTICIPATION**

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions related to HHSEGS to Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at [mike.monasmith@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mike.monasmith@energy.ca.gov), and for 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](mailto:pierre.martinez@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](mailto: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](mailto:lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov) at least five days in advance.

If you wish to provide written comments on the project, please submit comments to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number 11-AFC-02 for the HHSEGS project and/or 11-AFC-04 for the Rio Mesa SEGF project in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. If you wish to submit comments electronically, please provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to [docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto:docket@energy.ca.gov). Please include your name or organization's name in the file name. If you are preparing non-electronic written comments, please mail or hand deliver them to:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Unit, MS-4  
Docket No. 11-AFC-02 and/or 11-AFC-04  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All written comments and materials filed with the Dockets Unit will become a part of the public record of each proceeding. Additionally, comments may be posted on the project websites. News media inquiries should be directed to the media office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at [mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov). The staff's Data Requests, applicant's Data Responses, status of the proposed projects, copies of notices, electronic versions of the AFC and PSA, and other relevant documents are also available on the project web sites: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/index.html> for the HHSEGS project, and <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/riomesa/index.html> for the Rio Mesa SEGF project.

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

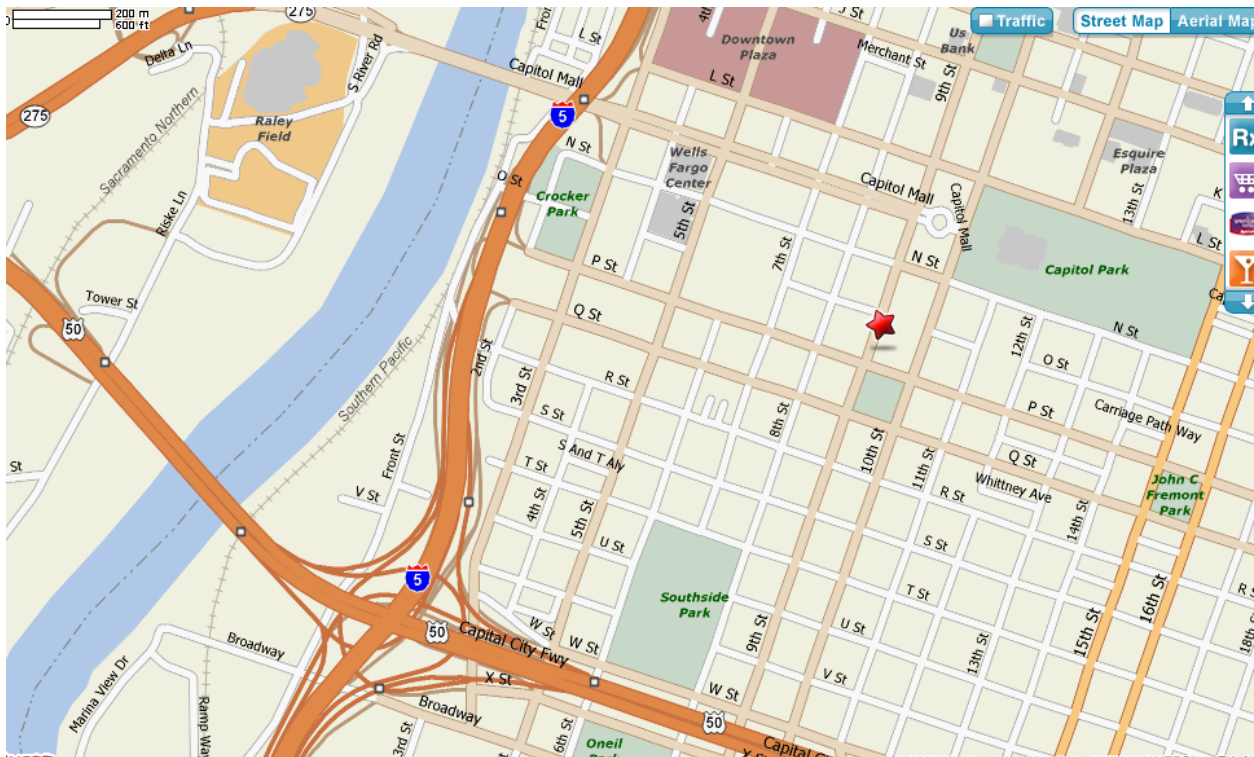
cc: HHSEGS (11-AFC-2)  
Proof of Service List  
Property Owner List No. 7402  
Agency List No. 7403  
Library List No. 7404

Rio Mesa SEGF (11-AFC-4)  
Proof of Service List  
Property Owner List No. 7412  
Agency List No. 7413  
Library List No. 7414

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

**WEDNESDAY, December 5, 2012  
Beginning at 9:00 AM**

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



**PARTICIPATION IN THE**  
**December 5, 2012**  
**ENERGY COMMISSION JOINT WORKSHOP**  
**Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (11-AFC-02) and**  
**Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (11-AFC-04)**  
**THROUGH WEBEX**

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

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter **920 010 318**
- When prompted, enter your information and **Meeting@9** (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 **920 010 318** and **Meeting@9** (case sensitive)
- *After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. Click “**CANCEL.**”*
- *Instead call **1-866-469-3239**. When prompted, enter **920 010 318** 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 **920 010 318**

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: **920 010 318**  
WebEx Meeting Password (case sensitive): **Meeting@9**



**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 9/20/12)**

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**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 11/2/12)**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Cenne Jackson, declare that on November 20, 2012, I served and filed copies of the attached Status Report , dated November 20, 2012. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/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 marked **"hard copy required"** or where no e-mail address is provided.

**AND**

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- by sending an electronic copy 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-02  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
[docket@energy.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Originally Signed by Cenne Jackson