

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Genesis Solar Energy Project
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Document Title:	Notice of Determination, SAPM for Genesis Spare Transformer
Description:	Notice of Determination for Petition to Amend to allow storage of spare transformer on site
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION FOR
THE GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (GSEP)
(09-AFC-8C)**

On November 4, 2014, Genesis Solar, LLC (NextEra Energy), filed a Petition to Amend with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the Energy Commission's Final Decision for the Genesis Solar Energy Project (GSEP) to allow on-site storage of a spare three-phase 25 MVA auxiliary transformer. The 250-MW project was certified by the Commission on September 29, 2010 and began commercial operation on March 7, 2014. The GSEP is located at 11995 Wileys Well Road, north of Interstate 10, approximately 22 miles west of Blythe, California in Riverside County.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

NextEra Energy is proposing to store an auxiliary transformer on site to serve as a spare in the event of malfunction or failure of the primary transformer. Maintaining a spare on site will minimize the outage time necessary for replacement due to emergency failure of the online unit. The spare transformer will be mounted on a concrete foundation with a secondary containment area to capture any accidental spillage of oil from the transformer. The transformer will be stored with low power electrical to power an internal heating element(s) to prevent moisture build-up and also to periodically check cooling fan operation. The petition is available on the Energy Commission's GSEP webpage at http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar/

ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF REVIEW AND DETERMINATION

Energy Commission technical staff reviewed the petition for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Alternatives, Biological Resources, and Efficiency,, and are not affected by the proposed changes, and no revisions or new conditions of certification are needed to ensure the project remains in compliance with all applicable LORS and existing conditions of certification for these areas.

For the technical areas of Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Facility Design, Geological Resources, Hazardous Materials Management, Land Use, Noise and Vibration, Paleontological Resources, Public Health, Reliability, Socioeconomics, Soil and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, Visual Resources, Waste Management, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection, staff has determined the project would continue to comply with applicable LORS and would not change any conditions of certification. Staff notes the following for these technical areas:

- **Air Quality.** With the implementation of existing conditions of certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS: continued implementation of Conditions of Certification **AQSC-3** thru **AQSC-5** related to fugitive dust and engine

emissions, will mitigate short-term construction emissions to a less-than-significant level.

- **Cultural Resources.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification **CUL-1 through CUL-13**, and **CUL-16 through CUL-18**, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. Staff indicates that information contained in the petition does not indicate a potential to disturb anything other than engineered fill.
- **Facility Design.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The Energy Commission's contract building official will oversee the construction and ensure compliance with all applicable codes including structural, electrical, mechanical, etc. as applicable.
- **Geological Resources.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, specifically **GEN-1**, **GEN-5**, and **CIVIL-1**, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The Energy Commission's contract building official will oversee the construction and ensure compliance with all applicable codes including structural, electrical, mechanical, etc. as well as soils, drainage, and geological investigations, as applicable.
- **Hazardous Materials Management.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. As per **HAZ-2**, the project owner must modify the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) and the Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP).
- **Land Use.** With the implementation of existing findings of fact and conclusions, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS; the use is consistent with the balance of the use of the site as a power plant.
- **Noise and Vibration.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. Short-term construction noise is consistent with the industrial activity; **NOISE-1** shall remain in place for reporting and resolving noise complaints.
- **Paleontological Resources.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification **PAL-1 through PAL-7**, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. Staff indicates that information contained in the petition does not indicate a potential to disturb anything other than engineered fill.

- **Public Health.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Reliability.** With the continued implementation of the findings of fact and conclusions, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. Staff notes that there is the potential for increased reliability due to potentially reduced outage repair downtime(s).
- **Socioeconomics.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. Based on staff's original analysis in the Commission Final Decision, and subsequent analysis of the proposal, the proposed modification would not trigger school fees, it would not have any effect on population, housing, or level of services in the region, and would not adversely affect the available workforce.
- **Soil and Water Resources.** With the implementation of existing conditions of certification, specifically **S&W-1**, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment. The modifications would not require any changes to the existing Conditions of Certification. The owner shall submit an updated Drainage, Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (DRESCP), including future updated regularly recurring operational compliance reports.
- **Traffic and Transportation.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.; The applicant shall abide by Conditions of Certification **TRANS-1 through TRANS-5** during transport of the equipment to the site, after the construction is complete, and to ensure safe traffic patterns during this short duration construction activity.
- **Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Transmission System Engineering.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The proposed backup transformer is sufficient to provide for necessary backup services in the event of an unanticipated breakdown.
- **Visual Resources.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The structure has a lesser profile compared to other existing structures; nevertheless, in accordance with **VIS-1, VIS-2 and VIS-4**, the applicant/owner shall ensure that efforts are made to reduce glare from the stationary transformer, and to use shielded nighttime lighting, only if necessary.

- **Waste Management.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. In accordance with **WASTE-4**, any construction waste generated by this short duration construction project shall comply with the existing Construction Waste Management Plan.
- **Worker Safety and Fire Protection.** With the implementation of existing Conditions of Certification, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS. The short duration construction activities shall comply with worker safety and fire safety measures contained in health and safety plans utilized for construction of the main plant, reference specifically **WS-1, WS-5, and WS-6**.

Staff's conclusions for each technical or environmental area are summarized in the table below.

Summary of Staff Responses to Petition

TECHNICAL/ENVIRONMENTAL AREAS REVIEWED	STAFF RESPONSE			Revised Conditions of Certification Recommended
	Technical Area Not Affected	No Significant Environmental Impact* (SAPM)	Process As Amendment	
Air Quality		X		
Alternatives	X			
Biological Resources	X			
Cultural Resources		X		
Efficiency	X			
Facility Design		X		
Geological Resources		X		
Hazardous Materials Management		X		
Land Use		X		
Noise & Vibration		X		
Paleontological Resources		X		
Public Health		X		
Reliability		X		
Socioeconomics		X		
Soil & Water Resources		X		
Traffic & Transportation		X		
Transmission Line Safety & Nuisance		X		
Transmission System Engineering		X		
Visual Resources		X		
Waste Management		X		
Worker Safety & Fire Protection		X		

*There is no possibility that the proposed modifications would have a significant effect on the environment, and the modifications would not result in a change in or deletion of a condition adopted by the Commission in the Final Decision, or make changes that would cause project noncompliance with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards (20 Cal. Code Regs., § 1769 (a)(2)).

Section 1769(a)(2), Title 20, California Code of Regulations states, “(w)here staff determines that there is no possibility that the modifications may have a significant effect on the environment, and if the modifications will not result in a change or deletion of a condition adopted by the commission in the final decision or make changes that would cause the project not to comply with any applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards, no commission approval is required...”

Pursuant to that section, Energy Commission staff has determined for this petition that approval by the full Commission is not required and the proposed modifications meet the criteria for approval at the staff level because:

- The modification[s] will not have any significant effect on the environment;
- Existing conditions of certification are sufficient to cover the proposed modification without changes to, or deletions of, any conditions of certification; and
- The project as modified will maintain full compliance with applicable LORS.

This Notice of Determination is being provided to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the facility site. This Notice has been mailed to the GSEP mail list and sent electronically to the GSEP listserv.

Any person may file an objection to staff's determination within 14 days of the date of this Notice on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in section 1769(a)(2). Absent any relevant objections, this petition will be approved 14 days after this notice is docketed. An objection to staff's determination may be submitted using the Energy Commission's e-commenting feature, as follows: Go to the Energy Commission's GSEP webpage and click on the "Submit e-Comment" link. Provide contact information—a full name, e-mail address, comment Title, and either a comment or an attached document are required. The comment Title should be "[Your Name]'s Comments re GSEP Spare Transformer." Type your comments into the "Comment Text" field, or upload a document with your comments. The maximum upload file size is 10MB, and only .doc, .docx, or .pdf attachments will be accepted. Enter the CAPTCHA that is used to prevent spamming. Then click on the "Agree and Submit your Comments" button to submit your comments to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit for review. When your comments are approved and docketed, you will receive an e-mail with a link to them on the facility webpage.

Written comments or objections may also be mailed or hand-delivered to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 09-AFC-8C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

All comments and materials filed with and approved by the Dockets Unit will be added to the facility Docket Log and be publically accessible on the Energy Commission's webpage for the facility.

If you have questions about this Notice, please contact Eric Veerkamp, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4611, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov.

For information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the GSEP (spare transformer) petition, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser at (916) 654-4489, or at (800) 822-6228 (toll-free in California). The Public Adviser's Office can also be

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contacted via e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Date: _____

ROGER E. JOHNSON, Deputy Director
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