

DOCKETED

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Project Title:	Genesis Solar Energy Project
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Document Title:	Notice of Determination (NOD), Request to Store Spare Main Transformer on site at Genesis
Description:	Notice of Determination (NOD) for Genesis Solar Energy Project (GSEP) Petition to Amend to store spare main transformer on project site
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CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION
PETITION TO AMEND
TO STORE SPARE MAIN TRANSFORMER ON SITE
FOR THE GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT**

(09-AFC-8C)

On December 11, 2016, Genesis Solar, LLC (NextEra Energy), filed a Petition to Amend (PTA) with the California Energy Commission (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 150 megavolt amperes spare main generator step-up unit transformer (GSU). The 250 megawatt (MW) project was certified by the Energy 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.

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

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

NextEra Energy is proposing to store a main GSU on site to serve as a spare in the event of malfunction or failure of the primary transformer. Maintaining a spare GSU on site will minimize the outage time necessary for the emergency replacement due to failure of an operating unit. The spare GSU will be mounted on a concrete foundation with a secondary containment area to capture any accidental spillage of oil from the transformer. The construction will take about 14 days. The GSU will be stored connected electrically to power an internal heating element to prevent moisture build-up and also to periodically check cooling fan operation. The PTA 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 PTA for potential environmental effects and consistency with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS). Staff has determined that the technical or environmental areas of Biological Resources, Efficiency, Geological and Paleontological Resources, Land Use, Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance, Transmission System Engineering, and Visual Resources are not affected by the proposed changes.

For the technical areas of Air Quality, Cultural Resources, Facility Design, Hazardous Materials Management, Noise and Vibration, Public Health, Reliability, Socioeconomics, Soil and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation, Waste Management, and Worker Safety and Fire Protection, staff has determined that impacts on the environment are less than significant and no revised or new conditions of certification are needed to ensure the project remains in compliance with all applicable LORS. In addition, the project modification would not affect any population including an Environmental Justice population as there is no

Environmental Justice population within 6 miles of the site. Staff notes the following for each of these technical areas:

- **Air Quality.** The proposed modification would result in negligible air quality and greenhouse gas related impacts. Continued implementation of Conditions of Certification **AQ-SC3** through **AQ-SC7** related to fugitive dust and engine emissions for off-road equipment will mitigate short-term construction emissions to a less-than-significant level, and the facility would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Cultural Resources.** The modifications would take place in an area previously surveyed for cultural resources; therefore there are no known resources that could be impacted. In the unlikely event of a discovery of buried cultural resources, any potentially significant impacts would be mitigated by Conditions of Certification **CUL-3**, **CUL-4**, **CUL-6**, **CUL-7**, **CUL-9**, and **CUL-18**.
- **Facility Design.** Installation of the foundation and connections associated with this GSU must comply with the 2013 California Building Code and related engineering LORS. Implementation of the existing **Facility Design** conditions of certification adopted in the Energy Commission Decision would ensure this.
- **Hazardous Materials Management.** During the installation of the spare GSU, several hazardous materials will be used onsite. Similar to equipment maintenance activities, these materials would include solvents, gasoline, lubricants, and welding gases which are already included in the annual compliance report under the existing **HAZ-1** condition. No extremely hazardous or regulated hazardous materials will be used on site specifically for the installation of the spare GSU. Therefore, with petitioner's continued compliance with existing conditions of certification, **HAZ-1** specifically, the proposed modification would not have a significant effect on the environment and would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Noise and Vibration.** Construction work associated with installation of the GSU would occur during the daytime hours and would be short-term. Any noise generated during this activity would result in a less-than-significant impact with implementation of the existing **Noise** conditions of certification adopted in the Energy Commission Decision. Operational noise impacts would not be affected by this petition and the project would continue to comply with LORS.
- **Public Health.** The modification allowing the storage of a spare GSU would have a negligible effect on public health from the particulate matter emitted from service vehicles during the construction period. With implementation of existing conditions of certification, the project would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Reliability.** The spare GSU would potentially increase reliability due to potentially reduced outage repair downtime(s). No further analysis related to this topic is needed.

- **Socioeconomics.** Installation of the spare GSU would require approximately 10 workers for a period of two days. Construction of the foundation and containment structure is estimated to require an average of 10 workers for a period of approximately one week. From a socioeconomics standpoint, the proposed amendment would have insignificant workforce-related impacts on housing and community services.
- **Soil and Water Resources.** Condition of Certification **SOIL&WATER-1** requires the project owner to prepare and maintain a Drainage Erosion and Sediment Control Plan (DESCP) when land is disturbed and there is potential for soil erosion and stormwater runoff. If the transformer is placed on site as proposed, the DESCP should be updated as necessary and any changes in stormwater management should be reported in the periodic compliance reports and/or the annual compliance report. The proposed modification would not require any action for any other **SOIL&WATER** conditions. If the project owner complies with **SOIL&WATER-1** any potential impacts from soil erosion and stormwater runoff would be mitigated, and the project would continue to comply with all applicable LORS.
- **Traffic and Transportation.** Continued adherence to Conditions of Certification **TRANS-2** (Oversized and Overweight Vehicles) and **TRANS-4** (Securing Permits/Licenses to Transport Hazardous Materials) in the GSEP Final Decision will ensure compliance with LORS. The proposed installation of a GSU at the GSEP would not have any significant traffic and transportation impacts.
- **Waste Management.** The project would not result in any additional waste management impacts. Continued implementation of existing Condition of Certification **WASTE-4** would ensure that waste generated during construction is tracked and disposed of at the proper facilities.
- **Worker Safety and Fire Protection.** The installation of the GSU would include a new foundation and containment berm. The GSU would be secured to the foundation. The construction activities required for the installation of the GSU would comply with worker safety and fire safety requirements already contained in health and safety plans utilized for construction of the main facility per Condition of Certification **WORKER SAFETY-1**.

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

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 or LORS Inconsistency*	Process As Amendment	
Air Quality		X		
Biological Resources	X			
Cultural Resources		X		
Efficiency	X			
Facility Design		X		
Geological and Paleontological Resources	X			
Hazardous Materials Management		X		
Land Use	X			
Noise and Vibration		X		
Public Health		X		
Reliability		X		
Socioeconomics		X		
Soil and Water Resources		X		
Traffic and Transportation		X		
Transmission Line Safety and Nuisance	X			
Transmission System Engineering	X			
Visual Resources	X			
Waste Management		X		
Worker Safety and 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 (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 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...”

Energy Commission staff has determined for this petition that:

- The modification 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.

Pursuant to section 1769(a)(2) and based on staff’s determinations, formal approval by the full Commission at a noticed Business Meeting is not required.

Any person may file an objection to staff’s determination within 14 days of the date of this NOD on the grounds that the project modification does not meet the criteria set forth in section 1769(a)(2). Absent any relevant objections, this NOD 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 Genesis 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 documents are required. The comment Title should be “[Your Name]’s Comments re Genesis Determination.” 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 NOD, 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 Genesis PTA, 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 contacted via e-mail at

Notice of Determination
Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8C)
Page 6

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: _____

CHRISTINE ROOT, Manager
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Mail List # 7378
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