

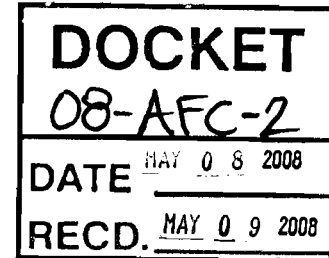
CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



May 8, 2008

The Honorable Michael Rubio
Chairman
Kern County Board of Supervisors
1115 Truxtun Avenue, 5th Floor
Bakersfield, CA 93301



Dear Chairman Rubio:

On March 14, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from Beacon Solar, LLC (Beacon Solar), a subsidiary of Florida Power & Light Energy, LLC (FPL) for a proposed solar thermal power plant. The proposed Beacon Solar Energy Project is a concentrated solar electric generating facility proposed on an approximately 2,012-acre site north-northwest of California City in eastern Kern County, California. The project would use parabolic trough solar thermal technology to produce electrical power using a steam turbine generator fed from a solar steam generator. The solar steam generator receives heat transfer fluid from arrays of parabolic mirrors that collect energy from the sun. The project would have a nominal electrical output of 250 megawatts (MW).

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Energy Commission's analysis produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

On May 7, 2008, the AFC for the Beacon Solar Energy Project was deemed data adequate by the California Energy Commission and our staff will now begin the discovery and analysis phases of our permitting process. Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the Beacon Solar Energy Project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the events.

As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are met and incorporated into the final decision of the Energy Commission. To achieve this objective, the Energy Commission has sent copies of the AFC to the Kern County planning and public works departments and may make specific requests of Kern County staff to review and comment at various points in the certification process. Under Energy Commission guidelines, local agencies may seek reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to these requests.

The Honorable Michael Rubio, Chairman
May 8, 2008
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If your constituents would like to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, they should contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. If you or your staff have technical or project schedule questions, or if you would like additional information on reimbursement or on how the County may participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Bill Pfanner, Project Manager, at (916) 654-4206, or by email at bpfanner@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon>. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html>.

Sincerely,



MELISSA JONES
Executive Director