

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



May 8, 2008

The Honorable Roy Ashburn
Senator, 18th District
State Capitol, Room 3063
Sacramento, CA 95814

DOCKET	
08-AFC-2	
DATE	MAY 08 2008
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Dear Senator Ashburn:

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).

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.

We are available to brief you and your staff on the Energy Commission's power plant review process and the specifics of the Beacon Solar Energy Project's application. Please contact Marni Webber, Acting Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at (916) 654-4942, if you would like a briefing. 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.

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,

Handwritten signature of Melissa Jones in cursive script.

MELISSA JONES
Executive Director