

Memorandum

Date: November 21, 2008

Telephone: (916) 651-0966

To: Karen Douglas, Commissioner and Presiding Member
Jeffrey D. Byron, Commissioner and Associate Member

DOCKET 08-AFC-2

From: **California Energy Commission** – Eric K. Solorio
1516 Ninth Street Project Manager
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DATE NOV 21 2008

RECD. NOV 21 2008

Subject: **Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) STATUS REPORT #3**

Pursuant to the Committee Scheduling Order dated June 18, 2008, the following is staff's Status Report #3 for the proposed Beacon Solar Energy Project (Beacon).

Recent Activities and Current Issues

1. Staff continues to work towards resolving the outstanding issues identified in the June 2, 2008, Issues Identification Report. On November 6, 2008, staff held a Data Response and Issues Resolution Workshop in California City. In response to workshop discussions and specific requests by staff, the applicant agreed to provide staff with additional information in the areas of Water and Soils, Biology, and Cultural Resources.
2. Staff has received numerous comments by the general public, and local and state government entities regarding the applicant's proposed use of a substantial amount of potable, ground water – 1,600 acre feet, per year. As a result, staff is immediately commissioning additional consultants to assist with developing interdisciplinary alternatives analyses that will evaluate the applicant's selected project equipment and processes, such as "wet cooling" and evaporation ponds, and related effects on water resources, facility design, power plant efficiency, and biology.
3. Staff continues to coordinate concurrent environmental review with other agencies such as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California State Water Resources Control Board and others. Staff's goal is to try and maintain a critical path schedule whereby related resource agency reviews and comments will track staff's targeted schedule.
4. Once staff receives the applicant's complete responses to workshop data requests, staff can begin finalizing our preliminary assessment. It is worth noting that although staff's goal is to produce a PSA for public comment as soon as possible, it is anticipated that additional information will be obtained from ongoing analysis and a public workshop on the PSA. Where it is anticipated that staff may obtain more information in a particular area, staff is making the most conservative assumptions about impacts identified in the PSA. As such, staff expects this approach will accelerate the production of the FSA.

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 11/10/08) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 11/12/08

AA

Project Manager Transition

On November 5, 2008 the Siting & Docket Office assigned Eric Solorio, as the new project manager, to replace Shaelyn Strattan who resigned from State service. Mr. Solorio can be contacted at (916) 651-0966 or by email at esolorio@energy.state.ca.us.

Staff's Proposed Schedule

Staff proposes the following revised schedule for the Committee's consideration:

**STAFF'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE
 BEACON SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (08-AFC-2)**

DATE	EVENT
3/14/08	Applicant files Application for Certification (AFC)
5/7/08	Decision on Data Adequacy at the Business Meeting
6/11/08	Informational Hearing and Site Visit
6/17/08	Staff files 1st Round Data Requests
7/17/08	Applicant provides Data Responses (round 1)
7/21/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 1)
8/8/08	Status Report #1
8/15/08	Staff files Data Requests (round 2, if necessary)
9/3/08	Local, state and federal agency draft determinations, including PDOC from KCAPCD
9/15/08	Applicant provides Data Responses (round 2, if necessary)
9/25/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 2)
9/30/08	Status Report #2
11/06/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 2)
11/21/08	Status Report #3
1/20/09	Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) filed
2/05/09	PSA workshop(s)
2/05/09	Local, state and federal agency final determinations, including FDOC from KCAPCD
3/19/09	Final Staff Assessment filed
TBD	Pre-Hearing Conference

Proof of Service List
 Docket



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 *BEACON SOLAR ENERGY*
PROJECT

Docket No. 08-AFC-2

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 11/10/08)

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall either (1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies or (2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the address for the Docket as shown below, AND (3) all parties shall also send a printed or electronic copy of the document, which includes a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service list shown below:

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Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-9
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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, April Albright, declare that on November 21, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) Status Report #3 in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original signature in Dockets
April Albright

Attachments