

Memorandum

Date: July 8, 2009
 Telephone: (916) 651-0966

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

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

DOCKET
08-AFC-2

DATE 07/08/09

RECD. 07/08/09

Subject: **Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) STATUS REPORT #9**

Pursuant to the Committee Scheduling Order dated June 18, 2008, the following is staff's Status Report #9 for the proposed Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP).

Recent and Current Activities

Staff held a public workshop in California City on Wednesday, July 1, 2009. The workshop was attended by members of the public, US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB), Kern County Air Pollution Control District (KCAPCD), Rosamond Community Services District (RCSD), and the California City Public Works Department. With the exception of the FWS who conferred with staff and CDFG for several hours prior to the workshop, all of the agencies directly participated in the workshop discussions. The workshop was also attended by a representative of California State Senator Roy Ashburn (18th District) who voiced support for renewable energy projects. During the workshop, staff received and addressed numerous comments from the public. The majority of comments were focused on the public's concern about applicant's proposed use of potable water and apparent alternatives to using potable water.

Staff continues to work with the Rosamond Community Services District (RCSD) to finalize a proposal that would provide the Beacon Solar Energy Project with tertiary treated wastewater for use in wet cooling. The RCSD has submitted a preliminary proposal to provide the BSEP with the necessary quantity and quality of reclaimed water. The proposal includes two potential routes for the reclaimed water pipeline, engineering and cost estimates for the pipeline facilities, water quality/quantity information and annual delivery costs.

On June 26, 2009, staff received a similar proposal from California City to provide tertiary treated wastewater to the BSEP. Michael Bevins, Director of the Public Works Department, has committed to working with staff to submit a revised and more detailed proposal. Both the RCSD and the California City proposals have already been approved by their respective governing bodies and each are nearly equivalent in cost although there are different issues and factors to consider when analyzing the two alternatives which staff will address in the Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 4/28/09) FILED WITH
 ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 7/8/09

MS

Staff is continuing to develop the FSA by incorporating additional information resulting from the workshop, written comments received from the parties, agencies and the public, including more than 700 pages of additional "project refinements" submitted by the applicant on June 22, 2009. The majority of applicant's recent submittal addresses several major project areas that have been a work in progress, such as the Report of Waste Discharge and the design and engineering of a new diversion channel to relocate two linear miles of Pine Tree Creek. These two items continue to involve joint and concurrent review by CDFG, LRWQCB and staff. Some of the information contained in the applicant's recent submittal includes new changes to the project, such as using propane in place of natural gas (this change will also require a revised Final Determination of Compliance (FDOC) to be issued by KCAPCD), and changes in the type, location and size of water treatment and discharge facilities and storm water retention facilities. Staff is working diligently to review the material and incorporate the information into staff's final analysis.

Schedule

The critical path items to publishing the FSA are staff reviewing the applicant's recent 700 page submittal together with related computer modeling files (air dispersion, ground water, and various hydrologic and hydraulic models), receiving additional information from the applicant regarding various workshop issues (maintenance vehicle emissions, propane supply, soil stabilizers, soil cement/bank treatments, revegetation plan, etc.), and receiving a revised FDOC from the KCAPCD. Staff is also in the process of completing well studies in the Koehn lake area to determine the quality and reliability of a more degraded water source. Staff is planning to complete its review, incorporate the information and submit the last of the FSA sections to management by July 31, 2009. Management and legal review require 2 weeks, document formatting requires one week, and production and distribution requires a week. The end result is staff requires four-weeks of lead time after the final document is written by technical staff. It is also worth noting that staff is mandated to take three furlough days per month which will reduce staff's availability by more than a week between now and the end of August. In addition, there has been a significant curtailment in staff's ability to work overtime. The result of these scheduling factors is that staff plans to publish the FSA by August 27, 2009. Please see staff's proposed revised schedule on the following page.

**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	Staff files Status Report #2
11/06/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 2)
11/21/08	Staff files Status Report #3
12/29/08	Staff files Status Report #4
2/11/09	Staff files Status Report #5
3/05/09	Local, state and federal agency final determinations, including FDOC from KCAPCD
3/09/09	Staff files Status Report #6
4/01/09	Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) filed
4/14/09	PSA workshop
4/21/09	Staff files Status Report #7
6/01/09	Staff files Status Report #8
7/01/09	Staff Workshop to Discuss Mitigation Measures
7/07/09	Staff files Status Report #9
7/31/09	KCAPCD submits a revised FDOC
8/27/09	Final Staff Assessment filed (based upon receiving revised FDOC by July 31, 2009)
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 4/28/09)

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on July 8, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Beacon Solar (08-AFC-2) Status Report #9. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:

[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon]. The document has been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

 x sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

 x by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at _____ with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

 x sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (***preferred method***);

OR

_____ depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. _____

1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

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

Original Signature in Dockets
Maria Santourdjian