

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**08-AFC-2**DATE OCT 23 2009RECD. OCT 26 2009

October 23, 2009

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED BEACON SOLAR ENERGY
PROJECT (08-AFC-2)**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for the Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP) Application for Certification (08-AFC-2). The FSA was published on October 22, 2009. The FSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's final engineering, public health, and environmental evaluation of the proposed BSEP.

The FSA will serve as staff's testimony during evidentiary hearings. The Energy Commission Committee assigned to the BSEP proceedings will consider and weigh the testimony or comments or recommendations of all interested parties, including Energy Commission staff, the applicant, intervenors, public, and other local, state, and federal agencies, before issuing the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for consideration by the full Energy Commission. The public, intervenors, local, state and federal agencies are encouraged to participate in these hearings. The Energy Commission will issue notices at least ten days prior to any scheduled hearings.

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the BSEP Application for Certification and staff's FSA. Written comments on the FSA should be provided to Eric Solorio, Siting Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., November 22, 2009 at the address on this letterhead or by email to esolorio@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should also be directed to Eric Solorio at (916) 651-0966 or by email.

Summary of the Proposed Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP)

On March 14, 2008, Beacon Solar LLC filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission seeking permission to develop the BSEP which is a proposed 250 megawatt (MW) solar thermal, electric generating facility. The applicant proposes to locate BSEP on 2,012 acres within the Mojave Desert, in Kern County, California. The project site arrangement would generally consist of a 1,266-acre, rectangular arrangement of parabolic trough solar collectors surrounding a centrally located power block. The power block facility would house the majority of electrical generation equipment and related systems, with exception of the solar field. The solar collectors would be constructed in long rows across the project site and aligned side by side in a north-south orientation to allow the parabolic troughs to slowly rotate from east to west, tracking the movement of the sun.

The proposed BSEP's primary point of interconnection would be the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) owned Barren Ridge Switching Station. The

new connection would be made by installing a new 230 kilovolt transmission generation tie line (gen-tie line) from the project site to the switching station.

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of 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 (CEQA), and because the regulatory program has been certified by the Natural Resources Agency pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Conclusions

The California Energy Commission staff concludes that the proposed 250-megawatt Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP) in Eastern Kern County can be permitted and constructed in a manner that would allow it to comply with environmental laws and state policies – with the adoption of staff's recommended mitigation measures and the BSEP's incorporation of one of several feasible, project alternatives.

Additionally, if the Commission agrees with staff's conclusions about the project's potentially immitigable impacts to visual resources then the project will require an "override" by the Commission, in order to comply with environmental laws. In the FSA, staff has identified an adverse significant impact to visual resources with no feasible mitigation. Staff also identified specific benefits of the project that could support a statement of overriding considerations by the Commission and potential approval.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at: publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us.

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lourdes Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone (916) 654-5146. For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Eric Solorio, at (916) 651-0966.

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The status of the project, an electronic copy of the FSA, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon/index.html>

News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Susanne Garfield, at (916) 654-4989, or by email at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

The FSA is available for review at the following local libraries:

Mojave Branch Library
16916 1/2 HWY 14
Mojave, CA 93501-1226

California City Library
9507 California City Blvd.
California City, CA 93505

Ridgecrest Branch Library
131 E. Las Flores Avenue
Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Rosamond Branch Library
3611 Rosamond Blvd.
Rosamond, CA 93560

Tehachapi Branch Library
1001 W. Tehachapi Blvd., Suite A-400
Tehachapi, CA 93561

Copies will also be available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at California public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

If you would like a paper copy or CD of the FSA, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to California Energy Commission, Attention: Maria Santourdjian, Siting Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by e-mail at msergoyan@energy.state.ca.us

Sincerely,

Date:

10/23/09



EILEEN ALLEN, Office Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure

Mailed to lists:

7285 - General

7286 - Property Owners

Please send me a paper copy / CD (circle one) of the California Energy Commission Final Staff Assessment for the Beacon Solar Energy Project (BSEP) Project Application for Certification (08-AFC-2).

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

FOLD HERE

California Energy Commission
Attention: Maria Santourdjian
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

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Staple or Tape closed.



**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 October 26, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Beacon Solar Energy Project (08-AFC-2) Notice of Availability for the Final Staff Assessment. 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 Sacramento 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

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

docket@energy.state.ca.us

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

Maria Santourdjian