

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov

Notice of BLM and Energy Commission Staff Data Response and Issues Resolution Workshop / Scoping Meeting for the SES Solar Two Project (08-AFC-5)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) will conduct a data response and issues resolution workshop/BLM scoping meeting for the Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two Project (SES Solar Two) on December 18, 2008. The purpose of the workshop is to discuss Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two, LLC's responses to the BLM and Energy Commission staff's data requests and issues identified in the November 17, 2008 Issues Identification Report. The workshop will also function as a second scoping meeting for the BLM Right-of-Way Application CACA-47740. All interested agencies and members of the public are invited to participate. The workshop/scoping meeting will be held:

Thursday, December 18, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Workshop
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Break (time permitting)
5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Public Comments/BLM Scoping

Imperial County
County Administration Building
Board Chambers
940 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(Map Attached)

DOCKET	
08-AFC-5	
DATE	DEC 02 2008
RECD.	DEC 02 2008

Purpose

The BLM and Energy Commission are currently reviewing Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two, LLC's (SES Solar Two, LLC's) Application for Certification for the proposed development of the SES Solar Two Project. To facilitate its review of the joint Application for Certification and Environmental Impact Statement process, the BLM and Energy Commission staff published the first set of joint data requests for the following technical areas on November 14, 2008: biological resources, land use, socioeconomics, soil and water resources, traffic and transportation, transmission system engineering, visual resources, waste management, and worker safety/fire protection. Additional data requests will be issued for the technical areas of air quality and cultural resources on December 2, 2008.

Project Description

The proposed project would utilize SunCatcher technology, consisting of approximately 30,000 25-kilowatt solar power dishes with a generating capacity of approximately 750 megawatts (MW) to be built in two phases. The first phase would consist up to 12,000 SunCatchers configured in 200 1.5 MW solar groups of 60 SunCatchers per group and have a net nominal generating capacity of 300 MW. The second phase would consist of approximately 18,000 SunCatchers configured in 500 1.5 MW groups with a net generating capacity of 450 MW. Each SunCatcher system consists of an approximate 38-foot high by 40-foot wide solar concentrator dish that supports an array of curved glass mirror facets designed to automatically track the sun and focus solar energy onto a Power Conversion Unit which generates electricity. Related structures would include a main services complex, assembly buildings, a 230-kilovolt (kV) electrical substation, access roads, supply water line, and a 10-mile double circuit 230-kV transmission line from the project site to San Diego Gas and Electric's existing Imperial Valley electrical substation interconnecting the project to the existing 500-kV transmission system. The 450 MW Phase II is dependent on the approval of the proposed Sunrise Powerlink 500-kV transmission line that would also interconnect with the Imperial Valley electrical substation.

Background

On October 8, 2008, the Energy Commission began review of the project. During the review period, Energy Commission staff will determine whether the proposed project complies with applicable laws related to public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering requirements. As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission 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.

Under federal law, the BLM is responsible for processing applications for rights-of-way to authorize the proposed project and associated transmission lines and other facilities to be constructed and operated on land it manages. In processing applications, the BLM must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires that federal agencies consider the environmental impacts associated with the projects they approve.

The purpose of the BLM action is to provide the applicant a decision in processing its application for a right-of-way (ROW) grant for legal use and access of the public lands in Imperial County, California managed by the BLM. The need for BLM action is established by the BLM's responsibility under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), NEPA and other federal laws to respond to SES's request for a ROW for legal

access to construct, operate and decommission a proposed concentrated solar thermal generation plant and related facilities on the public lands. For the decision to be made, BLM will decide whether or not to grant a ROW, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

The proposal would also create the need for amending the BLM California Desert Conservation Plan 1980 (CDCP). The purpose of the CDCP amendment is to ensure the public lands are managed through land use planning according to the principles of multiple use identified in FLPMA while managing valid existing rights and other obligations established. The proposed amendment is necessary to address changing resource demands and technological development proposals on public lands. The CDCP as amended requires (page 95) that "Sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in the Plan (as is this case) will be considered through the Plan Amendment process."

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the BLM and the Energy Commission staff intend to conduct a joint environmental review of the SES Solar Two Project in a NEPA/ CEQA process. It is in the interest of the BLM and the Energy Commission to share in the preparation of a joint environmental analysis of the proposed project to avoid duplication of staff efforts, to share staff expertise and information, to promote intergovernmental coordination at the local, state, and federal levels, and to facilitate public review by providing a joint document and a more efficient environmental review process.

Public Participation

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public with assistance in participating in Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Associate Public Adviser, Loreen McMahon, at: (916) 654-4489, toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at public.adviser@energy.state.ca.us If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lourdes Quiroz at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance or the workshop. Spanish translation services will be available at the workshop.

Questions

General information about the proposed generating facility and related documents are available on the Energy Commission's website at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solartwo/index.html>

or the BLM's website at: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/elcentro/nepa/stirling.html>.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Energy Commission's media office at (916)

654-4989 or e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us. For technical questions on the

subject matter, please contact Christopher Meyer, the Energy Commission Project

Manager, at (916) 653-1639 or by e-mail at: cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us or Jim

Stobaugh, the BLM Project Manager, at (775) 861-6478 or by e-mail at:

jim_stobaugh@blm.gov. If you are unable to attend the workshop, written comments may

be sent to the Energy Commission Project Manager electronically or to the Energy

Commission's street address shown on the letterhead of this notice by January 2, 2009,

the end of the BLM scoping period.

Date: Dec 2, 2008

Original Signature in Dockets

Terrence O'Brien, Deputy Director

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

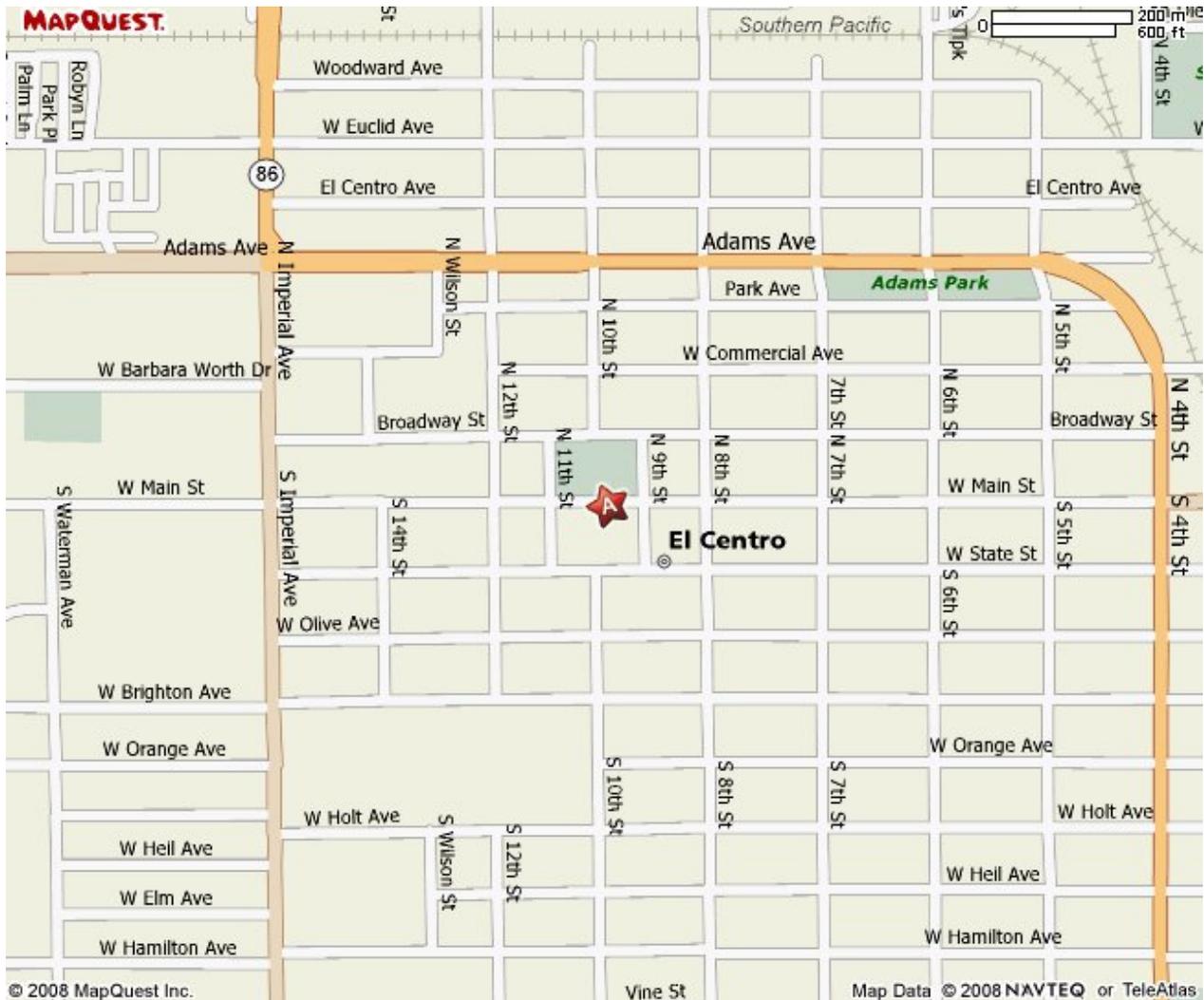
Proof of Service List

Mail Lists: 7302, 7303, 7304, 7305

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1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Workshop
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**Imperial County
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940 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243**

(Wheelchair Accessible)





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 SES SOLAR TWO PROJECT**

Docket No. 08-AFC-5

PROOF OF SERVICE

Revised 11/26/08

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. 08-AFC-5
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
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docket@energy.state.ca.us

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Mineka Foggie, declare that on December 2, 2008, I deposited copies of the attached Notice of BLM and Energy Commission Staff Data Response and Issues Resolution Workshop/ Scoping Meeting for the SES Solar Two Project in the United States mail at Sacramento with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

OR

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