

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5112

California Energy Commission

DOCKETED
09-AFC-5C

TN # 67041

SEP 07 2012



NOTICE OF RECEIPT
PETITION TO AMEND
THE ENERGY COMMISSION DECISION for the
ABENGOA MOJAVE SOLAR POWER PLANT PROJECT (09-AFC-5C)

A petition was filed on July 27, 2012, with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by Abengoa Solar Inc., owner of the Abengoa Mojave Solar Power Plant project (AMS), requesting to amend Condition of Certification **HAZ-7** and wording in the Energy Commission Decision (Decision) for the AMS Power Plant project. The 250-megawatt project was certified by the Energy Commission on September 8, 2010, and began construction on August 29, 2011. The facility is located near the town of Hinkley in San Bernardino County, California.

The Project is comprised of two power islands and two independently-operable solar fields. Each power island is fed by a solar field. The power islands include the major electric generating equipment of the project, including the solar steam generators, steam turbine generators and condensers, electrical switchyards with step-up and auxiliary transformers, cooling towers, heat transfer fluid (HTF) heat exchangers, and various water storage and treatment tanks. The power island portions of the site are the only areas of the plant that will be continuously occupied by plant personnel.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

The proposed amendment requests that the applicability of the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) "Recommended Practice for Fire Protection for Electric Generating Plants and High-Voltage Direct Current Converter Stations", Standard Number 850 (NFPA 850)¹ to the project site be clarified so that the Decision is consistent with the design of the facility's fire protection system. The Petition also asks that the requirement to install a fire water loop be removed from the condition of certification.

NFPA 850 provides recommendations (not requirements) for fire protection for electric generating power plants. Because a local fire protection agency can determine its own fire suppression needs using NFPA guidance, the project owner worked with the San Bernardino County Fire Department (SBCFD) to determine acceptable fire suppression systems and protocols for the facility.

As a result of this consultation, the project owner has stated that the application of the NFPA Standard 850 recommendations, particularly the placement of fire hydrants

¹ The Decision states (on page 179) that "(d)uring operation, the project will meet the fire protection and suppression requirements of the California Fire Code, all applicable recommended National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards (including Standard 850 addressing fire protection at electric generating plants)..."

throughout the solar fields, will not enhance site safety or protect critical plant equipment for the following reasons:

- An HTF fire is not effectively fought with water;
- If hydrants are placed in the solar field and used by firefighting personnel, it would result in extreme danger to the firefighters because of the possibility of personnel being trapped inside the web of HTF piping; and
- Sections of the solar loops within the solar field can be isolated or bypassed so that if a fire ignites, it will be allowed to burn out while the rest of the loops continue to operate and produce power.

STAFF DETERMINATION AND AMENDMENT REVIEW PROCESS

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess any impacts the proposed modifications would have on environmental quality and public health and safety. The process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision, and, if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Title 20, Calif. Code of Regulations, section 1769). Energy Commission staff is currently analyzing the petition and will publish an analysis in the near future. A public hearing for the purpose of approving or denying the amendment petition will be held at a regularly scheduled Energy Commission business meeting.

This Notice of Receipt is being mailed to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the project site who may want to participate in the amendment process.

The petition is available on the Energy Commission's website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/abengoa/compliance/index.html>.

The staff analysis, when published, will also be posted on the website. If you would like to receive a hard copy or CD of the petition, staff's analysis, and/or the order if the amendment is approved, please complete the enclosed Information Request Form and return it to the address shown.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Dale Rundquist, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-2072, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at: Dale.Rundquist@energy.ca.gov.

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Date: _____

CHRISTOPHER J. MARXEN, Manager
Compliance Office
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection
Division

Enclosure: Information Request Form

Mail List # 7362

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

COMPLETE & MAIL TO: CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE UNIT
ATTN: Dale Rundquist
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-2000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

OR FAX TO: (916) 654-3882

NAME AND/OR TITLE (AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON MAIL LABEL)

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)

STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION DECISION TO: Clarify the Required Fire Protection Measures for the Project's Solar Fields.

PLEASE CHECK THE DOCUMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE:

- PETITION TO AMEND CD IF AVAILABLE
- STAFF ANALYSIS CD IF AVAILABLE
- COMMISSION ORDER CD IF AVAILABLE

PROJECT: ABENGOA MOJAVE SOLAR PROJECT POWER PLANT

DOCKET NO: 09-AFC-5C

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PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE ABENGOA MOJAVE SOLAR PROJECT MAILING LIST