

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5112**DOCKET****09-AFC-8**DATE 04/13/10RECD. 04/14/10

April 13, 2010

TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE STAFF ASSESSMENT / DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (09-AFC-8)**

This notice is to inform you that the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have prepared a joint environmental review document deemed a "Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS)". Additionally, this notice is to inform you of the availability of the SA/DEIS which was published by the Energy Commission on March 26, 2010. The SA/DEIS contains the Energy Commission's and BLM's engineering, public health, and environmental evaluation of the proposed Genesis Solar Energy Project (GSEP).

The SA/DEIS will serve as CEC staff's testimony during evidentiary hearings held by the Energy Commission. The Energy Commission Committee assigned to the GSEP proceedings will consider and weigh the testimony and or comments and 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 and agency participation in the review of staff's SA/DEIS. The SA/DEIS states that it will be available for a 90-day public comment period beginning on April 9, 2010. However, in order to be addressed in the Energy Commission's Final Staff Assessment (to be released in mid-June, 2010) and evidentiary hearings (scheduled for July 12 and 13, 2010), written comments on the SA/DEIS should be provided to Mike Monasmith, Senior Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., May 13, 2010 at the address on this letterhead (please add "Mail Slot 15") or by email to [mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us). Technical or project schedule questions should also be directed to Mike Monasmith at (916) 654-4894 or by email.

The BLM issued its Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on April 9, 2010 which will begin the BLM's 90-day public comment period on the SA/DEIS, under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in conjunction with the BLM's review of the GSEP. The BLM will publish a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for GSEP in August, 2010.

**SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT**

On August 31, 2009, the Energy Commission began review of the GSEP. The Energy Commission has the exclusive authority to certify the construction, modification, and

operation of thermal electric power plants 50 MW or larger in California. The Energy Commission certification is in lieu of any permit required by state, regional, or local agencies and federal agencies to the extent permitted by federal law (Pub. Resources Code, Sec. 25500). The Energy Commission must review thermal power plant applications for certification (AFC) to assess potential measures to mitigate identified impacts, and to insure compliance with applicable governmental laws or standards (Pub. Resources Code, Sec. 25519 and Sec. 25523(d)). The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If approved by the Energy Commission, the decision will establish the conditions under which the project shall be constructed, operated, and decommissioned.

Genesis Solar LLC is proposing to construct a utility-scale solar thermal electric power generating facility. The GSEP will have a nominal output of 250 megawatts (MW), consisting of a single power plant utilizing two solar fields. The GSEP will utilize parabolic trough technology to generate electricity. With this technology, arrays of parabolic mirrors collect heat energy from the sun and refocus the radiation on a receiver tube located at the focal point of the parabola. A heat transfer fluid (HTF) reaches high temperatures (750 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]) as it circulates through the receiver tubes. The HTF is then piped through a series of heat exchangers where it releases its stored energy to generate high pressure steam. The steam is then fed to a traditional steam turbine generator where electricity is produced.

The project is proposed to be developed on an approximately 1,890-acre site, administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The project site is located in eastern Riverside County, 3 miles north of Interstate 10, and 25 miles west of Blythe.

### **ENERGY COMMISSION'S AND THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW PROCESS**

The Energy Commission and BLM have prepared a joint environmental review document (SA/DEIS) because 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.

Under federal law, the BLM is responsible for processing requests 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 NEPA, which requires that federal agencies reviewing projects under their jurisdiction consider the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project construction and operation. In order to comply with NEPA the BLM cooperated with the Energy Commission to prepare a Draft

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Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Plan Amendment that was combined with the Energy Commission's Staff Assessment in a joint document.

As the lead state agency under 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's site 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.

## **PUBLIC AND AGENCY PARTICIPATION**

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Mike Monasmith, Senior Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at [mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us).

The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis\\_solar](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar).

You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. By being on this email list, you will receive all project-related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review. If you have any questions related to the automatic email notification list, please contact Maria Sergoyan, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by email at: [msergoya@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:msergoya@energy.state.ca.us)

Sincerely,

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Roger Johnson, Office Manager  
Energy Facilities Siting Office

Enclosure: CD containing the **Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement** for the Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8)



**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](http://WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV)**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE  
*GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT***

**Docket No. 09-AFC-8**

**PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 3/10/10)**

**APPLICANT**

Ryan O’Keefe, Vice President  
Genesis Solar LLC  
700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, Florida 33408  
E-mail service preferred  
[Ryan.okeefe@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Ryan.okeefe@nexteraenergy.com)

Scott Busa/Project Director  
Meg Russel/Project Manager  
Duane McCloud/Lead Engineer  
NextEra Energy  
700 Universe Boulevard  
Juno Beach, FL 33408  
[Scott.Busa@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Scott.Busa@nexteraenergy.com)  
[Meg.Russell@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Meg.Russell@nexteraenergy.com)  
[Duane.mccloud@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Duane.mccloud@nexteraenergy.com)

E-mail service preferred  
Matt Handel/Vice President  
[Matt.Handel@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Matt.Handel@nexteraenergy.com)  
Email service preferred  
Kenny Stein,  
Environmental Services Manager  
[Kenneth.Stein@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Kenneth.Stein@nexteraenergy.com)

Mike Pappalardo  
Permitting Manager  
3368 Videra Drive  
Eugene, OR 97405  
[mike.pappalardo@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:mike.pappalardo@nexteraenergy.com)

Kerry Hattevik/Director  
West Region Regulatory Affairs  
829 Arlington Boulevard  
El Cerrito, CA 94530  
[Kerry.Hattevik@nexteraenergy.com](mailto:Kerry.Hattevik@nexteraenergy.com)

**APPLICANT’S CONSULTANTS**

Tricia Bernhardt/Project Manager  
Tetra Tech, EC  
143 Union Boulevard, Ste 1010  
Lakewood, CO 80228  
[Tricia.bernhardt@ttech.com](mailto:Tricia.bernhardt@ttech.com)

James Kimura, Project Engineer  
Worley Parsons  
2330 East Bidwell Street, Ste.150  
Folsom, CA 95630  
[James.Kimura@WorleyParsons.com](mailto:James.Kimura@WorleyParsons.com)

**COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT**

Scott Galati  
Galati & Blek, LLP  
455 Capitol Mall, Ste. 350  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[sgalati@qb-llp.com](mailto:sgalati@qb-llp.com)

**INTERESTED AGENCIES**

California-ISO  
[e-recipient@caiso.com](mailto:e-recipient@caiso.com)

Allison Shaffer, Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
Palm Springs South Coast  
Field Office  
1201 Bird Center Drive  
Palm Springs, CA 92262  
[Allison\\_Shaffer@blm.gov](mailto:Allison_Shaffer@blm.gov)

**INTERVENORS**

California Unions for Reliable  
Energy (CURE)  
c/o: Tanya A. Gulesserian,  
\*Rachael E. Koss,  
Marc D. Joseph  
Adams Broadwell Joesph  
& Cardoza  
601 Gateway Boulevard,  
Ste 1000  
South San Francisco, CA 94080  
[tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com](mailto:tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com)  
[rkoss@adamsbroadwell.com](mailto:rkoss@adamsbroadwell.com)

Californians for Renewable  
Energy, Inc. (CARE)  
Michael E. Boyd, President  
5439 Soquel Drive  
Soquel, CA 95073-2659  
[michaelboyd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaelboyd@sbcglobal.net)

**OTHER**

Alfredo Figueroa  
424 North Carlton  
Blythe, CA 92225  
[lacunadeaztlan@aol.com](mailto:lacunadeaztlan@aol.com)

**ENERGY COMMISSION**

JAMES D. BOYD  
Commissioner and Presiding  
Member  
[jboyd@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:jboyd@energy.state.ca.us)

ROBERT WEISENMILLER  
Commissioner and Associate  
Member  
[rweisenm@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:rweisenm@energy.state.ca.us)

Kenneth Celli  
Hearing Officer  
[kcelli@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:kcelli@energy.state.ca.us)

Mike Monasmith  
Siting Project Manager  
[mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us)

Caryn Holmes  
Staff Counsel  
[cholmes@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:cholmes@energy.state.ca.us)

Robin Mayer  
Staff Counsel  
[rmayer@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:rmayer@energy.state.ca.us)

Jennifer Jennings  
Public Adviser’s Office  
[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us)

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on April 14, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Agency Letter for the SA/DEIS for Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8), dated April 13, 2010. 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: [[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis\\_solar](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar)].

The documents have 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:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery;
- by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses NOT marked "email preferred."

**AND**

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

- 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. 09-AFC-8  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally Signed by \_\_\_\_\_  
Maria Santourdjian