

DOCKETED

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Docket Number: | 21-AFC-02 |
| Project Title: | Willow Rock Energy Storage Center |
| TN #: | 252786 |
| Document Title: | Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Status Report No 14 |
| Description: | N/A |
| Filer: | Amanda Cooley |
| Organization: | Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP |
| Submitter Role: | Applicant Representative |
| Submission Date: | 10/26/2023 3:48:53 PM |
| Docketed Date: | 10/26/2023 |

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Energy Resources Conservation
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:)
)
Application for Certification for the) Docket No. 21-AFC-02
Willow Rock Energy Storage Center)
)
_____)

**WILLOW ROCK ENERGY STORAGE CENTER
STATUS REPORT NO. 14**

Pursuant to the *Order Suspending the Application For Certification Proceeding And Further Orders* docketed August 11, 2023,¹ GEM A-CAES LLC (“the Applicant”) hereby submits this status report to inform the Committee regarding the progress of the Application for Certification (“AFC”) proceeding for the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center (“Project”).

PROJECT OPTIMIZATION

The Applicant is continuing project optimization efforts, including a revised Project Description. The Applicant is in the process of preparing a supplemental AFC built on this Project Description and is targeting filing in the fourth quarter of this year. The Applicant continues to monitor California Public Utilities Commission proceeding R.20-05-003, particularly with respect to any decisions relating to compliance flexibility of Long-Lead Time resources, which would include the Willow Rock Energy Storage Center. As described in *Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Status Report No. 13*,² significant progress continues to be made on the Project, and the timing of the supplemental AFC submission will be assessed based on the optimized Project Description milestones relative to the amount of compliance flexibility granted. Recent milestones include:

- Participation of Project in additional offtake contracting initiatives, including ongoing discussions in procurement processes with load-serving entities.
- Significant and positive progress on geotechnical field and lab testing, both for deep cavern geology and shallow geotechnical information needed to confirm preferred site layout, including confirmation into Front End Engineering Design (“FEED”).
- Inclusion of FEED basis and preferred site layout into technical impact analyses noted in previous status report.
- Noise baseline and critical receptor studies have been completed.
- Water supply arrangements under negotiation, for both construction and operational phases.

¹ TN#: 251599.

² TN#: 252417.

- Continued commercial progress on adaptive reuse of cavern rock.
- Inclusion of alternate layouts based on adaptive reuse of cavern rock as well as consideration of beneficial reuse to meet regional demand.
- Continued progress of milestones noted in previous status report, including staging optionality and Large Generator Interconnection Agreement.

The Applicant will continue to file Status Reports on or before the 26th of each month with an update regarding the Project's status.

Dated: October 26, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN LLP

By  _____

Jeffery D. Harris

Samantha G. Neumyer

jdh@eslawfirm.com

sgn@eslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Applicant