

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	21-AFC-02
Project Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center
TN #:	255808
Document Title:	Willow Rock Energy Storage Center Status Report No 20
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Amanda Cooley
Organization:	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
Submitter Role:	Applicant Representative
Submission Date:	4/19/2024 1:16:55 PM
Docketed Date:	4/19/2024

**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. 20**

On March 7, 2024, the California Energy Commission (“CEC”) docketed a *Hearing Officer Clarification of Suspension Order and Request for Amended Cover Letter*¹ which requested that the Applicant file an amended cover letter once all of the Supplemental Application for Certification (“AFC”) sections were filed. On March 8, 2024, the Applicant filed an *Amended Cover Letter and Attestation of Completeness* in response to the request from the Hearing Officer.²

Pursuant to the *Hearing Officer Clarification of Suspension Order and Request for Amended Cover Letter*, the filing of the attestation commenced the review period for CEC Staff. Further, per the August 11, 2023 Order, the Executive Director was required, within 30 days of the attestation, to “either verify the completeness of the supplemental AFC or docket Staff’s report indicating the deficiencies in the filing.”³

To date, despite the 30-day post-attestation period specifically provided for in the August Order and subsequent clarification, neither the verification of completeness nor other CEC Staff report have been docketed.

In addition to filing the Supplemental Application for Certification on March 8 and Status Report No. 19 on March 26, the Applicant has also engaged in the following activities in support of the Project:

- Reviewing the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District’s Preliminary Determination of Compliance.
- Continued right-of-entry requests to private landowners for completion of seasonal biological surveys in the buffer areas of the project facility and Transmission Line corridor per CEC and California Department of Fish and Wildlife requirements.

¹ TN#: 254900.

² TN#: 254951.


³ TN#: 251599, Ordering Paragraph 4.

- Continued land acquisition and site control activities for temporary construction laydown areas, Transmission Line route options, and areas for optional onsite reuse of excavated cavern rock.
- Continued geotechnical data collection.
- Continued tribal notifications and monitoring of geotechnical data collection per Assembly Bill 52 and Kern County’s request, respectively.
- Collaboration with Kern County on Transmission Line preferred route within County road right-of-way, local expertise on biological resources in the project area, potential cavern rock hauling on County roadways, potential Tropico Mine cultural resource, and tribal consultation.
- Filed information with Federal Aviation Administration for the Transmission Line preferred route siting within Kern County road right-of-way and the Rosamond Skypark Area of Influence.
- Continued engagement with State Lands Commission and Rosamond Community Services District regarding Transmission Line route options permitting.
- Reviewing draft SF299 application to Bureau of Land Management for the Transmission Line preferred route to cross two government-owned parcels within Kern County road right-of-way.
- Reviewing draft encroachment application to California Department of Transportation for the Transmission Line preferred route permitting across State Route 14 north of the Dawn Road interchange per their request.

Dated: April 19, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

ELLISON, SCHNEIDER, HARRIS & DONLAN LLP

By  _____

Jeffery D. Harris
Samantha G. Neumyer
Jessica Melms
jdh@eslawfirm.com
sgn@eslawfirm.com
jlm@eslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Applicant