

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	23-AFC-01
Project Title:	Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
TN #:	257850
Document Title:	Notice of Preliminary Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshop July 31-August 1, 2024
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	7/19/2024 4:09:57 PM
Docketed Date:	7/19/2024

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR:*

Morton Bay Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-01

*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR:*

Elmore North Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-02

*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR:*

Black Rock Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-03

**Notice of Preliminary Staff Assessment
Technical and Mitigation Workshop
July 31-August 1, 2024**

Start time on Wednesday, July 31, 2:00 p.m. – End Time 9:00 p.m. and if necessary, continued on
Thursday, August 1, 9:30 a.m. – End Time 12:00 Noon
Additional future workshops may be remote only.

The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff will conduct a public workshop for the Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock Geothermal Projects. All interested parties, government agencies, and members of the public are invited to participate in the workshop, which will be held both in person and via remote attendance.

In-person Location:

Imperial Valley College, 380 East Aten Road
College Center, Room 600
Imperial, California 92251*

Includes In-Person Spanish Interpretation
See Attendance Instructions

*Parking will be free for this event in Lot C and D

The purpose of the workshop is to allow the CEC staff and representatives from Berkshire Hathaway Energy, Renewables, and other parties to discuss the Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSAs) for the Morton Bay, the Elmore North, and the Black Rock Geothermal Projects, to identify and resolve areas of disagreement, and to modify or refine mitigation measures, as necessary, and to receive comments from interested government agencies, California Native American Tribes, and the public. The PSAs contain the CEC staff's independent, objective evaluation of each of the proposed geothermal projects. The Elmore North PSA was filed to the docket on June 13, 2024 (TN 256843), the Morton Bay PSA was filed to the docket on June 27, 2024 (TN 257470), and the Black Rock PSA was filed to the docket on July 11, 2024 (TN 257697). The documents may be found on the following project web pages at:

- <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-01>
- <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-02>
- <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-03>

The information obtained from the workshop discussions and public comments received will be a part of the record of proceeding and may be used in the preparation of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for each project.

The public can participate in the Preliminary Staff Assessment Workshop consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC aims to begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome (5 minutes)
2. Introduction of parties and representatives
3. Presentation by CEC staff of status of AFC Process (5 minutes)
5. Additional input and comments, as necessary from California Native American Tribes, responsible and trustee agencies, elected officials, other government agencies, may be made prior to specific topical discussion.
6. Discussion, moderated by CEC staff, on the preliminary staff assessments concerning environmental issues of note by project and topic area, with a focus on areas of requested modification of PSA contents, including to discuss/modify/refine mitigation and to identify topic areas potentially requiring the Committee to resolve through the hearing process. Public comment will be available regarding each topic area at the time the topic is discussed.

Breaks, including a dinner break, will be announced at the beginning of the meeting.

7. Adjourn

Background

On April 18, 2023, the CEC received the following three AFCs seeking to construct and operate geothermal electrical generating and related facilities southeast of the Salton Sea, and northwest of the city of Calipatria, in unincorporated Imperial County, California:

Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC, filed an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP).

Elmore North Geothermal, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC, filed an AFC to construct and operate the Elmore North Geothermal Project (ENGP).

Black Rock Geothermal, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC, filed an AFC to construct and operate the Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP).

The proposed MBGP electricity generating facility would be on a 51-acre portion of a 160-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 020-100-007). The parcel is bounded by McDonald Road to the north, Davis Road to the east, Schrimpf Road to the south, and the Salton Sea to the immediate west. The MBGP would provide electricity via a new 3.2-mile transmission line (Preferred Route) to deliver power to a new Imperial Irrigation District (IID) switching station to be constructed near the intersection of Garst Road and West Sinclair Road. The facility would have a maximum continuous rating of roughly 157 megawatts (MW) gross output, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW. MBGP would require construction of the following features: one steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing systems, one cooling tower, brine pond, 20 wells (both production and injection) on 12 well pads, pipelines, a 230 kilovolt (kV) substation, a 3.2-mile transmission line (approx. 34 poles), three emergency standby diesel generators, a new switching station near the intersection of Garst Road and West Sinclair Road (serving all three projects), and related features. Process water would be supplied for all three projects by the Imperial Irrigation District and via water reclaimed from the process. Potable water would be supplied via a reverse osmosis or equivalent system.

The proposed ENGP electricity generating facility would be on a 51-acre portion of a 140-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 020-100-038). The parcel is bounded by an unnamed dirt road to the north, Cox Road to the west, Garst Road to the east, and West Sinclair Road to the south. The ENGP would provide electricity via a new 0.5-mile transmission line to deliver power to the new Imperial Irrigation District switching station to be built adjacent to the ENGP site. The facility would have a maximum continuous rating of roughly 157 MW gross output, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW. ENGP would require construction of the following features: one steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing systems, one cooling tower, brine pond, 21 wells (both production and injection) on 13 well pads, pipelines, a 230 kV substation, a 0.5-mile transmission line, three emergency standby diesel generators, and related features.

The proposed BRGP electricity generating facility would be on a 51-acre portion of a 160-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 020-110-008). The parcel is bounded by McKendry Road to the north, Severe Road to the west, and Boyle Road to the east. The BRGP would provide electricity via a new 2.2-mile transmission line to deliver power to the new Imperial Irrigation District switching station to be built adjacent to the ENGP site. The facility would have a maximum continuous rating of roughly 87 MW gross output, with an expected net output of roughly 77 MW. BRGP would require construction of the following features: one steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing systems, one cooling tower, brine pond, 12 wells (both production and injection) on seven well pads, pipelines, a 230kV substation, a 2.2-mile transmission line, three emergency standby diesel generators, and related features.

Attendance Instructions

In-person participants may join the meeting at 380 East Aten Road, Imperial, California. Masks and social distancing are encouraged, but not required.

If participants bring a device to join the meeting via Zoom at the physical location, the system audio must be muted, or the audio should not be joined. This is to avoid disruptive feedback during the meeting. Audio will be provided through an onsite sound system.

Remote participants may join via Zoom by internet or phone.

To join via Zoom. Click on

<https://energy.zoom.us/j/82557630054?pwd=jT0fsu760VVdReLdzHTvbJELdLNgU3.1>

- or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID 825 5763 0054 and passcode 022577 and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at 1-213-338-8477. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID 825 5763 0054 and passcode 022577.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors. A more accurate transcript of the workshop will be docketed and posted as soon as possible after the meeting concludes.

Zoom Spanish language Interpreting Services. Open the Zoom meeting. In the "Navigation" panel, click "Settings," then click the "Meeting" tab. Under "In Meeting (Advanced)," click "Language Interpretation" toggle to enable/ disable. If a verification dialog displays, click "Enable" or "Disable" to verify the change. If the option is grayed out, it has been locked and you will need to contact your Zoom admin. Click "Mute Original Audio" to reduce background noise.]

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Public Comment

The CEC encourages the use of its electronic commenting system. Navigate to the “submit e-comment” pages (under Original Proceeding in the right margin) for the dockets as follows:

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/morton-bay-geothermal-project-mbgp>

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/elmore-north-geothermal-project-engp>

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/black-rock-geothermal-project-brgp>

Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the “Comment Text” box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Oral comments will be accepted at the end of the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the “raise hand” feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to “raise your hand” and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments may be submitted for Elmore North to the docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on July 29, 2024; for Morton Bay to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2024; and for Black Rock to the Docket Unit by 5:00 p.m on August 26, 2024.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, or 23-AFC-03 and “Morton Bay Geothermal Project”, or “Elmore North Geothermal Project”, or “Black Rock Geothermal Project” in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission

Docket Unit, MS-4

Docket No. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and 23-AFC-03

715 P Street

Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC’s Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance of the workshop. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

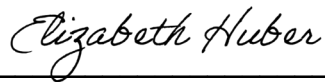
General Inquiries: Email Eric Veerkamp at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 661-8458

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-01>
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-02>
<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-03>
or at <https://www.energy.ca.gov>.

When new information is posted an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Morton Bay Geothermal Project, the Elmore North Geothermal Project, and the Black Rock Geothermal Project. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](#), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: July 19, 2024, at Sacramento, California.



Elizabeth Huber
Director, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

Subscriptions:

23-AFC-01
23-AFC-02
23-AFC-03

