

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-03
Project Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
TN #:	258299
Document Title:	Preliminary Staff Assessment Workshop, Imperial, Imperial County July 31 and August 1, 2024
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/5/2024 12:09:00 PM
Docketed Date:	8/5/2024



Applications for Certification: Morton Bay (23-AFC-01), Elmore North (23-AFC-02), and Black Rock (23-AFC-03) Geothermal Projects

**Preliminary Staff Assessment Workshop, Imperial, Imperial
County July 31 and August 1, 2024**

**Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager
Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division
Siting and Environmental Branch**



Welcome

Welcome to Parties of the Proceeding, and others:

- **Project Applicant:** Berkshire Hathaway Renewables
- **Intervenor:** California Unions for Reliable Energy (CURE)
- **Intervenor:** United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW), Region 6
- **Intervenor:** Supporters Alliance for Environmental Responsibility (SAFER)
- **CEQA Lead Agency:** California Energy Commission staff



Housekeeping Notices

- Workshop is a recorded hybrid meeting,
- Zoom closed captioning service
 - Activate: click on the “live transcript” icon and then choose either “show subtitle” or “view full transcript”.
 - Stop: by exiting out of the “live transcript” or selecting the “hide subtitle” icon.
- Agenda includes time for public comment and input.
- Workshop focus: the preliminary staff assessment (PSA).
 - Discussion by topic area.
 - Comments by interested members of the public available at the time each topic is discussed.
- Please be mindful of the audio for those participating online.



California Energy Commission

Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity, and Tribal Affairs



Office of the Public Advisor, Energy Equity and Tribal Affairs

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2. Comment
3. Intervene
4. Tribal Consultations





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3. Participate

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Docket Log

Docket: 23-AFC-01
Project Title: Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)
Generated On: 8/29/2023 8:26:03 PM

Include: ☒ Documents ☒ Comments ☒ Transcripts

↓ TN #	Docketed Date	Document Title	Exhibit #	To	From
252014	8/28/2023	Northend Action Council Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Drew Bohan	Northend Action Council
252009	8/28/2023	Presentation - BHE Renewables Black Rock, Elmore North, & Morton Bay Geothermal Projects CEC Informational Hearing 17 page(s)		CEC/Docket Unit	Ellison Schneider Harris & Donlan LLP
251984	8/28/2023	City of Calipatria Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Andrew McAllister	City of Calipatria
251977	8/28/2023	Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Drew Bohan	Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia
251966	8/28/2023	Imperial Valley Food Bank Comments - Letter of Support 1 page(s)		CEC/Docket Unit	Imperial Valley Food Bank
251963	8/28/2023	The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley Comments - Letter of Support		CEC/Docket Unit	The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Brawley



Project Webpage



Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP)

The Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) is proposed to be developed by Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER). MBGP would have a maximum continuous rating of approximately 157 megawatts (MW) gross, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW.

PROJECT OWNER

Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, a subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER)

DOCKET NUMBER

23-AFC-01

CAPACITY

140 MW (Net)

LOCATION

Imperial County

TECHNOLOGY

Steam Turbine

PROJECT STATUS

Under Review

PROJECT TYPE

Application for Certification

Project Description

The Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP) is proposed to be developed by Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC (BHER). The project is on 63 acres of a 160-acre parcel in unincorporated Imperial County, 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.

MBGP would have a maximum continuous rating of approximately 157 megawatts (MW) gross, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW. The project includes geothermal production wells, pipelines, fluid and steam handling facilities, a solids handling system, a Class II surface impoundment, a service water pond, a stormwater retention basin, process fluid injection pumps, three power distribution center, borrow pits, and injection wells.

ORIGINAL PROCEEDING

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CONTACTS

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BAY GEOTHERMAL PROJECT

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California Energy Commission

Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division



Applications For Certification (AFC) Status

- ✓ **Applicant Filing: AFC**
- ✓ **CEC data adequacy review:** conducted by CEC staff
- ✓ **CEC determination:** AFC deemed complete on 7/26/23
- ✓ **CEC committees assigned:** oversee AFC proceedings
- ✓ **CEC data discovery:** conducted by CEC staff
- ✓ **CEC Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSA):** prepared by CEC staff



AFC Next Steps

Remaining Steps:

- Staff holds public workshop (7/31-8/1)
- Staff conducts additional workshops [date TBA]
- Staff prepares Final Staff Assessment
 - (FSA includes responses to comments)
- Committees conduct evidentiary hearing
- Committees issue proposed decisions
- CEC decides on proposed decisions



Agenda

1. Biological Resources

- a) Pre-construction surveys and timing of surveys
- b) General conservation measures
- c) Discussion of Conditions Of Certification
- d) Appropriate avian noise limit
- e) Fresh water pond mitigation
- f) Wetland Impacts

2. Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources

- a) Announcement of tribal-focused PSA workshop
- b) Overview of tribally identified environmental impacts

3. Transmission System Engineering – Potential revisions to conditions, such as Redundancy

4. Air Quality – Potential revisions to condition.

*clarify which COCs are applicable to the County and CEC jurisdiction.



Agenda

5. Paleontological Resources – Minor changes to conditions

6. Hazardous Materials Management – Minor changes to conditions

7. Land Use, Agriculture, and Forestry

- Laydown/parking/construction camp jurisdiction
- Agricultural land mitigation

8. Noise

- Construction noise requirements
- Nearest operational noise receptor



Agenda

9. Transmission

[The following energy/transmission comments were provided by IID]

- Is the T-line between the proposed IID switching station and the Coachella Valley substation considered part of the project.
- What is the ETA for performing a new system impact study.



Agenda

10. Water Resources

- Waste discharge requirements
- Underground injection well requirements
- Construction water use

[The following Water comments were provided by IID]

- The WSA should be incorporated into the PSA
- An alternatives feasibility study is required.
- Assessment of impacts to Salton Sea
- A comprehensive IID hydraulic drainage system analysis

11. Project Description

- Laydown/parking/construction camp/brine pipeline jurisdiction
- Compliance Conditions changes



Tribal-focused Aug/Sept Workshop

- California Native American tribes identified several potential environmental impacts
- Potential environmental impacts by topic area:
 - Biological Resources
 - Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources
 - Noise
 - Visual Resources
 - Cumulative Impacts
 - Refinement of Proposed Mitigation
- These impacts are numerous and interconnected



Thank You

PSA Comment periods close:

- **Elmore North: September 2**
- **Morton Bay: September 2**
- **Black Rock: September 2**

Project Contact:

Eric Veerkamp, Project Manager

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