

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-03
Project Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
TN #:	258752
Document Title:	Status Report #11
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Marichka Haws
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	8/30/2024 11:10:42 AM
Docketed Date:	8/30/2024

State of California

California Natural Resources Agency

Memorandum

To: Commissioner Noemi Gallardo, Presiding Member
Commissioner David Hochschild, Associate Member

Date: August 30, 2024

From: California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Eric Veerkamp
Project Manager
(916) 661-8458

Subject: STATUS REPORT #11 FOR BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT (23-AFC-03)

The Presiding Member's Scheduling Order for the Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP) Proceeding filed on September 15, 2023, orders the parties to file a status report on "October 31st, and by the last business day of every month thereafter." The California Energy Commission staff is further ordered to "include summaries of the progress of discovery in each monthly report, including descriptions of significant communications with other federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments, and identify any factors that may impact the schedule of the proceeding. Status reports shall also include a description of the outcome of any public workshop or other meeting held during that month."

Summary of Progress of Discovery and Known Issues

On August 22, 2024, the State of California Department of Transportation, filed State of California Department of Transportation Comments-Black Rock Geothermal Project-Docket # 23-AFC-03 (TN 258624)

Description of Outcomes of the July 31/August 1, 2024 Workshop

At a public workshop held in Imperial, California on July 31 and August 1, staff, the applicant, and the intervenors discussed and considered changes to proposed mitigation for various topics in the Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSAs), including Biological Resources; Geology, Paleontology and Minerals; Noise and Vibration; and Water Resources. The public forum provided for the discussion to be conducted in accordance with California Code of Regulations, title 20, section 1711. The public had multiple opportunities to provide oral feedback during the workshop; the public was also encouraged on multiple occasions to provide written feedback following the close of the workshop. As anticipated, issues remain to be resolved, and staff will continue to receive comments and feedback.

Scheduled Workshop(s)

Staff has scheduled a targeted tribal issues workshop for September 6, 2024; the workshop will be a hybrid type, with both in-person staff attendance and remote attendance. A second remote-only general topics workshop is tentatively scheduled for September 19, 2024. Both workshops will utilize a location in Imperial County for the assemblage of interested individuals.

Schedule Impacts

There are no known factors that could impact the schedule of the BRGP proceeding. Staff acknowledged the July 26, 2024, committee order which extended the comment period for all three projects to September 2, 2024, subsequently extended by order of the Committee to September 4, 2024. By order of the committee, staff confirmed on July 29, 2024, that the workshop would occur as planned. Staff also, as per the order, filed a proposed schedule for the remainder of the proceeding.

Staff will continue to follow the directives of the September 15, 2023, April 12, 2024, and July 26, 2024, Scheduling Orders and provide regular updates to the Committee.