

**DOCKETED**

<b>Docket Number:</b>	23-AFC-03
<b>Project Title:</b>	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
<b>TN #:</b>	262039
<b>Document Title:</b>	Black Rock Geothermal Project Status Report No 17
<b>Description:</b>	N/A
<b>Filer:</b>	Amanda Cooley
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<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Applicant Representative
<b>Submission Date:</b>	2/28/2025 4:23:48 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	2/28/2025

**THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**Energy Resources Conservation  
and Development Commission**

In the Matter of:

Application for Certification for the  
Black Rock Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-03

**BLACK ROCK GEOTHERMAL PROJECT  
STATUS REPORT NO. 17**

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Pursuant to the *Second Revised Joint Scheduling Order and Order Granting Staff's Motion to Extend Due Dates* ("Second Revised Joint Order"),<sup>1</sup> Black Rock Geothermal LLC ("the Applicant") provides this *Status Report No. 17* to update the Committee regarding the status of the Application for Certification ("AFC") proceeding for the Black Rock Geothermal Project ("BRGP" or the "Project").

**I. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS OF PROCEEDING**

On February 7, 2025, the Applicant filed a motion to suspend the AFC proceeding ("Motion") for the BRGP. The Motion requests that California Energy Commission ("CEC") Staff provide a list of outstanding informational items that CEC Staff believes is necessary to prepare a Final Staff Assessment and that the Committee confirm that the Applicant may continue to file identified informational items. The Motion also proposes that the Applicant submit quarterly status reports during the period of suspension.<sup>2</sup>

On February 12, 2025, Intervenor California Unions for Reliable Energy ("CURE") filed a response to the Motion stating that the Committee should grant the motion, but that the Applicant should file outstanding informational items as a single comprehensive filing concurrently with filing a notice to resume the proceedings, in addition to monthly status reports.<sup>3</sup> The Applicant does not agree with CURE's position that parties would be disadvantaged or somehow prejudiced with the submission of information by the Applicant during the period of suspension. Nor does the Applicant agree with CURE's suggestion that "enhanced reporting requirements" are necessary to ensure transparency. The Applicant has been and will continue to be transparent through the AFC proceeding.

On February 13, 2025, Intervenor United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of America ("UAW") filed a response to the Motion stating that the Committee should grant the motion, but that the Applicant should file outstanding informational items as a single

<sup>1</sup> TN#: 261551.

<sup>2</sup> TN#: 261641.

<sup>3</sup> TN#: 261713, p. 5.

comprehensive filing concurrently with filing a notice to resume the proceedings, in addition to monthly status reports.<sup>4</sup> UAW also requested that the Committee set deadlines for the submission of information by the Applicant and third-party agencies.<sup>5</sup>

The Applicant does not agree that the Committee should establish deadlines for either the Applicant or third-party agencies to submit outstanding informational items, particularly because certain items depend on information or feedback from entities outside of the Applicant's control, and third-party agencies may similarly desire to suspend their efforts during the pendency of the suspension. The Applicant also notes that this proposal is inconsistent with UAW's other proposal for the Applicant to submit a single comprehensive filing of outstanding informational items concurrently with the Applicant's notice to resume the AFC proceedings.

On February 14, 2025, CEC Staff filed a response stating that it did not oppose the Motion and requesting that the Applicant file bimonthly status reports and provide 30-day advance notice prior to filing a notice to resume the AFC proceedings.<sup>6</sup> CEC Staff concurred with CURE's recommendation that outstanding informational items be filed as a single comprehensive filing. As set forth in the Applicant's Motion, the Applicant has proposed submission of quarterly status reports. Quarterly status reports balance the need to provide updates to the Committee and other parties regarding the status of the proceeding while also recognizing that the proceeding is suspended so that the Applicant can determine the appropriate next steps for the project.

## **II. DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT COMMUNICATIONS WITH OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL AGENCIES, AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

In connection with the Applicant's Motion on February 7, 2025, the Applicant has conducted outreach to tribal governments and federal, state, and local agencies and representatives to provide notice of the motion to suspend the proceeding.

On February 20, 2025, the Applicant received a stakeholder notice from the Imperial Irrigation District ("IID") that the deadline to participate in the 2025 Transitional Cluster has been extended for BRGP along with other projects that are part of IID's interconnection queue. The Applicant is evaluating the notice.

## **III. OUTCOME OF PUBLIC WORKSHOPS OR MEETINGS**

No public workshops were held in February 2025.

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<sup>4</sup> TN#: 261755.

<sup>5</sup> TN#: 261755, PDF p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> TN#: 261784.

#### IV. SCHEDULE

The Applicant will continue to comply with the Second Revised Joint Order as it awaits a Committee order on its February 7<sup>th</sup> Motion.

Dated: February 28, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

ELLISON SCHNEIDER HARRIS & DONLAN L.L.P.

By \_\_\_\_\_

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