

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	09-AFC-07C
Project Title:	Palen Solar Power Project - Compliance
TN #:	200923
Document Title:	Intervenor CRIT Ex. 8011
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Winter King
Organization:	Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
Submitter Role:	Intervenor Representative
Submission Date:	10/16/2013 4:42:58 PM
Docketed Date:	10/16/2013

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov



February 25, 2013

Eldred Enas, Chairperson
Colorado River Indian Tribe
26600 Mojave Road
Parker, AZ 85344

RE: Palen Solar Electric Generating System (09-AFC-7C) - Invitation to Participate in California Energy Commission Tribal Consultation

Dear Honorable Chairperson Enas,

Your name was provided to the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in a letter dated February 13, 2013, as a representative of a Native American community who might be interested in the change in the design of the Palen Solar Power Project. The project is proposed to be located on 3,794 acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land in Riverside County, California and is located approximately ¼ mile north of Interstate 10 near the Corn Springs Road exit, ten miles east of Desert Center and approximately halfway between the cities of Indio and Blythe. This letter provides general information concerning the project design changes, includes attached exhibits depicting the vicinity and project site location, and invites the tribe to participate in Energy Commission consultations with affiliated tribes.

On December 17, 2012, Palen Solar Holdings, LLC (PSH) filed a Petition to Amend with the Energy Commission requesting to modify the Palen Solar Power Project. The project, as licensed on December 15, 2010 by the Energy Commission, is a 500-megawatt (MW) solar thermal power generating facility utilizing parabolic trough technology. In the 2012 petition, PSH proposes changes to the approved site layout and technology associated with the approved project. PSH proposes to use solar tower technology. Heliostats, elevated mirrors mounted on a pylon guided by a tracking system, will be used to focus the sun's rays on a solar receiver steam generator (SRSG) located atop a 750-foot tall solar tower near the center of each solar field, to create steam. The modified project, which is named the Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS), will be comprised of two adjacent solar fields and associated facilities with a total combined nominal output of approximately 500 MW. PSH proposes to develop PSEGS in two operational phases: each phase will consist of one solar field and power block with approximately 250 MW of generation capacity. Each solar field will have an array of approximately 85,000 heliostats for a total of 170,000 heliostats for the project. Each phase will also share common facilities, including a common area containing an administration building, warehouse, evaporation ponds, maintenance complex and a meter/valve station for incoming natural gas service to the site, an onsite switchyard, and a single-circuit 230 kV generation tie-line to deliver power to the

Eldred Enas
February 25, 2013
Page 2

electricity grid. Other onsite facilities will include access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel or paved), perimeter fencing, tortoise fencing and other ancillary security facilities. PSH does not propose to change the generating capacity of the Energy Commission-approved project, the site access, or the interconnection point at Red Bluff Substation, although there will be a slight re-routing of the generation tie-line near the western end of the route and around Southern California Edison's newly constructed Red Bluff Substation. In addition to approval from the Energy Commission, the amended project will require BLM to complete an environmental review and grant a right-of-way lease.

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will be holding a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the modified project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public and tribes, as well as local, state and federal agencies, the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed modifications. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting. If you want to be notified by e-mail whenever a public meeting is scheduled or a document is posted to the project website, you can sign up for the project list server on the web page. Public notices can also be sent to you by mail at your request. Should the Tribe request, Energy Commission staff will arrange for a separate meeting to discuss issues that the Tribe may wish to hold in confidence from the general public.

To view a copy of the Petition to Amend and supplement for this compliance proceeding (09-AFC-7C) and find more information about the project and proceedings, please visit the project website. For access to all project information, including past project certification, go to: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen>.

For access to specific project amendment and supplemental information go to: [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/2012-12-18 Petition to amend TN-68910.pdf](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/2012-12-18%20Petition%20to%20amend%20TN-68910.pdf), and [http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/supplement 1 pti/Supplement No 01.pdf](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/supplement%201%20pti/Supplement%20No%2001.pdf).

Please consider reviewing the above referenced project information so that we can promptly proceed to meaningful dialogue that matches the pace of the project compliance process. Staff anticipates publishing its Preliminary Staff Assessment on the petition in May 2013. Staff will be following up this letter with phone calls to ascertain the tribe's level of interest.

The Energy Commission staff looks forward to your comments or questions. If you would like to talk with staff about concerns regarding impacts that Palen Solar Power Plant modifications could have on resources of concern to the Tribe or arrange a

Eldred Enas
February 25, 2013
Page 3

meeting, please contact Thomas Gates at (916) 654-5008; Fax: (916) 651-8868; or
thomas.gates@energy.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



ROGER E. JOHNSON
Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission
and Environmental Protection Division

Energy Commission Tribal Liaison

Enclosures: Site Vicinity Map
PSEGS Facility Boundary Map