

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	09-AFC-07C
Project Title:	Palen Solar Power Project - Compliance
TN #:	201586
Document Title:	Committee Order re: Status Reports
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Darlene Burgess
Organization:	Energy Commission Hearing Office
Submitter Role:	Committee
Submission Date:	1/23/2014 9:36:14 AM
Docketed Date:	1/23/2014



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

***PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM AMENDMENT***

Docket No. 09-AFC-07C

COMMITTEE ORDER RE: STATUS REPORTS

Background on the Proceeding

Palen Solar I, LLC, filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the Commission on August 24, 2009, to construct and operate a nominal 500 megawatt (MW) concentrating solar thermal electric power generating facility. The Commission issued a Final Decision for the Palen Solar Power Project (PSPP) on December 15, 2010 (Order No. 10-1215-19, the “Final Decision,” 09-AFC-07). The Final Decision describes the PSPP as a solar thermal project using parabolic trough technology.

Project ownership has changed and the current owner, Palen Solar Holdings (PSH), seeks to amend the Final Decision. The modified project would be called Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS). The amendment includes replacing the parabolic trough solar collection system and associated heat transfer fluid with “power tower” technology. The technology uses heliostats (elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on a pylon) to focus the sun’s rays on a solar receiver steam generator located atop a solar tower near the center of each solar field to create steam. A limited amount of natural gas would be used prior to sunrise and at other times when solar insolation has dropped below the level required to keep the steam turbine generator system running. The PSEGS will be comprised of two adjacent solar fields and associated facilities with a total combined nominal output of approximately 500 MW.

The Committee held evidentiary hearings in October and November of 2013, and issued the Presiding Member’s Proposed Decision (PMPD) on December 13, 2013, which recommended denial of the amendment without prejudice. On December 23, 2013, the Petitioner filed a “Request for a Delay in the Schedule” seeking to postpone submission of the PMPD to the full commission and asking for more time to gather evidence identified as “insufficient” in the PMPD relating to potential impacts to avian species as well as to submit new data regarding project benefits. The motion sought to extend the schedule until spring 2014, and offered to submit monthly status reports to keep the Committee apprised of Petitioner’s progress until the Petitioner was ready to file a motion to reopen the evidentiary record. On December 23, 2013, the Committee granted the request and, at the January 7, 2014 Committee Conference, limited any

new information to alternatives (specifically project benefits and feasibility of the alternatives), impacts to avian biological resources, and mitigation of cultural resources.

Status Reports

Monthly status reports must be submitted by the Petitioner, although other parties may submit status reports if they so choose. When the Petitioner is ready to file a motion to reopen the evidentiary hearings, a notification that the motion is ready to be filed must be included in the status report filed the month before the motion is filed.

Status reports and any other documents **shall be electronically filed no later than 3:00 p.m.** on the first working day of each month beginning February 3, 2014. Status reports must contain “**Docket No. 09-AFC-07C**” in the caption or heading. Status reports must be e-filed according to the ***Revised General Orders Regarding Electronic Document Formats, Filing and Service of Documents and Other Matters***, which was posted on October 21, 2013, at:

http://docketpublic.energy.ca.gov/PublicDocuments/09-AFC-07C/TN200981_20131021T163705_102113_General_Orders_Updated_for_efiling_and_Attachments.pdf

Public Adviser and Public Participation

The opportunity to intervene in these proceedings has expired. However, the Energy Commission invites members of the public and other interested parties to participate in the proceeding by offering comment. Written and oral public comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record.

The Energy Commission’s Public Adviser’s Office is available to provide the public with an understanding of a proceeding and to make recommendations for meaningful participation. For assistance, contact Alana Matthews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228, or e-mail at: publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Kenneth Celli, Hearing Adviser, at (916) 651-8893, or e-mail at: ken.celli@energy.ca.gov.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Christine Stora, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4745, or e-mail at: christine.stora@energy.ca.gov.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989, or e-mail at: mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's internet web page at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

Dated: January 23, 2014, at Sacramento, California.

Original Signed By:

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Palen Solar Electric Generating System
Amendment Committee

Original Signed By:

DAVID HOCHSCHILD
Commissioner and Associate Member
Palen Solar Electric Generating System
Amendment Committee