

## DOCKETED

<b>Docket Number:</b>	02-AFC-01C
<b>Project Title:</b>	Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) - Compliance
<b>TN #:</b>	206071
<b>Document Title:</b>	Notice of Public Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting, etc.
<b>Description:</b>	Notice
<b>Filer:</b>	Darlene Burgess
<b>Organization:</b>	Energy Commission Hearing Office
<b>Submitter Role:</b>	Committee
<b>Submission Date:</b>	9/11/2015 1:40:15 PM
<b>Docketed Date:</b>	9/11/2015



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

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE  
SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT**

**Docket No. 02-AFC-01C**

## **NOTICE OF PUBLIC SITE VISIT, ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING**

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas Sonoran Energy Inc. ("AltaGas"<sup>1</sup>) submitted a Petition to Amend to the California Energy Commission seeking permission to make changes to the Final Decision for the Blythe Energy Project Phase II. The project owner has renamed the project "Sonoran Energy Project" (SEP). The SEP, a proposed 553 megawatt (MW) natural-gas-fired combined-cycle power plant, would be located in eastern Riverside County, approximately five miles west of the city of Blythe.

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Energy Commission has designated a Committee<sup>2</sup> of two commissioners to conduct proceedings on the Petition to Amend. The Committee has scheduled a Public Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting, and Informational Hearing as described below:

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**

**Public Site Visit begins at 4:30 p.m.**

**Blythe City Hall**

**(Complimentary bus transportation leaves Blythe City Hall  
for the site at approximately 4:40 p.m.)**

**Environmental Scoping Meeting/Informational Hearing begins at 5:30 p.m.**

**Blythe City Hall Council Chambers**

**235 North Broadway**

**Blythe, CA 92225**

**(Map attached)**

---

<sup>1</sup> AltaGas purchased the Blythe II project from the previous owner, Caithness Blythe II, in 2014.

<sup>2</sup> The Committee consists of Commissioner Janea Scott, Presiding Member, and Karen Douglas, Associate Member. The full Commission made this Committee assignment at an Energy Commission Business Meeting on August 12, 2015.

Prior to the Environmental Scoping Meeting and Informational Hearing, the public is invited to join the Committee on a tour of the proposed site. AltaGas will provide complimentary bus transportation from Blythe City Hall, which will depart at approximately 4:40 p.m. For site visit and bus reservations, please contact the Commission's Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228, or e-mail [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

**Please make your reservation by 3:00 p.m. on or before September 21, 2015, so that we can assure you a seat on the bus.**



**TELECONFERENCE OPTION:** Parties and the Public may attend the Environmental Scoping Meeting/Informational Hearing in person at the above location or by telephone and/or by computer via our "WebEx" web conferencing system. For details on how to participate by WebEx, please see the "Participation through WebEx" directions attached to this Notice.

## **Background**

On December 14, 2005, the California Energy Commission granted a certificate to Caithness Blythe II, LLC, to construct and operate the Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II), Docket Number 02-AFC-01. The approved BEP II has not been built yet. The project owner received license extensions from the Commission in 2010 and 2012. An amendment, approved in 2012, increased project output from 520 MW to 569 MW. Under the 2012 Amendment, the project would be a combined-cycle power plant consisting of two combustion turbines with fired heat recovery steam generators (HRSGs), a single steam turbine generator (STG), an 11-cell wet cooling tower, and ancillary equipment. The project site is located in eastern Riverside County, approximately five miles west of Blythe, California.

On May 9, 2014, AltaGas submitted a Notice of Name Change/Petition to Change Ownership from Caithness Blythe II, LLC to AltaGas Sonoran Energy, Inc. to the Commission. The Commission approved the name and ownership change on June 18, 2014.

Upon acquisition of the project, AltaGas evaluated the project as approved and determined that in light of current turbine technology, changes to the project design were needed to better support integration of renewables to the grid by providing fast-starting, faster-ramping, lower-minimum-load, higher-efficiency combined-cycle generation.

## **Proposed Project Modifications**

The SEP is a proposed natural gas-fired, water-cooled, combined cycle, 553 MW net electrical generating facility. The proposed changes involve the following amendments to the BEP II certificate:

- Define a new point of electrical interconnection via an approximately 1,320-foot, 161-kV transmission line to the Western Area Power Administration's Blythe substation located southeast of the project site.
- Replace the two approved, but not built, Siemens SGT6-5000F combustion turbines with a single, more efficient General Electric (GE) Frame 7HA.02 combustion turbine.
- Replace the approved, but not built, Siemens STG with a more efficient single-shaft GE D652 STG.
- Increase the size of the approved, but not built, auxiliary boiler to support the GE combustion turbine's rapid response fast-start capability.
- Decrease the size of the approved, but not built, cooling tower from an 11-cell to a 10-cell tower in response to the reduced-heat rejection requirements.
- Decrease the size of the approved, but not built, emergency diesel fire pump engine.

Operation of the proposed SEP would remain within the parameters of existing Condition of Certification WATER RES-4 and would not exceed a maximum of 2,800 acre-feet per year of water, based on the facility operating 7,000 hours per year.

Construction of the SEP is scheduled to begin in the 2nd quarter of 2016 and continue through the 2nd quarter of 2018, approximately 26 months, including 4 months of commissioning.

### **Purpose of the Public Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting, and Informational Hearing**

The power plant certification, licensing and amendment process, which incorporates requirements equivalent to the environmental impact report process of the California Environmental Quality Act, considers all relevant engineering and environmental aspects of the proposed project as well as its consistency with applicable laws and development standards. The amendment review provides a public forum allowing AltaGas, Energy Commission staff ("Staff"), governmental agencies, adjacent landowners, and members of the general public to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed amendments to the project, and to propose changes, mitigation measures, and alternatives as necessary.

The September 28, 2015 Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting, and Informational Hearing will provide an opportunity for members of the community in the project vicinity to obtain information, identify areas of environmental concern to be addressed during the Commission's proceeding, offer comments, and view the project site. The project

owner will explain its plans for developing the project and related facilities. Staff will explain the licensing and amendment process and their role in that process. Members of the public may present oral comments at the Environmental Scoping Meeting/Informational Hearing and no advance notice need be provided. Members of the public may also ask Staff and the project owner questions about the site and proposed facility, as well as the review process.

For more details regarding the proposed power plant and associated facilities, see the Petition to Amend. The Petition to Amend submitted to the Energy Commission is AltaGas's in-depth description of its proposed project. An electronic version has been posted on the Energy Commission's Sonoran Energy Project webpage <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sonoran>. Copies of the Petition to Amend are also available at the local public agencies that are involved in the review process, and at the following libraries:

Palo Verde District Library 125 W. Chanslor Way, Blythe, CA 92225	Riverside Library – Main Branch 3581 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, CA 92501	Parker Public Library 1001 S. Navajo St. Parker, AZ 85344
Quartzsite Public Library 465 N. Plymouth Ave. Quartzsite, AZ 85346		

Copies of the Petition to Amend are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

### **Proposed Schedule and Issues Identification Report**

Staff will file a proposed schedule for project review and an Issues Identification Report summarizing the major issues to date. This report will also indicate what additional information is necessary to resolve issues of concern. The proposed schedule and Staff's report shall be filed by **noon on September 21, 2015**. AltaGas shall file its response, if any, by **noon on September 24, 2015**.

Copies of these documents will be posted on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sonoran>.

### **Public Adviser and Public Participation**

The Energy Commission invites members of the public and other interested parties to participate either on an informal basis or by intervening in the proceeding. Both types of participation allow written and oral comments. At the informal participation level, written and oral comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record,

but are not part of the formal evidentiary record. Intervenors have the right to introduce evidence into the evidentiary record and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses.

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the amendment review process. For information on how to participate, contact Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228, or by e-mail at [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz no less than five days prior to the hearing at (916) 654-5146 or by e-mail at [lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov).

### **Information**

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, Hearing Adviser, at (916) 651-2020, or by e-mail at [raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov](mailto:raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov).

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-8891, or by e-mail at [mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov](mailto:mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov).

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

Dated: September 11, 2015, at Sacramento, California

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

---

JANEA A. SCOTT  
Commissioner and Presiding Member  
Sonoran Energy Project AFC Committee

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

---

KAREN DOUGLAS  
Commissioner and Associate Member  
Sonoran Energy Project AFC Committee

*Mailed to List: 7088*

**PARTICIPATION IN THE SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING/INFORMATIONAL HEARING  
THROUGH WEBEX**



**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING WEBEX TELECONFERENCING  
USING YOUR COMPUTER AND/OR TELEPHONE**



EVENT	DATE	MEETING NUMBER	PASSWORD
Environmental Scoping Meeting & Informational Hearing	Monday, September 28, 2015, 5:30 PM	929 971 443	pwd#1516

**Using Your Computer:**

1. Go to **<https://energy.webex.com>** and enter the above meeting number.
2. When prompted, enter your name, e-mail address, and the meeting password above.
3. After a moment, an Audio Conference Box will offer you a choice of audio connections:
  - a) To have WebEx call you back: Type your area code and phone number into the drop down box and click “Call Me” (Click on “Use Phone” if you do not see the drop down box.)
  - b) To call into the teleconference from your phone (if, for example, your phone is an extension or you are an international caller): Use the drop-down box to select “I will Call in” and follow the on-screen directions. Click “All global call-in numbers” if you need to look up an international call-in number.
  - c) To listen and talk over your computer: If you have the needed equipment and your computer is configured, click the “Call Using Computer” button. (You may need to click “Use Computer for Audio” to make the button visible.)

**Telephone Only:**

1. Call 1 (866) 469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). International Callers can select a global call-in number at **<https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>**.
2. When prompted enter the meeting number above.

Please be aware that WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded. WebEx Technical Support is available at 1 (866) 229-3239.

## **AGENDA**

### **California Energy Commission**

#### **Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting, and Informational Hearing Sonoran Energy Project**

**September 28, 2015  
Beginning at 4:30 p.m.  
Blythe City Hall Council Chambers  
235 North Broadway  
Blythe, CA 92225**

1. 4:30 p.m. - Site visit. Complimentary bus transportation leaves the Blythe City Hall at 4:40 p.m.
2. 5:30 p.m. - Environmental Scoping Meeting and Informational Hearing
  - a. Presentations by AltaGas, Staff, and the Energy Commission's Public Adviser
  - b. Discussion of the environmental issues presented
  - c. Discussion of schedule for the review of the project
3. Public Comment
4. Possible Committee closed session on the Sonoran Energy Project (02-AFC-O1C). The Commissioners may adjourn to closed session to deliberate on matters for decision by the Committee such as the schedule for the review of the project, pending motions and other matters which may arise during the course of the Environmental Scoping Meeting and Informational Hearing. Government Code section 11126 (c)(3) allows a state body, including a delegated committee, to hold a closed session to deliberate on a decision to be reached in a proceeding the state body was required by law to conduct. The Committee may adjourn to closed session at any point during the meeting and may conduct multiple closed sessions as necessary.
5. Adjourn

Agency Contact: Raoul Renaud, Hearing Adviser at (916) 651-2020 or by email at [raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov](mailto:raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov).



**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2015**  
**Public Site Visit begins at 4:30 p.m.**  
**(Complimentary bus leaves Blythe City Hall at 4:40 p.m.)**

**Blythe City Hall Council Chambers**  
**235 N Broadway**  
**Blythe, CA 92225**

