

DOCKETED	
Docket Number:	23-AFC-03
Project Title:	Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP)
TN #:	259037
Document Title:	Notice of Preliminary 2nd Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshop
Description:	Notice of Preliminary 2nd Staff Assessment Technical and Mitigation Workshop
Filer:	Renee Longman
Organization:	California Energy Commission
Submitter Role:	Commission Staff
Submission Date:	9/6/2024 2:41:36 PM
Docketed Date:	9/6/2024

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

energy.ca.gov

CEC-70 (Revised 7/22)



*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR:*

Morton Bay Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-01

*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR:*

Elmore North Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-02

*APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR:*

Black Rock Geothermal Project

Docket No. 23-AFC-03

**Notice of Preliminary 2nd Staff Assessment
Technical and Mitigation Workshop
September 19, 2024**

Start time 2:00 p.m. – End Time 9:00 p.m.
This event will be remote only*

The California Energy Commission (CEC) staff will conduct a remote-only public workshop for the proposed Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock Geothermal Projects pursuant to title 20, California Code of Regulations, section 1711, to facilitate discussion among the parties regarding potentially modifying staff's positions and recommendations as set forth in the three Preliminary Staff Assessments (PSAs) for the three geothermal facility applications. All interested parties, government agencies, and members of the public are invited to attend the workshop and provide comment relevant to the discussion regarding the contents of the PSAs.

*Members of the community who would like to travel to a physical meeting room to observe and participate via remote access are welcome to do so, here:

Imperial Valley College, 380 East Aten Road
College Center, Room 600
Imperial, California 92251

Includes In-Person Spanish Interpretation
See Attendance Instructions

*Parking will be free for this event in Lots C and D beginning at 1:30 p.m., and shuttle bus service will be available from north county locations. Please see the CEC event page linked below for more information on the shuttle bus service.

The purpose of the workshop is to allow the CEC staff and representatives from the applicants and their parent company, Berkshire Hathaway Energy, Renewables (BHER), and other parties to discuss the PSAs for Morton Bay, Elmore North, and Black Rock Geothermal Projects, to identify and resolve areas of disagreement regarding staff's analyses and conclusions, and to modify or refine mitigation measures, as appropriate, and to receive comments from interested government agencies, California Native American Tribes, and the public, on those specific topics. The PSAs contain the CEC staff's independent, objective evaluation of each of the proposed geothermal projects, and recommendations to the committees regarding certifying the facilities.

Project information can be found at the individual project web pages:

- Morton Bay: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/morton-bay-geothermal-project-mbgp>
- Elmore North: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/elmore-north-geothermal-project-engp>
- Black Rock: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/powerplant/steam-turbine/black-rock-geothermal-project-brgp>

The CEC event page is located here: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/events>.

The information obtained from the workshop discussions and public comments will be a part of the record of proceeding and may be used in the preparation of the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) for each proposed project.

The public can participate in the PSA Workshop/Meeting consistent with the attendance instructions below. The CEC staff will begin promptly at the start time posted and the end time is

an estimate based on the proposed agenda. The workshop may end sooner or later than the posted end time.

Proposed Agenda

1. Welcome (5 minutes)
2. Introduction of parties and representatives
3. Presentation by CEC staff on the workshop process for each topic area and a general overview of the topics to be discussed.
4. Identification of any California Native American Tribes, responsible and trustee agencies, elected officials, other government agencies attending the workshop. These attendees may provide comments on staff's positions or recommendations contained in the PSAs at this time or hold comments until later in the workshop when the topic area is discussed among the parties.
5. Discussion, moderated by CEC staff, on potential changes to the positions or recommendations reached by staff in the PSAs concerning environmental issues relating to impacts of the projects, including recommendations regarding necessary or adequate mitigation of any such impacts. Note: staff must gather and evaluate information and evidence and recommend findings to the Committee who will resolve any disputes through the hearing process. Public comment will be available at the time each topic is discussed.
6. Breaks will be announced at the beginning of the meeting. A dinner break will be taken from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
7. At 7:00 p.m.: Public comments will be taken on workshop topic areas for those unable to comment at the time each topic is discussed.
8. Adjourn

Background

On April 18, 2023, three AFCs were filed with the CEC seeking to construct and operate geothermal electrical generating and related facilities southeast of the Salton Sea, and northwest of the City of Calipatria, in unincorporated Imperial County, California:

- Morton Bay Geothermal, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC, filed an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Morton Bay Geothermal Project (MBGP).
- Elmore North Geothermal, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC, filed an AFC to construct and operate the Elmore North Geothermal Project (ENGP).

- Black Rock Geothermal, LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of BHE Renewables, LLC, filed an AFC to construct and operate the Black Rock Geothermal Project (BRGP).

The proposed MBGP electricity generating facility would be on a 51-acre portion of a 160-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 020-100-007). The parcel is bounded by McDonald Road to the north, Davis Road to the east, Schrimpf Road to the south, and the Salton Sea to the immediate west. The MBGP would provide electricity via a new 3.2-mile transmission line to deliver power to a new Imperial Irrigation District (IID) switching station to be constructed near the intersection of Garst Road and West Sinclair Road. The facility would have a maximum continuous rating of roughly 157 megawatts (MW) gross output, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW. MBGP would require construction of the following features: one steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing systems, one cooling tower, brine pond, 20 wells (both production and injection) on 10 well pads, pipelines, a 230 kilovolt (kV) substation, a 3.2-mile transmission line (approx. 34 poles), three emergency standby diesel generators, a new switching station near the intersection of Garst Road and West Sinclair Road (serving all three projects), and related features. Process water would be supplied for all three projects by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and via water reclaimed from the process. Potable water would be supplied via a reverse osmosis or equivalent system.

The proposed ENGP electricity generating facility would be on a 51-acre portion of a 140-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 020-100-038). The parcel is bounded by an unnamed dirt road to the north, Cox Road to the west, Garst Road to the east, and West Sinclair Road to the south. The ENGP would provide electricity via a new 0.5-mile transmission line to deliver power to the new IID switching station to be built adjacent to the ENGP site. The facility would have a maximum continuous rating of roughly 157 MW gross output, with an expected net output of roughly 140 MW. ENGP would require construction of the following features: one steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing systems, one cooling tower, brine pond, 21 wells (both production and injection) on 13 well pads, pipelines, a 230 kV substation, a 0.5-mile transmission line, three emergency standby diesel generators, and related features.

The proposed BRGP electricity generating facility would be on a 51-acre portion of a 160-acre parcel (Assessor's Parcel Number 020-110-008). The parcel is bounded by McKendry Road to the north, Severe Road to the west, and Boyle Road to the east. The BRGP would provide electricity via a new 2.2-mile transmission line to deliver power to the new IID switching station to be built adjacent to the ENGP site. The facility would have a maximum continuous rating of roughly 87 MW gross output, with an expected net output of roughly 77 MW. BRGP would require construction of the following features: one steam turbine generator system, geothermal fluid processing systems, one cooling tower, brine pond, 12 wells (both production and injection) on seven well pads, pipelines, a 230kV substation, a 2.2-mile transmission line, three emergency standby diesel generators, and related features.

Attendance Instructions

Remote participants are encouraged to join via Zoom by internet or phone.

To join via Zoom. Click on

<https://energy.zoom.us/j/89526996553?pwd=uPRfKQ0ujqvzb3BGBzpZ0ao2gVzoZZ.1>

- or login in at <https://zoom.us/> and enter the Webinar ID 895 2699 6553 and passcode 800773 and follow all prompts.
- **To join by telephone.** Call toll-free at 1-213-338-8477. When prompted, enter the Webinar ID 895 2699 6553 and passcode 800773.

Individuals who wish to attend a broadcast of the meeting from a location where attendees will be able to view video and hear in both Spanish and English languages, may do so at Imperial Valley College, 380 East Aten Road, College Center (Room 600) Imperial, California. The ability to comment from the college will also be available.

- If participants bring a remote-participation device to the physical location, the system audio must be muted, or the audio should not be joined. This is to avoid disruptive feedback during the meeting. Audio will be provided through an onsite sound system.

Zoom Closed Captioning Service. At the bottom of the screen, click the Live Transcript CC icon and choose "Show Subtitle" or "View Full Transcript" from the pop-up menu. To stop closed captioning, close the "Live Transcript" or select "Hide Subtitle" from the pop-up menu. If joining by phone, closed captioning is automatic and cannot be turned off. While closed captioning is available in real-time, it can include errors.

Zoom Spanish language Interpreting Services. Open the Zoom meeting. In the "Navigation" panel, click "Settings," then click the "Meeting" tab. Under "In Meeting (Advanced)," click "Language Interpretation" toggle to enable/ disable. If a verification dialog displays, click "Enable" or "Disable" to verify the change. If the option is grayed out, it has been locked and you will need to contact your Zoom admin. Click "Mute Original Audio" to reduce background noise.

Zoom Difficulty. Contact Zoom at (888) 799-9666 ext. 2, or the CEC Public Advisor at publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov, or by phone at (916) 957-7910.

Enter your contact information and a subject title that describes your comment. Comments may be included in the "Comment Text" box or attached as a downloadable, searchable document in Microsoft® Word or Adobe® Acrobat®. The maximum file size allowed is 10 MB.

Oral comments will be accepted at the workshop/meeting. Comments may be limited to three minutes or less per speaker and one person per organization. To comment via Zoom, use the "raise hand" feature so the administrator can announce your name and unmute you. To comment via telephone, press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to mute/unmute.

Written comments the committee ordered public comment period for Elmore North, Morton Bay, and Black Rock ended on September 4, 2024. Comments related to workshop topic discussion may be made orally in the workshop or submitted in writing.

Written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (including address, phone number, and email address) will become part of the public record of this proceeding with access available via any internet search engine. Written comments may also be submitted by email. Include docket number 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and/or 23-AFC-03 and "Morton Bay Geothermal Project", or "Elmore North Geothermal Project", or "Black Rock Geothermal Project" in the subject line and email to docket@energy.ca.gov.

A paper copy may be mailed to:

California Energy Commission
Docket Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 23-AFC-01, 23-AFC-02, and/or 23-AFC-03
715 P Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Public Advisor. The CEC's Public Advisor assists the public with participation in CEC proceedings. To request assistance, interpreting services, or reasonable modifications and accommodations, call (916) 957-7910 or email publicadvisor@energy.ca.gov as soon as possible but at least five days in advance. The CEC will work diligently to meet all requests based on availability.

Media Inquiries. Email mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 654-4989.

General Inquiries: Email Eric Veerkamp at eric.veerkamp@energy.ca.gov or call (916) 661-8458

Availability of Documents: Documents and presentations for this meeting, including the PSAs are available on the CEC project docket pages at:

Morton Bay:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-01>

Elmore North:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-02>

Black Rock:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/Lists/DocketLog.aspx?docketnumber=23-AFC-03>

or at the CEC events page, <https://www.energy.ca.gov/events>

When new information is posted an email will be sent to those subscribed to the Morton Bay Geothermal Project, the Elmore North Geothermal Project, and the Black Rock Geothermal Project. To receive these notices or notices of other email subscription topics, visit [Subscriptions](https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions), at <https://www.energy.ca.gov/subscriptions>.

Dated: September 6, 2024, at Sacramento, California.

Dian Vorters Deputy Director

Elizabeth Huber
Director, Siting, Transmission, and Environmental Protection Division

Subscriptions:

23-AFC-01

23-AFC-02

23-AFC-03



