

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**07-AFC-5**DATE DEC 09 2008RECD. DEC 10 2008

December 9, 2008

Dear Librarian:

DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT (07-AFC-5) and POSTING OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The enclosed Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation of the proposed Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project. Please make this PSA available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the PSA or any of its contents to be removed from the library. To increase accessibility of the document, we ask, if possible, that you cross reference it as a general reference work under the title and author categories, as well as under such subjects as "Energy Commission," "electricity energy/generation," "power plant siting," or any other relevant subject. Please retain the enclosed letter to the public behind the front cover of the PSA.

The Energy Commission's siting process is open to the public and incorporates the input of the public as well as local, state and federal agencies. To facilitate public participation in our review process, the Commission distributes copies of staff documents such as the PSA to public libraries in communities near the proposed project, and in major cities throughout the state. As such, please retain a copy of the enclosed Notice of Availability / Notice of Public Workshop behind the front cover of the PSA and also post a copy of the Public Notice in a place conspicuous and accessible to those members of the general public who visit the library.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Che McFarlin, Project Manager, at (916) 651-0965, or by e-mail at: Cmcfarli@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By
ERIC KNIGHT
Siting and Docket Office Manager

Enclosure

Mailed to list:
7258 - Library

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
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December 9, 2008

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
PRELIMINARY STAFF ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED IVANPAH SOLAR
ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT (07-AFC-5)**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC WORKSHOP
Friday, January 9, 2009
11am – 5pm**

**PRIMM VALLEY RESORT
Banquet Room
31700 Las Vegas Blvd. South
Primm, NV 89019
(Wheelchair Accessible)
(Map Attached)**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project Application for Certification (07-AFC-5). The PSA was published on December 9, 2008. The PSA contains the California Energy Commission staff's preliminary engineering and environmental evaluation of the proposed ISEGS project.

This notice is also to inform you that the Energy Commission staff will hold a workshop to discuss the PSA and further encourage public participation, as it relates to the proposed ISEGS project and the Energy Commission's permitting process. The workshop will be held on Friday, January 9, 2009, from 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the banquet room, at the Primm Valley Resort in Primm, NV. Based on the workshop dialogue, written comments received regarding the PSA, and additional information that will be gathered, the Energy Commission staff will revise the PSA where appropriate and issue a Final Staff Assessment (FSA).

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the ISEGS Application for Certification (07-AFC-5). The public comment period for this PSA is from December 9, 2008 to January 23, 2009. Written comments on the PSA should be provided to Che McFarlin, Project Manager, at the address on this letterhead or by email to Cmcfarli@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Mr. McFarlin at (916) 654-0965, or by email, at the address above.

After the public comment period on the PSA, staff will prepare a document jointly with BLM, which is the federal lead agency for compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). This project will also be reviewed by BLM staff pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976. The joint state and federal analysis will take the form of a FSA/ Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). That document will

then be circulated for a 90-day public comment period. Then a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) will be issued.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Preliminary Findings

Staff's preliminary analysis shows that, with the exception of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Land Use, Soils and Water Resources, Traffic, Transmission System Engineering, and Visual Resources, the ISEGS project's potential impacts will be mitigated to a less than significant level. Staff believes the impacts to Visual Resources are unmitigatable. Staff's preliminary analysis has identified cumulative impacts which are likely to occur in the areas of Biological Resources, Land Use, Traffic, and Visual Resources.

Staff is currently unable to determine if impacts in the areas of Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Land Use, Soils and Water Resources, Traffic, Transmission System Engineering can be mitigated to a less than significant level pending resolution of outstanding issues that require either additional data, further discussion and analysis, or are awaiting conditions from a permitting agency prescribing mitigation.

Staff's analysis also shows that the ISEGS project would not comply with the applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (LORS) that pertain to Visual Resources. Staff is currently unable to determine whether or not ISEGS would comply with the LORS pertaining to Biological Resources, Land Use, and Transmission System Engineering.

Summary of the Proposed Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) Project

On August 31, 2007, the applicant filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission seeking permission to develop the proposed 400 megawatt (MW), Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project. The applicant proposes to locate the ISEGS project on 4,065 acres within the Mojave Desert on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in San Bernardino County, California. This proposed site is located east of the Clark Mountains and west of the Ivanpah Dry Lake. More specifically, the proposed project site is located 4.5 miles southwest of Primm, Nevada and 0.5 mile west of the Primm Valley Golf Club. Access to site would be from the Yates Well Road Interchange on I-15 and Colosseum Road which passes through the proposed project site.

The applicant proposes to develop the ISEGS project in three separate phases, starting with Phase I and ending with Phase III. At full build out, the project would have an electrical generation capacity of 400 megawatts. All three of the proposed solar electric plants (Phases I, II and III) would be developed on contiguous BLM property, share an administration building, an operation and maintenance building, and a substation. The proposed project would also require on-site and off-site infrastructure improvements such as a natural gas pipeline and metering stations, two new ground water wells, storm water retention basins and diversion channels, telecommunications lines and road improvements, among others.

The ISEGS project would be interconnected to the Southern California Edison (SCE) transmission grid by three new 115 kilovolt transmission generation tie lines (gen-tie line) and a new Ivanpah substation. It is anticipated that SCE will upgrade its transmission lines from the proposed new Ivanpah substation, easterly, to the existing Eldorado substation in Nevada.

Energy Commission Licensing Authority

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications for construction and operation of thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact Elena Miller, the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 653-5898 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at: publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us.

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lourdes Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone (916) 654-5146. For those persons with limited English knowledge, request interpreter services by contacting the Project Manager, Che McFarlin, at (916) 651-0965.

The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah/index.html>. News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Susanne Garfield, at (916) 654-4989, or by email at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

Note: Please retain a copy of this Public Notice behind the front cover of the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and post a copy of the Public Notice in a place conspicuous and accessible to those members of the general public who visit the library. Thank You.

**PSA WORKSHOP
IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT**

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