

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512**08-AFC-13**

DATE JUN 05 2009

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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF A SUPPLEMENT TO THE
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR
THE STIRLING ENERGY SYSTEMS SOLAR ONE PROJECT
(08-AFC-13)**

On April 6, 2009, the California Energy Commission received a supplement to the Application for Certification (AFC) for the proposed Stirling Energy Systems Solar One (SES Solar One) Project. This supplemental filing (Data Adequacy Responses) provided staff with additional information regarding the applicant's (Stirling Energy Systems Solar Three, LLC and Stirling Energy Systems Solar Six, LLC) AFC submitted on December 1, 2008. At the Energy Commission's May 6, 2009 Business Meeting, the AFC was deemed complete, beginning staff's analysis of the proposed project.

The proposed SES Solar One Project would be a nominal 850-megawatt (MW) Solar Stirling Engine project located on 8,230 acres of public land managed by the Bureau of Land Management in San Bernardino County. The project site is immediately north of Interstate 40 approximately 115 miles east of Los Angeles and 37 miles east of Barstow, California in a primarily open area of undeveloped land within the Mojave Desert. The SES Solar One site is located south of the Cady Mountain Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and north of the Pisgah Crater, which is located within the BLM-designated Pisgah Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC).

The primary equipment for the generating facility would include approximately 34,000, 25-kilowatt solar dish Stirling systems (referred to as SunCatchers), their associated equipment and systems, and their support infrastructure. Each SunCatcher consists of a solar receiver heat exchanger and a closed-cycle, high-efficiency Solar Stirling Engine specifically designed to convert solar power to rotary power, which drives an electrical generator to produce electricity.

Energy Commission and Bureau of Land Management Joint Review Process

The BLM and the Energy Commission have executed a Memorandum of Understanding concerning their intent to conduct a joint environmental review of the project in a single National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. It is in the interest of the BLM and the Energy Commission to share in the preparation of a joint environmental analysis of the proposed project to avoid duplication of staff efforts, to share staff expertise and information, to promote intergovernmental coordination at the local, state, and federal levels, and to facilitate public review by providing a joint document and a more efficient environmental review process.

Under federal law, the BLM is responsible for processing requests for rights-of-way to authorize the proposed project and associated transmission lines and other facilities to be constructed and operated on land it manages. In processing applications, the BLM must comply with the requirements of NEPA, which requires that federal agencies reviewing projects under their jurisdiction consider the environmental impacts associated with the proposed project construction and operation.

As the lead agency under CEQA, the Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, 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.

Public Participation

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission and the BLM will conduct a number of public workshops, scoping meetings, and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 15 days prior to the meeting.

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Christopher Meyer, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-1639, or by e-mail at cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us. If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact the Energy Commission's Associate Public Adviser, Loreen McMahon, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser can also be contacted via email at PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to the media office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

This notice of receipt has been mailed to all parties that requested placement on the mailing list during the pre-filing period and to property owners located within 1000 feet of the proposed project site. By being on the mailing list, you will receive notices of all project-related activities and notices when documents related to the proposed project's evaluation are available for review. If you want your name removed from the mailing list, please contact Hilarie Anderson, Project Secretary, at (916) 651-0479 or by email at handerso@energy.state.ca.us.

Availability of the AFC Document and AFC Supplement Material

The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solarone>. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

Copies of the AFC are available for public inspection at the following public libraries:

San Bernardino County Library
Barstow Branch
304 East Buena Vista
Barstow, CA 92311

San Bernardino County Library
Needles Branch
1111 Bailey
Needles, CA 92363

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Victorville Public Library
15011 Circle Drive
Victorville, CA 92395

Copies 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, Los Angeles, Fresno, and San Diego. In addition, this information has been shared with those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Sincerely,

Date: _____

Eric Knight, Siting and Docket Office Manager
Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division