

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**08-AFC-13**

DATE _____

RECD JUL 07 2009

The Honorable Roy Ashburn
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 3060
Sacramento, California 94248-0001

Dear Senator Roy Ashburn;

On December 1, 2008, Stirling Energy Systems Solar Three, LLC and Stirling Energy Systems Solar Six, LLC (applicant) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Stirling Energy Systems Solar One Project (SES Solar One), a nominal 850 megawatt (MW) solar thermal powered electric generation facility on 8,230 acres of public land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in San Bernardino County. On April 6, 2009, the applicant filed an AFC Data Adequacy Supplement to the AFC to satisfy the Energy Commission's informational requirements.

Because the applicant has proposed development on Federal land managed by the BLM, the applicant has applied for a right-of-way grant for the project site from the BLM California Desert District. The Energy Commission and the BLM have executed a Memorandum of Understanding for proposed solar thermal projects 50 MW and greater located on land managed by the BLM. It is in the interest of the Energy Commission and the BLM 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.

On May 6, 2009, the Energy Commission accepted the AFC as complete and staff has now begun the data discovery and analysis phase of the project's 12-month licensing process. Over the coming months, the BLM and Energy Commission will conduct a number of scoping meetings, public workshops, and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the SES Solar One Project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions should approval be granted. These workshops and hearings will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project.

The first event was the combined Informational Hearing/BLM Scoping Meeting and Site Visit held on June 22, 2009. The Informational Hearing/BLM Scoping Meeting and Site Visit will be followed by the Commission staff's Data Response and Issues Resolution Workshop scheduled for August 6, 2009. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings separately at least 15 days prior to each meeting.

We are available to brief you and your staff on the Energy Commission's part in the joint agency review process and the specifics of the SES Solar One Project application. Please contact Chris Marxen, Assistant Executive Director, Office of Governmental Affairs, at (916) 654-4942, if you would like a briefing. If your constituents would like to participate in the joint BLM/Energy Commission review of the project, they should contact the Energy Commission's Associate Public Adviser, Loreen McMahon, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228, or by email at publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us.

The status of the 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/index.html>.

Sincerely,



MELISSA JONES
Executive Director