

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
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DOCKET
09-AFC-5

DATE AUG 27 2009

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**NOTICE OF RECEIPT
OF AN APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
ABENGOA MOJAVE SOLAR PROJECT (09-AFC-5)**

On August 10, 2009, Mojave Solar, LLC submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Abengoa Mojave Solar (AMS).

Project Location

The proposed project site is located approximately nine miles northwest of the Town of Hinkley in unincorporated San Bernardino County, approximately halfway between the City of Barstow and Kramer Junction (Highway 395 / Highway 58 junction). Project access is provided by Harper Lake Road, which is located approximately twenty miles west of Barstow along the Highway 58 corridor. The project site is approximately six miles north of where Harper Lake Road intersects with Highway 58. The existing Solar Electric Generating Stations VIII and IX facilities, owned by NextEra™ Energy Resources, are located immediately northwest of the project site.

The project site is comprised of private property that was historically used as the Lockhart Ranch complex. The property has served as an agricultural and cattle center for over sixty years and, in that capacity, has utilized water from ground wells; farming activities have included flood irrigation and ultimately the pivot system of irrigation of quarter section areas. Currently there are no ranching or residential activities on the property, and there is only one active pivot irrigation field in production on the site. The property is designated Rural Living (RL) by the San Bernardino County General Plan and also zoned Rural Living (RL).

Project Description

The proposed AMS project is a solar electric generating facility to be located on approximately 1,765 acres. The project would utilize solar parabolic trough technology to activate a heat transfer fluid. The proposed collector fields of parabolic trough solar collectors are modular in nature and comprise many parallel rows of solar collectors, aligned on a north-south axis. Each solar collector has a linear, parabolic-shaped reflector that focuses the sun's radiation on a linear receiver known as a heat collection element located at the focus of the parabola.

As heat transfer fluid is circulated through the solar field, light from the sun reflects off the solar collector's parabolic troughs and is concentrated on the heat collection elements located at the focal point of the parabola. This heat transfer fluid provides a high-temperature energy source which is used to generate steam in solar steam

generators. As this steam expands through the steam turbine generators, electrical power is generated.

The project would have a combined nominal electrical output of 250 megawatts (MW) from twin, independently-operable solar fields, each feeding a 125-MW power island. The twin solar fields would be 884 acres and 800 acres respectively and joined at a transmission line interconnection substation to form one full-output transmission interconnection. An additional 81 acres shared between the plant sites would be utilized for receiving and discharging offsite drainage improvements.

The sun would provide 100 percent of the power supplied to the project through solar-thermal collectors; no supplementary fossil-based energy source (e.g., natural gas) is proposed for electrical power production. However, natural gas for the AMS project's ancillary purposes, such as the auxiliary boilers, space heating, and the like would be supplied by an existing natural gas pipeline that runs to the project boundary; no offsite pipeline facilities are proposed as a part of this project. Each power island would also have a diesel engine-driven firewater pump for fire protection and a diesel engine-driven backup generator for power plant essentials.

The AMS project is proposing to connect to Southern California Edison Company's Kramer-Cool Water 230-kV transmission line which is located adjacent to the southern border of the proposed project site. All AMS project-related transmission facilities would be within the project boundaries except the connection within the existing transmission right-of-way adjacent to the site.

The AMS project proposes to use wet cooling towers for power plant cooling and owns adjudicated water rights to the Harper Valley Groundwater Basin for this purpose. The Mojave Water Agency administers these water rights. According to laboratory analysis of groundwater samples collected from the active Ryken well, which is within the project vicinity, the expected groundwater supply will be brackish and therefore not suitable for municipal supply or other potable uses. The solar project proposes to utilize 2,163 acre-feet of water per year, for 30 years. The AMS project through ownership or purchase options has rights to 10,478 acre-feet of groundwater per year.

Water from onsite groundwater wells will be treated and used for cooling tower makeup, process water makeup, and other industrial uses such as Solar Collector Array (SCA) washing, as well as to supply water for employee use (e.g., drinking, showers, sinks, and toilets). No offsite backup cooling water supply is planned and no off-site water pipelines are included with this application; multiple onsite water supply wells would be used.

The project will include four – 5-acre evaporation ponds for industrial wastewater. The ponds will be lined to contain any deposits from the cooling and water treatment processes. A sanitary septic system and onsite leach field will be located on-site to dispose of sanitary wastewater on each power island.

If approved, construction of the generating facility, from site preparation and grading to commercial operation, is expected to take place from the third quarter of 2010 to the third quarter of 2012 (24 months total). If approved, the applicant anticipates that the project would be on line and in commercial service by the fourth quarter of 2012.

Energy Commission's Facility Certification Process

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. As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are addressed in the final decision of the California Energy Commission. The issuance of a certificate by the Energy Commission is in lieu of any local, state or federal permit (to the extent permitted by federal law). The Energy Commission is the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but through its certified regulatory program produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Public Participation

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. The workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to participate in reviewing the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least ten days prior to the meeting.

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Craig Hoffman, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4781, or by email at CHoffman@energy.state.ca.us. If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4701, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. If you require special accommodations, please contact Lourdes Quiroz at (916) 654-5146. News media inquiries should be directed to (916) 654-4989, or by 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 and renters located within 1000 feet of the proposed project site or 500 feet of any linear facilities. 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 April Albright, Project Assistant, at (916) 653-1640, or by email at AAalbright@energy.state.ca.us.

Availability of the AFC Document

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

Availability of the AFC and Supplement

Copies of the AFC are available at the following libraries:

Barstow Branch Library
304 E. Buena Vista St.
Barstow, CA 92311

Adelanto Branch Library
11497 Bartlett Ave.
Adelanto, CA 92301

Victorville City Library
15011 Circle Dr.
Victorville, CA 92395

Kern County Library
Mojave Branch
16916 ½ Highway 14, Space D2
Mojave, CA 93501

Apple Valley Newton T. Bass
Branch Library
14901 Dale Evans Parkway
Apple Valley, CA 92307

Barstow Community College Library
2700 Barstow Road
Barstow, California 92311

Victor Valley College
18422 Bear Valley
Victorville CA 92392-5849

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, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Sincerely,

Original signed by _____
Eileen Allen, Manager

Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office

Date: 8/27/09