

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****09-AFC-8**

DATE 09/29/09

RECD. 10/01/09

September 29, 2009

Dear Librarian:

DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (09-AFC-8)

On August 31, 2009, Genesis Solar Energy, LLC (applicant) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission to develop the Genesis Solar Energy Project (Project Genesis) on federal land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Riverside County, California.

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. However, the power plant project is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The power plant certification process examines engineering, environmental, public health, and safety aspects of power plant proposals and provides analyses pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA, but produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

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 Energy Commission has sent copies of the AFC to libraries in Fresno, Eureka, Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

Please make the enclosed AFC available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the AFC 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.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us. or Maria Sergoyan, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410 or by email at msergoyan@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Eileen Allen, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office

Enclosure

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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September 29, 2009

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (09-AFC-8)

On August 31, 2009, Genesis Solar, LLC, (applicant) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission to develop the Genesis Solar Energy Project (Project Genesis), a solar electric generating facility with a nominal net electrical output of 250 megawatts.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Genesis is a concentrated solar electric generating facility that would consist of two, independent solar electric generating facilities with a nominal net electrical output of 125 megawatts (MW) each, for a total net electrical output of 250 MW. The project would utilize solar parabolic trough technology to activate a heat transfer fluid. This heat transfer fluid provides a high-temperature energy source which is used to generate steam. As this steam expands through the turbine generators, electrical power is generated.

TRANSMISSION

A proposed new transmission line, along with a new access road and new natural gas pipeline will be co-located in one linear corridor to serve the main project facility. This corridor would exit the facility to the south and would be approximately 6.5 miles long. The generation tie-line would cross Interstate 10 (I-10), and tie into the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line (BEPTL), which is currently under construction. The generation tie-line would use the existing pole structures of the BEPTL to interconnect with Southern California Edison's proposed Colorado River Substation.

WATER USE AND DISCHARGE

The Project proposes to use a wet cooling tower for power plant cooling. Water for cooling tower makeup, process water makeup, and other industrial uses such as mirror washing would be supplied from onsite groundwater wells. The AFC testing data indicates that the on-site groundwater is brackish, with high levels of totally dissolved solids. Project cooling water blowdown will be piped to lined, onsite evaporation ponds. After used project water has gone through the evaporation process, the solids that settle at the bottom of the evaporation pond will be tested by the applicant and disposed of in an appropriate non-hazardous waste disposal facility. When completed, Project Genesis will require a total of approximately 1,644 acre-feet of ground water per year to operate.

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.

The first step in the Energy Commission's review process is for staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information required by its regulations. When the Energy Commission determines the AFC is complete, staff will begin data discovery and issue analysis phases. At that time, a detailed examination of the issues will occur.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission and the BLM will conduct a number of public workshops 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 10 days prior to the meeting.

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at mike.monasmith@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 Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office 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. 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/genesis_solar. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. 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 Maria Sergoyan, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410 or by email at msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

AVAILABILITY OF THE AFC DOCUMENT

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

Palo Verde Valley District Library
125 West Chanslor Way
Blythe, CA 92225-1245

Riverside Main Library
3581 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at California public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, 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.

NOTE: Please retain this letter behind the front cover of the AFC. Thank You.