

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

**DOCKET****07-AFC-5**

DATE 11/10/09

RECD. 11/12/09

November 10, 2009

Dear Librarian:

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

The enclosed Final Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FSA/DEIS) contains the California Energy Commission staff's and U.S. Bureau of Land Management's environmental, public health and engineering evaluation of the proposed Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Station (ISEGS) project. Please make this FSA/DEIS available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the FSA/DEIS 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 FSA/DEIS.

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 FSA/DEIS 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 behind the front cover of the FSA/DEIS 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 John Kessler, Siting Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679, or at the address on this letterhead, or by email to jkessler@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

 EILEEN ALLEN

Siting, Transmission and Environmental
Protection Division

Enclosure

Mailed to list:
7258 - Library

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 7/20/09) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 11/16/09

MS

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



November 10, 2009

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT/DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT (07-AFC-5)

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FSA/DEIS) for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project (07-AFC-5). The FSA/DEIS contains the California Energy Commission staff's and U.S. Bureau of Land Management's (BLM's) environmental, public health and engineering evaluation of the proposed ISEGS project. The FSA/DEIS also contains a proposed BLM land use plan amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan. The FSA/DEIS was published by the Energy Commission on November 4, 2009.

The FSA/DEIS will serve as the Energy Commission staff's testimony during the Commission's evidentiary hearings. The Energy Commission Committee assigned to the ISEGS proceedings will consider and weigh the testimony or comments or recommendations of all interested parties, including Energy Commission staff, the applicant, intervenors, public, and other local, state, and federal agencies, before issuing the Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) for consideration by the full Energy Commission. The public, intervenors, local, state and federal agencies are encouraged to participate in these hearings. BLM will participate with the Energy Commission's ISEGS Committee and staff in the hearings. The Energy Commission will issue notices at least ten days prior to any scheduled hearings.

The California Energy Commission encourages public participation in the review of the ISEGS Application for Certification and the FSA/DEIS. Written comments on the FSA/DEIS which a member of the public or interested party would like to have entered into the record before the Energy Commission's Evidentiary Hearing, should be provided to John Kessler, Energy Commission Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., December 7, 2009 at the address on this letterhead or by email to jkessler@energy.state.ca.us.

BLM will also be conducting a 90-day comment period in association with BLM's EIS process, which will be noticed separately. Following completion of BLM's comment period scheduled to end February 11, 2010, Energy Commission staff and BLM will prepare a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). The FEIS will respond to public comments and will incorporate any changes deemed necessary to update the analysis of project impacts.

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 also filed Right-of-Way applications with the BLM for the use of public lands. The applicant proposes to locate the ISEGS project on 4,073 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 as three power plants in three separate phases, anticipating that it would start with Ivanpah 1 and the Construction Logistics Area, and end with Ivanpah 3. At full build out, the project would have an electrical generation capacity of 400 megawatts. All three of the proposed solar electric plants (Ivanpah 1, 2 and 3) 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, 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 and a new Ivanpah substation. It is anticipated that SCE will upgrade its transmission lines to 220 kV 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 because the regulatory program has been certified by the Natural Resources Agency pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.5, produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

Summary of the Energy Commission Staff's Conclusions and BLM's Analysis

The ISEGS facility would help meet California's goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and producing 33 percent of its electricity from renewable resources by 2020. The project would achieve maximum water conservation, using an air-cooled condenser that reduces water use to less than a tenth of the water that would be consumed with an evaporative cooling system as is associated with some other power plants. In addition, project air emissions would be minimal as associated primarily with the auxiliary boilers that would augment solar energy and result in less than 5% of the total power production. The auxiliary boilers would be used in the early morning and late afternoon when the sun's position on the horizon would be less favorable for producing solar

electric energy.

While acknowledging the benefit of developing renewable energy to curb climate change and achieve state/federal goals, the FSA/DEIS states that the proposed project would result in significant and unavoidable environmental effects. The project would have direct impacts on biological and visual resources, and cumulative impacts on biological resources, land use, traffic and transportation and visual resources; however, mitigation measures have been identified to avoid or lessen project impacts to the extent possible.

The project proposed by BrightSource Energy, at a site situated in the Ivanpah Valley in proximity to Interstate 15 and various types of commercial development, would develop approximately 4,073 acres of occupied desert tortoise habitat. A minimum of 25 desert tortoises, a state and federal-listed endangered species, would need to be relocated. Loss of habitat would be compensated by acquiring, improving conditions for, and preserving other existing habitat to increase the carrying capacity for desert tortoise to offset the loss. The project site also supports a diverse flora including numerous special-status plant species. While recommended mitigation measures would help avoid and minimize impacts to special-status plants, not all effects would be fully mitigated.

Impacts of the ISEGS project combined with the potential impacts of reasonably foreseeable projects in the Ivanpah Valley and southern California Mojave desert would result in significant and unavoidable cumulative impacts related to land used currently for multiple purposes such as recreation, wildlife habitat, livestock grazing, and open space. The project also would not conform to some of the applicable goals and policies of the San Bernardino General Plan Conservation and Open Space Elements of their General Plan calling for preservation of scenic vistas and for maintaining and enhancing the visual character of scenic routes along Interstate 15.

The proposed project would result in a substantial impact that could not be mitigated as it would alter existing scenic resource values as seen from several vantage points in the Ivanpah Valley and Clark Mountains, and from a cumulative perspective within the southern California Mojave Desert. Vehicle trips by construction and operations personnel would also exacerbate traffic congestion on Interstate 15 on Friday afternoons and evenings; the direct impacts would be reduced by various measures such as ride sharing.

Mitigation measures have been proposed to address the potential glare from the project's heliostats to be used to reflect the sun's energy using mirrors tracking the sun, and the solar power tower receiver to collect the solar energy at the top portion of each 459-foot tower.

Public Resources, Contact Information and Additional Sources for Information

Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to John Kessler, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679 or jkessler@energy.state.ca.us. Also, for those persons with limited English knowledge, please request interpreter services by contacting John Kessler.

If you desire information on how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us.

If you need reasonable accommodation in terms of assistance, please contact Lourdes Quiroz of the Administrative Services Division at (916) 654-5146 or lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us.

The status of the project, an electronic copy of the Application for Certification, the FSA/DEIS, copies of notices, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah/index.html>.

News media inquiries for the Energy Commission should be directed to Susanne Garfield, Assistant Director, at (916) 654-4989 or mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

If you would like a paper copy or CD of the FSA, please fill out the enclosed form and return it to California Energy Commission, Attention: Maria Santourdjian, Siting Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by e-mail at msergoyan@energy.state.ca.us.

Please send me a paper copy / CD (circle one) of the California Energy Commission staff's and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Final Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System Project (ISEGS) Application for Certification (07-AFC-5).

Name:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

FOLD HERE

California Energy Commission
Attention: Maria Santourdjian
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

FOLD HERE

Staple or Tape closed.



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *IVANPAH SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM*

DOCKET No. 07-AFC-5
PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 7/20/09)

APPLICANT

Solar Partners, LLC
John Woolard,
Chief Executive Officer
1999 Harrison Street, Suite #500
Oakland, CA 94612

Todd A. Stewart, Project Manager
Ivanpah SEGS
sdeyoung@brightsourceenergy.com

E-mail Preferred

Steve De Young, Project Manager
Ivanpah SEGS.
1999 Harrison Street, Ste. 2150
Oakland, CA 94612
tstewart@brightsourceenergy.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS

John L. Carrier, J. D.
2485 Natomas Park Dr. #600
Sacramento, CA 95833-2937
jcarrier@ch2m.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

Jeffery D. Harris
Ellison, Schneider
& Harris L.L.P.
2600 Capitol Avenue, Ste. 400
Sacramento, CA 95816-5905
jdh@eslawfirm.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
e-recipient@caiso.com

Tom Hurshman,
Project Manager
Bureau of Land Management
2465 South Townsend Ave.
Montrose, CO 81401
tom_hurshman@blm.gov

*Raymond C. Lee, Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1303 South U.S. Highway 95
Needles, CA 92363
Raymond_Lee@ca.blm.gov

Becky Jones
California Department of
Fish & Game
36431 41st Street East
Palmdale, CA 93552
dfgpalm@adelphia.net

INTERVENORS

California Unions for Reliable Energy ("CURE")
Tanya A. Gulesserian
Marc D. Joseph
Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo
601 Gateway Boulevard, Ste 1000
South San Francisco, CA 94080
tgulesserian@adamsbroadwell.com

Western Watersheds Project
Michael J. Connor, Ph.D.
P.O. Box 2364
Reseda, CA 91337-2364
mjconnor@westernwatersheds.org

Gloria Smith, Joanne Spalding
Sidney Silliman, Sierra Club
85 Second Street, 2nd Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94105
E-mail Service Preferred
gloria.smith@sierraclub.org
joanne.spalding@sierraclub.org
gssilliman@csupomona.edu

INTERVENORS CONT.

Joshua Basofin, CA Rep.
Defenders of Wildlife
1303 J Street, Ste. 270
Sacramento, CA 95814

E-mail Service Preferred
jbasofin@defenders.org

Basin and Range Watch
Laura Cunningham
Kevin Emmerich
P.O. Box 70
Beatty, NV 89003
atomicloadranch@netzero.net

Center for Biological Diversity
Lisa T. Belenky, Sr. Attorney
Ileene Anderson, Public Lands Desert Director
351 California Street, Ste. 600
San Francisco, CA 94104
E-mail Service Preferred
lbelenky@biologicaldiversity.org
ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

California Native Plant Society
Greg Suba, Tara Hansen & Jim Andre
2707 K Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, California, 95816-5113
E-mail Service Preferred
gsuba@cnps.org
thansen@cnps.org
granite@telis.org

ENERGY COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. BYRON
Commissioner and Presiding Member
jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chairman and
Associate Member
jboyd@energy.state.ca.us

Paul Kramer
Hearing Officer
pkramer@energy.state.ca.us

John Kessler
Project Manager
jkessler@energy.state.ca.us

Dick Ratliff
Staff Counsel
dratliff@energy.state.ca.us

Elena Miller
Public Adviser
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdian, declare that on November 16, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached Library Letter and Posting of Public Notice Regarding the FSA for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (07-AFC-5), dated November 10, 2009. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [\[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah).

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

 X sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;

 X by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, California with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed as provided on the Proof of Service list above to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

 X sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (*preferred method*);

OR

 depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 07-AFC-5
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original Signature in Dockets
Maria Santourdjian