

DOCKET**09-AFC-7**DATE DEC 21 2009RECD DEC 21 2009

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION
FOR CERTIFICATION SUPPLEMENT FOR THE
PALEN SOLAR POWER PROJECT (09-AFC-7)**

On August 24, 2009, the California Energy Commission received an Application For Certification (AFC) from Solar Millennium, LLC and Chevron Energy Solutions to construct and operate the Palen Solar Power Project in Riverside County. On October 26, 2009, a Supplement to the AFC was received and evaluated by staff. Subsequently, at the Energy Commission's November 18, 2009 Business Meeting, the AFC was deemed complete, beginning staff's analysis of the proposed project.

Project Description

The Palen Solar Power Project (project) is a concentrated solar thermal electric generating facility with two adjacent, independent, and identical units of 250 megawatt (MW) nominal capacity each for a total nominal capacity of 500 MW. The project is proposed to be located in the Southern California inland desert, approximately 10 miles east of the small community of Desert Center, in eastern Riverside County, California; approximately halfway between the cities of Indio and Blythe; and about three miles east of the southeast end of Joshua Tree National Park. The applicants are seeking a right-of-way grant for approximately 5,200 acres of lands owned by the federal government and administrated by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Construction and operation of the project would disturb a total of about 2,970 acres.

The project would generate electric power through solar energy using parabolic trough technology. Pipelines supplying water would be routed from on-site wells to water treatment units. Water would be used principally for solar mirror washing, feedwater makeup, onsite domestic use, cooling of auxiliary equipment, and firewater supply. Total water consumption for the project is estimated at 300 acre-feet per year.

The project would use two propane-fueled boilers for quick startup and two heaters for freeze protection. Electric transmission lines would connect each steam turbine generator to a central internal switchyard. From this switchyard, a new double-circuit 230 kilovolt (kV) transmission line would interconnect with Southern California Edison's (SCE) regional transmission system at its planned Red Bluff substation. At the time the AFC was filed, no project transmission line route was described or finalized.

If approved, project construction would begin in the fourth quarter of 2010, with commercial operation commencing in mid 2013.

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 will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and, if so, 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. If you are not currently receiving these notices and wish to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Hilarie Anderson, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-0479, or by email at handerso@energy.state.ca.us.

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Alan Solomon, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236, or by email at asolomon@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 publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us. 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

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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 Assistant, at (916) 651-0479, or by email at handerso@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 available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_palen/index.html. You can also subscribe to receive email notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

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

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

Riverside Main Library
3581 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Lake Tamarisk Library
43880 Lake Tamarisk Dr
Desert Center, CA 92239

Coachella Branch Library
1538 Seventh St
Coachella, CA 92236

Cathedral City Branch Library
33520 Date Palm Dr
Cathedral City, CA 92234

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,

Date: _____

Eileen Allen, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Dockets Office



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 *PALEN SOLAR POWER*
PLANT PROJECT

Docket No. 09-AFC-7

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 12/15/09)

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INTERESTED AGENCIES

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ENERGY COMMISSION

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Hilarie Anderson, declare that on December 21, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached, Library Letter, Notice of Receipt, and Agency Participation Letter. 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: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_palen\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_palen)

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:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery or by depositing in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA 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:

- 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. 09-AFC-7
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
Hilarie Anderson