

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

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

Dear Librarian:

DOCUMENT HANDLING 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.

The project is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The power plant certification process examines engineering, public health and safety, and environmental aspects of power plant proposals and provides analyses pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a certificate, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA, and its process is functionally equivalent to the preparation of 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 the project area, and to libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Sacramento, Fresno, 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 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 Alan Solomon, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236, or by email at asolomon@energy.state.ca.us or Hilarie Anderson, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-0479, or by email at handerso@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Eileen Allen, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting and Dockets Office

Enclosure

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 12/15/09) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 12/21/09

HA

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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



To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE PALEN SOLAR POWER PROJECT, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION SUPPLEMENT (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 administered 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.

If you desire information about participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser by phone at (916) 654-4701 or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by email at publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Alan Solomon, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 653-8236, or by email at asolomon@energy.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to (916) 654-4989, or by email at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

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



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)**

APPLICANT

*Alice Harron
Senior Director of Project Development
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709-1161
harron@solarmillenium.com

Gavin Berg
Senior Project Manager
1625 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 270
Berkeley, CA 94709
berg@solarmillennium.com

Arrie Bachrach
AECOM Project Manager
1220 Avenida Acaso
Camarillo, CA 93012
arrie.bachrach@aecom.com

Co-COUNSEL

Scott Galati, Esq.
Galati/Blek, LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
sgalati@gb-llp.com

Co-COUNSEL

Peter Weiner, Matthew Sanders
Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP
55 2nd Street, Suite 2400-3441
San Francisco, CA 94105
peterweiner@paulhastings.com
matthewsanders@paulhastings.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
e-recipient@caiso.com

INTERVENORS

ENERGY COMMISSION

Jeffrey D. Byron
Commissioner and Presiding Member
jbyron@energy.state.ca.us

Karen Douglas
Chair and Associate Member
kldougl@energy.state.ca.us

Raoul Renaud
Hearing Officer
rrenaud@energy.state.ca.us

Alan Solomon
Siting Project Manager
asolomon@energy.state.ca.us

Lisa DeCarlo
Staff Counsel
ldecarlo@energy.state.ca.us

Public Adviser's Office
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

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