



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 *RICE SOLAR ENERGY POWER*
PLANT PROJECT

DOCKET No. 09-AFC-10

**NOTICE OF ENERGY COMMISSION INFORMATIONAL HEARING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING, AND PUBLIC SITE VISIT**

On October 21, 2009, the California Energy Commission received from Rice Solar Energy, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Solar Reserve, LLC, an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct, own, and operate a solar generating facility in unincorporated eastern Riverside County, California. The proposed Rice Solar Energy Project would use concentrating solar power technology, with a central receiver tower and an integrated liquid salt thermal storage system. The project site, which will comprise about 2,560 acres, is located on private property.

The project site is adjacent to State Route 62 (SR 62), which parallels a portion of the Arizona-California Railroad and the Colorado River Aqueduct, near the junction of SR 62 and Blythe-Midland Road. The proposed transmission line will follow a 10 mile path from the project site to an intercept point along the existing Western Area Power Administration Parker-Blythe transmission line and will cross privately owned land and land owned by the federal government and managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Energy Commission has designated a Committee of two commissioners to conduct proceedings on the AFC. The Committee has scheduled a public informational hearing, environmental scoping meeting, and public site visit to discuss the proposed project as described below:

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2010

Site Visit begins (bus leaves Big River CSD) at 1:15 p.m.

Public Informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting begins at 4:00 p.m.

**Big River Community Services District
Big River Park Clubhouse
150351 Del Ray Drive
Big River, California 92242
(Map Attached)**

DOCKET

09-AFC-10

DATE DEC 29 2009

RECD. DEC 29 2009

Prior to the Informational Hearing, the public is invited to join the Committee on a tour of the proposed site. The Applicant will provide transportation to and from the project site leaving from Big River Community Services District at 1:15 p.m. For reservations, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228 or e-mail: [\[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us).

Please make your reservation on or before January 14, 2010, so that we can assure you a space.

Background

On or about October 21, 2009, the Energy Commission began review of the proposed Rice Solar Energy Project. The Energy Commission has exclusive jurisdiction to license this project and is considering the proposal under a twelve-month review process established under Public Resources Code section 25540.6. During the review period, the Energy Commission will determine whether the proposed project complies with applicable laws related to public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering requirements. The Informational Hearing scheduled by this Notice is sponsored by the Energy Commission to inform the public about the project and to invite public participation in the review process.

As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (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 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.

Project Description

The Rice Solar Energy Project is a concentrating solar power facility proposed to be constructed on privately-owned land in an unincorporated area of eastern Riverside County, California. The project will have a nominal generating capacity of 150 megawatts (MW), and will be capable of delivering 450,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of renewable energy annually.

The project will use concentrating solar power technology consisting of a large field of mirrors (heliostats) that concentrate and focus the sun's energy onto a central receiver positioned on top of a tower. The project will feature thermal energy storage that allows solar energy to be captured throughout the day and retained in a liquid salt heat transfer fluid. For electricity generation, the hot liquid salt will be routed to a series of heat exchangers to produce steam. The steam will be used to generate electricity in a conventional steam turbine generator. An air-cooled condenser (dry-cooled technology) will be used to minimize water consumption.

The engineering and environmental details of the proposed project are contained in the AFC, which may be viewed at:

[<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/documents/applicant/afc/index.php>]

Copies of the AFC are available at the local public agencies that are involved in the review process and at the following libraries: Parker Public Library, Palo Verde Valley District Library, and the Lake Tamarisk Library. Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at 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.

Purpose of the Informational Hearing

The power plant licensing process, which incorporates requirements equivalent to the environmental impact report process of the CEQA, considers all relevant engineering and environmental aspects of the proposed project. The licensing review provides a public forum allowing the Applicant, Commission staff, governmental agencies, adjacent landowners, and members of the general public to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the project, and to propose changes, mitigation measures, and alternatives as necessary.

The Informational Hearing scheduled in this Notice provides an opportunity for members of the community in the project vicinity to obtain information, offer comments, and view the project site. The Applicant will explain plans for developing the project and the related facilities. Energy Commission staff will explain the administrative licensing process and Staff's role in reviewing the AFC.

PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION REPORT

To assist participants in understanding the project, Applicant and Staff shall each file a proposed schedule for conducting the certification process, and Staff shall file an Issue Identification Report (Report) summarizing any potential issues. The proposed schedules and Staff's Report shall be filed **no later than 3 p.m., January 14, 2010.** At the Informational Hearing, the parties shall indicate whether anticipated data responses would resolve issues of concern which may be raised in Staff's Report.

Public Adviser and Public Participation

The Energy Commission Public Adviser is available to assist the public in participating in the application review process. For those individuals who require general information on how to participate, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228, or email: [\[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us).

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz no less than five days prior to the hearing at (916) 654-5146 or e-mail: [\[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us).

Information

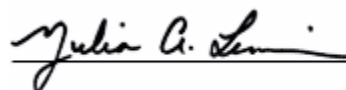
Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Kourtney Vaccaro, the Hearing Adviser, at (916) 654-4328, or e-mail: [\[kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us).

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to John Kessler, Staff Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679, or e-mail: [\[jkessler@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:jkessler@energy.state.ca.us).

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail: [\[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us).

Information regarding the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at:
[\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/index.html).

Dated: December 29, 2009, at Sacramento, California.

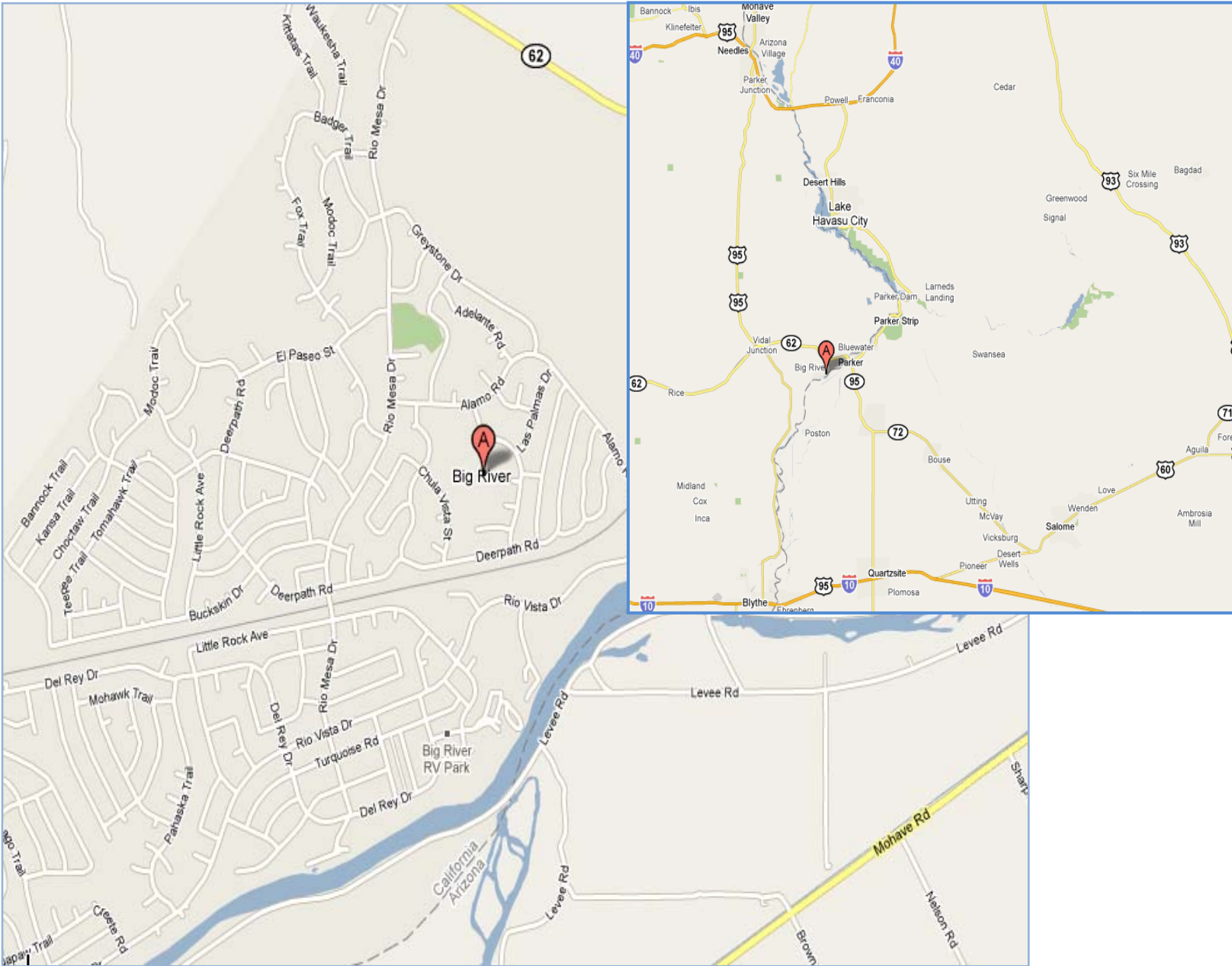


JULIA LEVIN
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Rice Solar AFC Committee



ARTHUR H. ROSENFELD
Commissioner and Associate Member
Rice Solar AFC Committee

**Big River Community Services District
Big River Park Clubhouse
150351 Del Ray Drive
Big River, California 92242**



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Mailed to Lists: POS, 7386, 7387, 7388, 7389



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PLANT PROJECT***

Docket No. 09-AFC-10

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Established 12/2/09)

APPLICANT

Jeffrey Benoit
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COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

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INTERESTED AGENCIES

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INTERVENORS

ENERGY COMMISSION

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Deborah Dyer
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ddyer@energy.state.ca.us

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

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maggie Read, declare that on December 29, 2009, I served and filed copies of the attached, Notice of Energy Commission Informational Hearing, Environmental Scoping Meeting, and Public Site Visit. 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/ricesolar>].

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. 09-AFC-10
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 signed by:
Maggie Read
Hearing Adviser's Office