

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)**DOCKET****09-AFC-10**DATE MAR 09 2010RECD. MAR 09 2010

## Notice of Staff Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop for the Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10)

The staff of the California Energy Commission with the participation of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Western Area Power Administration (Western) will conduct a workshop in coordination with the applicant for the proposed Rice Solar Energy Project (RSEP). Other agencies expected to participate include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Game. The workshop will allow an opportunity to discuss areas of analysis (see Workshop Purpose on page 2) being performed by BLM, Western and Energy Commission staff. This workshop will have provisions for remote audio and video access as well as accommodations for those wishing to participate in-person. The workshop will be held:

**FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010**  
**9:00 A.M. Until Completed**  
**California Energy Commission**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Fish Bowl Conference Room**  
**1516 Ninth Street**  
**Sacramento, CA 95814**  
**(Wheelchair Accessible)**  
**(Map Attached)**

### Option for Remote Audio and Video Access:

#### COMPUTER LOGON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER:

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the **unique meeting number: 924 601 810**
2. When prompted, enter your information and the following **meeting password: cec1234!**
3. After you log in, a prompt will appear on-screen asking you to provide your phone number. In the Number box, type your area code and phone number and click OK in order to receive a call back on your phone for the audio of the meeting.

#### COMPUTER LOGON FOR CALLERS WITH AN EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER:

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the **unique meeting number: 924 601 810**

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2. When prompted, enter your information and the following **meeting password:**  
**cec1234!**
3. After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. CLICK CANCEL.
4. Instead call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number above and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your screen after you login.

#### TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS):

Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted, enter the unique meeting: **924 601 810**

#### TECHNICAL SUPPORT:

For help with problems or questions trying to join or attend the meeting, please call WebEx Technical Support at 1-866-229-3239.

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

To see if your computer is compatible, visit  
<http://support.webex.com/support/system-requirements.html>

#### MEETING PREPARATION:

The playback of UCF (Universal Communications Format) rich media files requires appropriate players. To view this type of rich media files in the meeting, please check whether you have the players installed on your computer by going to  
<https://energy.webex.com/energy/systemdiagnosis.php>

## **Purpose**

The purpose of the workshop is to allow staff, the applicant, interested agencies, and the public to discuss data requests and data responses and work towards resolving project issues. The topic areas that are expected to be discussed at this workshop include Alternatives, Biological Resources, Soil and Water Resources, Traffic and Transportation related to glare and other topic areas to be determined. These topic areas and others are currently being analyzed by BLM, Western and Energy Commission staff, and the results of the workshop discussions will be reflected in the Final Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FSA/DEIS). The FSA/DEIS is scheduled to be completed and published for public comment in late May or June.

## **Background**

On October 21, 2009, Rice Solar Energy, LLC (applicant) submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Rice Solar Energy Project (RSEP). RSEP would be a 150-megawatt solar thermal power plant located on private land with a generation tie line crossing public lands managed by BLM and interconnected to a transmission line managed by Western. Review of this proposed project is currently in the analysis phase of a joint state and federal agency environmental and engineering review proceeding.

## **Project Description**

The proposed RSEP project is a solar electric generating facility to be located on approximately 1,410 acres in eastern Riverside County, California, immediately south of State Route (SR) 62, about 1 mile east of the junction with Blythe-Midland Road. RSEP would be a 150-megawatt (MW) concentrating solar thermal power project with a central receiver tower, sun-tracking heliostat field and an integral thermal storage system using liquid salt as the heat transfer and storage medium. When electricity is to be produced, the heated salt would be routed to a steam generation system, which supplies steam for use in a high-efficiency reheat steam turbine-generator. With thermal storage, RSEP would produce power according to periods of peak demands including hours when there is no collection of energy from the sun.

## **Public Participation**

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser provides the public with assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by email at [PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us). If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance of the workshop.

## **Questions and Access to Information**

General information and documents on the proposed project are available on the Energy Commission's website at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar/index.html>. Please direct all news media inquiries to the office of Media and Public Communications, at (916) 654-4989 or by email at [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us). You can subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>.

For general or technical questions, please contact John Kessler, Project Manager, at (916) 654-4679 or by email at [jkessler@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:jkessler@energy.state.ca.us). If you are unable to attend the workshop, written comments may be sent to the staff's project manager electronically or to the Energy Commission's street address shown on the letterhead of this Notice.

Date: March 9, 2010

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TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission and Environmental Protection Division

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