

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**07-AFC-5**DATE 03/17/10RECD. 03/17/10

March 17, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

**FINAL STAFF ASSESSMENT ADDENDUM FOR THE PROPOSED IVANPAH SOLAR
ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT (07-AFC-5)**

TO: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

This notice is to inform you of the availability of the Final Staff Assessment Addendum (FSA Addendum) for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project Application for Certification (07-AFC-5). The FSA Addendum contains the California Energy Commission staff's updated final engineering and environmental evaluation of the proposed ISEGS project.

On February 11, 2010, the applicant filed a biological mitigation proposal referred to as Mitigated Ivanpah 3. Mitigated Ivanpah 3 is primarily designed to mitigate impacts to special-status plants to a level that is less than significant as staff recommended in its Condition of Certification BIO-18 of the Final Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (FSA/DEIS) published on November 4, 2009.

The purpose of this Final Staff Assessment Addendum (FSA Addendum) is to update Energy Commission staff's analysis of the ISEGS project inclusive of the Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal from that presented in the FSA/DEIS. The FSA Addendum conforms with the Energy Commission's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, while Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be separately preparing a DEIS Supplement to conform with its National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The Energy Commission's ISEGS Committee will hear the various parties' views on this FSA Addendum, and the overall Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal in an Evidentiary Hearing scheduled for March 22, 2010 beginning at 9:30 AM in Hearing Room A of the California Energy Commission in Sacramento. The hearing has been noticed separately and the public and agencies are welcome to offer comments either in-person or by phone.

As background, the applicant filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) on August 31, 2007, seeking permission to develop the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System (ISEGS) project. The applicant filed four right-of-way (ROW) applications with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the ISEGS project on August 29, 2007. BrightSource Energy, Inc.(BrightSource), is a technology and development company and the parent company of the four limited liability companies. The applicant will use BrightSource's solar thermal technology to develop ISEGS. The four ROW applications filed by BrightSource are for projects that are designed and intended to operate while sharing certain common areas and facilities.

Summary of the California Energy Commission Staff's Preliminary Findings

The updated analysis of project-related direct and indirect impacts within this FSA Addendum shows that, with the exception of Visual Resources, the ISEGS project's potential direct and indirect impacts would be mitigated to a less than significant level. With respect to Visual Resources, staff believes the direct impacts to Visual Resources remain significant and unmitigable to existing scenic resource values as seen from three Key Observation Points in the Ivanpah Valley and Clark Mountains. With respect to Biological Resources, staff believes that the direct and indirect impacts of the project on special-status plant species would be mitigated to a less than significant level with the Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal combined with staff's recommended mitigation in Condition of Certification BIO-18. Prior to receiving the applicant's Mitigated Ivanpah 3 proposal, staff concluded in the FSA/DEIS that the direct and indirect impacts to special-status plants from the project as previously proposed were significant and unmitigable.

Staff's analysis has also identified cumulative impacts which are significant and unmitigable in the areas of Land Use, Traffic and Transportation, and Visual Resources. With respect to Land Use, impacts of the ISEGS project would combine with impacts of present and reasonably foreseeable projects to result in a contribution to cumulative impacts in the Ivanpah Valley area related to land use which would be significant with respect to CEQA. Impacts of the ISEGS project would also combine with the potential impacts of reasonably foreseeable renewable energy projects in the Southern California Mojave desert to result in significant and unmitigable regional cumulative impacts related to Land Use. With respect to Traffic and Transportation, staff has determined that with the implementation of the Traffic Control Plan required by proposed Condition of Certification **TRANS-1**, construction and operation of the ISEGS would not cause a direct significant impact on northbound I-15 on Friday afternoons, but would contribute to a cumulatively considerable significant impact on northbound I-15 on Friday afternoons.

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 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.

To request special accommodations for those persons with disabilities, please contact Lourdes Quiroz, the Energy Commission's Equal Employment Opportunity Officer at lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us or by telephone (916) 654-5146.

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The status of the project, copies of notices and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ivanpah/index.html>. News media inquiries should be directed to Assistant Director, Susanne Garfield, at (916) 654-4989, or by email at: mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us.

The FSA Addendum will be available for review at the following local libraries:

San Bernardino County Library District
Library Administration
104 W. 4th Street
San Bernardino, CA 92415

Barstow Branch Library
304 E. Buena Vista Street
Barstow, CA 92311

Copies will also be available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at California 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.

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

Sincerely,

Date: _____

EILEEN ALLEN, Office Manager
Energy Facilities Siting Program

Enclosure

Mailed to lists:
7255 - General
7256 - Property Owners

Please send me a paper copy / CD (circle one) of the California Energy Commission staff's Final Staff Assessment Addendum for the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating Facility (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

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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 3/11/10)

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
dfqpalm@adelphia.net

INTERVENORS

California Unions for Reliable Energy ("CURE")
c/o: 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, Devorah Ancel
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
devorah.ancel@sierraclub.org

*indicates change

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

atmictoadranch@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

granites@telis.org

County of San Bernardino

Bart W. Brizzee, Deputy Co. Counsel

385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, 4th Fl.

San Bernardino, California, 92415

bbrizzee@cc.sbcounty.gov

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

Jennifer Jennings

Public Adviser

publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on March 17, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached, Notice of Availability for the Ivanpah Final Staff Assessment Addendum, dated March 17, 2010. 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].

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;
- by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date 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. 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, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.

Originally Signed by _____
Maria Santourdjian