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DOCKET**09-AFC-10**DATE MAY 27 2010RECD. MAY 27 2010

May 27, 2010

Mr. John Kessler
Siting Project Manager
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10)
Archival Search on Rice Army Airfield and Camp Rice

Dear Mr. Kessler:

Attached, please find a letter dated May 14, 2010, identifying the results of an archival search conducted for the Rice Army Airfield and Camp Rice. One hard copy and one electronic copy on CD-ROM are provided; additional electronic copies are available upon request.

If you have any questions about this matter, please contact me at (916) 286-0278 or Sarah Madams at (916) 286-0249.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas M. Davy".

Douglas M. Davy, Ph.D.
AFC Project Manager

Attachment

cc: POS List
Project File

Matt C. Bischoff
510 Dutra Street
Monterey, CA 93940

May 14, 2010

Doug Davy
Project Manager
CH2MHill

Dear Doug:

This letter report provides my findings on your recent data request on Rice Army Airfield (AAF) as well as Camp Rice. Due to time constraints, limited additional archival research was conducted for both facilities, which date to the World War II period Desert Training Center/California-Arizona Maneuver Area. The goal of the work was to locate cartographic materials in order to further identify resources recently recorded at the two sites, as well as identify other sources of information that can be pursued in subsequent phases of work. The results are as follows:

Figure 1. *Rice Army Airfield, Rice, California. General Layout Plan*, December 1942. U.S. Engineer Office, Los Angeles. National Archives and Records Administration, Laguna Niguel, CA. Record Group 270, Records of the War Assets Administration.

This attached plan shows the layout of Rice AAF as of December 1942. The plan provides a good representation of the airfield during the World War II period, at a time in which it was reaching its full operational status. Many of the features recently recorded on the ground today are depicted on the plan, including all of the runways, taxiways, apron, as well as numerous buildings. The plan does not correspond exactly with the features recorded for several reasons, however. Several buildings and facilities were constructed after the completion of this map, as is indicated in one of the notes: "A number of additional lavatories (latrines) supposedly built by the Post Engineer are not shown on this plan, due to insufficient information from the field." In addition, it appears to me that several buildings were constructed to support the various air groups that were stationed there. There are many more foundations existing today than there are buildings depicted on the plan.

Several of the facilities constructed on the airfield were actually Civilian Conservation Corps buildings constructed before the war and transported to the site during the war. The rest were likely built by the US Army Engineers. Facilities included barracks, officer and enlisted men's clubs, lavatories, latrines, bathhouses, mess halls, kitchens, storehouses, headquarters and recreation buildings, dispensary, generator, pump houses, water tank

and supply system, gas fueling system, and electrical distribution system. The airfield itself included two runways, taxiways and dispersal areas, and plane anchorage hardstands.

Photographs

Figure 2. This photograph is an aerial image of Rice AAF taken in April 1943. It clearly shows the airfield itself, as well as support buildings and roads. It also depicts Camp Rice, the site of several ground units training alongside the air units at Rice AAF. U.S. Army Engineers.

Figure 3. This photograph shows airmen from the 339th Fighter Group performing calisthenics in the foreground, with what appears to be the operations building and truck fill stands in the background. It was taken sometime in the fall of 1943. Courtesy, Bill Jaaskelainen, Jr. and Peter Randall.

Figure 4. This photograph is of the 97th Quartermaster Battalion, C Company's area at Camp Rice, providing some kind of idea of the rudimentary facilities provided at the camp (and many others like it). Courtesy Bob Deutscher

Further Research

There are numerous sources of additional information on Rice AAF as well as Camp Rice. Listed below are several repositories known to contain information on both facilities:

I. US Government Records

War Assets Administration

Real Property Case Files

US Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District Files

Headquarters, Army Ground Forces

California-Arizona Maneuver Area

Desert Training Center

Aerial Photographs

U.S. Army Air Forces (National Archives)

U.S. Geological Survey

U.S. Air Force Historical Research Agency

Photographs

Maps

U.S. Engineers

U.S. Army Air Forces

II. Oral History

Unit Associations

III. Unit Histories (many in hands of author)

Rice AAF

339th Fighter Bomber Group

312th Fighter Bomber Group

85th Fighter Bomber Group

802nd Chemical Company

2nd Airdrome Attachment

Camp Rice

5th Armored Division

6th Armored Division

Base History, Rice Army Airfield

IV. Video/Movies

U.S. Signal Corps

Desert Training Center

339th Fighter Group

Rice, CA to Fowlmere, UK

V. Newspapers

Palo Verde Times, Blythe CA

Rice Army Airfield

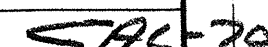
May 14, 2010

Page 5

The stories of Rice AAF and Camp Rice, particularly when viewed as critical components of the Desert Training Center/California-Arizona Maneuver Area are important in our nation's history, and deserve to be told. Please let me know if I can provide any further information. I look forward to working with you further on this important project.

Sincerely,

Matt C. Bischoff
Historian





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D.T.A. AREA 4







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

***PROOF OF SERVICE*
(Revised 3/4/2010)**

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ENERGY COMMISSION

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Mary Finn, declare that on May 27, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached, 09-AFC-10-RSEP Archival Search on Rice Army Airfield and Camp Rice. 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: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar\]](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;

____ 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 the 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:

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.



Mary Finn