

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814Main website: www.energy.ca.gov**DOCKET****09-AFC-10**DATE SEP 17 2010RECD. SEP 17 2010

**Notice of
Staff Assessment-Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Issue Resolution Workshops for the
Rice Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-10)**

The staff of the California Energy Commission with the participation of the Western Area Power Administration (Western) and U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will conduct two workshops 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 workshops will allow an opportunity to discuss the Staff Assessment – Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA-DEIS) prepared by Energy Commission staff, BLM, and. The workshops will provide an opportunity to resolve remaining issues and identify any information needed to supplement the record. These workshops will have provisions for remote teleconferencing access as well as accommodations for those wishing to participate in-person. The two workshops are scheduled to be conducted at the Energy Commission's offices in Sacramento on the following dates and times, and are accessible for participating in-person or via remote teleconferencing as follows:

Workshop #1: Tuesday, September 28, 2010**9:00 A.M. Until Completed****3 North Conference Room D****Teleconference Number: 1-866-469-3239****Meeting Number: 928 122 042 #****Workshop #2: Thursday, September 30, 2010****9:00 A.M. Until Completed****3 North Conference Room E****Teleconference Number: 1-866-469-3239****Meeting Number: 924 387 523 #****California Energy Commission****1516 Ninth Street****Sacramento, CA 95814****(Wheelchair Accessible)****(Map Attached)**

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 8/05/10) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 9/20/10

TKG

Purpose

The purpose of the workshops is to allow the applicant, staff, BLM, Western, other interested agencies, and the public to discuss the SA-DEIS prepared by Energy Commission staff, BLM, and Western concerning areas of disagreement and any information needed to supplement the record.

- Workshop #1 - The topic areas to be discussed during Workshop #1 on September 28, 2010 will be engineering technical areas and could include: air quality, alternatives, hazardous materials, noise and vibration, public health and safety, soil and water resources, traffic and transportation, transmission line safety and nuisance, waste management, worker safety and fire protection, geology/paleontology/minerals, transmission system engineering and other topic areas as needed.
- Workshop #2 - The topic areas to be discussed during Workshop #2 on September 30, 2010 will be environmental areas and could include: biological resources, cultural resources, land use, socioeconomics, visual resources, and other topic areas as needed.

These discussions will help narrow outstanding issues between the applicant, and the agencies consisting of BLM, Western and staff, as the parties prepare for Evidentiary Hearings scheduled for October 11 and 12, 2010 and as noticed separately.

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 mostly on private land. Review of this proposed project is currently in the analysis phase of a joint state and federal agency environmental and engineering review proceeding. The Energy Commission is the lead state agency for evaluating environmental impacts of a proposed licensing action under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The SA-DEIS, the result of the Energy Commission staff's environmental evaluation process, is functionally equivalent to the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report. Western, on behalf of the Department of Energy (DOE), is the lead federal agency evaluating environmental impacts of the proposed project under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as associated with the electrical interconnection to Western's transmission system. The transmission line proposed to connect the proposed project is located partially on public lands managed by the BLM and would require a right-of-way grant and land use plan amendment to allow project use of those lands. For this reason, BLM is a cooperating agency in evaluating environmental impacts of the proposed project under NEPA.

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

molten 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. 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.

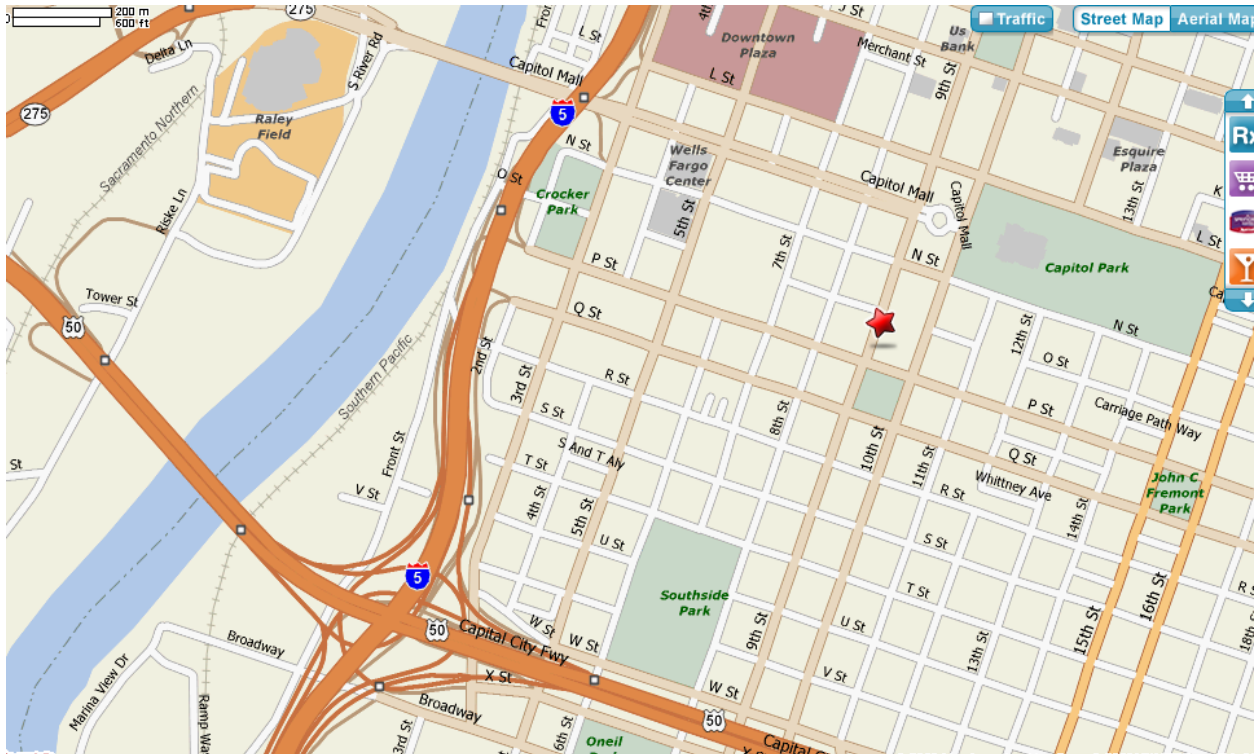
Questions and Access to Information

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. 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. 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: September 17, 2010

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





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***

APPLICANT

Jeffrey Benoit
Project Manager
Solar Reserve
2425 Olympic Boulevard, Ste. 500 East
Santa Monica, CA 90404
Jeffrey.Benoit@solarreserve.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS

Andrea Grenier
Grenier and Associates
1420 East Roseville Parkway, Ste. 140-377
Roseville, CA 95661
andrea@agrenier.com

Douglas Davy
CH2MHILL
2485 Natomas Park Drive, Ste. 600
Sacramento, CA 95833
ddavy@ch2m.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

*Scott Galati
Marie Mills
Galati & Blek, LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
sgalati@gb-llp.com
mmills@gb-llp.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
E-mail Preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

Docket No. 09-AFC-10

PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 8/5/2010)

Liana Reilly
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 281213
Lakewood CO 80228-8213
reilly@wapa.gov

Allison Shaffer
Bureau of Land Management
Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, Ca 92262
allison_shaffer@blm.gov

INTERVENORS

ENERGY COMMISSION

ROBERT WEISENMILLER
Commissioner and Presiding Member
rweisenm@energy.state.ca.us

KAREN DOUGLAS
Chairman and Associate Member
kldougla@energy.state.ca.us

Kourtney Vaccaro
Hearing Officer
kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us

John Kessler
Siting Project Manager
jkessler@energy.state.ca.us

Deborah Dyer
Staff Counsel
ddyer@energy.state.ca.us

*Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser's Office
E-mail preferred
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Teraja` Golston, declare that on September 20, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Notice of Staff Assessment-Draft Environmental Impact Statement Issue Resolution Workshops dated September 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:

<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:

- ☒ 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. 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, 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.

Original Signature in Dockets

Teraja` Golston