

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512

December 3, 2010

DOCKET**10-SIT-OII-1**

DATE	DEC 03 2010
RECD.	DEC 03 2011

To: Interested Parties

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON THE SITING COMMITTEE'S INFORMATIONAL PROCEEDING ON ISSUES THAT ARE CRITICAL TO THE LICENSING OF FUTURE POWER PLANTS

On December 1, 2010, the Energy Commission adopted the enclosed Order Instituting an Informational (OII) Proceeding on issues that are critical to the licensing of thermal power plants. The Siting Policy Committee (Committee) is initiating the proceeding by soliciting comments from stakeholders such as yourself on the licensing of power plants. Over the course of the next several months, this proceeding will examine the lessons learned in the review of both the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) solar projects, and the natural gas-fired power plants reviewed during 2009 and 2010. In the OII Proceeding, the Committee will assess the Energy Commission's siting processes, and examine critical issues common among solar-thermal and/or conventional power plants. Potentially critical common issues tentatively identified by the Committee include, but are not limited to, the timing and coordination with federal permits, local agency and public participation, land use constraints including availability of large tracts of developable land, water supply and transmission line constraints.

The Committee will use the information gathered during this proceeding to prepare a report which describes the topics examined, their significance in the licensing process, their priority of importance, and actions needed to avoid or address any problems identified. Based upon the outcome of the OII Proceeding, the Committee may recommend changes to its siting regulations through an Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) Proceeding beginning in 2011.

Please provide any comments identifying additional discussion topics to Mike Monasmi, Project Manager, at the address above, or mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us. If possible, please provide your responses to the enclosed questionnaire prior to the initial Committee scoping Workshop, currently scheduled for the morning of December 14, 2010 (Notice attached). Otherwise, please submit your comments by January 3, 2011. If you have any questions regarding the proceeding, please contact Mike Monasmi at (916) 654-4894. Questions regarding public participation should be directed to the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or PAO@energy.state.ca.us. Information on this proceeding, staff papers and notices for future workshops can be found on the Energy Commission's website www.energy.ca.gov/siting_lessons/.

ROBERT WEISENMILLER
Commissioner and Presiding Member

KAREN DOUGLAS
Chairman and Associate Member

Enclosure

NOTE: Please provide your issue priorities on the questionnaire below prior to the initial Siting Committee OII scoping Workshop on December 14, 2010. Otherwise, please submit your comments by January 3, 2011. You can either mail or submit this form electronically to: mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us.

OII "Lessons Learned" Proceeding: Siting Policy/Process Issues – Check top 5 priorities

- ☐ Timing/coordination with federal permits
 - ☐ Hydrological impacts and water supply reliability
 - ☐ Land use constraints including availability of large tracts of developable land
 - ☒ Impacts to biological and cultural resources, associated mitigation strategies
 - ☐ Transmission line constraints
 - ☐ Visual and/or Recreation/Open Space issues
 - ☐ Local agency and public participation
 - ☐ Siting Process consistency; cumulative analyses determinations/definitions
 - ☒ CEQA equivalency; Alternatives analyses and NEPA coordination
- ☒ Other: Lack of designated areas for renewable energy generation projects and for necessary transmission

☒ Other: Lack of adopted policies that would protect the environment and improve the efficiency of the siting process, including especially a policy that would strictly limit the use of wet-cooling for solar thermal projects and thus would ensure that this particular issue would not be raised multiple times in a single proceeding.

☒ Other: Lack of sufficient funding for adequate staff at both the CEC and the Department of Fish and Game. This may not be as big an issue in the coming year for the CEC, but it will be at least as big for DFG.

☐ Other:

☐ Other:

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California Energy Commission
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