



CONFIDENTIAL

COMPLETED



April 29, 2011

Melissa Jones, Executive Director
Docket No. 11-IEP-1B
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, MS-39
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

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11-IEP-1B
DATE 5/6/11
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**NOBLE AMERICAS ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC'S APPLICATION FOR
DESIGNATION OF CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS AND SUBMITTAL OF
ELECTRICITY RESOURCE PLAN FORMS YEARS 2009-2020, DOCKET NO. 11-IEP-
1B**

This confidentiality application is in support of Noble Americas Energy Solutions LLC's ("Noble Solutions") Electricity Resource Plan Forms Years 2009-2020 in Docket No. 11-IEP-1B. Noble Solutions hereby respectfully requests that the Commission designate as confidential the information and data set forth in the attached Electricity Resource Plan Form S-1, Form S-2 and Form S-5 and the data filed on compact disk.

Form S-1 (CRATs) contains forecasted annual Peak Demand Calculations and annual Capacity Purchases, by utility service territory, for the years 2009 through 2020, using 2010 loads and known customer additions for 2011 forward.

Form S-2 (Energy Balance) contains expected annual Energy Demand and annual Bilateral contracted generation, by utility service territory, for the years 2009 through 2020, using 2010 loads and known customer additions for 2011 forward.

Form S-5 (Bilateral Contracts) contains detailed information about Noble Solutions' physical supply arrangements and bilateral contract information for the years 2009-2020.

The above described information, in its entirety, has not been released to the public, is based on contracts Noble Solutions has in place at the time of the Electricity Resource Plan's creation and is considered proprietary and confidential information. Noble Solutions is not aware of any way in which this information could be legitimately acquired or duplicated by others.

Noble Solutions is submitting the information and data set forth in the above-mentioned form in accordance with the Forms and Instructions adopted by the Commission in Order No. 04-1103-03. The Commission adopted the Forms and Instructions pursuant to its authority under PRC Section 25301(a), which authorizes the Commission to collect information and data from energy

market participants that the Commission needs in order to prepare the biennial Integrated Energy Policy Report ("IEPR").

Noble Solutions submits that the data on Form S-1 (CRATs), Form S-2 (Energy Balance) and Form S-5 falls under the auspices of Automatic Designation for confidential treatment per California Code of Regulations ("CCR") Title 20, subsection 2505 (a)(5)(B)(2). However, if the Executive Director determines otherwise, Noble Solutions submits that since the data described above is directly derived from historical energy consumption metering that CCR Title 20, subsection 2505 (a)(5)(B)(1) applies.

Under PRC Section 25322, the Commission is required to grant a request for confidential designation of information collected pursuant to Section 25301(a) if:

- (a) the information is exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code §§ 6250 et seq.);
- (b) the information meets the confidentiality requirements set forth in the Commission's regulations; or
- (c) on the facts of the particular case, the public interest served by not disclosing the information outweighs the public interest served by disclosure.

The Public Records Act exempts "trade secrets" from public disclosure, including "any formula, plan,...production data, or compilation of information..., which is known only to certain individuals within a commercial concern who are using it to fabricate, produce, or compound an article of trade or a service...and which gives its user an opportunity to obtain a business advantage over competitors who do not know or use it." (Govt. Code § 6254.7(d).)

The Commission's regulations provide for information to be designated as confidential if it "contains a trade secret or its disclosure would otherwise cause a loss of a competitive advantage." (20 CCR § 2505(a)(1)(D).)

The above mentioned forms submitted by Noble Solutions contain trade secrets or otherwise commercially sensitive data. As the Executive Director correctly observed, this information "could provide significant insight into business strategies in a way that could harm the competitive situation of the filer."¹ For example, the information could be used to determine Noble Solutions' historical and forecasted power and capacity needs. That information in turn could be used by Noble Solutions' competitors to refine their business strategies and cause competitive harm to Noble Solutions. It could also be used by suppliers, to Noble Solutions' disadvantage, when negotiating the price and terms of procurement transactions. Customers could use this information to extract better terms in contract negotiations with Noble Solutions.

¹ Docket 04-IEP-1, *Guidance on Confidentiality of Electricity Demand and Retail Price Information* (Nov. 5, 2004), p. 3.

These examples are not meant to be exhaustive, but rather illustrative in that the disclosure of the data provided would cause Noble Solutions a loss of competitive advantage at several levels. Accordingly, Noble Solutions respectfully requests that all of the information and data set forth in the above mentioned forms (S-1 (CRATs), S-2 (Energy Balance) and S-5) submitted on compact disk be designated as confidential.

Noble Solutions further requests that the designation of confidentiality be for a 3-year period. However, the data can be released immediately if aggregated with all the other energy service providers' ("ESP") Electricity Resource Plans.

The undersigned is authorized to make this application and the following certification on behalf of Noble Solutions:

"I certify under penalty of perjury that the information contained in this application for confidential designation is true, correct, and complete to the best of my knowledge. I also certify that I am authorized to make the application and certification on behalf of Noble Americas Energy Solutions LLC".

NOBLE AMERICAS ENERGY SOLUTIONS LLC

By: 

Name: Greg Bass

Title: Director, Retail Commodity Operations

Date: April 29, 2011