

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

DOCKET**11-AFC-2**DATE Aug 19 2011RECD. Aug 19 2011

August 19, 2011

Dear Librarian:

DOCUMENT HANDLING FOR THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRICAL GENERATING SYSTEM, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (11-AFC-2)

On August 5, 2011, Hidden Hills Solar Holdings, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS), located on approximately 3,277 acres of privately owned land in Inyo County, California, adjacent to the Nevada border. The project site is approximately 18 miles south of Pahrump, Nevada, and approximately 45 miles west of Las Vegas, Nevada.

The HHSEGS is under the Energy Commission's siting authority. The Commission's power plant certification process examines engineering, environmental, public health, and safety aspects of power plant proposals and provides analyses pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). When issuing a license, the Energy Commission is the lead state agency under CEQA and through its certified regulatory program produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

The Energy Commission's siting process is open to the public and incorporates the input of the public as well as local, state, and federal agencies. To facilitate public participation in our review process, the Energy Commission has sent copies of the AFC to libraries in Fresno, Eureka, Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Barstow, Inyo County and Pahrump, NV.

Please make the enclosed AFC available for those who may wish to be informed about the project. We request that you not allow the AFC or any of its contents to be removed from the library. To increase accessibility of the document, we ask, if possible, that you cross reference it as a general reference work under the title and author categories, as well as under such subjects as "Energy Commission," "electricity," "energy/generation," "power plant siting," or any other relevant subject.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Senior Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us. or Mineka Foggie, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410 or by email at mfoggie@energy.state.ca.us.

Sincerely,

Chris Davis, Manager
Energy Facilities Siting Office

Enclosures (2): Hidden Hills SEGS AFC
Letter to the Public

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5112



August 19, 2011

To: MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE HIDDEN HILLS
SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM (11-AFC-2)**

On August 5, 2011, Hidden Hills Solar Holdings, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (HHSEGS). HHSEGS will be located on approximately 3,277 acres of privately owned land leased in Inyo County, California, immediately adjacent to the Nevada border. The project site is approximately 18 miles south of Pahrump, Nevada, and approximately 45 miles west of Las Vegas, Nevada.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

HHSEGS will comprise two solar fields and associated facilities: the northern solar plant (Solar Plant 1) and the southern solar plant (Solar Plant 2). Each solar plant will generate 250 megawatts (MW), for a total net output of 500 MW. Solar Plant 1 will occupy approximately 1,483 acres (or 2.3 square miles), and Solar Plant 2 will occupy approximately 1,510 acres (or 2.4 square miles). Each solar plant will use heliostats—elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on a pylon—to focus the sun's rays on a solar receiver steam generator (SRSG) atop a 750-foot tall solar power tower near the center of each solar field. Each plant will consist of the following elements:

- One heliostat array with about 85,000 heliostats;
- A power block containing a Rankine-cycle non-reheat steam turbine, SRSG, feed water heaters, a deaerator, an emergency diesel generator, and a diesel fire pump;
- Five natural-gas-fired boilers, ranging in size from 1.2 MW to 50 MW;
- An air-cooled condenser to minimize water use in the desert environment; and,
- Access roads and drive zones will also be developed on the project site to facilitate operations and maintenance activities, emergency access, and site security.

Additionally, six onsite groundwater supply wells will be drilled and developed to provide raw, process water for the HHSEGS; two new wells per power block (primary and backup) and two wells at the common administration complex shared by both plants.

The transmission and natural gas pipeline alignments will be located in Nevada, primarily on federal land managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), except for one small segment of the transmission line between HHSEGS and the Nevada border, and another in the vicinity of the Eldorado Substation in Boulder City, Nevada. A detailed environmental impact analysis of the transmission and natural gas pipeline alignments will be prepared by Nevada BLM.

Following completion of project licensing and close of financing, HHSEGS will be constructed in approximately 29 months (target completion by fourth quarter 2014 / first quarter 2015), with a commercial on-line date of first quarter 2015 for Solar Plant 1, and the second quarter of 2015 for Solar Plant 2.

ENERGY COMMISSION'S SITE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all applications to construct and operate thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission has a certified regulatory program and is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The first step in the review process is for Energy Commission staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information and data required by our regulations. When the AFC is deemed complete, we will begin the discovery and issue analysis phases. At that time, a detailed and thorough examination of issues will occur.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the proposed project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops will provide the public as well as local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting. If you are not currently receiving these notices and want to be placed on the mailing list, please contact Mineka Foggie, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-0479, or by e-mail at mfoggie@energy.state.ca.us.

If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the proposed project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us. Technical or project schedule questions should be directed to Mike Monasmi Energy Commission Senior Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by email at mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the proposed 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/hiddenhills>.

Note: Please retain this letter behind the front cover of the AFC. Thank You.