



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

DOCKET

11-AFC-2

DATE OCT.12 2011

RECD. OCT.12 2011

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE
***THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM***
HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR HOLDINGS, LLC,

DOCKET No. 11-AFC-2

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SITE VISIT, ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING AND
INFORMATIONAL HEARING, AND COMMITTEE ORDER**

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 would 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. HHSEGS would be comprised of two solar fields and associated facilities. Each solar plant would generate 250 megawatts (MW), for a total net output of 500 MW.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Energy Commission has designated a Committee of two commissioners to conduct proceedings on the AFC. The Committee has scheduled a public Site Visit as well as an Environmental Scoping Meeting and Informational Hearing to discuss the proposed project as described below:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011

Site Visit begins at 12:00 p.m.

Public Informational Hearing and Scoping Meeting begins at 1:30 p.m.

**Tecopa Community Center
405 Tecopa Hot Springs Road
Tecopa, CA 92389
(Map Attached)**

Prior to the Informational Hearing and Scoping Meeting, the public is invited to join the Committee on a tour of the proposed site. The Applicant will provide transportation to and from the project site leaving from Tecopa Community Center at 11:15 a.m. For reservations, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228 or e-mail: [\[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us).

Please make your reservation on or before October 31, 2011, so that we can assure you a space. Otherwise, you are welcome to travel to the site visit using your own transportation. See attached map for the location of the site visit.



TELECONFERENCE OPTION: *Parties and the Public may attend the Public Informational Hearing and Scoping Meeting in person at the above location or by telephone and/or by computer via our “WebEx” web conferencing system. For details on how to participate by WebEx, please see the "Participation through WebEx" directions attached to this Notice.*

Background

On October 5, 2011, the Energy Commission began review of the proposed HHSEGS. The Energy Commission has exclusive jurisdiction to license this project and is considering the proposal under a twelve-month review process established under Public Resources Code section 25540.6. During the review period, the Energy Commission will determine whether the proposed project complies with applicable laws related to public health and safety, environmental impacts, and engineering requirements. The Informational Hearing and Scoping Meeting scheduled by this Notice is sponsored by the Energy Commission to inform the public about the project and to invite public participation in the review process.

Project Description

As proposed, the HHSEGS would 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 would generate 270 MW gross (250 MW net), for a total net output of 500 MW. Solar Plant 1 would occupy approximately 1,483 acres (or 2.3 square miles), and Solar Plant 2 would occupy approximately 1,510 acres (or 2.4 square miles). A 103-acre common area would be established on the southeastern corner of the site to accommodate an administration, warehouse, and maintenance complex, and an on-site switchyard. A temporary construction laydown and parking area on the west side of the site would occupy approximately 180 acres. Each solar plant would 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.

To save water in the site's desert environment, each solar plant would use a dry-cooling condenser. Cooling would be provided by air-cooled condensers, supplemented by a partial dry-cooling system for auxiliary equipment cooling. Raw water would be drawn daily from on-site wells located in each power block and at the administration complex. Groundwater would be treated in an on-site treatment system for use as boiler make-up water and to wash the heliostats.

A 12- to 16-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline would be required for the project. It would exit the HHSEGS site at the California-Nevada border and travel on the Nevada side southeast along the state line, then northeast along Tecopa Road until it crosses under SR 160. From this location a 36-inch line would turn southeast and continue approximately 26 miles, following the proposed Eldorado Option transmission line corridor, to intersect with the Kern River Gas Transmission (KRG T) pipeline. A tap station would be constructed at that point to connect it to the KRG T line. The total length of the natural gas pipeline would be approximately 35.3 miles.

Two distinct transmission options are being considered because of a unique situation concerning Valley Electric Association (VEA). Under the first option, the project would interconnect via a 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line to a new VEA-owned substation (Tap Substation) at the intersection of Tecopa Road and Nevada State Route (SR) 160. The other option is a 500-kV transmission line that interconnects to the electric grid at the Eldorado Substation in Boulder City, Nevada.

If approved, construction of the first facility would last for approximately 29 months. Construction of HHSEGS, from perimeter fencing to site preparation and grading to commercial operation, is expected to take place from the third quarter of 2012 to the second quarter of 2015. The two solar plants would be constructed concurrently with a planned three-month delay between their start dates. The common area facilities would be built concurrently with Solar Plant 1. Prior to the start of construction, the site perimeter would be fenced with desert tortoise exclusion fencing and cleared of desert tortoises.

The engineering and environmental details of the proposed project are contained in the AFC, which may be viewed at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/documents/index.html> .

Copies of the AFC are available at the local public agencies that are involved in the review process and at the following libraries: Pahrump Community Library, Barstow Branch Library, Tonopah Library District and Inyo County Library in Tecopa and Independence. Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, Fresno, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego. In addition, copies will be distributed to those public agencies that would normally have jurisdiction except for the Energy Commission's exclusive authority to certify sites and related facilities.

Purpose of the Informational Hearing and Environmental Scoping Meeting

The power plant licensing process, which incorporates requirements equivalent to the environmental impact report process of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), considers all relevant engineering and environmental aspects of the proposed project. The licensing review provides a public forum allowing the Applicant, Commission staff, governmental agencies, adjacent landowners, and members of the general public to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of the project, and to propose changes, mitigation measures, and alternatives as necessary.

The Informational Hearing scheduled in this Notice provides an opportunity for members of the community in the project vicinity to obtain information, identify areas of environmental concern to be addressed during the environmental review of the project, offer comments, and view the project site. The Applicant will explain plans for developing the project and the related facilities. Energy Commission staff will explain the administrative licensing process and Staff's role in reviewing the AFC.

ORDER RE: PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND ISSUE IDENTIFICATION REPORT

To assist participants in understanding the project, Applicant and Staff shall each file a proposed schedule for conducting the certification process, and Staff shall file an Issue Identification Report (Report) summarizing any potential issues. The proposed schedules and Staff's Report shall be filed **no later than 3 p.m., October 26, 2011.**

At the Informational Hearing and Scoping Meeting, the parties shall indicate whether anticipated data responses would resolve issues of concern which may be raised in Staff's Report.

Public Adviser and Public Participation

The Energy Commission invites members of the public and other interested parties to participate either on an informal basis or by intervening in the proceeding. Both types of participation allow written and oral comments. At the informal participation level, written and oral public comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record, but are not part of the formal evidentiary record. Intervenors have the right to introduce evidence into the evidentiary record and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses.

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office is available to provide the public with an understanding of a proceeding and to make recommendations for meaningful participation. For assistance, contact Jennifer Jennings, the Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or 800-822-6228 or e-mail at: **[publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us]**.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz no less than five days prior to the hearing at 916-654-5146 or e-mail: **[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us]**.

Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Kenneth Celli, the Hearing Adviser, at (916) 651-8893, or e-mail: **[kcelli@energy.state.ca.us]**.

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Mike Monasmith, Staff Project Manager, at (916) 654-4781, or e-mail: **[mmonasmi@energy.state.ca.us]**.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail: **[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us]**.

Information regarding the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents pertaining to this proceeding, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at:

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/documents/index.html>

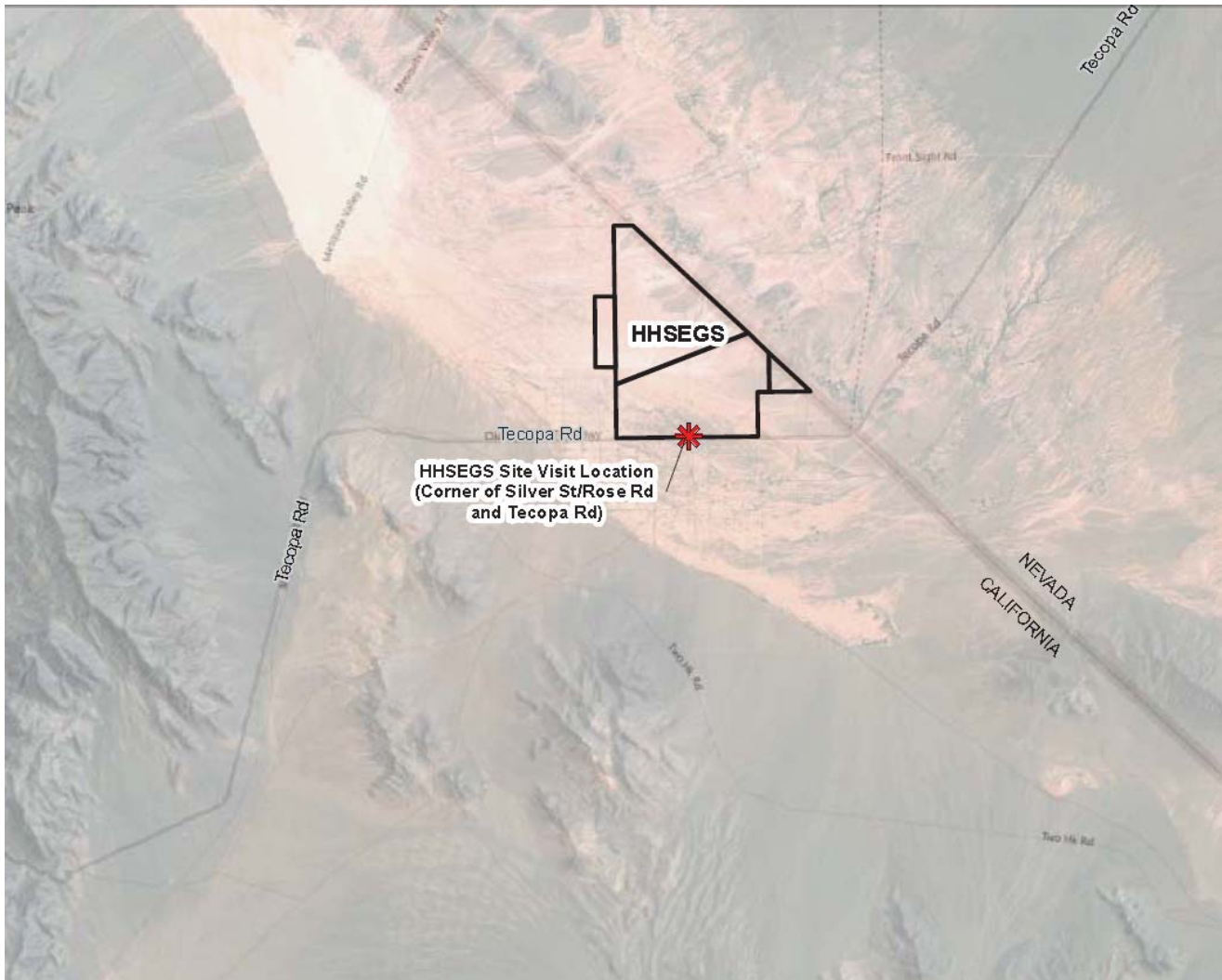
Dated: October 12, 2011, at Sacramento, California.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Douglas', written over a horizontal line.

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Presiding Member
HHSEGS AFC Committee

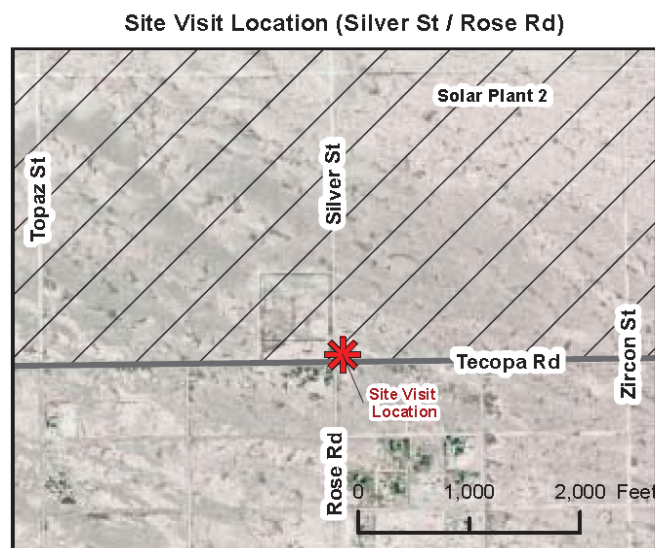
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carla Peterman', written over a horizontal line.

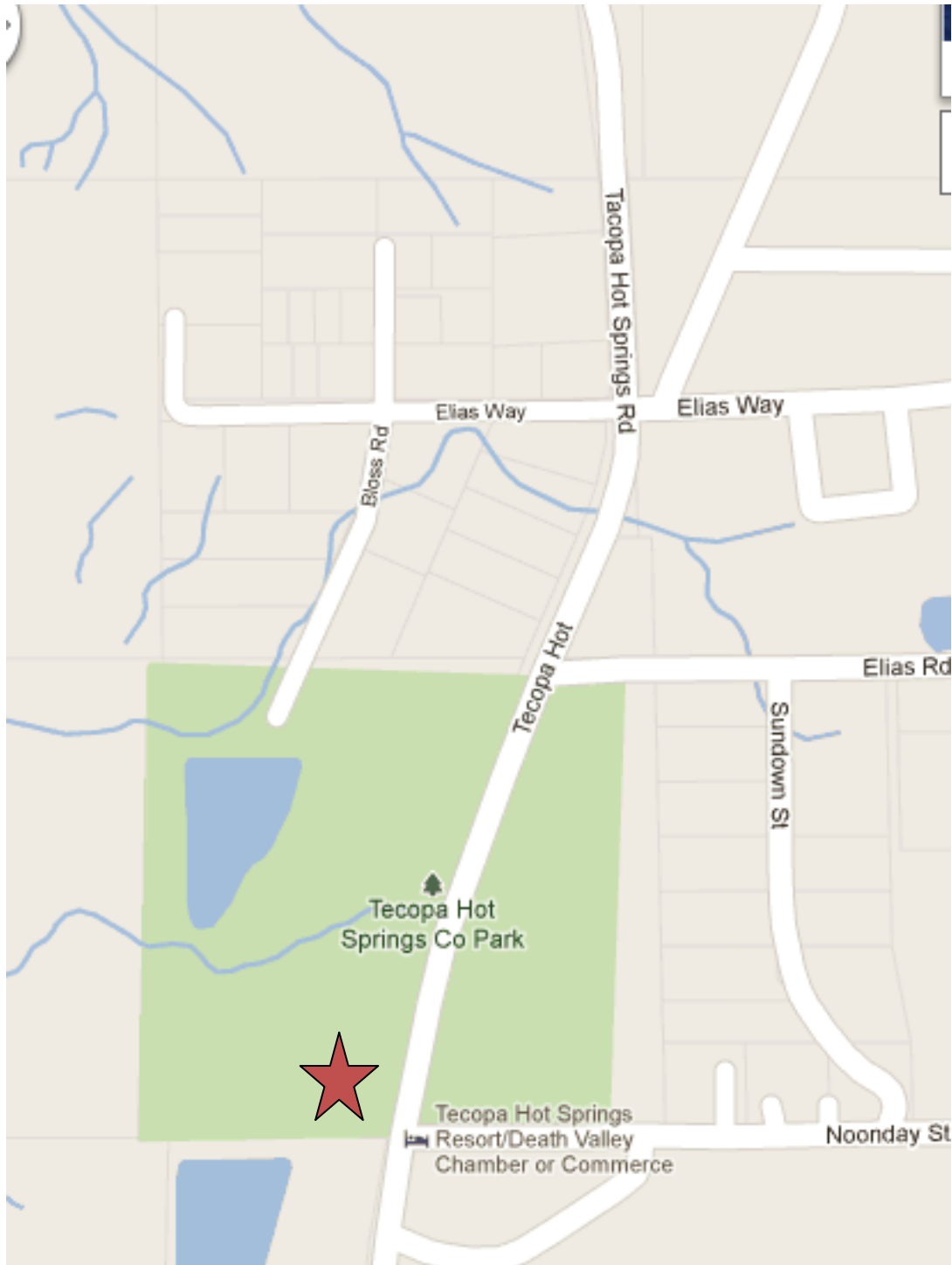
CARLA PETERMAN
Commissioner and Associate Member
HHSEGS AFC Committee



HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEM

Site visit begins here at 12:00 noon





**Tecopa Community Center
405 Tecopa Hot Springs Road
Tecopa, CA 92389**

Public Informational Hearing and Scoping Meeting begins here at 1:30 p.m.

PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND SCOPING MEETING THROUGH WEBEX
THE ENERGY COMMISSION'S ON-LINE MEETING SERVICE



1. COMPUTER LOG-ON WITH A DIRECT PHONE NUMBER:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com>
- Enter the MEETING NUMBER : 923 113 720
- When prompted, enter the MEETING PASSWORD: hhsegs#1

After you login, a prompt will appear on-screen for you to provide **your** phone number. In the **Number box**, type your area code and phone number and click "OK." **You will receive a call back on your phone for the audio portion of the meeting.** International callers can use the "Country/Region" button to help make their connection.



2. COMPUTER LOG-ON FOR CALLERS WITH AN EXTENSION PHONE NUMBER, ETC:

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: and the meeting password (above).
- After you login, a prompt will ask for your phone number. Click "CANCEL."
- Instead call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the meeting number above and your unique Attendee ID number which is listed in the top left area of your computer screen after you login.



3. TELEPHONE ONLY (NO COMPUTER ACCESS):

- Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada) and when prompted enter the meeting number unique to the specific hearing date:
- Enter the MEETING NUMBER : 923 113 720

If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239. To see if your computer is compatible, visit <http://support.webex.com/support/system-requirements.html>.

Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.



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**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE *HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC
GENERATING SYSTEM PROJECT***

**DOCKET NO. 11-AFC-2
PROOF OF SERVICE**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, RoseMary Avalos, declare that on, October 12, 2011, I served and filed copies of the attached NOTICE OF PUBLIC SITE VISIT, ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING, AND COMMITTEE ORDER, dated October 12, 2011. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit or the Chief Counsel, as required by the applicable regulation, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at:
[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hiddenhills/index.html].

The document has been sent to the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit or Chief Counsel, as appropriate, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

For service to all other parties:

- X Served electronically to all e-mail addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- X Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. 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 "e-mail preferred."

AND

For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- X by sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid and e-mailed respectively, to the address below (preferred method); **OR**
- by depositing an original and 12 paper copies in the mail with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION – DOCKET UNIT

Attn: Docket No. 11-AFC-2
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

OR, if filing a Petition for Reconsideration of Decision or Order pursuant to Title 20, § 1720:

- Served by delivering on this date one electronic copy by e-mail, and an original paper copy to the Chief Counsel at the following address, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with first class postage thereon fully prepaid:

California Energy Commission
Michael J. Levy, Chief Counsel
1516 Ninth Street MS-14
Sacramento, CA 95814
mlevy@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California 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 Signed By:
RoseMary Avalos
Hearing Adviser's Office