

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED
09-AFC-6C**

TN # 66033

JUN 29 2012

**NOTICE OF RECEIPT
PETITION TO AMEND****THE ENERGY COMMISSION DECISION for the
BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT (09-AFC-6C)**

On June 28, 2012, Palo Verde Solar I, LLC (PVSI) filed a petition with the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) requesting to modify the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP) by replacing the solar thermal technology completely with photovoltaic (PV) generating technology. The 1000-megawatt solar thermal project was certified by the Energy Commission on September 15, 2010. The facility will be located approximately eight miles west of the City of Blythe and two miles north of the Interstate-10 freeway on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Riverside County, California.

PROPOSED MODIFIED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

PVSI proposes to develop the BSPP in eight operational phases designed to generate a total of approximately 1,000 MW nominal of electricity. Each phase will consist of approximately 125 MW nominal of electricity. Access to the site will be the same as the approved project described in the final decision, and the BSPP will continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid at Southern California Edison's Colorado River Substation (CRS) which is currently under construction. During operations, all eight units would share an operations and maintenance facility, an on-site substation, access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel or paved), perimeter fencing and other ancillary security facilities, and a double-circuit 230 kV gen-tie transmission line. The total acreage of the Modified Project will be approximately 7,345 acres. If approved by the Energy Commission, the first phase of the 1,000 MW solar PV energy-generating project could start construction on the project site as early as April 2013.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

- Following is a list of the proposed modifications to the approved project:
- The previously planned four power blocks (which each included a steam turbine, evaporation pond, auxiliary boiler, air-cooled condenser, and equipment) and structures have been eliminated.
- The Land Treatment Units for heat transfer fluid have been eliminated.
- The HelioTrough energy collection systems have been eliminated and replaced with PV panels configured for either horizontal tracking or fixed tilt operations.
- The substation will be relocated near the center of the disturbance area.
- The large assembly hall will be eliminated.

- The concrete batch plant will be eliminated.
- The natural gas line has been eliminated.
- The water treatment system, associated waste and evaporation ponds have been reduced from eight ponds to two.
- The large drainage structures surrounding the site will be reduced in size or eliminated.
- The amount of mass grading will be reduced.
- The project footprint would include private land recently acquired by PVSI.
- The project footprint has been modified to allow two alternative transmission and access road corridors to accommodate the NextEra McCoy and the EnXco projects proposed to the north of the BSPP.
- A minor modification to a portion of the BSPP transmission line ROW in area of south of I-10 to accommodate NextEra McCoy project and the EnXco project transmission line interconnections to the CRS.
- Water use during construction will be reduced from approximately 4,100 AF to 3,500-4,000 AF during the duration of construction.
- Water use during operations will be reduced from approximately 600 AFY to between 60 to 88 AFY.

ENERGY COMMISSION AMENDMENT REVIEW PROCEDURES

This Notice of Receipt is being mailed to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the project site who may want to participate in the amendment process. The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess any impacts the proposed modifications would have on environmental quality and public health and safety. The process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision, and if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Title 20, Calif. Code of Regulations, section 1769). A Commission Committee will be assigned to oversee this proceeding and will determine the schedule for the review process. A public hearing for the purpose of approving or denying the amendment proposal will be held at a regularly scheduled Energy commission business meeting.

The petition is available on the Energy Commission's website at

http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_blythe/compliance/index.html.

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the petition, staff's analysis, and/or the order if the amendment is approved, please complete the enclosed Information Request Form and return it to the address shown. Alternately, if you would like to receive email notifications of all workshops, hearings and availability of documents in this proceeding, please sign up on the Energy Commission's list server at


<http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/>

If you would like your name removed from the project mail list please complete the enclosed form and mark the box at the bottom of the form. Once your name is removed from the mail list, you will no longer receive mailings pertaining to this project.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-8891, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at: mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov.

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Date: 29 June 2012



CHRISTOPHER J. MARXEN, Manager
Compliance Office
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection
Division

Enclosure: Information Request Form

Mail List # **7368**

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

COMPLETE & MAIL TO:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE UNIT
ATTN: MARY DYAS
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-2000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

OR FAX TO: (916) 654-3882

NAME AND/OR TITLE (AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON MAIL LABEL)

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)

STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX

CITY

STATE

ZIP CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION DECISION TO: CHANGE THE APPROVED SOLAR THERMAL TECHNOLOGY TO PHOTOVOLTAIC

PLEASE CHECK THE DOCUMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE AND CIRCLE WHICH FORMAT:

- PETITION TO AMEND (hard copy or CD)
- STAFF ANALYSIS (hard copy or CD)
- COMMISSION ORDER (hard copy or CD)

PROJECT: BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT

DOCKET NO: 09-AFC-6C

MAIL LIST NO: 7368

PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE (NAME OF PROJECT) PROJECT MAILING LIST