

BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 1-800-822-6228 – <u>WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV</u>



APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM

Docket No. 11-AFC-02

# ORDER RE: INTERVENOR, CINDY R. MACDONALD'S MOTION TO TERMINATE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM

# Introduction and Summary

On November 26, 2012, the Committee designated to conduct proceedings on the above-captioned Application for Certification (AFC) received Intervenor Cindy R. Macdonald's Motion to Terminate Application for Certification for the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System (hereinafter "HHSEGS").

The Motion seeks an Order terminating the AFC for the HHSEGS project after a hearing in the vicinity of the project site based on the following allegations:

- 1. The AFC misrepresents that the Applicant has obtained rights for the entire HHSEGS site.
- 2. The AFC contains materially false statements regarding the untested and experimental nature of the proprietary software and heliostat/mirror system.
- 3. The AFC willfully omits disclosure of risks of malfunction associated with the heliostat/mirror washing technology and systems.
- 4. The comments submitted by Nicholas T. Gabler fail to disclose his business association with Applicant.

## Discussion and Analysis

We commend Intervenor, Cindy R. MacDonald for raising the points in her motion, which clearly demonstrate her commitment to the integrity of the AFC process. However, Public Resources Code § 25534, which is the statute she relies upon as the

procedural vehicle for her motion applies to post-certification of a facility. At this time we are still in the pre-hearing stage of the AFC process and we must defer consideration of questions of fact until they can be tested openly and fairly in an evidentiary hearing. Whether the issues raised in the motion will affect the weight or admissibility of evidence is a matter to be determined by the Committee at the evidentiary hearing. As an intervenor, Ms. MacDonald will have the opportunity to raise these issues, examine witnesses and offer supporting evidence at the evidentiary hearing, and we encourage her to do so. However, we find that relief requested is premature at this time.

At the most recent Status Conference on November 15, 2012, facts came to light that the Final Staff Assessment (FSA) will likely publish in mid-December 2012 which is in the next few weeks (11/15/12 RT 12:12 – 14:2, 16: 6-11). The evidentiary hearings will commence relatively soon thereafter; usually within about ten weeks from the FSA publication. Therefore, the issues raised in the motion can be heard in the near future without prejudice to the movant.

# Conclusion

The Motion to Terminate the Application for Certification for the Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System is **DENIED** without prejudice.

Dated: November 29, 2012, at Sacramento, California.

Original Signed By: KAREN DOUGLAS Commissioner and Presiding Member HHSEGS AFC Committee

Original Signed By: CARLA PETERMAN Commissioner and Associate Member HHSEGS AFC Committee



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## APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM

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PROOF OF SERVICE (Revised 9/20/12)

#### **APPLICANT**

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## **INTERVENORS**

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Center for Biological Diversity Ileene Anderson, Public Lands Desert Director PMB 447 8033 Sunset Boulevard Los Angeles, CA 90046 ianderson@biologicaldiversity.org

Old Spanish Trail Association Jack Prichett 857 Nowita Place Venice, CA 90291 jackprichett@ca.rr.com

## INTERVENORS (con't.)

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Richard Arnold P.O. Box 3411 Pahrump, NV 89041 rwarnold@hotmail.com

## **INTERESTED AGENCIES**

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County of Inyo Dana Crom Deputy County Counsel P.O. Box M Independence, CA 93526 <u>dcrom@inyocounty.us</u>

Nye County Lorinda A. Wichman, Chairman Board of County Supervisors P.O. Box 153 Tonopah, NV 89049 <u>lawichman@gmail.com</u>

## **INTERESTED AGENCIES (con't.)**

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Southern Inyo Fire Protection District Larry Levy, Fire Chief P.O. Box 51 Tecopa, CA 92389 <u>sifpd@yahoo.com</u>

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## ENERGY COMMISSION -

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## **DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, RoseMary Avalos, declare that on November 29, 2012, I served and filed copies of the attached ORDER RE: INTERVENOR, CINDY R. MACDONALD'S MOTION TO TERMINATE APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE HIDDEN HILLS SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM, dated November 29, 2012. This document is accompanied by 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;
  - Served by delivering on this date, either personally, or for mailing with the U.S. Postal Service with firstclass 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 marked **\***"hard copy required" or where no e-mail address is provided.

AND

## For filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

- X by sending an electronic copy to the e-mail 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-02 1516 Ninth Street, MS-4

Sacramento, CA 95814-5512 docket@energy.ca.gov

## 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<sup>1</sup> 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 <u>michael.levy@energy.ca.gov</u>

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 Advisers Office

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This Proof of Service form is not appropriate for the use when filing a document with the Chief Counsel under Title 20, sections 1231 (Complaint and Request for Investigation) or 2506 (Petition for Inspection or Copying of Confidential Records). The Public Advisor can answer any questions related to filing under these sections.