



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

**AMENDMENT  
FOR THE PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING SYSTEM**

**Docket No. 09-AFC-7C**

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

California Energy Commission

**DOCKETED  
09-AFC-7C**

TN # 69224

JAN. 30 2013

Palen Solar I, LLC (PSI) filed an Application for Certification (AFC) with the Commission on August 24, 2009 to construct and operate a nominal 500 megawatt (MW) concentrating solar thermal electric power generating facility. The Commission issued a Final Decision for the Palen Solar Power Project (PSPP) on December 15, 2010 (Order No. 10-1215-19, the "Final Decision," 09-AFC-7). The Final Decision describes the PSPP as a solar thermal project (the Approved Project) using parabolic trough technology.

Project ownership has changed, and the current owner, Palen Solar Holdings (PSH), seeks to amend the Final Decision. The amendment would eliminate the use of parabolic trough technology, replacing it with solar "power tower" technology consisting of two solar towers and associated power blocks and heliostat fields. The modified project would be called Palen Solar Electric Generating System (PSEGS).

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Committee assigned to this proceeding has scheduled a Public Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting and Informational Hearing as described below:

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013**

**Public Site Visit begins (bus leaves Coachella Valley History Museum) at 1:00 p.m.**

**Public Informational Hearing begins at 3:00 p.m.**

**Public Comment Period begins at 5:00 p.m.**

**Coachella Valley History Museum  
82-616 Miles Avenue  
Indio, CA 92201  
(Map Attached)**

Members of the public are invited to join the Committee on a tour to view the proposed site before the Informational Hearing. Complimentary bus transportation from the Coachella Valley History Museum to the site will be provided, and will depart the museum at 1:00 p.m. For site visit and bus reservations, please contact the Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228 or e-mail: publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. Please make your reservation on or before **February 13, 2013** so that we can assure you a space.



**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 and Amendment Description**

The amendment includes replacing the parabolic trough solar collection system and associated heat transfer fluid with "power tower" technology. The technology uses heliostats - elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on a pylon - to focus the sun's rays on a solar receiver steam generator located atop a solar tower near the center of each solar field to create steam. A limited amount of natural gas would be used prior to sunrise, and at other times when solar insolation has dropped below the level required to keep the steam turbine generator system running. PSEGS will be comprised of two adjacent solar fields and associated facilities with a total combined nominal output of approximately 500 MW.

PSH proposes to develop PSEGS in two phases. Each phase will consist of one solar field and power block with approximately 250 MW of electrical generating capacity. Both phases will share certain facilities, including a common area containing an administration building, warehouse, evaporation ponds, maintenance complex and a meter/valve station for incoming natural gas service to the site; an on-site switchyard; and a single-circuit 230-kV generation tie-line to deliver power to the electricity grid. Other on-site facilities will include access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel or paved), perimeter fencing, tortoise fencing and other ancillary security facilities.

Access to the site will be the same as the Approved Project and the PSEGS will continue to interconnect to the regional transmission grid at Southern California Edison's (SCE) Red Bluff Substation which is currently under construction.

The following are some of the project changes proposed in the Amendment:

- The proposed technology to be utilized for the modified project would be two units each with a net generating capacity of up to 250 MW and each consisting of a 750-foot tall solar power tower and receiver, a power block and a dedicated field of approximately 85,000 heliostats.

- The modified project would include an approximately 15 acre common facilities area located in the southwestern corner of the site with an administrative/warehouse building and two 2-acre evaporation ponds.
- An approximately 203 acre temporary construction laydown area located in the southwestern portion of the site immediately north of the common facilities area. This area will be used for laydown of materials, staging of traffic, and may be the temporary location of the concrete batch plant.
- A slight re-routing of the generation tie-line near the western end of the route and around the newly constructed Red Bluff Substation. The purpose of this re-routing is to align the PSEGS generation tie-line route immediately adjacent to the NextEra Desert Sunlight generation tie-line to minimize crossings over Interstate-10 and to ensure easy entry into the Red Bluff Substation nearest the PSEGS breaker position.
- Elimination of the secondary access road.
- Re-routing of the redundant telecommunication line along the generation tie-line route.
- Natural gas delivery from a new extension of the existing Southern California Gas (SoCal Gas) distribution system to the project boundary.

The Final Decision allowed the Approved Project to use up to 1,917 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water during construction (for a total of 5,750 acre-feet during the 39 months) and 300 AFY during operation from up to ten groundwater wells. The modified project will utilize the same number of groundwater wells but will use up to 400 AFY during construction (for a total of 1,130 acre-feet during the construction period) and up to 201 AFY during operation.

### **Licensing Jurisdiction**

The California Energy Commission has exclusive jurisdiction to license this project and is considering the amendment under a review process established by Section 1769 of its regulations, Title 20, Division 2, Chapter 5, California Code of Regulations. The power plant licensing and amendment process, which incorporates requirements equivalent to those of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), considers all relevant engineering and environmental aspects of the proposed project. The amendment review provides a public forum allowing the Applicant, Commission staff, governmental agencies, adjacent landowners, and members of the public to consider the advantages and disadvantages of the amendment, and to propose changes, mitigation measures, and alternatives as necessary.

The engineering and environmental details of the modified project are contained in the Amendment. Copies of the Amendment are available at the local public agencies that are involved in the review process and at the following libraries:

Palo Verde Valley District Library  
125 West Chanslor Way  
Blythe, CA 92225-1245

Cathedral City Branch Library  
33520 Date Palm Drive  
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Coachella Branch Library  
1538 Seventh Street  
Coachella, CA 92236

Lake Tamarisk Library  
P.O. Box 260  
Desert Center, CA 92239

Riverside Main Library  
3581 Mission Inn Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92501-3306

Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego.

### **Purpose of the Site Visit and Informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting**

The Site Visit and informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting scheduled in this notice provides an opportunity for members of the community in the project vicinity to obtain information, to offer comments, and to view the project site. The Applicant will explain its plans for changing the project and the related facilities and the Energy Commission staff will explain the amendment process and its role in the reviewing of the amendment. Anyone may present oral comments during the Public Comment Period at the Informational Hearing and no advance notice need be provided.

### **Proposed Schedule and Issues Identification Report**

Commission staff will file a proposed schedule for amendment review. Staff will also file an Issues Identification Report summarizing the major issues. This report will also indicate what additional information is necessary to resolve issues of concern. The proposed schedule and Staff's report shall be filed by **noon on February 15, 2013**. The Applicant and Intervenors shall file responses, if any, by **noon on February 19, 2013**.

Copies of these documents will be posted on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

### **Public Adviser and Public Participation**

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the amendment review process. For information on how to participate, contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228 or e-mail [publicadviser@energy.ca.gov](mailto:publicadviser@energy.ca.gov).

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz well in advance of the hearing at (916) 654-5146 or e-mail: [lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov](mailto:lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov).

### **Information**

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, the Hearing Adviser, at (916) 651-2020, or e-mail: [raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov](mailto:raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov).

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Christine Stora, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4745 or e-mail: [christine.stora@energy.ca.gov](mailto:christine.stora@energy.ca.gov).

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

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

Dated: January 30, 2013, at Sacramento, California.

***Original Signed By:***

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KAREN DOUGLAS  
Commissioner and Presiding Member  
Palen Solar Electric Generating System  
Amendment Committee

***Original Signed By:***

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ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER  
Chair and Associate Member  
Palen Solar Electric Generating System  
Amendment Committee

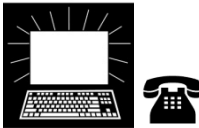
**PARTICIPATION IN THE PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM AMENDMENT  
INFORMATIONAL HEARING/ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING  
THROUGH WEBEX  
THE ENERGY COMMISSION'S ON-LINE MEETING SERVICE**



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

- Please go to <https://energy.webex.com>
- Enter the **MEETING NUMBER: 923 157 696**
- When prompted, enter the **MEETING PASSWORD: pwd#1516**

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 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: 923 157 696**

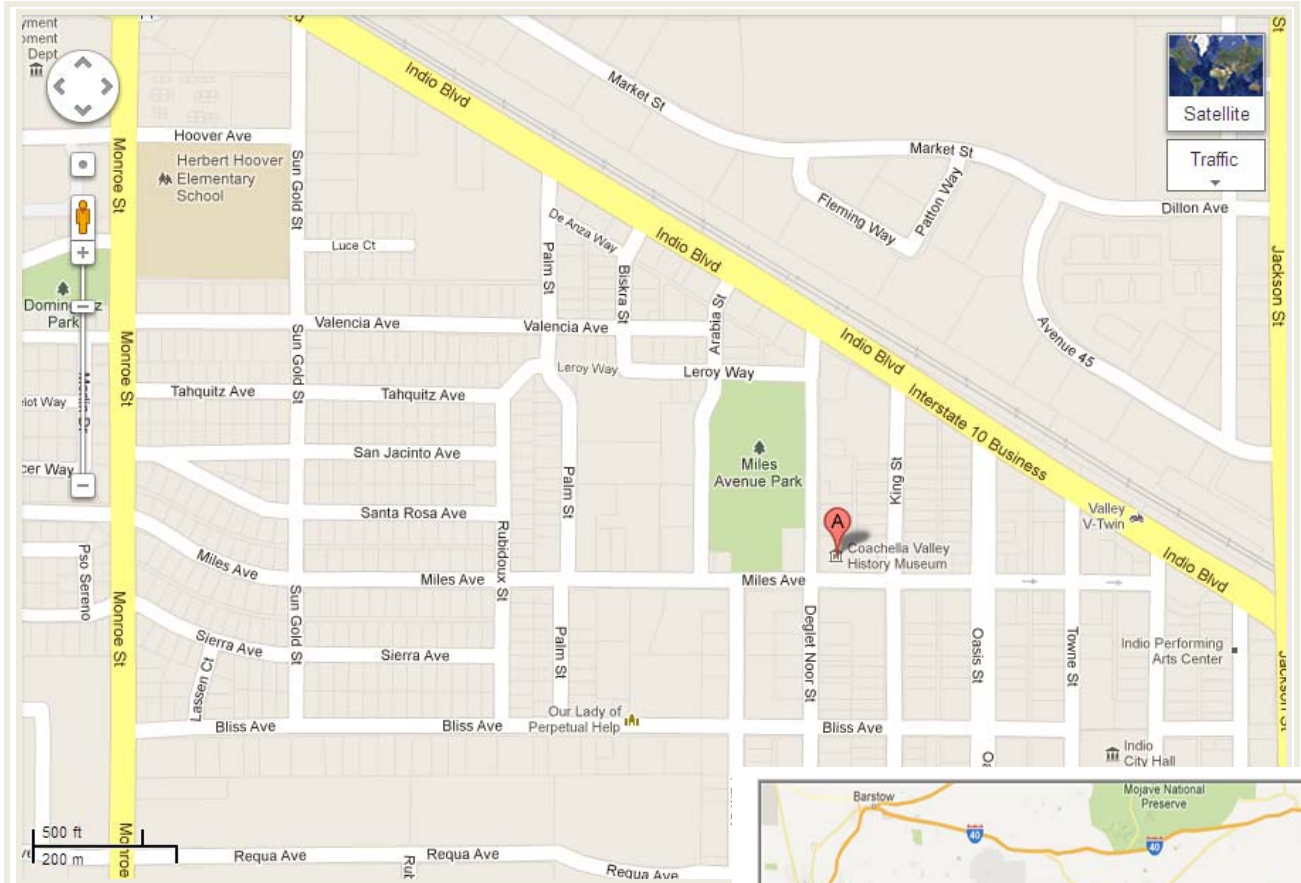
If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239. To see if your computer is compatible, visit <http://support.webex.com/support/system-requirements.html>.

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

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013**

**Public Site Visit begins (bus leaves Coachella Valley History Museum) at 1:00 p.m.  
Public Informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting begins at 3:00 p.m.  
Public Comment Period begins at 5:00 p.m.**

**Coachella Valley History Museum  
82-616 Miles Avenue  
Indio, CA 92201**



**DIRECTIONS:**

From the west:

Take I-10 East. Take Exit 139, for Indio Blvd., toward Indio. Keep right at the fork, follow signs for Indio Blvd. south. After 2 miles, turn right onto Clinton St. After 0.8 miles, turn right onto Miles Ave.

From the east:

Take I-10 west. Take Exit 142, for Monroe St. Turn left onto Monroe St. After 1.3 miles, turn right onto Miles Ave.







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1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

**AMENDMENT**

**FOR THE PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC  
GENERATING SYSTEM**

**Docket No. 09-AFC-7C  
PROOF OF SERVICE**

**(EST. 1/30/13)**

**SERVICE LIST:**

**APPLICANT**

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**APPLICANT'S COUNSEL**

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**INTERESTED AGENCIES**

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**INTERVENORS**

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**ENERGY COMMISSION –  
PUBLIC ADVISER**

Energy Commission  
Public Adviser's Office  
Blake Roberts  
Assistant Public Adviser  
publicadviser@energy.ca.gov

**COMMISSION DOCKET UNIT**

California Energy Commission  
- Docket Unit  
Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-07C  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
docket@energy.ca.gov

**OTHER ENERGY COMMISSION  
PARTICIPANTS (LISTED FOR  
CONVENIENCE ONLY):**

*After docketing, the Docket Unit  
will provide a copy to the persons  
listed below. Do not send copies of  
documents to these persons  
unless specifically directed to do  
so.*

KAREN DOUGLAS  
Commissioner and Presiding Member

ROBERT B. WEISENMILLER  
Chair and Associate Member

Raoul Renaud  
Hearing Adviser

Galen Lemei  
Adviser to Commissioner Douglas

Jennifer Nelson  
Adviser to Commissioner Douglas

Sekita Grant  
Adviser to Commissioner Weisenmiller

Eileen Allen  
Commissioners' Technical  
Adviser for Facility Siting

Christine Stora  
Project Manager

Jennifer Martin-Gallardo  
Staff Counsel



**DECLARATION OF SERVICE**

I, Maggie Read, declare that on January 30, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL HEARING, ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING AND PUBLIC SITE VISIT, dated January 30, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/compliance/>.

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

*(Check one)*

**For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:**

I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to those parties noted above as "hard copy required"; **OR**

Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: January 30, 2013

***Original Signed By:***

\_\_\_\_\_  
Maggie Read  
Hearing Office