

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

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

<b>DOCKET</b> <b>05-AFC-3</b>
DATE <b>DEC 13 2005</b>
RECD <b>DEC 13 2005</b>



December 13, 2005

**TO: AGENCY DISTRIBUTION LIST****REQUEST FOR AGENCY PARTICIPATION IN THE REVIEW OF THE SUN VALLEY ENERGY PROJECT, APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION (05-AFC-3)**

On December 1, 2005, Valle del Sol Energy, LLC (VSE), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Edison Mission Energy (EME), submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to construct and operate a simple cycle (peaking) power plant, the Sun Valley Energy Project (SVEP), near Romoland, in unincorporated Riverside County.

As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are met and incorporated into the final decision of the Energy Commission.

**Project Description**

The SVEP site is located at 29500 Rouse Road, Romoland, Riverside County, California. The area that includes the project site is zoned Manufacturing-Service Commercial. The project site is an approximately 20-acre parcel currently in agricultural use. EME has entered into a lease option agreement for the project site. The lease option will be assigned to and exercised by VSE.

The SVEP would be a nominal 500 megawatt (MW) simple-cycle power plant, consisting of five General Electric LMS100 natural gas-fired turbine-generators and associated equipment. The SVEP is designed as a peaking facility to meet electric generation load during periods of high demand, which generally occur during daytime hours, and more frequently during the summer than other portions of the year. The project is expected to have an annual capacity factor of approximately 20 to 40 percent, depending on weather-related customer demand, load growth, hydroelectric supplies, generating unit retirements and replacements, the level of generating unit and transmission outages, and other factors.

The SVEP would use reclaimed water for cooling and other power plant processes and for site landscape irrigation. The Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) would supply, on average, approximately 851 acre-feet per year of reclaimed water for the project. This water would be supplied to the SVEP site through a 12-inch diameter line direct-connected to the existing 12-inch reclaimed water supply pipeline located within the utility easement on the north side of the project site. Potable water for drinking and sanitary uses would be provided through a 4-inch diameter connection to the EMWD water line within the same utility easement. Sanitary wastewater would be discharged to a local sanitary sewer line that runs in within the same utility easement within the project site. Process wastewater, concentrated beyond discharge limits to the reclaimed water system, would be discharged via a 0.75 mile-long line to a separate EMWD non-

reclaimable wastewater line then routed through interceptor lines to the Orange County Sanitation District wastewater treatment plant that discharges to an ocean outfall.

The SVEP would be connected to Southern California Edison's (SCE) electrical system at the existing Valley Substation, which is located approximately 600 feet north of the project site. This connection would require approximately 600 feet of new 115-kilovolt transmission line and one off-site transmission tower to be located within SCE's transmission line corridor near the connection point at the southern end of the substation.

Natural gas would be supplied via a 750-foot-long pipeline within the SVEP parcel to a connection with one or more of Southern California Gas Company's (SoCalGas) high-pressure gas pipelines located at Menifee Road east of the project site.

Assuming the SVEP receives a license from the Energy Commission by January 2007, construction of the project would start in spring 2007, and full-scale commercial operation would begin by August 2008.

### **Energy Commission's Facility Certification Process**

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction 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 issuance of a certificate by the Energy Commission is in lieu of any local, state, or federal permit to the extent permitted by federal law. The Energy Commission's responsibilities are those of the lead agency under the CEQA, except the Energy Commission's analysis includes several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

The first step in the review process is for the Energy Commission staff to determine whether or not the AFC contains all the information required by our regulations. When the AFC is deemed data adequate, we will begin data discovery and issue analysis phases. During this time, a detailed examination of the issues will occur. There will be opportunities for your staff to confer with Energy Commission staff regarding issues of concern to your agency.

Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the 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 10-14 days prior to the meeting.

December 13, 2005

Page 3 of 3

## Agency Participation

During this data adequacy phase, we request that you review the sections of interest to your agency and determine whether the major issues of concern to your agency have been identified. At this time, we are only concerned that such issues are disclosed not necessarily that they be discussed in detail. We request that you provide any written comments you may have regarding the disclosure of potential issues of concern by **Friday, December 21, 2005**. Please address your comments to Robert Worl, Project Manager, 1516 9<sup>th</sup> Street, MS-15, Sacramento, CA 95814. Your agency may also present its comments and recommendations in person at the Energy Commission's January 18, 2006 Business Meeting. The limited purposes of that meeting will be to determine whether the AFC is data adequate in accordance with our regulations and to assign a committee of two Commissioners to oversee the proceeding.

When the AFC is accepted as data adequate, your participation in the proceeding is encouraged and will consist of identifying and trying to resolve issues of concern to your agency. There may be specific requests for agency review and comment during the proceedings after the AFC has been determined to be data adequate. Local agencies may seek reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to these requests. However, this request for comments during data adequacy is not reimbursable under Energy Commission Guidelines.

Assuming that the project is found data adequate on January 18, 2006, your agency's preliminary and final determinations and opinions would be due by **Thursday, May 17, 2006** (120 days) and **Monday, July 17, 2006** (181 days), respectively. Enclosed is a copy (CD) of the AFC in electronic format. If you would like to have a hardcopy of the AFC sent to you, if you have questions, or if you would like additional information on reimbursement or how to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Robert Worl, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 651-8853, or by e-mail at [rworl@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:rworl@energy.state.ca.us). The status of the project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sunvalley/index.html>

Sincerely,



Roger E. Johnson, Manager  
Energy Facilities Siting and Compliance Office

DATE: 12/13/05

Enclosure