

**Rio Mesa Solar Electric Generating Facility (RMSEGF)  
(11-AFC-4)**

**Applicant's General Comments and Comments to Conditions of Certification  
on the Preliminary Staff Assessment**

---

**NOISE AND VIBRATION**

**GENERAL COMMENTS**

No general comments.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

No findings of fact listed are listed in the PSA.

**PROPOSED CONDITIONS OF CERTIFICATION**

1. **Page 4.6-12, NOISE-1:** Please revise NOISE-1 to move the timeframe for complying with the condition to the Verification language:

**NOISE-1** ~~At least 15 days prior~~ Prior to the start of ground disturbance, the project owner shall notify all residents within one mile of the project site boundaries and ½-mile of the linear facilities, by mail, or by other effective means, of the commencement of project construction. At the same time, the project owner shall establish a telephone number for use by the public to report any undesirable noise conditions associated with the construction and operation of the project. If the telephone is not staffed 24 hours a day, the project owner shall include an automatic answering feature, with date and time stamp recording, to answer calls when the phone is unattended. This telephone number shall be posted at the project site during construction where it is visible to passersby. This telephone number shall be maintained until the project has been operational for at least one year.

**Verification:** ~~At least 15 days prior~~ prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall transmit to the compliance project manager (CPM) a statement, signed by the project owner's project manager, stating that the above notification has been performed, and describing the method of that notification. This communication shall also verify that the telephone number has been established and posted at the site, and shall provide that telephone number.

2. **Pages 4.6-12 and 13, NOISE-2:** Applicant does not see any need or benefit in filing a copy of the Noise Complaint Resolution Form with the County and recommends that NOISE-2 be modified as follows:

**NOISE-2** Throughout the construction and operation of the project, the project owner shall document, investigate, evaluate, and attempt to resolve all

## NOISE AND VIBRATION

---

legitimate project-related noise complaints. The project owner or authorized agent shall:

- use the Noise Complaint Resolution Form (below), or a functionally equivalent procedure acceptable to the CPM, to document and respond to each noise complaint;
- attempt to contact the person(s) making the noise complaint within 24 hours;
- conduct an investigation to determine the source of noise in the complaint;
- if the noise is project related, take all feasible commercially reasonable measures to reduce the ~~source of the~~ noise levels at the receptor; and
- submit a report documenting the complaint and actions taken. The report shall include: a complaint summary, including the final results of noise reduction efforts and, if obtainable, a signed statement by the complainant, stating that the noise problem has been resolved to the complainant's satisfaction.

**Verification:** Within five days of receiving a noise complaint, the project owner shall file a Noise Complaint Resolution Form, shown below, with ~~both the local jurisdiction and~~ the CPM that documents the resolution of the complaint. If mitigation is required to resolve the complaint, and the complaint is not resolved within a three-day period, the project owner shall submit an updated Noise Complaint Resolution Form when the mitigation is implemented ~~performed and complete~~.

3. **Pages 4.6-13 and 14, NOISE-4:** Due primarily to the higher predicted startup operation noise level for LT1a as presented in Table 5.7-14 on Page 5.7-13 of the Supplemental Response to DR Set 1A (#16 and #26), identified as "BS 2012v" in the PSA, and Applicant's usage to date of a wind-neutral sound propagation prediction scenario for modeling project operation noise, please change NOISE-4 as follows:

**NOISE-4** The project design and implementation shall include appropriate noise mitigation measures adequate to ensure that the operation of the project will not cause the noise levels due to plant operation alone to exceed a daily average of ~~393~~ dBA  $L_{eq}$  measured at or near monitoring location LT1a.

**Verification:** No new pure-tone components, with "pure tone" as defined in Noise Table A1, shall be caused by the project. No single piece of equipment shall be allowed to stand out as a source of noise that draws legitimate complaints<sup>4</sup>.

---

<sup>4</sup> A legitimate complaint refers to a complaint about noise that is caused by the Rio Mesa SEGF project as opposed to another source (as verified by the CPM). A legitimate complaint constitutes a violation by the project of any noise condition of certification (as confirmed by the CPM), which is documented by an individual or entity affected by such noise.

## NOISE AND VIBRATION

---

When the project first achieves a sustained output of 90 percent or greater of rated capacity, the project owner shall conduct a 25-hour community noise survey at monitoring location LT1a, or at a closer location acceptable to the CPM. This survey shall also include measurements of one-third octave band sound pressure levels to ensure that no new pure-tone noise components have been caused by the project.

The measurement of power plant noise for the purposes of demonstrating compliance with this condition of certification may alternatively be made at a location, acceptable to the CPM, closer to the plant (e.g., 400 feet from the plant boundary) and this measured level then mathematically extrapolated to determine the plant noise contribution at the affected residence. The character of the plant noise shall be evaluated at the affected receptor location to determine the presence of pure tones or other dominant sources of plant noise.

If the results from the noise survey indicate that the power plant noise at the affected receptor site exceeds the above value during the above time period, mitigation measures shall be implemented to reduce noise to a level of compliance with this limit.

If the results from the noise survey indicate that pure tones are present, mitigation measures shall be implemented to reduce ~~eliminate~~ the pure tones.

**Verification:** The survey shall take place within 30 days of the project first achieving a sustained output of 90 percent or greater of rated capacity. Within 15 days after completing the survey, the project owner shall submit a summary report of the survey to the CPM. Included in the survey report will be a description of any additional mitigation measures necessary to achieve compliance with the above listed noise limit, and a schedule, subject to CPM approval, for implementing these measures. When these measures are in place, the project owner shall repeat the noise survey.

Within 15 days of completion of the new survey, the project owner shall submit to the CPM a summary report of the new noise survey, performed as described above and showing compliance with this condition.

4. **Pages 4.6-14 and 15, NOISE-6:** As no project construction activity is expected within a ¼-mile of an occupied dwelling, and because Applicant understands and will comply with Riverside County Ordinance 847 as summarized on Page 4.6-4, Applicant requests that NOISE-6 to be deleted in its entirety from the Conditions of Certification, as follows:

~~**NOISE-6** Heavy equipment operation and noisy construction work relating to any project features, including pile driving, within ¼-mile of a noise sensitive receptor shall be restricted to the times delineated below:~~

~~June through September: \_\_\_\_\_ 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
October through May: \_\_\_\_\_ 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.~~

~~Concrete pouring during hot summer days may be performed outside the above hours, with the CPM approval.~~

## NOISE AND VIBRATION

---

Haul trucks and other engine-powered equipment shall be equipped with adequate mufflers. Haul trucks shall be operated in accordance with posted speed limits. Truck engine exhaust brake use shall be limited to emergencies.

**Verification:** Prior to ground disturbance, the project owner shall transmit to the CPM a statement acknowledging that the above restrictions will be observed throughout the construction of the project.

At least 5 days prior to pouring of concrete outside of the above hours, the project owner shall submit a statement to the CPM, specifying the time of night and the number of nights for which concrete pouring will occur, and the approximate distance of this activity to the nearest noise-sensitive receptor.