

Memorandum

Date: December 7, 2010
Telephone: (916) 654-4679

To: Commissioner Robert Weisenmiller, Presiding Member
Chair Karen Douglas, Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission – John Kessler, Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET 09-AFC-4

DATE	12/07/10
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RECD.	12/07/10
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Subject: **STAFF'S PMPD COMMENTS SET 2 -
RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (09-AFC-10)**

I Staff's Response to Applicant's PMPD Comments dated November 30, 2010

Energy Commission staff is providing Staff's PMPD Comments Set 2 to respond to a few differences between the initial set of PMPD comments filed independently by staff and applicant on November 30, 2010. Staff has reviewed the applicant's PMPD Comments as filed November 30, 2010 and considers them acceptable in most cases. Staff disagrees with some of the applicant's proposed changes to Worker Safety-Fire Protection, and rather than filing staff's own comments at this time, we will work with the applicant and Riverside County Fire Department to find mutually acceptable language and will file this subsequently. Staff notes that with respect to Biological Resources, the applicant has further refined the area calculations of various project activities, and staff accepts the applicant's updated estimates including as they are reflected for habitat compensation in proposed changes to the conditions of certification.

II Comments to Project Description, Soil and Water Resources and Cultural Resources to Reflect That There Will Not Be a Storm Water Detention Pond

Project Description, Page 15, Paragraph 3

Runoff generated between SR-62 and the site would be conveyed around the site's perimeter by a natural bottom channel. (Exs. 1, Appen. 5.15c; 200, pp. 3-12 – 3-13.) On-site runoff would drain as it would naturally from north to south on the RSEP site. ~~into a 30-acre detention pond where it would infiltrate or be released gradually.~~ The **Soil and Water Resources** section of this Decision discusses the project's proposed storm water and process wastewater disposal. (Ex. 200, pp. 3-13 - 3-14.)

Soil and Water Resources, Page 8, Paragraphs 2 and 3

Remove paragraphs below and add this: "On-site runoff would drain as it would naturally from north to south on the RSEP site."

~~More particularly, all on-site drainage will collect at the south end of the project in a shallow 30-acre detention facility. This unlined basin will allow for discharge~~

through either infiltration or through a discharge pipe at the lower end of the basin. The function of the discharge pipe would be to maintain the predeveloped discharge rate for the 100-year, 24-hour storm. This pipe would allow the basin to discharge at a maximum rate of 91 cubic feet per second (cfs). The evidences establishes that the project's detention of on-site flows would result in a less than significant modification of local hydrology when compared to the volume and velocity of storm water that flows from the Turtle Mountains. (*Id.*)

Soil and Water Resources, Appendix A, Page 39

9. The RSEP technology consists of the following elements: 1) 17,500 heliostats or mirrors, each encompasses 672 square feet in area occupying approximately 1,370 acres; 2) A 538-foot-high concrete solar receiver tower with a 100-foot-tall solar receiver and 15-foot-long crane; 3) A liquid salt circulation and storage system capable of storing 70 million pounds of liquid salt (sodium nitrate/potassium nitrate mixture); 4) A 150 Mega Watt condensing steam turbine generator system and equipment; 5) A 20 cell ACC for cooling of the steam turbine exhaust; 6) A 10 mile long generation tie-line to connect with the Parker-Blythe No. 2 transmission line; 7) A new interconnection substation; 8) An onsite switchyard; 9) Two onsite wells for industrial water use and a water treatment system; 10) Three evaporation ponds for waste disposal, approximately 5 acres each; 11) A 30-acre storm water detention pond; 12) Two diesel fire-water pumps and two emergency diesel generator sets for backup emergency power supply; and 13) The existing 12-kV electrical distribution line is extended to have a total length of approximately 1.1 miles long to the facility fence-line.

Soil and Water Resources, Appendix A, Page 41

15. The RWD indicates that approximately 31 acre-feet per year of heliostat/mirror wash water will be used by the project. Any wash water from mirror washing that does not infiltrate into the soil around the heliostats would be allowed to sheet flow along the site's current drainage pattern to the south end of the heliostat field. An expansive and shallow detention basin of 30 acre-feet capacity will be constructed to detain any increase in storm flows.

Cultural Resources, Page 3, Paragraph 3

The project would have minimal to moderate ground disturbance impacts on the site area. Within the heliostat field, vegetation would be removed to near ground level and, overall, would retain the existing terrain without any significant grading for placement of the heliostat pylons or piers. The most significant grading would occur in the power block area and for development of the stormwater detention (30-acre-foot capacity) and wastewater evaporation ponds (three ponds at 5 acres each or a total of 15 acres).

Docket (09-AFC-10)
Webworks
POS



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

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE RICE SOLAR ENERGY POWER
PLANT PROJECT**

Docket No. 09-AFC-10

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 8/5/2010)**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maria Santourdjian, declare that on December 7, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Staff's PMPD Comments Set 2, dated December 7, 2010. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ricesolar).

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

(Check all that Apply)

FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:

- sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;
- by personal delivery;
- by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class 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 NOT marked "email preferred."

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FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

- one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (***preferred method***);

OR

- depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-10
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4
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docket@energy.state.ca.us

I declare under penalty of perjury 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.

Originally Signed by
Maria Santourdjian