

Memorandum

Date: July 16, 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-10	
DATE	JUL 16 2010
RECD.	JUL 19 2010

**Subject: RICE SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (09-AFC-10)
STAFF'S STATUS AND SCHEDULE UPDATE**

Energy Commission staff, in coordination with U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Western Area Power Administration (Western), would like to advise the Energy Commission Committee that we are expecting delay in the publication of the Staff Assessment-Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA-DEIS) for the Rice Solar Energy Project (RSEP) Application for Certification (AFC) and associated right-of-way and interconnection applications. At this time, we are experiencing about a 3-week delay to the Committee-ordered publication date of July 21, 2010 resulting in a revised publication date on or about August 12, 2010. The factors leading to this delay are summarized as follows:

1. Staff has been unable to complete several technical sections including Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Land Use, Socioeconomics, Transmission System Engineering and Worker Safety-Fire Protection due to outstanding data and/or ongoing staff work associated with other solar projects seeking American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds including Blythe, Palen, Genesis and Calico;
2. The applicant, SolarReserve, is cooperating by providing supplemental data to complement data previously provided that is necessary for the agencies to complete assessment of impacts and to identify/recommend appropriate mitigation; This includes data pertaining to biological surveys, historic properties, and transmission system impact studies.
3. BLM and Western need additional review time of the SA-DEIS Administrative Draft sections, as their workload has also been impacted by work on the ARRA projects.

Staff believes this additional time will ultimately result in a more complete assessment and a better CEQA and NEPA document, while avoiding adverse effects to the Committee's schedule for conducting Evidentiary Hearings on September 8 and 9, 2010.

Docket (09-AFC-10)
Webworks
POS

PROOF OF SERVICE (REVISED 3/4/10) FILED WITH
ORIGINAL MAILED FROM SACRAMENTO ON 7/19/10
TG



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 3/4/2010)

APPLICANT

Jeffrey Benoit
Project Manager
Solar Reserve
2425 Olympic Boulevard, Ste. 500 East
Santa Monica, CA 90404
Jeffrey.Benoit@solarreserve.com

APPLICANT'S CONSULTANTS

Andrea Grenier
Grenier and Associates
1420 East Roseville Parkway, Ste. 140-377
Roseville, CA 95661
andrea@agrenier.com

Douglas Davy
CH2MHILL
2485 Natomas Park Drive, Ste. 600
Sacramento, CA 95833
ddavy@ch2m.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT

Scott Galati
Galati & Blek, LLP
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 350
Sacramento, CA 95814
sgalati@gb-llp.com

INTERESTED AGENCIES

California ISO
E-mail Preferred
e-recipient@caiso.com

Liana Reilly
Western Area Power Administration
PO Box 281213
Lakewood CO 80228-8213
reilly@wapa.gov

Allison Shaffer
Bureau of Land Management
Palm Springs/South Coast Field Office
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, Ca 92262
allison_shaffer@blm.gov

INTERVENORS

ENERGY COMMISSION

ROBERT WEISENMILLER
Commissioner and Presiding Member
rweisenm@energy.state.ca.us

KAREN DOUGLAS
Chairman and Associate Member
kldougla@energy.state.ca.us

Kourtney Vaccaro
Hearing Officer
kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us

John Kessler
Siting Project Manager
jkessler@energy.state.ca.us

Deborah Dyer
Staff Counsel
ddyer@energy.state.ca.us

Jennifer Jennings
Public Adviser's Office
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Teraja` Golston , declare that on, July 19, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached, Rice Solar Energy (09-AFC-10) – Staff’s Status and Schedule Update. 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>].

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.”

AND

FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:

_____ sending an original paper copy and 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
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
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.

Original Signature
Teraja` Golston