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Date: 9/3/2010 12:20 PM
Subject: Rice Solar Energy Project - Committee Communication

All:

On August 25, 2010, the Rice Solar AFC Committee issued a revised Committee Schedule specifying August 31, 2010, as the anticipated date for publication of the Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS). On August 31, 2010, the Committee learned that publication of the SA/DEIS will be delayed to sometime in September 2010. Staff has stated that it intends to send the outstanding draft technical sections to the federal agency reviewers on Tuesday, September 7, 2010.

Given this new information, the Committee instructs Staff to follow through on its plan of submitting all draft sections of the SA/DEIS to the federal agency reviewers by the close of business on Tuesday, September 7, 2010. Staff shall email the Committee on Wednesday, September 8, 2010, confirming that the sections were submitted to the federal agency reviewers. The Committee also urges Staff to make all reasonable effort to publish the SA/DEIS by September 16.

Given the general interest in a mid-September publication date, the Committee encourages the Applicant to continue its efforts to obtain a swift review of the draft SA/DEIS from the federal agency reviewers.

To address any additional concerns of the parties regarding the scheduled hearing date, the Committee will soon be issuing an order requiring the parties to file weekly status reports and notice of a September 29, 2010 mandatory status conference.

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