

**Briefing Outline for Siting Committee Presentation**  
**BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT**  
**(09-AFC-6C)**

**Contact:** Mary Dyas, 651-8891

**Time Needed:** 10 minutes

**Action Requested of Siting Committee:** This is an informational item for review

**Business Meeting Date:** August 24, 2011

**Background:** The 1000-megawatt solar thermal project was certified by the Energy Commission on September 15, 2010. The facility will be located approximately eight miles west of the City of Blythe and two miles north of the Interstate-10 freeway on land managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Riverside County, California. The Project has received its Right-Of-Way Grant (ROW) and Notice to Proceed to construction (NTP) for Phase 1A from the BLM and a NTP from the CEC for Phase 1A. Phase 1A of the BSPP is currently under construction.

#### **SUMMARY OF PETITION**

---

- On June 14, 2011, Palo Verde Solar I, LLC filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the facility design and to modify the location of its transmission line to reflect the new proposed location of the Colorado River Substation. The petition was posted on June 17, 2011. The petition was docketed and mailed on June 28, 2011.
- The modifications proposed in the petition would:
  1. Revise the General Arrangement for the Shared Facilities Area
  2. Modify the of Generation Tie-Line route
  3. Relocate the existing SCE 12 kV distribution transmission poles to allow improvement of a portion of Black Rock Road
  4. Replace of the Steam Turbine Generator (STG) manufactured by Toshiba Model Number TCDF-33.5 with a STG manufactured by Siemens, Model Number SST-5000
  5. Revise the General Arrangement of the Power Block
  6. Revise the Air Quality Conditions of Certification to make consistent with Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) conditions contained in the Authority to Construct (ATC)

#### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

---

- Staff analyzed the petition and determined that there will be no significant impacts as a result of the proposed amendment.
- This Staff Analysis contains the Energy Commission staff's evaluation of the affected technical areas including: Air Quality and Biological Resources,

- **Air Quality:** Changes to the conditions of certification are minor and resulted in a change in emissions such that a revised Final Determination of Compliance was required; however an amendment to the Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification is needed to reflect the changes in the Authority to Construct for consistency.

**Biological Resources:** The proposed project changes associated with a new substation location and a slightly re-aligned transmission line would not result in significant, unmitigated effects on special status species or their habitat with implementation of the Biological Resources conditions of certification in the Commission Decision. Staff recommends changes to three conditions in the Commission Decision to reflect the reduced acreage impacts to desert tortoise and Mojave fringed-toed lizard habitat.

## **PUBLIC PROCESS**

---

- The Petition to Amend the project was filed/docketed on June 14, 2011 and posted on the Energy Commission's website on June 17, 2011.
- Notice of Receipt mailed to the post-certification mailing list and affected public agencies, docketed and posted on June 28, 2011.
- Staff analysis was mailed to interested parties and docketed on July 22, 2011. The staff analysis was then posted on the Energy Commission Website on July 22, 2011.

## **FINDINGS**

---

- The petition meets all the filing criteria of Section 1769(a) concerning post-certification project modifications;
- The modification will not change the findings in the Energy Commission's Final Decision pursuant to Section 1755;
- The project will remain in compliance with all applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards, subject to the provisions of Public Resources Code section 25525;
- The proposed modifications to the Air Quality Conditions of Certification will result in a beneficial change by ensuring that the license reflects recent changes in the Authority to Construct; and,
- There has been a substantial change in circumstances since the Energy Commission certification justifying the change and that the change is based on information that was not available to the parties prior to Energy Commission certification in that the location of the Colorado River Substation has changed.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

---

Staff recommends that the Energy Commission approve the project modification(s) and associated revisions to the air quality and biological resources conditions of certification based upon staff's findings and subject to the revised conditions of certification.