

**Briefing Outline for
Agenda Prep Meeting Presentation
(09-AFC-8C)**

Genesis Solar Energy Project Amendment for Gen-tie Line

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Time Needed: Estimated time of discussion is 10 minutes

Business Meeting Date: August 9, 2012

Background: On April 7, 2012, Tetra Tech, Inc, on behalf of Genesis Solar, LLC, filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the Energy Commission's Final Decision, for the Genesis Solar Energy Project (GSEP). The 250-MW project was certified by the Commission on September 29, 2010; the project is currently under construction and is approximately 15% complete. The applicant has petitioned the Commission to amend the final decision for a relocated gen-tie line and natural gas line, due to third-party agency changes outside the owner's control.

The proposed modifications will result in changes to **Air Quality** and **Biological** Conditions of Certification (see below for proposed new Conditions and one modified Condition). For **Cultural** and **Transmission System Engineering**, staff has analyzed the potential impacts of the modifications; however, no new Conditions of Certification are proposed. With the implementation of the new and modified Conditions of Certification, **Air Quality** and **Biological** staff has concluded that the impacts associated with the proposed modifications have been mitigated to less than significant levels. Furthermore, **Cultural** and **Transmission System Engineering** staff, have also concluded that impacts associated with the proposed modifications have been mitigated to less than significant levels.

- **AQ-20** is an amended Condition that provides for the reduced water use associated with dry cooling instead of wet cooling, as well as for reduced PM10 emissions
- **AQ-SC-9** is a new Condition that will require engines used during the commissioning period to be registered under ARB's portable equipment registration program. The condition would also require the engines to be fueled with natural gas rather than diesel to the degree that site conditions allow
- **AQ-SC-10** is a new Condition that will limit engine operation to emission limits and timeframes as modeled to assure compliance with LORS during the commissioning period, for NOx and PM10
- **AQ-SC-11** is a new Condition that will limit nitrogen oxide emissions to less than the District's offset threshold and assure compliance with LORS during the commissioning period.

- **BIO-17** is a modified Condition that will require the owner to develop and implement an American Badger and Desert Kit Fox Mitigation and Monitoring Plan to address the ongoing concerns about potential impacts to desert kit fox.

All requested modifications to **Air Quality** Conditions have been approved by the Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, and are included in the Authority to Construct (ATC) permit.

Energy Commission staff have reviewed the petition to amend and considered the new and amended conditions, and have assessed their impacts on environmental quality, public health and safety. Staff recommends approval of all modifications, which will ensure that the Energy Commission Conditions of Certification conform with all applicable LORS.

Justification for Action Requested: NextEra has petitioned the Commission for review and approval of both Option A and Option B for the Gen-tie route and the Natural Gas Line route. On the basis of this request, staff has analyzed both options for potential adverse impacts, and has approved both options. Therefore, staff's overall recommendation to the Commission is for approval of the requested modifications, as well as both Option A and Option B for the gen-tie line and the natural gas line; implementation will be at the discretion of NextEra.

With the recommended mitigation measures, all requested project modifications will continue to comply with all applicable LORS.

Public Review:

The Staff Analysis was originally docketed and posted to the website on June 29, 2012, the public review period will end on Monday, July 30, 2012. A comment letter from the Center for Biological Diversity was received on July 30, 2012.

What Happens Next: This project, if approved by the Siting Lead Commissioner, will be presented at the preliminary and final agenda review meetings for the August 9, 2012 Business Meeting.