

**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE  
***BEACON SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT***  
BY ***BEACON SOLAR, LLC***

**DOCKET No. 08-AFC-2**

**COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER**

**Background**

On March 14, 2008, the California Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from Beacon Solar, LLC (Beacon Solar), a subsidiary of FPL Energy, LLC. The proposed project is a concentrated solar electric generating facility proposed on an approximately 2,012-acre site in eastern Kern County, California. The project would use established parabolic trough solar thermal technology to produce electrical power using a steam turbine generator fed from a solar steam generator. The solar steam generator receives heated heat transfer fluid from solar thermal equipment comprised of arrays of parabolic mirrors that collect energy from the sun. The project would have a nominal electrical output of 250 megawatts (MW).

**Summary**

The Energy Commission assigned a Committee of two Commissioners to conduct proceedings on the AFC. The Committee held a public Informational Hearing in the City of California City on June 11, 2008, to discuss the review process and to identify issues that could affect the schedule. Pursuant to Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations section 1709.7(c), the attached Committee Schedule is based on Applicant's and Staff's proposed schedules and related discussion at the Informational Hearing.

The schedule contains a list of events that must occur in order to complete the certification process within twelve months. This initial schedule covers the period up to the Prehearing Conference. The balance of the schedule will be determined at the Prehearing Conference. We encourage the parties to consider this schedule an outer boundary and make their best efforts to complete the milestones ahead of these dates.

Several deadlines are contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies. The Applicant must provide sufficient review time for the responsible agencies to meet the deadlines specified in the schedule.

Technical issues regarding air quality, biological resources, and water and soil resources are pending. Resolution of these issues shall be addressed during the data exchange process and public meetings with the parties and interested governmental agencies. Given the complexities involved in resolving the issues, the parties are on notice that we may modify the schedule at any time upon either our own motion or that of a party. [Cal. Code of Regs. title 20, § 1709(c).]

The Committee is particularly interested in an issue that was discussed at the informational hearing. The project proposes to use approximately 1,600 acre-feet per year of groundwater for all power plant needs. The Committee is interested in alternative cooling technologies and alternative cooling water sources that may be used at the plant to reduce the project's need for groundwater.

### **Status Reports**

The schedule requires periodic status reports to determine whether case development is progressing satisfactorily and to bring potential schedule delays or other relevant matters to our attention. The burden is on the Applicant to produce the necessary data according to the schedule. If there are delays, we may adopt a performance approach resulting in a commensurate slip of the schedule.

To facilitate the process, each party shall serve and file status reports as indicated in the schedule below. The reports shall be received by the other parties and the Commission's Docket Unit, 1516 9th Street, MS 14, Sacramento, California 95814-5512, **no later than 3:00 p.m. on the dates indicated below**. Status reports must contain "Docket No. 08-AFC-2" in the caption or heading. In addition to providing printed copies, the parties shall e-mail their status reports to the Hearing Officer and to those with e-mail addresses as indicated on the Proof-of-Service list. If, for any reason, the Final Staff Assessment is delayed beyond January 1, 2009, the parties are Ordered to provide status reports on the first day of every month until directed otherwise by the Committee.

### **Public Adviser and Public Participation**

Members of the public may participate in all aspects of the review process in a variety of ways. The Commission's Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the licensing process. This office may be reached at 916-654-4489 or 800-822-6228 or email: **[pao@energy.state.ca.us]**.

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in this event, contact Lourdes Quiroz well in advance of the hearing at 916-654-5146 or e-mail: **[lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us]**.

**Information**

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Bill Pfanner, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4206, or by e-mail at [\[bpfanner@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:bpfanner@energy.state.ca.us).

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Kenneth Celli, the Hearing Officer, at (916) 651-8893, or e-mail: [\[kcelli@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:kcelli@energy.state.ca.us).

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail at: [\[mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us\]](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us).

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: [\[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon/index.html\]](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/beacon/index.html).

Dated June 18, 2008, at Sacramento, California

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**KAREN DOUGLAS**

Commissioner and Presiding Member  
Beacon Solar Energy Power Plant AFC Committee

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**JEFFREY D. BYRON**

Commissioner and Associate Member  
Beacon Solar Energy Power Plant AFC Committee

**COMMITTEE SCHEDULE  
FOR THE  
BEACON SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT (08-AFC-2)**

DATE	EVENT
3/14/08	Applicant files Application for Certification (AFC)
5/7/08	Decision on Data Adequacy at the Business Meeting
6/11/08	Informational Hearing and Site Visit
6/16/08	Staff files 1st Round Data Requests
7/16/08	Applicant provides Data Responses (round 1)
7/21/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 1)
7/31/08	Status Report #1
8/1/08	Staff files Data Requests (round 2, if necessary)
8/29/08	Applicant provides Data Responses (round 2, if necessary)
9/3/08	Local, state and federal agency draft determinations, including PDOC from KCAPCD
9/18/08	Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop (round 2)
9/30/08	Status Report #2
10/17/08	Preliminary Staff Assessment filed
11/3/08	Preliminary Staff Assessment workshop(s)
11/3/08	Local, state and federal agency final determinations, including FDOC from KCAPCD
11/21/08	Status Report #3
12/2/08	Final Staff Assessment filed
TBD	Pre-Hearing Conference