

3.2 TRANSMISSION SYSTEM ENGINEERING

This section outlines the portions of the Modified Project that may affect the analysis, rationale, conclusions, and Conditions of Certification contained in the Commission Final Decision for the Approved Project.

3.2.1 Overview of Approved Project

The Approved Project was originally licensed as a nominally rated 1000 MW solar thermal facility to be developed in four independent units, each with a capability of generating up to 250 MW with traditional steam turbine technology. The Approved Project would interconnect with a double circuit 230 kV transmission generation tie-line to the Colorado River Substation (CRS) which is already under construction. The Commission approved a previous amendment on August 24, 2011 to the Approved Project to accommodate the relocation of the CRS. CAISO, SCE and PVSI executed a Large Generator Interconnection Agreement (LGIA) in November 2010, which was approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in March 2011.

3.2.2 Relevant Modifications to Project Description

The Modified Project will eliminate the power blocks and the CSP generation technology will be replaced with PV. The switchyard will be modified to accommodate this change. A preliminary one-line diagram and a preliminary layout of the proposed switchyard are presented in Appendix C. Additionally, a slight change to the transmission route will be made to accommodate the use of a shared transmission corridor from the McCoy and EneXco Projects located north of the site.

SCE and CAISO are currently reviewing the effect of switching solar technologies and whether that impacts the previous interconnection studies. Once this evaluation is complete, the LGIA will be amended to address the technology switch. The LGIA amendment, once executed, will require FERC review and approval. It is anticipated that the switch to technology will not require different downstream transmission system upgrades than those identified in the previous CAISO studies.

3.2.3 Compliance With LORS

The Modified Project will comply with all transmission system engineering related laws, ordinances, regulations and standards. This will be ensured by enforcement of the existing Conditions of Certification as modified below. Evidence that the Modified Project can safely interconnect with the CAISO system at the CRS will be demonstrated by the LGIA, when amended.

3.2.4 Conditions of Certification

No modifications of Conditions of Certification are proposed to the Commission Final Decision to accommodate the Modified Project.