

Memorandum

Date: March 2, 2005
Telephone: (916) 651-8835

To: John L. Geesman, Presiding Member
William J. Keese, Associate Member

From: California Energy Commission – Jack W. Caswell, Project Manager
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: **BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT TRANSMISSION LINE STATUS REPORT #3**

Energy Commission staff (staff) in coordination with Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are continuing to gather information and analyze the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification (BEPTL).

Commission staff and the BEPTL applicant conducted four (4) workshops in our efforts to clarify information and take comments on the proposed transmission line project modifications. At the workshop held February 17, 2005 staff was informed by the applicant that the required transmission facility study being conducted by Southern California Edison (SCE), would not be completed until July 5, 2005. In our first status report dated December 13, 2004, we had estimated that the facility study would be completed by April 15, 2005. However, a significant delay has occurred due to the CAISO requirement for a revised facility study with additional scoping requirements. Upon receipt of the study the CAISO will require 30 days for review. Based upon their review, the CAISO could require revision to the facility study. If the revisions are not required the CAISO will provide a preliminary approval letter on August 5, 2005 if determined appropriate. This information is critical to CEC staff's overall review of the project and its impacts.

Staff plans to publish a joint agency Staff Assessment / Environmental Assessment with Western and BLM by late August 2005. Staff will coordinate the review of all technical sections for the SA/EA with the co-federal lead agencies (Western & BLM).

In order for staff to complete the SA/EA, meet CEQA/NEPA requirements and provide meaningful recommendations, the following revised critical information still needs to be provided by BEP. Once these items are provided, it is our intent to complete the SA/EA within 30 working days, assuming that each of these pieces of information is complete.

- Final Draft Drainage, Erosion, Sediment Plan
- Cultural Resource Studies and Mitigation Measures
- FAA Determination on No Hazard to Air Navigation
- Biological Assessment accepted as complete by Western and USF&WS
- Facility Study Completed
- CA ISO and Western Facility Study Approval Letter

**Blythe Energy Transmission Line Major Amendment
Staff Proposed Schedule**

Activity	Date
Petition filed by Project Owner	Oct 12, 04
Staff files Data Requests	Nov 01, 04
Staff files Issue Identification Report	Nov 03, 04
Committee holds Information-Scoping Hearing and Site Visit	Nov 10, 04
Staff Data Request and Issue Workshop	Nov 15, 04
Continued Data Workshop	Nov 23, 04
Project owner provides Data Responses	Nov 30, 04
Second Set of Data Requests issued by Staff	Dec 17, 04
Second Set of Data Responses issued by Project Owner	Jan 18, 05
Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) filed	Jan 24, 05
PSA Workshop	Feb 17, 05
Applicants Comments on PSA & Data Responses	Feb 28, 05
Comments on PSA, Local, State, and Federal Agencies	Feb 28, 05
*Final Draft Drainage, Erosion, Sediment Plan	Mar 10, 05
*BA Deemed Complete by USF&WS	Mar 10, 05
*Cultural Resource Surveys	Mar 31, 05
*FAA Form 7469-1 Determination	Apr 01, 05
* Facility Study Completed by SCE	July 05, 05
*CAISO and Western Facility Study Approval	Aug 05, 05
SA/EA Co-Agency Conference on all Sections	Aug 15, 05
SA/EA Filed on or Before	Aug 31, 05
Evidentiary Hearings	TBD**
Committee files Proposed Decision	TBD
Committee Conference on the Proposed Decision	TBD
Close of public comments on the Proposed Decision	TBD
Commission Decision	TBD

*This information is required before staff publishes the final SA/EA. The dates have been established from Data Responses, workshops, staff and agency estimates and on going discussions.

**To Be Determined