

Memorandum

Date: July 13, 2005
Telephone: (916) 651-8835

To: John L. Geesman, Presiding 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 #4**

Energy Commission staff (staff) in coordination with Western Area Power Administration (Western) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are finalizing the Staff Assessment /Draft Environmental Assessment (SA/DEA) for publication on the Blythe Energy Project Transmission Line Modification (BEPTL) petition.

Staff is currently finalizing the Transmission System Engineering (TSE) and Cultural Resources technical sections in order to meet both CEQA and NEPA requirements thus satisfying environmental and engineering requirements for State and Federal co-lead agencies. Staff has provided comments on a Draft Cultural Resources Study (CRS) and we anticipate that Blythe Energy, LLC (Blythe Energy) will complete the final required CRS study and provide that study to staff by mid to late July. This study must be reviewed and approved by our Federal co-lead agencies in order for those agencies to make a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI) under NEPA.

Blythe Energy has submitted revised System Impact Studies (SIS). The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) is reviewing the SIS and has indicated that they will require a minimum of 30 days for their review of those studies. If revisions are not required, the CAISO will provide a preliminary approval letter by early to mid August 2005.

In order for staff to complete the SA/DEA, meet CEQA/NEPA requirements, provide meaningful recommendations and meet the SA/DEA publication date goal, the following revised critical information still needs to be provided by Blythe Energy and CAISO. Once these items are provided, it is our intent to complete the SA/DEA within 15 days, assuming they are complete.

- Cultural Resources Study with Mitigation Measures
- CAISO System Impact Studies Approval Letter

Staff plans to publish a joint State and Federal agency Staff Assessment / Draft Environmental Assessment (SA/DEA) with Western and BLM and has targeted August 31, 2005 as the release date. If for some reason the final information is delayed or incomplete, the SA/DEA publication date will be revised.

**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 Request 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
Applicant's Comments on PSA & Data Responses	Feb 28, 05
Comments on PSA from; local, state, and federal agencies	Feb 28, 05
*Cultural Resources Study	July 15, 05
*CAISO and Western SIS Approval Letter	Aug 15, 05
SA/DEA Co-Agency Publication Date	Aug 31, 05
Conference on Evidentiary Hearings	TBD**
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

Mail: POS