

# Memorandum

**To:** John L. Geesman, Presiding Member  
Siting Committee

**Date:** February 2, 2006  
**Telephone:** (916) 653-0062

**From:** California Energy Commission – Jack W. Caswell, Project Manager  
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**Subject:** BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT TRANSMISSION LINE (99-AFC-8C) STATUS REPORT #7

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

The California Independent System Operator (CAISO) has provided concurrence letters for the project components and an additional letter dated December 19, 2005 addressing Southern California Edison's (SCE) amended System Impact Study (SIS). The petitioner, Blythe Energy, LLC, has provided a letter dated January 23, 2006 stating their intention to provide the required mitigation measures identified in both the SCE System Impact Studies and CAISO concurrence letters. Having received the SIS mitigation information and the requested letters from the CAISO and Blythe Energy, staff is now completing its final review of the BEPTL.

The process of reviewing and receiving comments by the co-lead federal agencies is taking additional time. When the SA/DEA is ready for final publication, BLM has requested 30 days for their final review of the complete formatted SA/DEA prior to publication. It is staff's intention to complete the final project review and complete our joint agency concurrence process on the SA/DEA with both BLM and Western within 60 days.

Staff anticipates that the joint SA/DEA can be published by April 2006, at the latest. If for some reason review of the complete SA/DEA and concurrence with our co-federal agencies require additional time, staff will provide a revised status report identifying the reasons for the delay and will provide a revised proposed schedule. Staff's proposed schedule is attached and was developed using the suggested schedule for a 6-month AFC following publication of the SA/DEA.

**Blythe Energy Transmission Line Major Amendment  
Staff Proposed Schedule for 2005/2006 Activities**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
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 SIS Concurrence Letter	Aug 12, 05
CAISO review of revised SIS and provision of Concurrence Letter	Dec 19, 05
BEP provides letter on Mitigation of Components	Jan 23, 06
*Complete TSE analysis and final SA/DEA Summary	Feb 28, 06
*Final review and concurrence by Federal Agencies on SA/DEA	Mar 31, 06
SA/DEA Co-Agency Publication Date	Apr 14, 06
** <i>Prehearing Conference</i>	<i>May 2, 06</i>
** <i>Evidentiary Hearings Start</i>	<i>May 3, 06</i>
** <i>Committee files Proposed Decision</i>	<i>Jun 12, 06</i>
** <i>Committee Conference on the Proposed Decision</i>	<i>Jul 13, 06</i>
** <i>Close of public comments on the Proposed Decision</i>	<i>Jul 27, 06</i>
** <i>Commission Decision</i>	<i>Aug 4, 06</i>

\*Tasks must be completed before staff publishes the SA/DEA.

\*\*To Be Determined by the Committee.

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