

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: www.energy.ca.gov



**REVISED Notice of Energy Commission Staff Workshops
on the Staff Assessment/
Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the
Genesis Solar Energy Project (09-AFC-8)**

The California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) staff will conduct workshops on the joint Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Energy Commission Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS) for the Genesis Solar Energy Project on April 19, 20 and 21, 2010. Participants and the public are encouraged to participate via telephone to minimize travel. The workshops will be held:

Monday, April 19, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **800-988-9478** (pass code: **36748**)

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

REVISED Call-in Number (toll free): **888-790-1725** (pass code: **67351**)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **888-942-9536** (pass code: **57916**)

**California Energy Commission
Hearing Room B
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
(Wheelchair Accessible)**

PURPOSE

The purpose of these workshops is for staff to summarize its conclusions and to receive comments from the applicant, public, interveners and local, state and federal agencies. Environmental and engineering related topics and any outstanding issues contained in the SA/DEIS will be open for discussion, with the following focus for each day:

- Monday: SCHEDULE + COMMENTS + SA/DEIS Over-view + *Cultural Resources*
- Tuesday: *Biology*
- Wednesday: *Biology, Soil and Water Resources*, and any other topic

The SA/DEIS states that it will be available for a 90-day public comment period beginning on April 9, 2010. However, in order to be addressed in the Energy Commission's Final Staff Assessment (to be released in mid-June, 2010) and evidentiary hearings (scheduled for July 12 and 13, 2010), written comments on the SA/DEIS should be provided to Mike Monasmith, Senior Project Manager, no later than 5:00 p.m., May 13, 2010 at the address on this letterhead (please add "Mail Slot 15") or by email to mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us.

BACKGROUND

On August 31, 2009, the Energy Commission began review of the project. The Energy Commission has the exclusive authority to certify the construction, modification, and operation of thermal electric power plants 50 MW or larger in California. The Energy Commission certification is in lieu of any permit required by state, regional, or local agencies and federal agencies to the extent permitted by federal law (Pub. Resources Code, Sec. 25500). The Energy Commission must review thermal power plant applications for certification (AFC) to assess potential measures to mitigate identified impacts, and to insure compliance with applicable governmental laws or standards (Pub. Resources Code, Sec. 25519 and Sec. 25523(d)). The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), but produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). If approved by the Energy Commission, the decision will establish the conditions under which the project shall be constructed, operated, and decommissioned.

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the BLM is responsible for processing applications for rights-of-way to authorize the proposed project and associated transmission lines and other facilities to be constructed and operated on land it manages. In processing applications, the BLM must comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires that federal agencies consider the environmental impacts associated with the projects they approve.

The purpose of the BLM action is to provide the applicant a decision in processing its application for a right-of-way (ROW) grant for legal use and access of the public lands in Riverside County, California managed by the BLM. The need for BLM action is established by the BLM's responsibility under FLPMA, NEPA and other federal laws to respond to Genesis Solar, LLC's (applicant) request for a ROW for legal access to construct, operate and decommission a proposed concentrated solar thermal generation plant and related facilities on the public lands. BLM will decide whether or not to grant a ROW, and if so, under what terms and conditions.

The ROW application, if granted, would also create the need for amending the BLM California Desert Conservation Plan (1980 as amended) (CDCP). The purpose of the CDCP amendment is to ensure the public lands are managed according to the principles of multiple use identified in FLPMA while managing valid existing rights and other obligations established. The proposed amendment is necessary to address changing resource demands and technological development proposals on public lands. The CDCP as amended requires (page 95) that "Sites associated with power generation or transmission not identified in the Plan (as is this case) will be considered through the Plan Amendment process."

Pursuant to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the BLM and the Energy Commission staff are conducting a joint environmental review of the Genesis Solar Energy Project in a NEPA/ CEQA process. It is in the interest of the BLM and the Energy

Commission to share in the preparation of a joint environmental analysis of the proposed project to avoid duplication of staff efforts, to share staff expertise and information, to promote intergovernmental coordination at the local, state, and federal levels, and to facilitate public review by providing a joint document and a more efficient environmental review process.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Please direct your technical or project schedule questions to Mike Monasmith, Energy Commission Project Manager, at (916) 654-4894, or by e-mail at mike.monasmith@energy.state.ca.us. If you desire information on participating in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. The Public Adviser's Office can also be contacted via email at pao@energy.state.ca.us. News media inquiries should be directed to the media office at (916) 654-4989 or via email at mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the proposed project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are also available on the Energy Commission's web site: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/genesis_solar.

You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices and announcements at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers>. By being on this email list, you will receive all project-related notices and documents pertaining to the project's evaluation and review. If you have any questions related to the automatic email notification list, please contact Maria Sergoyan, Project Assistant, at (916) 651-9410, or by email at: msergoya@energy.state.ca.us.

Date: _____

TERRENCE O'BRIEN, Deputy Director
Siting, Transmission & Environmental
Protection Division

Proof of Service List
Mail Lists (09-AFC-8)

**ENERGY COMMISSION STAFF WORKSHOPS
GENESIS SOLAR ENERGY PROJECT
(09-AFC-8)**

Monday, April 19, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **800-988-9478** (pass code: **36748**)

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

REVISED Call-in Number (toll free): **888-790-1725** (pass code: **67351**)

Wednesday, April 21, 2010

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Call-in Number (toll free): **888-942-9536** (pass code: **57916**)

**California Energy Commission
Hearing Room B
1516 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(Wheelchair Accessible)**

