CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

SITE VISIT, ENVIRONMENTAL SCOPING MEETING AND INFORMATIONAL HEARING

PALEN SOLAR ELECTRIC GENERATING SYSTEM

California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-AFC-7C
TN # 69747
MAR. 01 2013

Energy Commission Headquarters, Sacramento

Today's Agenda

1:00 p.m. Site Visit—bus tour to site

3:00 p.m. Presentations and Discussion

- **Commissioners' Opening Remarks**
- **Hearing Adviser—Energy Commission's role**
- **Applicant—project details**
- **Energy Commission Staff—environmental review process**
- **Staff's Issues Identification Report**
- **Staff's proposed schedule for the licensing process**
- **Public Adviser's Office—opportunities for public participation**

5:00 p.m. Public Questions and Comments

Purpose of Today's Proceedings

- **Inform members of the public about the proposed amendment and the Energy Commission's review process.**
  - **Palen Solar Electric Generating System**
    - **Licensed by the Energy Commission in 2010 as a solar thermal trough project**
    - **Project owner seeks to change it to solar thermal "power tower"**
- **You will be able to learn about the proposed amendment, ask questions and provide comments.**
- **You will also be informed of the various ways you can participate in the Energy Commission's power plant licensing process.**

Energy Commission's Role

- Energy Commission has permitting authority over thermal power plants that are 50 megawatts or greater.
- The Commission is the lead state agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and ongoing compliance.
- Energy Commission staff is an independent party in the proceeding. Staff will prepare an independent evaluation of the environmental, engineering, and public health/safety aspects of the proposed amendment.
- There are five members of the Energy Commission. The Commission has appointed Commissioners Douglas (Presiding Committee Member) and Chair Weisenmiller (Associate Committee Member) to oversee the licensing process for this amendment.
- Following staff review, the Committee will issue a Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) that makes a recommendation to the full Commission to approve, reject, or change the proposed amendment.

EX PARTE RULE

- All decisions made in this case will be made solely on the basis of the public record.

- No off-the-record contacts concerning substantive matters are permitted to take place between interested parties and the Commissioners, their advisers, this Committee, or the Hearing Officer.

EX PARTE RULE

- Contacts between interested parties and the members of the Committee regarding a substantive matter must occur in a public forum or in a writing distributed to all the parties and made available to the public.

- Purpose: to provide full disclosure to all participants of any information that may be used as a basis for the future Decision on this amendment.

Applicant's Presentation

Overview of Amendment Process

1. **This Project is Already Licensed**
   - Committee must determine whether impacts will change as a result of the amendment
2. **Staff Discovery and Analysis**
   - Issues Identification
   - Data requests
   - Public Workshops
   - Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)
   - Final Staff Assessment (FSA)
3. **Committee Evidentiary Hearing and Decision**
   - Evidentiary Hearings on FSA
   - Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) and public comments
   - PMPD hearing and Commission decision

Energy Commission Staff's Role

- Evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision approving the pre-amendment project.
- Determine if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards.
- Staff will review only the proposed changes to the project, not the entire approved project.

Discovery and Analysis Process

- Determine if the proposed amendment complies with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Standards (LORS)
- Conduct engineering and environmental analysis
  - ✓ identify issues;
  - ✓ identify environmental impacts and mitigation measures;
  - ✓ recommend conditions of certification.
- Facilitate public and agency participation
- Staff products: Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and Final Staff Assessment (FSA)
- Make recommendations to the Committee

Agency Coordination

- Energy Commission staff work closely with other governmental agencies, for example:
  - Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission
  - Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board
  - Department of Defense
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - US Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Local Native American Tribes

Evidentiary Hearing & Decision Process

- **Committee conducts hearings to create evidentiary record**
- **Issues Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD). The PMPD contains findings relating to:**
  - Environmental impacts, public health, engineering
  - Project's compliance with LORS
  - Recommends conditions of certification
  - Recommends whether or not to approve the amendment
- **Full Commission issues a Final Decision**
- **Appeals: Reconsideration by Commission; California Supreme Court**
- **Energy Commission monitors compliance with all conditions of certification, for the life of the project and closure**

Staff's Issues Identification Report

Purpose

- Inform participants of potential issues
- Early focus on important topics

Staff's Potential Issue Areas

- Biology
- Cultural Resources
- Soil and Water Resources
- Traffic and Transportation
- Visual Impacts

POTENTIAL ISSUE:
On-Going Compliance

- The Palen applicant must ensure that compliance activities continue.
- Many new conditions of certification will be required if the proposed amendment is approved.
- There are numerous conditions of certification that will remain unchanged that require the applicant's attention.
- This is not an issue that affects the processing of the proposed Petition to Amend.

Potential Issue
-Biological Resources-

- Revised Biological Assessment
- Additional Survey Data
- Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy
- Bald and Golden Eagle

Potential Issue
Cultural Resources

- Cultural Resources in the view of the solar power towers associated with the modified project.

Potential Issue
Soil and Water Resources

- Changes in site hydrology
- Revised Waste Discharge Requirements must be coordinated with the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board

Potential Issue
Traffic and Transportation

- Staff is requesting that the project owner provide a glint and glare study.
- Federal Aviation Administration Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration (Form 7460-1)
- Staff will work with the Department of Defense regarding impacts to military training routes and the Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission.

Potential Issue
Visual Resources

- Glint and Glare impacts on nearby recreational visitors.

Staff's Proposed Schedule

ACTIVITY	DATE
Applicant files Palen Solar Project Amendment	12/17/2012
Staff files Notice of Receipt	12/21/2012
Applicant files Palen Solar Project Supplemental Information	2/8/13
Staff files Issues Identification Report	2/15/13
Informational Hearing and Site Visit	2/20/13
Staff files Data Requests	2/28/13
Data Request and Issue Resolution Workshop	3/6/13
Applicant provides data responses (last response)	3/29/13
Data Response and Issue Resolution Workshop	4/8/13
Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) published	5/22/13
Staff Assessment Workshop	6/12/13
Staff Assessment (SA) – 30 day comment period ends	6/21/13
Final Staff Assessment (FSA)	7/23/13
* *Evidentiary Hearing / Committee Lead Workshop*	*8/7/13*
* *Committee Recommendation to Commission*	*8/29/13*
* *Commission Business Meeting*	*10/9/13*

Palen Solar Electric Generating System Amendment
Docket No. 09-AFC-7C

Informational Hearing and Site Visit

Blake Roberts

Assistant Public Adviser

February 20, 2013

CALIFORNIA
ENERGY COMMISSION

What's a Public Adviser?

The Public Adviser is independently appointed attorney who:

- *Helps the public understand the process*
- *Recommends the best way to be involved*
- *Assists in successful participation in proceedings*

Notice of Informational Hearing and Site Visit

- City and County officials from the area
- Tribal officials and members
- Broad categories:

  Public members who have contacted our office; city and county civic leaders; local non-profit groups (community, environmental, ethnic organizations); public and private schools; hospitals, law enforcement; emergency personnel and community organizations.
- Paid local newspaper advertisement
- Local libraries
- Local TV and radio contacted

Two Levels of Public Participation

First Level – Public Comments (Informal Participation)

- Verbal Comments at public meetings via Blue Cards
- Written comments or statements to the Commission Dockets Unit (docket@energy.ca.gov)
- Public comments are considered by the Commissioners and are part of the record

but

- Public comments are not considered evidence and cannot be the sole basis of a decision

Two Levels of Public Participation

Second Level – Intervening (Formal Participation)

- Anyone may file a Petition to Intervene in a Commission proceeding
- It is important to intervene early in a case to be most effective
- The petition is considered by the assigned committee
- If approved, you become a party to this proceeding
- Intervenors can present evidence at the hearings and question the staff and applicant's witnesses
- You do not have to be or have an attorney to intervene
- The Public Adviser's Office is here to help you file a Petition to Intervene and navigate the entire process

How to Participate

Things To Do

- Sign up on the Palen Amendment list server to receive notice of upcoming events: www.energy.ca.gov/listservers
- Submit written comments
- Provide oral comments
- Attend public project events

In person or by WebEx or conference call

Non-English speakers welcome

Special accommodations for persons with disabilities:
Lourdes Quiroz, (916) 654-5146, lou.quiroz@energy.ca.gov

How to Participate

www.energy.ca.gov

How to Participate

Home » newnav » power plant links

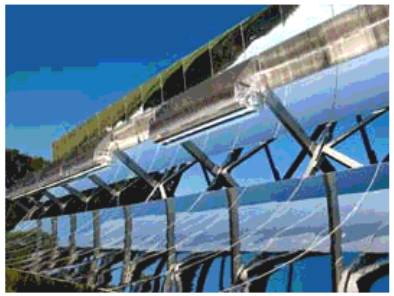
Power Plant Licensing Cases Under Review

Directory and Status of Projects

- ALPHABETICAL LISTING OF ALL PROJECTS
- STATUS OF ALL PROJECTS

Projects

- Abengoa Mojave Solar Project
- Almond 2 Power Project
- Avenal Energy Project
- Beacon Solar Energy Project
- Black Rock Geothermal Major Amendment
- Blythe Solar Power Project
- Calico Solar Project
- Canyon Power Plant
- Carlsbad Energy Center
- El Centro - Unit 3 Repower
- El Segundo Dry Cooling Amendment
- Genesis Solar Energy Project
- Hanford Combined-Cycle Power Plant Amendment
- Henrietta Combined-Cycle Power Plant Amendment
- Hidden Hills Solar Electric Generating System
- Huntington Beach Energy Project
- Hydrogen Energy California
- Ivanpah Solar
- Lodi Energy Center
- Mariposa Power Project
- Marsh Landing Generating Station
- Oakley Generating Station (Formerly Contra Costa)
- Palen Solar Power Project



- Palmdale Solar-Gas Hybrid
- Pio Pico Energy Center
- Quail Brush Generating Project
- Rice Solar Energy Project
- Ridgecrest Solar Power Project
- Rio Mesa
- Russell City Amendment # 2
- San Gabriel Generating Station
- Santa Clara SC-1 Data Center, Phase 2
- Sentinel Energy Project
- Sun Valley Energy Project
- Tracy Combined Cycle Power Plant
- Vaca Station - CPV Vaca-Station
- Victorville 2 Hybrid
- Walnut Creek Energy Park
- Watson Cogeneration Project
- Willow Pass Generating Station

Blake Roberts, Assistant Public Adviser

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Sources of Information

- **The Amendment is available for public review at the following libraries:**
  Palo Verde Valley District Library, Cathedral City Branch Library, Coachella Branch Library, Lake Tamarisk Library, Riverside Main Library
  Copies are also available at the Energy Commission's Library in Sacramento, the California State Library in Sacramento, and at public libraries in Eureka, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles, and San Diego.
- **All project documents are available for public review at:**
  - ✓ Energy Commission Web site: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/palen/
  - ✓ Dockets Unit at the Energy Commission
    1516 9th Street, MS - 4
    Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Energy Commission Contacts

- **Committee**
  - Commissioner, Karen Douglas, *Presiding Member*
  - Chair, Robert Weisenmiller, *Associate Member*
- **Hearing Officer**
  - Raoul Renaud, Commission's Hearing Officer
    (916) 651-2020, e-mail: raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov
- **Commission Staff**
  - Christine Stora, Compliance Project Manager
    (916) 654-4745, e-mail: christine.stora@energy.ca.gov
- **Public Adviser's Office**
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