CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
1516 NINTH STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-5512
www.energy.ca.gov

California Energy Commission
DOCKETED
09-AFC-7C
TN # 68961
DEC 21 2012

NOTICE OF RECEIPT

PETITION TO AMEND THE ENERGY COMMISSION DECISION for the PALEN SOLAR PROJECT (09-AFC-7C)

On December 17, 2012, Palen Solar Holdings, LLC, a joint venture between BrightSource Energy, Inc. (BrightSource) and Caithness Energy, LLC (Caithness), filed a petition with the California Energy Commission requesting to modify the Palen Solar Project.

In April of 2012 the original owner of the Palen Solar Project filed for relief in federal bankruptcy court. On June 21, 2012, the bankruptcy court approved the transfer of the project to BrightSource. On July 11, 2012, the Energy Commission approved a petition to transfer ownership of the project to Palen SEGS I, LLC, a wholly owned, indirect subsidiary of BrightSource. After approval of the ownership transfer of the Final Decision to Palen SEGS I, LLC, BrightSource and Caithness formed a joint venture to develop the site using BrightSource's solar power tower technology. The joint venture company is Palen Solar Holdings, LLC.

The original Palen Solar Project was certified by the Energy Commission on December 15, 2010 as a 500-megawatt solar thermal project utilizing parabolic trough technology. Construction of this project did not begin.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED MODIFICATION

The project site is located approximately 10 miles east of Desert Center, north of Interstate 10 approximately halfway between the cities of Indio and Blythe, in Riverside County, California.

The modifications proposed in the petition include replacing the parabolic trough solar collection system and associated heat transfer fluid with BrightSource's solar tower technology. Heliostats, which are elevated mirrors guided by a tracking system mounted on a pylon, are proposed to focus the sun's rays on a solar receiver steam generator (SRSG) located atop a solar tower near the center of each solar field to create steam.

Two adjacent solar fields of 250 MW each are proposed for combined nominal output of approximately 500 MW. Each of the 250 MW solar fields will have a dedicated SRGS/Tower, solar field/heliostat array of approximately 170,000 heliostats, and a dedicated non-reheat Rankine-cycle steam turbine generator/power block. Both solar fields will share common facilities, including a common area containing an administration building, warehouse, evaporation ponds, maintenance complex and a meter/valve station for incoming natural gas service to the site; an onsite switchyard;

and a single-circuit 230 kV generation tie-line to deliver power to the electricity grid. Other onsite facilities will include access and maintenance roads (either dirt, gravel or paved), perimeter fencing, tortoise fencing and other ancillary security facilities.

ENERGY COMMISSION AMENDMENT REVIEW PROCEDURES

The purpose of the Energy Commission's review process is to assess the impacts of this proposal on environmental quality, public health and safety. The review process includes an evaluation of the consistency of the proposed changes with the Energy Commission's Decision and, if the project, as modified, will remain in compliance with applicable laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards (Title 20, Cal. Code Regs, section 1769). At the Janurary 9, 2012 business meeting Energy Commission staff will request the Energy Commission appoint a committee to oversee this amendment proceeding. The Commission Committee will determine the schedule for the review process.

This Notice of Receipt is being mailed to interested parties and property owners adjacent to the project site who may want to participate in the amendment process.

The petition is available on the Energy Commission's website at http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_palen/. The staff analysis, when published, will also be posted on the website. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the petition and/or staff's analysis, please complete the enclosed Information Request Form and return it to the address shown.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Christine Stora, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 654-4745, or by fax to (916) 654-3882, or via e-mail at: christine.stora@energy.ca.gov.

Any person may file written comments on the Petition to Amend. All comments must be in writing and must be sent to the Energy Commission Dockets Unit. Please include the docket number (09-AFC-7C) in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Those submitting comments electronically should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document Format (PDF) to [docket@energy.ca.gov]. Please include your name or organization's name in the file name. Those preparing non-electronic written comments should mail or hand deliver them to:

California Energy Commission
Dockets Unit, MS-4
Docket No. 08-AFC-3C
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

For further information on how to participate in this proceeding, please contact the Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office, at (916) 654-4489, or toll free in California at (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov. News media inquiries should be directed to the Energy Commission Media Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Date: 21 DECEMBER 2012

CHRISTOPHER J. MARXEN, Manager
Compliance Office
Siting, Transmission & Environmental Protection Division

Enclosure: Information Request Form

Mail List # 7373

INFORMATION REQUEST FORM

COMPLETE & MAIL TO: CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
COMPLIANCE UNIT
ATTN: CHRISTINE STORA
1516 NINTH STREET, MS-2000
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

OR FAX TO: (916) 654-3882

NAME AND/OR TITLE (AS IT IS TO APPEAR ON MAIL LABEL)

ORGANIZATION (IF APPLICABLE)

STREET ADDRESS OR P.O. BOX

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE COMMISSION DECISION FOR THE PALEN SOLAR PROJECT

PLEASE CHECK THE DOCUMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE:

☐ **PETITION TO AMEND** ☐ **on CD (if available)**

☐ **STAFF ANALYSIS** ☐ **on CD (if available)**

PROJECT: Palen Solar Project
DOCKET NO: 09-AFC-7C
MAIL LIST NO: 7373

☐ **PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME FROM THE (PALEN SOLAR PROJECT) MAILING LIST**