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

September 7, 2007

DOCKET
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DATE SEP 07 2007
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The Honorable Marion Ashley
Supervisor
Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
4080 Lemon Street, 5th Floor
Riverside, CA 92501

Dear Supervisor Ashley:

CPV Sentinel, LLC, submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission on June 25, 2007, seeking approval to construct and operate a 850-megawatt (MW), simple-cycle power plant, the Sentinel Power Project, in an unincorporated area of Riverside County southwest of the community of Desert Hot Springs. The Sentinel facility is designed to supply quick-start peaking capacity, energy, and ancillary services in to the California Independent System Operator's Los Angeles Basin Local Capacity Requirement area, which has been an area in need of additional peaking capacity to meet resource adequacy requirements and ensure grid reliability.

The Energy Commission is responsible for reviewing and ultimately approving or denying all thermal electric power plants, 50 MW and greater, proposed for construction in California. The Energy Commission's facility certification process carefully examines public health and safety, environmental impacts and engineering aspects of proposed power plants, and all related facilities such as electric transmission lines and natural gas and water pipelines. The Energy Commission is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The Energy Commission's analysis produces several environmental and decision documents rather than an Environmental Impact Report.

On August 29, 2007, the AFC for the Sentinel Power Project was deemed data adequate by the Energy Commission, and our staff will now begin the discovery and analysis phases of our permitting process. Over the coming months, the Energy Commission will conduct a number of public workshops and hearings on the proposal to determine whether the Sentinel Power Project should be approved for construction and operation and under what set of conditions. These workshops and hearings will provide the public and local, state and federal agencies the opportunity to ask questions about, and provide input on, the proposed project. The Energy Commission will issue notices for these workshops and hearings at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

As part of our review process, the staff of the Energy Commission works closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure that all laws, ordinances, regulations and standards are met and incorporated into the final decision of the Energy Commission. To achieve this objective, the Energy Commission has sent copies of the AFC to the Riverside County planning and public works departments and may make specific requests of Riverside County staff to review and comment at various points in the certification process. Under Energy Commission guidelines, local agencies may seek reimbursement for costs incurred in responding to these requests.

If your constituents would like to participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, they should contact the Energy Commission's Public Adviser's office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free in California, at (800) 822-6228. If you or your staff have technical or project schedule questions, or if you would like additional information on reimbursement or on how the County may participate in the Energy Commission's review of the project, please contact Bill Pfanner, Project Manager, at (916) 654-4206, or by email at bpfanner@energy.state.ca.us. The status of the project, copies of notices, an electronic version of the AFC, and other relevant documents are available on the Energy Commission's Internet web site at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sentinel. You can also subscribe to receive e-mail notification of all notices at http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers/index.html.

Sincerely,

B. B. BLEVINS
Executive Director