



**BEFORE THE ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
1516 NINTH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
1-800-822-6228 – WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION FOR THE
BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT**

DOCKET No. 09-AFC-6

COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER

Background

On August 24, 2009, Solar Millennium, LLC and Chevron Energy Solutions (Applicants), submitted an Application for Certification (AFC) to the Energy Commission to construct the Blythe Solar Power Project (BSPP), a solar thermal power plant facility located approximately two miles north of U.S. Interstate-10 (I-10) and eight miles west of the City of Blythe in an unincorporated area of Riverside County, California.

The Energy Commission found the AFC data adequate on November 18, 2009, and assigned a Committee to conduct proceedings on the AFC. The Committee held a public Site Visit and Informational Hearing at Blythe City Hall on January 25, 2010, to discuss the review process and to identify issues that could affect the schedule. Pursuant to Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations, section 1709.7(c), the attached Committee Schedule is based upon Applicant's and Staff's proposed schedules and related discussions at the Informational Hearing.

The schedule contains a list of events that must occur in order to complete the certification process. The Committee encourages the parties to consider the dates in this schedule as final deadlines and endeavor to complete the tasks ahead of these dates. Some deadlines are contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies. The Applicant must provide sufficient review time for the responsible agencies to meet the deadlines specified in the schedule.

Technical issues regarding biological resources, cultural resources, soil and water resources, transmission system engineering, visual resources and cumulative impacts have been identified by Staff as potentially significant. Resolution of these issues, and any others which may develop, shall be addressed during the data exchange process and in public meetings with the parties and interested governmental agencies. Given the complexity of resolving the issues, the parties are hereby notified that the Committee may modify the schedule at any time by its own motion or that of a party. [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1709.7(c).]

Status Reports and Status Conferences

Typical Committee scheduling orders require status reports to be submitted on a regular basis by all parties to allow the Committee to determine whether case development is progressing satisfactorily and to bring potential schedule delays or other relevant matters to the Committee's attention. In this case, the Applicant has requested that the Committee include status conferences in the Scheduling Order on dates certain in lieu of status reports, for the purpose of giving the parties a forum for discussion of obstacles to timely completion of the processing of the AFC that may have arisen.

The Committee understands that Commission Staff are currently carrying an unprecedented workload, coupled with the need for several solar projects to commence construction before the end of this year in order to receive American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) funding, meaning that AFCs must be processed to completion at a rapid pace. Thus, the Committee favors the elimination of unnecessary tasks, allowing Staff to focus on resolution of issues and timely preparation of the Staff Analysis. Accordingly, the Committee **orders** that the parties work with diligence to meet the schedule deadlines, **and further orders** that the parties promptly inform the Committee via memo, email, or telephone contact with the Hearing Adviser, of anything causing inability to meet a deadline. Any such communications shall be promptly docketed as appropriate. If the parties comply with the above, there will be no need for regular written status reports.

Furthermore, the Committee **grants** the Applicant's request for the conduct of regularly scheduled status conferences. For each such status conference, the Committee **directs** each party to docket and serve a brief issues statement of no more than two pages, at least five business days prior to the scheduled conference date. **Each party must be represented at the status conference by an individual with authority to make decisions on behalf of and to bind the party**, such as a principal, legal counsel or a project manager. To conserve time and resources, telephonic attendance is preferred. However, the Committee recognizes there may be instances where in-person conferences are desirable or necessary. At the Committee's discretion, the status conferences may be conducted by the Hearing Adviser without the attendance of any Committee members.

Failure of a party to participate in status conferences may result in the imposition of limitations upon that party's ability to participate in data exchange and evidentiary hearings.

This Scheduling Order includes the proposed timing of the first status conference in this matter. Further notice of the dates, times, and locations for this and additional status conferences will issue under separate cover.

Public Participation

The Energy Commission Public Adviser is available to assist the public in participating in the application review process. For those individuals who require general information on how to participate, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or 1-800-822-6228 or e-mail: [publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us].

If you have a disability and need assistance to participate in any scheduled event, contact Lourdes Quiroz no less than five days prior to the hearing at (916) 654-5146 or e-mail: [lquiroz@energy.state.ca.us].

Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, the Hearing Officer, at (916) 651-2020 or e-mail: [rrenaud@energy.state.ca.us].

Technical questions concerning the Project should be addressed to Alan Solomon, the Staff Project Manager, at (916) 653-3826 or e-mail: [asolomon@energy.state.ca.us].

Media inquiries should be directed to the Office of Media and Public Communications at (916) 654-4989 or e-mail: [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us].

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents may be viewed on the Energy Commission's Internet web page at: [www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solar_millennium_blythe].

Dated: February 9, 2010 at Sacramento, California.



KAREN DOUGLAS
Chairman and Presiding Member
Blythe Solar AFC Committee

Original Signed By:
ROBERT WEISENMILLER
Associate Member
Blythe Solar AFC Committee

**COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
BLYTHE SOLAR POWER PROJECT - (09-AFC-6)**

Milestone/Task	Final Due Date
Commission's Determination of Data Adequacy	11/18/09
Solar Millennium files Streambed Alteration Agreement	11/25/09
Staff files Data Requests	12/7/09
Data Request Workshop	12/9/09
BLM Scoping Meeting	12/11/09
File Issues Identification Report	12/17/09
Solar Millennium files Data Responses	1/6/10
Data Response Workshop	1/7/10
Data Response Workshop, continued	1/14/10
Info Hearing/Site Visit	1/25/10
Circulate SA/Draft EIS and Receive Comments from BLM, FWS, and CDFG	2/5/10 – 2/26/10
Mandatory Status Conference (future dates TBD)	2/17/10
Format SA/DEIS	3/1/10 – 3/10/10
Note – The Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion dates will be determined by when the applicant provides the complete Spring Survey results for the Proposed Transmission Line	TBD
Publish SA/DEIS	3/11/10
Local, state and federal agency comments due	3/18/10
Publish SA Errata/Final EIS	7/30/10
Prehearing Conference*	TBD
Evidentiary hearings*	TBD
BLM Plan Amendment Protest Period ends; Expedited Governor's review period ends*	TBD
Presiding Members Proposed Decision (PMPD)*	TBD
Committee Hearing on PMPD*	TBD
Addendum/Revised PMPD*	TBD
BLM Record of Decision/Right of Way (ROD/ROW) issued; Energy Commission Decision*	TBD

* The assigned Committee will determine this part of the schedule.

Issued February 9, 2010