

**DOCKET**

**09-AFC-9**

DATE JAN 25 2011

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January 25, 2011

California Energy Commission  
Docket Unit  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Subject: **RIDGECREST SOLAR I, LLC'S WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION  
RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT  
DOCKET NO. (09-AFC-9)**

Enclosed for filing with the California Energy Commission is the original of **RIDGECREST SOLAR I, LLC'S WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION**, for the Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (09-AFC-9).

Sincerely,



Marie Mills

Via Overnight & Electronic Delivery

January 21, 2011

Jim Abbott  
Director  
CA State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Terry O'Brien  
Deputy Director  
Siting, Transmission and  
Environmental Protection Division  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Ridgecrest Solar - AFC - Docket No. 09-AFC-9; BLM ROW #CACA 49016 – Withdrawal of Application

Dear Mr. Abbott and Mr. O'Brien:

Solar Millennium, LLC is withdrawing its application for the Ridgecrest Solar I, LLC project effective immediately. A review of the process and staff position on the project strongly suggests success is unlikely.

The issues faced by Ridgecrest Solar are not dissimilar from the other renewable projects. Prior to the start of the approved Mohave Ground Squirrel (MGS) connectivity study, Solar Millennium, LLC undertook another review of the potential for a successful decision once the study is complete. A review of the record strongly suggests California agency's staff is unlikely to be open to a recommendation of approval (assuming the results of the study are favorable). In light of these circumstances, it would not be economically viable to continue to pursue either the study or the project

The Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) is preparing a report in parallel with the MGS study schedule and will file its report before Ridgecrest could obtain regulatory approvals. The DCREP has identified Ridgecrest as a site to protect from development by amending the definition of eligible projects. In addition, the August 4, 2010 Status Report and other communications to the CEC Committee have persisted with formal and informal comments stating it too would prefer to preserve the Ridgecrest site, and referenced the early DCREP position.

As a result of Staff's position Solar Millennium, LLC believes project's success is unlikely. We therefore request that the AFC proceedings be terminated in accordance with Section 1709.8 of the Commission Regulations.

Sincerely,

  
Josef Eichhammer  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Michael Picker, Governor's Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1623  
Sacramento, CA 95825

Environmental Protection Division  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

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**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](http://WWW.ENERGY.CA.GOV)**

**APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
For the *RIDGECREST SOLAR  
POWER PROJECT***

**Docket No. 09-AFC-9**

**PROOF OF SERVICE  
(Revised 11/10/2010)**

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Marie Mills, declare that on January 25, 2011, I served and filed copies of the attached **RIDGECREST SOLAR I, LLC'S WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION**, dated January 21, 2011. The original document, filed with the Docket Unit, is accompanied by a copy of the most recent Proof of Service list, located on the web page for this project at: **[[http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ridgecrest\\_solar](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/ridgecrest_solar)].**

The documents have been sent to both the other parties in this proceeding (as shown on the Proof of Service list) and to the Commission's Docket Unit, in the following manner:

(Check all that Apply)

**FOR SERVICE TO ALL OTHER PARTIES:**

sent electronically to all email addresses on the Proof of Service list;  
 by personal delivery;

by delivering on this date, for mailing with the United States Postal Service with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid, to the name and address of the person served, for mailing that same day in the ordinary course of business; that the envelope was sealed and placed for collection and mailing on that date to those addresses **NOT** marked "email preferred."

**AND**

**FOR FILING WITH THE ENERGY COMMISSION:**

sending an original paper copy and one electronic copy, mailed and emailed respectively, to the address below (***preferred method***);

**OR**

depositing in the mail an original and 12 paper copies, as follows:

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

Attn: Docket No. 09-AFC-9  
1516 Ninth Street, MS-4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

[docket@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:docket@energy.state.ca.us)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct, that I am employed in the county where this mailing occurred, and that I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the proceeding.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Mills