



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
**RIDGECREST SOLAR
POWER PROJECT**

DOCKET No. 09-AFC-9

COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER

Background

On September 1, 2009, the Energy Commission received an Application for Certification (AFC) from Solar Millennium LLC, (Applicant) to construct a solar thermal power plant facility in the high northern Mojave Desert in northeastern Kern County, California, about five miles southwest of the City of Ridgecrest, 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 Ridgecrest City Hall on January 5, 2010, to discuss the review process and to identify issues that could affect the schedule. A Committee Schedule issued shortly thereafter.

On March 26, 2010, Commission Staff issued a Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement in this matter. As a result, the Committee has further revised the Committee Schedule to identify events that must occur in order to complete the certification process. The Committee encourages the parties to consider the dates in the attached schedule as final deadlines and endeavor to complete the tasks ahead of these dates. Some deadlines are estimates contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies.

Status Reports and Status Conferences

As specified in the prior Scheduling Order, the Committee favors the elimination of unnecessary tasks, thereby allowing the parties to focus on resolution of issues and timely preparation of necessary documents. Accordingly, the Committee **orders** the parties to work with diligence to meet the scheduled deadlines. It is **further ordered** that the parties promptly inform the Committee via memo, e-mail, or telephone contact with the Hearing Adviser, of anything causing inability to meet a deadline. Any such communications shall be promptly docketed as appropriate.

The Committee continues to encourage the parties to request a Status Conference whenever needed. In order to provide sufficient notice, the Committee asks that requests for status conferences be submitted to the Hearing Adviser at least 15 days prior to the proposed date for the status conference. In order to conserve time and resources, the Committee will allow remote attendance at any status conference.

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 Kourtney Vaccaro, the Hearing Officer, at (916) 654-4328 or e-mail: **[kvaccaro@energy.state.ca.us]**.

Technical questions concerning the Project should be addressed to Eric Solorio, the Staff Project Manager, at (916) 651-0966 or e-mail: **[esolorio@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/ridgecrest/]**.

Dated: April 8, 2010 at Sacramento, California.

Original signed by: _____
JAMES D. BOYD
Vice Chair and Presiding Member
Ridgecrest Solar AFC Committee

Original signed by: _____
ANTHONY EGGERT
Commissioner and Associate Member
Ridgecrest Solar AFC Committee

**REVISED
COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
FOR THE
RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT
(09-AFC-9)**

ACTIVITY	DATE
Commission's determination that AFC is complete	11/18/09
Staff files Data Requests	12/22/09
Staff files Issues Identification Report	12/23/09
Data Request Workshop	TBD
Technical staff receive final comments and conditions from appropriate agencies	1/4/10-1/10/10
Energy Commission Informational Hearing/Site Visit and BLM Public Scoping Meeting	1/5/10
Applicant provides Data Responses	1/22/10
Data Response and Issue Resolution workshops	As needed
Local, state and federal agency draft determinations AQMD files PDOC	2/18/10
Administrative Draft Staff Assessment/Draft EIS (SA/DEIS) Circulated for Internal and BLM Review	3/1/10 – 3/12/10
CEC Publishes and Files SA/DEIS	3/26/10
EPA Review of SA/DEIS	4/2/10
EPA Publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) for SA/DEIS in Federal Register (90-day comment period begins)	4/9/10
AQMD files FDOC	4/15/10
Status Conference	4/27/10
Local, State, and Federal Agency Final Determinations;	TBD
BLM Submits Biological Assessment (BA) to FWS	4/21/10
BA determined adequate by USFWS	TBD
Staff Assessment Workshop(s)/DEIS Public Meeting(s)	4/22/10, 4/23/10, and additional dates TBD
Preparing Staff Assessment Errata or Addendum	4/30/10
All Parties File and Serve Opening Testimony	5/10/10
All Parties File Prehearing Conference Statements	5/13/10
Prehearing Conference*	5/17/10

ACTIVITY	DATE
All Parties File Rebuttal Testimony	5/24/10
Initial Evidentiary Hearings	(6/1/10, 6/3/10-6/4/10) ¹
Post Hearing Briefs Filed	6/28/10
SA/DEIS Comment Period Ends	90 days after NOA published (approx. 7/9/10)
Prepare Responses to SA/DEIS Comments and Staff Assessment Errata (SAE)	7/16/10
Administrative SAE/FEIS Circulated for Internal and BLM review	7/21/10
USFWS issues Biological Opinion (90 days after consultation initiated) and Incidental Take Statement	7/21/10
BLM, DOE, and CEC Administrative Review of SAE/FEIS	7/23/10
CEC Files of SAE/FEIS	8/6/10
EPA Review of SAE/FEIS	8/13/10
EPA Publishes Notice of Availability for SAE/FEIS in Federal Register	8/20/10
Continuation of Evidentiary Hearing to Receive SAE /FEIS and Related Evidence	Two weeks after SAE/FEIS is published (Week of 8/23/10)
Presiding Members Proposed Decision (PMPD) - Issued for 30-Day Comment Period	Week of 9/13/10
BLM Plan Amendment Protest Period Ends	9/20/10
Expedited Governor's review period ends	9/20/10
Committee Hearing on PMPD	Approx. 9/27/10
BLM Resolution Period Ends (assuming protest was filed)	10/20/10
Commission Decision	By 11/10
BLM Record of Decision/Right of Way (ROD/ROW) issued; Energy Commission Decision*	By 11/10
BLM Notice to Proceed	By 11/10

Dated: April 8, 2010

¹ The 6/1/10 hearing will take place in Sacramento for undisputed matters. The hearings on 6/3/10 and 6/4/10 will take place in Ridgecrest for disputed matters.



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

Docket No. 09-AFC-9

**PROOF OF SERVICE
(Revised 3/2/2010)**

APPLICANT

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INTERESTED AGENCIES

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ENERGY COMMISSION

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Maggie Read , declare that on, April 8, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached, Notice of April 27, 2010 Status Conference, Notice of Prehearing Conference and Evidentiary Hearings and Scheduling Order. 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/solar_millennium_ridgecrest].

The document has 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

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.

Original signed by:
Maggie Read
Hearing Adviser's Office