Stirling Engine Systems Solar Two Project
Application for Certification
Stirling Engine Systems Solar Two, LLC
08-AFC-5

INFORMATIONAL HEARING
&
SCOPING MEETING
BLM Rights-of-Way Application CACA-47740
November 24, 2008

Christopher Meyer, CEC Project Manager
Jim Stobaugh, BLM Project Manager
BLM’s Role

- BLM Permitting Authority
  - Administration of public lands under Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
  - Review of land use planning and processing of Land Use Plan Amendment
  - California Desert Conservation Plan (1980)
  - Issuance of right-of-way grants for use of federal land
  - Lead federal agency for National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, and other federal law compliance
Energy Commission’s Role

- Energy Commission permitting authority
  - Thermal power plants 50 megawatts or greater
  - Related facilities
    - transmission lines
    - substations
    - water supply systems
    - natural gas pipelines
    - waste disposal facilities
    - access roads
  - Lead state agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)
BLM and Energy Commission Staff work closely with local, state and federal agencies, for example:

- **Local:** City or Township, if any
- **Regional:** Imperial County
- **State:** Department of Fish and Game, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Office of Historic Preservation, Native American Heritage Commission
- **Federal:** Environmental Protection Agency, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Parks Service
Overview of Licensing Process

1. Data Adequacy
   - Minimum requirements to accept application

2. Staff Discovery and Analyses
   - Data requests
   - Issues Identification
   - Public Workshops
   - Preliminary and Final Staff Assessments

3. Committee Evidentiary Hearing and Decision
   - Evidentiary Hearings on FSA and other information
   - Presiding Member’s Proposed Decision (PMPD)
   - PMPD hearing and Commission decision
**California Energy Commission Process**

**INPUT TO**
- CEC STAFF
- SES SOLAR TWO

**EVENTS**
- PRE-FILING
- PETITION ACCEPTED
- Start of Discovery
  - DATA REQUESTS & IIR
- ANALYSIS
  - Preliminary-SA/EIS & Final-SA/EIS
- HEARINGS
- PROPOSED DECISION
- FINAL DECISION

**APPROXIMATE SCHEDULE**
- Discussions on scope of the petition
  - Day 0
- Expected Decision
  - June 2010
Discovery and Analysis Process

- Determine if proposal complies with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Standards (LORS)
- Conduct engineering and environmental analysis
  - identify issues
  - evaluate alternatives
  - identify mitigation measures
  - recommend conditions of certification
- Facilitate public and agency participation
- Staff products: Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) and Final Staff Assessment (FSA)
- Make recommendations to the Committee
Evidentiary Hearing & Decision Process

- Committee conducts hearings on all information
  - Issues Presiding Member’s Proposed Decision (PMPD)
  - PMPD contains findings relating to:
    ▪ Environmental impacts, public health, engineering
    ▪ Project’s compliance with LORS
    ▪ Recommends conditions of certification
    ▪ Recommends whether or not to approve the project
- Full Commission makes decision
- Energy Commission monitors compliance with all conditions of certification, for the life of the project and closure
BLM Solar Energy Development Policy

- WO IM No. 2007-097 (April 4, 2007)
- Policy: facilitate environmentally responsible commercial development of solar energy projects on public lands.
- ROW applications for solar energy projects are a high priority and will be processed in a timely manner.
- If approved, authorize under Title V of FLPMA.
- Rent established by appraisal.

Ref. Handout WO- IM No. 2007- 097
Summary of BLM ROW Processing and Administration

- BLM:
  - Regulations: 43 CFR 2800
  - Right-of-Way Toolkit Information:
    - General ROW
    - Solar ROW
BLM Authorized Officer’s Role

- Initial Response to Proposal
- Pre-application Screening
- Accept Application or Reject Proposal
- Process Application / Land Use Plan Amendment
  - Conduct Scoping
  - Prepare NEPA EIS document/LUP Amendment
- Decision on Application / Approve LUP Amendment
- Authorize the Use
- Administer through Termination
BLM NEPA EIS / LUP Amendment Process

- Notice of Intent
  - Public Scoping Period
    - Alternative Formulation
      - Prep of Draft EIS / Draft Land Use Plan (LUP) Amendment
        - Notice of Availability Draft EIS 90-day comment period
  
  - Prep of Final EIS / Proposed LUP Amendment
    - Notice of Availability FEIS / 30-day review availability / protest period
      - Record of Decision / Approved LUP Amendment
        - Notice to Proceed / Monitor Project
Committee Assigned
- Jeffrey Byron, Commissioner, Presiding Member
- Jackalyne Pfannenstiel, Chairman, Associate Member

California Energy Commission Staff
- Raoul Renaud, Commission’s Hearing Officer
  - (916) 654-5103, e-mail: raoul.renaud@energy.state.ca.us
- Christopher Meyer, Project Manager
  - (916) 653-1639 e-mail: christopher.meyer@energy.state.ca.us
  - Web page: www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solartwo
- Public Adviser’s Office
  - (916) 654-4489 or (800) 822-6228
  - e-mail: PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us
BLM Contacts and Comment Web Site

- Jim Stobaugh, Project Manager
  Phone: (775) 861-6478
  e-mail: jim_stobaugh@blm.gov
- BLM Web Page:
- Scoping comments to:
  SES Solar Two Scoping Comments
  c/o Christopher Meyer, Project Manager
  California Energy Commission
  1516 9th Street, MS-15
  Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Or email comments to:
  christopher.meyer@energy.state.ca.us
  (attention Solar Two)
Public Participation Information

- Open Public Process
  - Workshops and Hearings noticed at least 15 days in advance
  - Mailing lists
  - List Server: www.energy.ca.gov/listservers
- Documents are available for public review at:
  - Public Libraries in Imperial County, Eureka, Sacramento, San Francisco, Fresno, Los Angeles and San Diego
  - Energy Commission Library in Sacramento
  - Energy Commission Web site: www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/solartwo
  - Dockets Unit at the Energy Commission
    1516 9th Street, MS - 4
    Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
Public Participation Opportunities

- Submit written comments or statements to the Commission
- Provide oral comments at public meetings
- Participate in workshops
- Become a formal intervenor (Contact Public Advisor’s Office)
- Provide written comments on Scoping, the PSA/DEIS, FSA/FEIS and PMPD
Energy Commission Project Web Page
Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two Project

Stirling Energy Systems (SES) has submitted an application to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for development of the proposed SES Solar Two Project, a concentrated solar electrical generating facility capable of generating 750 megawatts (MW) of renewable power. The proposed SES Solar Two Project site is located on approximately 5,400 acres of federal land managed by the BLM and approximately 300 acres of privately owned land.

The project site is in Imperial County, California, approximately 4 miles east of Ocotillo, and 14 miles west of El Centro. Generally, the proposed site boundary is the Union Pacific Railroad on the north and Interstate 8 on the south. The eastern boundary is approximately 5/16 mile west of Dunaway Road, and the western boundary is the western section line in Section 27 in Township 18 South, Range 12 East. An additional 125-acre construction area is located east of Dunaway Road.

The project would be constructed in two phases. Phase I of the project would consist of up to 12,000 SunCatchers with a nominal generating capacity of 500 MW. Phase II would consist of approximately 16,000 SunCatchers, expanding the project to approximately 30,000 SunCatchers, with a total generating capacity of 750 MW.

The SunCatcher is a 25-kilowatt solar dish that is designed to automatically track the sun and collect and focus solar energy onto a power conversion unit (PCU), which generates electricity. The system consists of a high-heat 4kW solar concentrator in a dish structure that supports an array of curved glass mirror facets. These mirrors collect and concentrate solar energy onto the solar receiver of the PCU.

The proposed SES Solar Two Project also includes an electrical transmission line, water supply pipeline, and a site access road. A new 230-kV substation would be constructed approximately in the center of the project site. This new substation would be connected to the existing SDG&E Imperial Valley Substation via an approximately 10.3-mile, double-circuit, 230 kV transmission line. Approximately 7.5 miles of the new line would be constructed offsite. Other than this interconnection transmission line, no new transmission lines or off-site substations would be required for the 300 MW Phase I construction. The full Phase II expansion of the project, and delivery of the additional renewable power to the San Diego regional load center, would require the construction of the 300 kV Sunrise Powerlink transmission line proposed by SDG&E. The off-site 6-inch diameter water supply pipeline would be constructed a distance of approximately 3.4 miles from the Westside Main Canal to the project boundary. The water pipeline would be routed in the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way (ROW), or adjacent to this ROW on federal and private lands. A site access road would be constructed from Dunaway Road to the eastern boundary of the project site, generally following an existing road.
Purpose

- Inform Participants of Potential Issues
- Early Focus
- Not Limiting

Criteria

- Amendment Petition
- Data Requests
- Information provided by Agencies or other Participants at this point in the process
Potential Issue Areas
SES Solar Two Project

- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Visual Resources
- Cumulative Effects and Alternatives
Cultural Resources
Potential Issues

- High Frequency of Cultural Resources (number and density)
- Potential for Unanticipated Discoveries
- Mitigation of Potential Significant Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
Land Use
Potential Issues

- Exclusive use of 6,140 acres of public land could eliminate other BLM authorized land uses

- Land within the 360-acre portion of private land designated as Recreation/Open Space

- Cumulative Impacts
Visual Resources
Potential Issues

- New intrusions on the landscape from 30,000 SunCatchers on over 6,500 acres
- Development of VRM classification
NEPA and CEQA requirements for analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed project and other proposed projects in the desert would include a cumulative effects review of all proposed projects.

Alternatives to a proposed project including no action.
## PROPOSED SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MILESTONE/EVENT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-Oct-2008</td>
<td>Commission determined AFC is complete</td>
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<tr>
<td>14-Nov-2008</td>
<td>Staff filed Data Requests Set 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>17-Nov-2008</td>
<td>Staff filed Issues Identification Report</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Nov-2008</td>
<td>Informational Hearing/Scoping Meeting and Site Visit</td>
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<tr>
<td>9-Dec-2008</td>
<td>Applicant Files Data Responses</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-Dec-2008</td>
<td>Data Response Issue Resolution Workshop/Scoping</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Jan-2009</td>
<td>Staff filed Data Requests Set 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>15-Feb-2009</td>
<td>Applicant Files Data Responses Set 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Mar-2009</td>
<td>Staff files Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)/DEIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-Mar-2009</td>
<td>PSA/Draft EIS Workshop</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-Jun-2009</td>
<td>Close BLM Comment Period on Draft EIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-Sep-2009</td>
<td>Staff files Final Staff Assessment (FSA)/EIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Committee conducts Evidentiary Hearing</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Presiding Member’s Proposed Decision (PMPD)</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Committee Hearing on the PMPD</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>BLM Files Record of Decision (ROD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>Committee files revised PMPD</td>
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<td>TBD</td>
<td>Commission Decision</td>
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Staff’s Proposed Schedule

- Meeting this schedule will depend on:
  - Applicant’s timely response to staff’s data requests
  - Determinations by other local, state, and federal agencies
  - Timely preparation of required documents
  - Protests received during the NEPA comment period
  - Other factors not yet known