Subject: SES SOLAR TWO PROJECT (08-AFC-5) STATUS REPORT #1

Pursuant to the Committee Scheduling Order dated December 3, 2008, the following is Energy Commission staff’s Status Report 1 for the proposed Stirling Energy Systems Solar Two Project (SES Solar Two Project).

Current Issues and Activities for Resolution

- Staff filed Data Request Set 1, Part 1 on November 14, 2008 and received data responses from the applicant on December 8, 2008. On December 4, 2008, the applicant requested an additional 60 days to develop responses to the staff’s Data Requests 37 and 38. Staff reviewed the responses received through December 8, 2008 and a Data Response and Issues Resolution workshop / BLM Scoping Meeting was held in El Centro, CA on December 18, 2008.

- Staff filed Data Request Set 1, Part 2 on December 2, 2008 for the following technical areas.
  - Data Requests 53-110 (Air Quality): Requests clarification of air quality impacts such as construction air quality impacts from material delivery and operational air quality impacts from the mirror washing operation.
  - Data Requests 111-127 and BLM appendix (Cultural Resources): The cultural resources data requests attempt to address the challenges of analyzing all cultural resources on over 6,500 acres, including recommendations for the participation of a geoarchaeologist for the planned geotechnical study to potentially reduce archaeological monitoring requirements and requests for more information on several of the previously known and newly discovered archaeological resources in the project area.

On December 22, 2008, the applicant requested additional time to respond to the staff’s Data Requests 53-127. The data responses are expected in early February of 2009. In addition to the responses to the Air Quality and Cultural data requests, applicant intends to supplement its previous responses and filings to address staff comments received at the December 18, 2008 workshop and
BLM scoping meeting. This additional material will address the following technical areas and data requests:

- **Biology:**
  - **Data Request response 1.** A final determination of the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding jurisdiction and if jurisdictional, Applicant will describe the “project-specific circumstances” that necessitate temporary or permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters.
  - **Data Request response 2.** A determination from CDFG that the project is jurisdictional due to the construction of roads through washes and channels on the site. Applicant will provide a description of the necessity of constructing these roads and their impacts.
  - **Data Request response 3.** Applicant will describe the likely mitigation measures that will be included in RWQCB and USACE permits.
  - **Data Request response 4.** Applicant will provide a description of the mitigation measures that will be employed to compensate for project related grading impacts.
  - **Data Request responses 5 & 6.** Applicant will provide engineering details of the proposed evaporation ponds, including location, size and slope ratios. A monitoring plan to test for pond leakage will be described.
  - **Data Request responses 8 – 11.** A facility closure and decommissioning plan will be described including closure requirements and the anticipated bond level necessary to satisfy BLM requirements.

- **Land Use:**
  - **Data Request responses 16-21.** Applicant will describe the private parcels of land within the project site, identify which ones are currently owned or leased by SES Two and describe plans for merging these parcels into other owned parcels. Private parcels which are not owned by the Applicant will be identified and access plans for these parcels will be described. For leased lands, the Applicant will describe how conformance with local land use regulations will be achieved.

- **Soil and Water:**
  - **Data Request Response 31.** Applicant will provide a draft Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, or if not available, a detailed outline illustrating the components of the plan.
  - **Data Request response 32.** A draft of Applicant’s Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be submitted.
  - **Data Request response 33.** Applicant will provide the maximum water requirements for mirror washing.
  - **Data Request response 34.** A reference for the US Gypsum mitigation measures will be provided.
  - **Data Request response 36.** Applicant will review the submitted water balance and revise as necessary to show the maximum water requirements.
Staff will review the applicant’s responses to the data requests and determine if a second data response workshop or additional data requests are necessary.

- The Energy Commission and BLM cultural resources staff continue to work on addressing deficiencies in the preliminary draft cultural resources report originally submitted by the applicant. The report was submitted to the Energy Commission before approval by the BLM, contrary to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Energy Commission and BLM.

- The BLM scoping period ended on January 2, 2009, 15 days after the second BLM scoping meeting on December 18, 2008. The Energy Commission and BLM staff are logging and reviewing the scoping comments received. The BLM will organize the individual scoping comments by author and category to insure all the comments are addressed in the joint Energy Commission/BLM analysis.

**Schedule**

Due to the high volume of projects currently under review by the Energy Commission and the BLM and the complexity of the coordinated document, additional time is needed to complete the technical sections required for the Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA)/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). As a result, staff believes it is necessary to adjust the publication of the PSA/DEIS and the PSA/DIES workshop. This change would allow staff to incorporate the applicant’s responses to staff’s data requests into the document. Nonetheless, staff will work with the BLM and the applicant to accelerate the schedule where appropriate and feasible.

The following table summarizes staff’s proposed adjustments to the Committee schedule:
### Staff’s Proposed Changes to the Committee Schedule*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DATE</strong></th>
<th><strong>EVENT</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun 30, 2008</td>
<td>Application for Certification (AFC) filed by project owner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 13, 2008</td>
<td>AFC Deemed Data Inadequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 08, 2008</td>
<td>AFC Deemed Data Adequate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 08, 2008</td>
<td>Energy Commission Committee assigned to oversee AFC process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct 17, 2008</td>
<td>BLM publishes NOI in FR (60-day scoping)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 14, 2008</td>
<td>CEC/BLM staff file data requests (round 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 17, 2008</td>
<td>CEC/BLM staff file Issues Identification Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 24, 2008</td>
<td>Informational Hearing and Site Visit/BLM Scoping Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 08, 2008</td>
<td>(see above) Applicant provides data responses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 18, 2008</td>
<td>Data Response and Issue Resolution workshop/Second BLM Scoping Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 2, 2009</td>
<td>Formal BLM scoping period closes (15 days after last meeting)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15, 2009</td>
<td>CEC/BLM staff file data requests (round 2, if necessary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 15-16, 2009</td>
<td><strong>BLM Notice of Availability (NOA) on PSA/DEIS sent to WO and ASLM (4-6 weeks)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 05, 2009</td>
<td>PSA/DEIS filed (90-day comment period required)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 05, 2009</td>
<td>Status Report #2 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 26, 2009</td>
<td>PSA Workshop/DEIS public meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1, 2009</td>
<td>Applicant provides data responses (round 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr 1, 2009</td>
<td>Local, state, and federal agency determinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2009</td>
<td>Data Response and Issue Resolution workshop (round 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2009</td>
<td>BLM comment period closes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 6, 2009</td>
<td>Prepare responses to comments and prepare FSA/FEIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun 05, 2009</td>
<td>Status Report #3 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 1, 2009</td>
<td>Local, state and federal agency final determination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 15, 2009</td>
<td>NOA FEIS to WO and ASLM (4-6 weeks)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul 15, 2009</td>
<td>NOA of FSA/FEIS in FR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 07, 2009</td>
<td>Final Staff Assessment/FEIS filed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug 07, 2009</td>
<td>Evidentiary hearings start</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 01, 2009</td>
<td>Status Report #4 due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 01, 2009</td>
<td>Addendum/revised proposed decision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep 01, 2009</td>
<td>Committee Decision</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Proposed changes shown in strikeout/underline (Shaded events have already taken place)

**BLM Schedule Acronyms:**
- ASLM - Assistant Secretary for Lands and Minerals
- BLM - Bureau of Land Management
- DEIS - Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- FEIS - Final Environmental Impact Statement
- FR - Federal Register
- IBLA - United States Interior Board of Land Appeals
- NOA - Notice of Availability
- NOI - Notice of Intent
- ROD - Record of Decision
- WO - BLM Washington Office
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
For the SES SOLAR TWO PROJECT

Docket No. 08-AFC-5

PROOF OF SERVICE
Revised 11/26/08

INSTRUCTIONS: All parties shall either (1) send an original signed document plus 12 copies or (2) mail one original signed copy AND e-mail the document to the address for the Docket as shown below, AND (3) all parties shall also send a printed or electronic copy of the document, which includes a proof of service declaration to each of the individuals on the proof of service list shown below:

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION
Attn: Docket No. 08-AFC-5
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
docket@energy.state.ca.us

APPLICANT
Robert B. Liden,
Executive Vice President
SES Solar Two, LLC
2920 E. Camelback Road, Ste. 150
Phoenix, AZ  85016
rliden@stirlingenergy.com

Christine Henning
Project Manager
SES Solar Two, LLC
2920 E. Camelback Road, Ste. 150
Phoenix, AZ 85016
chenning@stirlingenergy.com

CONSULTANT
Angela Leiba, Senior Project Manager
URS Corporation
1615 Murray Canyon Road, Suite 1000,
San Diego, CA 92108
Angela_Leiba@urscorp.com

COUNSEL FOR APPLICANT
Allan J. Thompson
Attorney at Law
21 C Orinda Way #314
Orinda, CA 94563
allanori@comcast.net

INTERESTED AGENCIES
California ISO
e-recipient@caiso.com

Lynda Kastoll, Project Manager
BLM, El Centro Field Office
1661 So. 4th Street
El Centro, CA 92243
lkastoll@ca.blm.gov
Jim Stobaugh  
National Project Manager  
Bureau of Land Management  
BLM Nevada State Office  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, NV 89520-0006  
jim_stobaugh@blm.gov

ENERGY COMMISSION

Jeffrey D. Byron  
Commissioner and Presiding Member  
jbyron@energy.state.ca.us  

Jackalyne Pfannenstiel  
Chairman and Associate Member  
jpfannen@energy.state.ca.us  

Raoul Renaud  
Hearing Officer  
renaud@energy.state.ca.us  

Caryn Holmes  
Staff Counsel  
cholmes@energy.state.ca.us  

Christopher Meyer  
Project Manager  
cmeyer@energy.state.ca.us  

Public Adviser  
publicadviser@energy.state.ca.us

INTERVENORS

*CURE  
c/o Paul F. Foley  
Marc D. Joseph  
Adams Broadwell Joseph & Cardozo  
601 Gateway Blvd., Ste. 1000  
South San Francisco, CA  94080  
pfoley@adamsbroadwell.com

DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Mineka Foggie, declare that on January 15, 2009, I deposited copies of the attached SES Solar Two Project (08-AFC-5) Status Reoprt # 1 in the United States mail at Sacramento, CA with first-class postage thereon fully prepaid and addressed to those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

OR

Transmission via electronic mail was consistent with the requirements of California Code of Regulations, title 20, sections 1209, 1209.5, and 1210. All electronic copies were sent to all those identified on the Proof of Service list above.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Original Signature in Dockets  
Mineka Foggie

Attachments