

Memorandum

Date: March 8, 2010
Telephone: (916) 651-0966

To: James D. Boyd, Vice Chair and Presiding Member
 Anthony Eggert, Commissioner and Associate Member

From: **California Energy Commission** – Eric K. Solorio, Project Manager
 1516 Ninth Street
 Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

DOCKET	
09-AFC-9	
DATE	<u>MAR 08 2010</u>
REC'D	<u>MAR 08 2010</u>

Subject: **Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (09-AFC-9)**

The following is staff's Status Report #1 for the proposed Ridgecrest Solar Power Project (RSPP).

Current Activities

Staff continues working diligently to develop the Staff Assessment/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SA/DEIS). The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are currently conducting administrative reviews of the draft SA/DEIS. The administrative reviews are scheduled to be completed on Friday, March 12, 2010. Staff plans to publish the SA/DEIS on Friday, March 26, 2010.

Schedule

In response to the Committee's Proposed Revised Schedule, staff is submitting its own proposed schedule for consideration by the Committee. Staff has highlighted the key events in staff's proposed schedule. Staff believes the attached schedule will meet the needs and objectives of the Energy Commission, the BLM and the DOE. Please consider adopting staff's proposed revised schedule.

RIDGECREST SOLAR POWER PROJECT (09-AFC-9)
STAFF'S PROPOSED REVISED SCHEDULE

ACTIVITY	STAFF'S PROPOSED MILESTONE DATES
Applicant files Application for Certification (AFC)	9/01/09
Commission's determination that AFC is complete	11/18/10
Staff files Issues Identification Report	12/28/09
Staff files data requests	12/22/09
Informational Hearing and Site Visit	1/05/10
Applicant provides data responses	1/25/10
Data response and issue resolution workshop	12/15/09, 1/05/10, 1/06/10
Applicant files complete Data Responses (set 1)	1/25/10
Second Data response and issue resolution workshop	2/03/10
Local, state and federal agency draft determinations AQMD files PDOC	2/18/10
Administrative Draft (SA/DEIS) circulated for CEC, BLM and Department of Energy (DOE) review and comment	3/01/10-3/12/10
Final edits, formatting, reproduction, CEC publication and filing of SA/DEIS	3/26/10
EPA review SA/DEIS	4/02/10
EPA publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) for SA/DEIS in Federal Register (90-day comment period begins)	4/9/10
AQMD files "Final" DOC	4/15/10
BLM submits Biological Assessment (BA) to FWS	4/21/10
Staff Assessment Workshop – negotiate mitigation and attempt to reduce number of issues for adjudication	4/22/10 and 4/23/10
Status Conference	4/27/10
Parties file opening testimony	5/10/10
Pre-hearing Conference Statements filed	5/13/10
Pre-hearing Conference held	5/17/10
Evidentiary Hearings¹ (record remains open to receive SAE/FEIS and BO)	6/01/10, 6/03/10 and 6/04/10
End of public comment period on SA/DEIS	7/09/10
Prepare responses to public comments on SA/DEIS	7/16/10
USFWS issues Biological Opinion (BO); and incidental take statement²	7/21/10
BLM, DOE and CEC administrative review of SAE/FEIS	7/23/10
Final edits and formatting of SAE/FEIS,	7/30/10
Reproduction, publication and CEC filing of SAE/FEIS	8/06/10
EPA review SAE/FEIS	8/13/10
EPA publishes Notice of Availability (NOA) for SAE/FEIS in Federal Register	8/20/10
Hearing to receive SAE/FEIS	8/20/10
CEC Committee files Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD) (30-day public comment period begins)	9/03/10
Expedited Governor's review period ends	9/20/10
BLM Plan Amendment protest period ends	9/20/10
Close of public comment period on PMPD	10/04/10
CEC Hearing on PMPD	10/08/10
CEC Committee files revised PMPD (15-day public comment period begins)	10/11/10
BLM resolution period ends (assuming protest filed)	10/20/10
Close of public comment period on revised PMPD	10/25/10
CEC Decision on Application for Certification (09-AFC-09)	11/05/10
BLM Record of Decision (ROD) / right-of-way (ROW) grant issued	11/05/10
Notice to Proceed Issued³	11/12/10

¹ The 6/01/10 hearing will take place in Sacramento for undisputed matters. The 6/3/10 and 6/04/10 hearings will take place in Ridgecrest for disputed matters.

² Staff is assuming 90 days is adequate for USFWS to generate the Biological Opinion. FWS staff has indicated that if FWS's upper management prioritizes the RSPD then the BO can be written such a time frame.

³ There is a 30-day appeal period following issuance of the ROD. The project may proceed during an appeal unless a "stay" is granted.



**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

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

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DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, April Albright, declare that on, March 8, 2010, I served and filed copies of the attached Energy Commission Staff's Status Report #1. 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: _____
April Albright