

DOCKETED

Docket Number:	02-AFC-01C
Project Title:	Sonoran Energy Project (formerly Blythe Energy Project Phase II) - Compliance
TN #:	211418
Document Title:	Committee Scheduling Order
Description:	N/A
Filer:	Maggie Read
Organization:	Energy Commission Hearing Office
Submitter Role:	Committee
Submission Date:	5/9/2016 4:40:39 PM
Docketed Date:	5/9/2016



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

PETITION TO AMEND THE

**SONORAN ENERGY PROJECT (FORMERLY
BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT PHASE II)**

Docket No. 02-AFC-01C

COMMITTEE SCHEDULING ORDER

Background

On December 14, 2005, the California Energy Commission (Energy Commission) issued its Final Decision granting a certificate to Caithness Blythe II, LLC (Caithness), to construct and operate the Blythe Energy Project Phase II (BEP II), Docket Number 02-AFC-01C. The approved BEP II has not been built. Caithness received extensions of the deadline to commence construction from the Energy Commission in 2010 and 2012. In addition, in 2012 the Energy Commission approved an amendment increasing the project output from 520 megawatts (MW) to 569 MW. The project site is located in eastern Riverside County, approximately five miles west of Blythe, California.

On April 29, 2014, AltaGas Power Holdings (U.S.), Inc. (APHUS), acquired Caithness. APHUS then changed Caithness's name to AltaGas Sonoran Energy, Inc. (AltaGas). These transactions were approved by the Energy Commission on June 18, 2014.

On August 7, 2015, AltaGas submitted a Petition to Amend to the Energy Commission seeking permission to make changes to the amended Final Decision for BEP II, and to rename the project Sonoran Energy Project (SEP or project). For purposes of this proceeding, the new name of Sonoran Energy Project or SEP will be used to distinguish this project from BEP II and other energy generating projects using the name Blythe.

The Petition to Amend may be viewed at:

<https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/getdocument.aspx?tn=205652>

The Energy Commission designated a Committee¹ of two commissioners, Janea Scott, Presiding Member, and Karen Douglas, Associate Member, to conduct proceedings on the Petition to Amend. The Committee held a Public Site Visit, Environmental Scoping Meeting, and Informational Hearing in Blythe, California, on September 28, 2015. On

¹ The full Energy Commission made this Committee assignment at an Energy Commission Business Meeting on August 12, 2015.

October 27, 2015, the Committee issued a Committee Scheduling Order outlining the schedule for the proceeding and requiring monthly status reports from the parties.²

The Committee conducted a Status Conference on March 30, 2016, to discuss the schedule, the Preliminary Staff Assessment, and other matters pertaining to the project. As a result of those discussions, and the April 15th status reports, the Committee has determined that a revision to the Committee Schedule is necessary.

Committee Schedule

The Committee Schedule contains a list of events that must occur in order to complete the amendment review process. The Committee encourages the parties to consider this schedule an outer boundary and to try to complete the milestones ahead of these dates. Some deadlines may be contingent upon reviews to be conducted by federal, state, and local agencies. The Committee may modify the schedule at any time upon either its own motion or that of a party.³

The Committee has considered the parties' scheduling requests and has determined that in light of the additional analysis of dry cooling requested by the Committee, a commensurate amount of additional time should be included in the schedule. This additional time should obviate the need for bifurcation of the Final Staff Assessment.

Status Reports

The schedule requires periodic status reports to be submitted by all parties to determine whether case development is progressing satisfactorily and to bring potential schedule delays or other relevant matters to the Committee's attention.

Parties must file (docket) and serve status reports and other documents using the e-filing system on the Energy Commission's website. Click on the "Submit e-Filing" link in the "Compliance Proceeding" box at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sonoran.

Public Adviser and Public Participation

The Energy Commission Public Adviser's Office is available to assist the public in participating in the amendment review process. For information on how to participate, contact Alana Mathews, Public Adviser, at (916) 654-4489 or (800) 822-6228, or by e-mail at publicadviser@energy.ca.gov.

Information

Questions of a legal or procedural nature should be directed to Raoul Renaud, Hearing Officer, at (916) 651-2020, or by e-mail at raoul.renaud@energy.ca.gov.

² TN 206439

³ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1203, subd. (c)

Technical questions concerning the project should be addressed to Mary Dyas, Compliance Project Manager, at (916) 651-8891, or by e-mail at mary.dyas@energy.ca.gov.

Media inquiries should be directed to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov.

Information concerning the status of the project, as well as notices and other relevant documents, may be viewed on the Energy Commission's web page at www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/sonoran.

Dated: May 6, 2016, at Sacramento, California

Original signed by

JANE A. SCOTT
Commissioner and Presiding Member
Sonoran Energy Project Amendment Committee

Original signed by

KAREN DOUGLAS
Commissioner and Associate Member
Sonoran Energy Project Amendment Committee

MAY 2016 REVISED COMMITTEE SCHEDULE
Sonoran Energy Project (02-AFC-01C)

ACTIVITY	DATE
Project Owner files SEP Petition to Amend	08/07/2015
Committee assigned	08/12/2015
Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (MDAQMD) Issues Preliminary Determination of Compliance (PDOC)	12/18/2015
Preliminary Staff Assessment (PSA) filed	01/29/2016
PSA Workshop	02/24/2016
MDAQMD Issues Final Determination of Compliance (FDOC)	03/21/2016
Parties file Status Reports	05/13/2016
Parties file Status Reports	06/20/2016
Final Staff Assessment (FSA) filed	07/27/2016
Last day to File Petition to Intervene ⁴	08/10/2016
All Parties file Opening Testimony	08/12/2016
All Parties file Rebuttal Testimony, Prehearing Conference Statements, Exhibit Lists	08/19/2016
Prehearing Conference	Late August/Early September, 2016
Evidentiary Hearings	Mid-September, 2016
Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)	Early November, 2016
Committee Conference on PMPD	Mid-November, 2016
Close of Public Comment Period on PMPD	Early December, 2016
Energy Commission Final Decision	to be determined

⁴ "A petition for intervention shall be filed no later than the deadline established by the presiding member, or if none is established, at least 30 days before the first Evidentiary Hearing in the proceeding." Cal. Code Regs., tit. 20, § 1211.7, subd. (b).