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Filed For: Pahrump Valley Solar LLC

In accordance with NRS Chapter 719,
this filing has been electronically signed and filed
by: /s Kathleen Drakulich

By electronically filing the document(s),
the filer attests to the authenticity of the electronic signature(s) contained therein.

This filing has been electronically filed and deemed to be signed by an authorized agent or
representative of the signer(s) and
Pahrump Valley Solar LLC



McDONALD·CARANO·WILSON^{LLP}

Kathleen Drakulich
kdrakulich@mcdonaldcarano.com

Reply to: Reno

December 26, 2012

Breanne Potter
Assistant Commission Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
1150 East Williams Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701

***Re: Initial Application of Pahrump Valley Solar LLC for Permit to Construct
Solar Facilities Under the Utility Environmental Protection Act***

Dear Ms. Potter:

Enclosed for filing please find the application of Pahrump Valley Solar LLC for a Permit to Construct Solar Facilities under the Utility Environmental Protection Act pursuant to NRS 704.870.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding this submission, please contact me directly at 775-326-4369.

Sincerely,

MCDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP

Kathleen M. Drakulich

KMD/jaf
encl:



**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA
DRAFT NOTICE
(Applications, Tariff Filings, Complaints, and Petitions)**

Pursuant to Nevada Administrative Code (“NAC”) 703.162, the Commission requires that a draft notice be included with all applications, tariff filings, complaints and petitions. Please complete and include ONE COPY of this form with your filing. (Completion of this form may require the use of more than one page.)

A title that generally describes the relief requested (see NAC 703.160(4)(a)):

Pursuant to the Utility Environmental Protection Act (“UEPA”), and the provisions set forth in Chapter 704 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, and Chapter 703 of the Nevada Administrative Code, Pahrump Valley Solar LLC (“PVS”) is filing an Initial Application with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada for a permit to construct the Pahrump Valley Solar Project (the “Proposed Project”).

The name of the applicant, complainant, petitioner or the name of the agent for the applicant, complainant or petitioner (see NAC 703.160(4)(b)):

The name of the applicant is Pahrump Valley Solar LLC, a Delaware LLC, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abengoa Solar Inc., a company within the Abengoa Solar business unit of Abengoa, S.A. . Matt Stucky is the Agent for PVS.

A brief description of the purpose of the filing or proceeding, including, without limitation, a clear and concise introductory statement that summarizes the relief requested or the type of proceeding scheduled AND the effect of the relief or proceeding upon consumers (see NAC 703.160(4)(c)):

PVS is filing its Initial Application for a permit to construct the Proposed Project pursuant to the requirements of the Utility Environmental Protection Act (“UEPA”), Nevada Revised Statutes (“NRS”) Chapter 704, §§ 820-900, and Nevada Administrative Code (“NAC”), Chapter 703, §§ 415-427. PVS is developing the project to provide 225 (net) megawatts of renewable electric power using up-dated versions of proven technologies that reduce intermittent generation output while minimizing costs, maximization of renewable energy output from an optimal solar site, and meeting state and national objectives for the development and procurement of renewable energy.

PVS will submit an Amended UEPA Application to the Commission, including the Final Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”), once it receives the Record of Decision (“ROD”) for the environmental analysis being prepared under the direction of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

A statement indicating whether a consumer session is required to be held pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (“NRS”) 704.069(1)¹:

A consumer session is not required.

If the draft notice pertains to a tariff filing, please include the tariff number AND the section number(s) or schedule number(s) being revised.

The draft notice does not pertain to a tariff filing.

1 NRS 704.069 states in pertinent part:

1. The Commission shall conduct a consumer session to solicit comments from the public in any matter pending before the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.061 to 704.110 inclusive, in which:
 - (a) A public utility has filed a general rate application, an application to recover the increased cost of purchased fuel, purchased power, or natural gas purchased for resale or an application to clear its deferred accounts; and
 - (b) The changes proposed in the application will result in an increase in annual gross operating revenue, as certified by the applicant, in an amount that will exceed \$50,000 or 10 percent of the applicant's annual gross operating revenue, whichever is less.

1 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF NEVADA**

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4 In the Matter of the Initial Application of
5 PAHRUMP VALLEY SOLAR LLC for a
6 Permit to Construct a Concentrating Solar
7 and Photovoltaic Solar Facility Under the
8 Utility Environmental Protection Act

Docket No. 12-12 _____

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11 **INITIAL APPLICATION OF PAHRUMP VALLEY SOLAR LLC FOR A PERMIT TO
12 CONSTRUCT CONCENTRATING SOLAR POWER AND PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR
13 FACILITIES UNDER THE UTILITY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ACT**

14 **A. INTRODUCTION**

15 The applicant, Pahrump Valley Solar LLC (“Pahrump Valley”), in accordance with
16 Nevada Revised Statutes 704.870(2), files with the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada
17 (“Commission”) this Initial Application (“Initial Application”) for a permit to construct the
18 Pahrump Valley Solar Project (the “Proposed Project”), described below, pursuant to the
19 requirements of the Utility Environmental Protection Act (“UEPA”), Nevada Revised Statutes
20 (“NRS”) Chapter 704, §§ 820-900, and Nevada Administrative Code (“NAC”), Chapter 703, §§
21 415-427. Pahrump Valley is a Delaware LLC, qualified to do business in Nevada, and is a
22 wholly-owned subsidiary of Abengoa Solar Inc. In support of this Initial Application, Pahrump
23 Valley provides the following information:

24 **B. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The Proposed Project will consist of a 90 MW (net) photovoltaic (“PV”) solar plant and a
135 MW (net) concentrating solar power (“CSP”) tower plant, together with related transmission
facilities, to be located on federal land approximately 15 miles southeast of Pahrump, Nevada.
Pahrump Valley’s parent, Abengoa Solar Inc., has filed Application NVN 089224 for a right-of-
way grant with the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Southern
Nevada District Office. Abengoa Solar Inc. intends to transfer the right-of-way application or
grant to Pahrump Valley. See Exhibit A, Site Location Map. The Proposed Project will require
review under the National Environmental Protection Act (“NEPA”), 42 U.S.C. § 4321, and the

1 preparation of an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) and
2 will therefore follow the two-step application process provided for under NRS 704.870(2)(a) and
3 NAC 703.421 and NAC 703.423. This Initial Application is being filed concurrently with the
4 filing of the Plan of Development with the BLM. No later than 30 days after the issuance of the
5 final federal environmental document, Pahrump Valley will file an amended UEPA application
6 with the Commission pursuant to NRS 704.870.2(b)(1).

7 Included with this Initial Application are the Proposed Project description and the
8 following exhibits, incorporated herein by reference:

9 Exhibit A – Site Location Map

10 Exhibit B – Regional Map

11 Exhibit C – Legal Description

12 Exhibit D – Federal Action and Environmental Studies

13 Exhibit E – NDOW Energy Project Application

14 Exhibit F – Public Notice

15 Exhibit G – Proof of Publication

16 Exhibit H – Proof of Service to the Clark and Nye County clerks, Nevada State Clearing
17 House and other agencies

18 Pahrump Valley requests the Commission accept this Initial Application under UEPA as
19 complying with the statutory and regulatory requirements set forth herein. Pahrump Valley will
20 submit an amended application as required upon completion of the final environmental analysis
21 by the BLM, and at that time will seek approval for a Permit to Construct the Proposed Project.

22 C. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

23 The Project will consist of a 90 MW (net) photovoltaic (“PV”) solar plant and a 135 MW
24 (net) concentrating solar power (“CSP”) tower plant, on federal land approximately 15 miles
southeast of Pahrump, Nevada. The objectives of the Project include utilization of up-dated
versions of proven technologies that reduce intermittent generation output while minimizing
costs, maximization of renewable energy output from an optimal solar site, and meeting state and
national objectives for the development and procurement of renewable energy.

 MCDONALD-CARANO-WILSON
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D. NAME AND ADDRESS OF APPLICANT

1. Pahrump Valley Solar LLC is a Delaware LLC and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Abengoa Solar Inc., a company within the Abengoa Solar business unit of Abengoa, S.A.

2. Pahrump Valley's principal place of business, mailing address and telephone number are:

11500 West 13th Avenue
Lakewood, CO 80215
303-928-8500

3. All correspondence related to this Initial Application should be sent to the undersigned agent:

Matt Stucky
Manager, Business Development
Abengoa Solar Inc.
235 Pine Street, Suite 1800
San Francisco, CA 94104

Kathleen M. Drakulich, Esq.
McDonald Carano Wilson LLP
100 West Liberty Street 10th Floor
Reno, NV 89501

E. INFORMATION REQUIRED BY NAC 703.421

1. General Description of the Location of the Proposed Facilities – NAC 703.421(1)

(a) A general description of the location of the proposed utility facility, including a regional map that identifies the location of the proposed utility facility.

The Proposed Project will be located approximately 15 miles southeast of Pahrump, Nevada, south of Nevada State Highway 160, and west of Tecopa Road. The Right of Way application filed with the BLM comprises approximately 6700 acres straddling the Nye and Clark County boundary line, with the bulk of the area located in Clark County. The precise location of the facilities will be determined after the completion of additional site investigations. The ultimate footprint for the solar generating facilities will occupy approximately 2,000 acres. The point of interconnection to the transmission grid will be at Valley Electric Association's ("VEA") future Crazy Eyes Substation. This substation, which will be constructed on the northeast side of Nevada Highway 160 near the Tecopa Road intersection, is being permitted as part of VEA's Hidden Hills Transmission Project. A 230 kV gen-tie line will be constructed from the Project's electrical substation (to be located at the power block) to the Crazy Eyes Substation. While the final route of the gen-tie has not yet been determined, it is expected to be

1 approximately five miles in length. Approximately three miles of the gen-tie line will be located
2 on land covered under right-of-way application number NVN 089224, with the remaining two
3 miles also traversing federal land.

4 A site location map is provided as attached Exhibit A. Exhibit B is a regional map
5 showing the location of the Right of Way application. A legal description is provided in
6 Exhibit C.

7 *b) Any alternative locations for the proposed utility facility.*

8 Pahrump Valley considered siting a CSP tower project in Amargosa Valley, at the
9 intersection of U.S. Route 95 and Nevada State Route 393. Biological surveys were conducted
10 and preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement was begun. However, due to the
11 proximity of the Nevada Test and Training Range to this site, personnel from Nellis Air Force
12 Base and the U.S. Department of Defense ultimately informed the Pahrump Valley that a tower
13 in this location would interfere with the mission of the military training operations conducted
14 nearby. Plans for a tower project at this site were subsequently abandoned.

15 *c) The reasons why the location identified in paragraph (a) is best suited for the
16 proposed utility facility.*

17 The Pahrump Valley provides outstanding solar resources, given the latitude and
18 percentage of annual cloud-free days. The topography of the site is relatively flat, and well-
19 suited to solar development, which requires very little topographic relief. In addition, because of
20 the large footprint of the Proposed Project, large blocks of contiguous land are needed, and this
21 requirement can be met on the BLM-administered lands. The site is in relatively close proximity
22 to the VEA transmission lines and proposed substation. State and federally protected animal
23 and plant species may be present on the site. However, control measures can be implemented
24 that will successfully mitigate potentially adverse effects to these species and their habitats. Site
access is provided by existing roads, and it is anticipated that a large construction workforce can
be drawn from Pahrump and Las Vegas.

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2. General Description of the Proposed Utility Facilities NAC 703.421(2)

a) The size and nature of the proposed utility facility.

The CSP Facilities: The primary components of the CSP portion of the Project will be a 650-foot-tall concrete tower, four contiguous fields of glass heliostat reflectors, and a power block area where the power generating equipment and ancillary systems will be located. Each heliostat will be a mirror that is individually controlled to reflect and concentrate solar radiation on one of the four solar receivers situated near the top of the centrally located tower. The receivers will be designed to directly generate steam. The steam will be directed to the turbine/generator set in the power block, where it will be utilized to generate electricity. The heliostats will be arranged in curved rows around the tower, with a network of unpaved roads providing access to the heliostats for maintenance. The layout of all the heliostats in aggregate makes a large circle with a diameter of approximately 7,925 feet. The area of the heliostat fields, including the tower and power block in the center, is approximately 1,130 acres.

The power block is the area where the power generating equipment and ancillary systems for the CSP tower plant will be located. The footprint of the power block approximates a circle at the center of the heliostat fields. The diameter of the power block is approximately 1045 feet, or approximately 20 acres. This includes the footprint of the tower located in the center of the power block.

The six buildings that will be constructed at the power block are described in the following table:

| Building | Number | Footprint (square feet) |
|---|--------|-------------------------|
| Control and Maintenance Building | 1 | 5,325 |
| Heliostat Assembly Buildings / Warehouses | 2 | 21,528 (each) |
| Turbine/Generator Building | 1 | 2,568 |
| Electrical Building | 1 | 2,050 |
| Water Treatment Building | 1 | 17,933 |

