

STAR Energy Station Blythe Solar Power Project

Toward a safe, clean energy future: The STAR Energy Station Blythe Solar Power Project is the largest solar energy project yet approved for construction on public lands. When completed, it will be the world's largest concentrated solar power facility, generating up to 1,000

VITALS

Location: Riverside County, CA

Technology: Solar Thermal Parabolic Trough

Electricity production capacity: 1,000 megawatts

Company: Solar Millennium (Oakland, California)



BY THE NUMBERS - the project is expected to:

- ✓ Generate enough electricity to power 300,000 – 750,000 homes
- ✓ Create 1,066 construction jobs and 295 permanent jobs
- ✓ Generate \$400,000 of tax revenue annually in property taxes paid to Riverside County.
- ✓ Secure approximately \$1.9 billion through DOE's Recovery Act loan guarantee program
- ✓ Be located on 7,025 acres. The BLM oversees more than 1.5 million acres in Riverside County, including nearly 1 million managed for conservation.

A SMART, COLLABORATIVE PROCESS: In April of 2009 the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) committed to helping the nation reach its clean energy future by guaranteeing coordinated, focused processing, full environmental analysis and public review for specific renewable energy projects where the companies involved had demonstrated they were ready to advance to the formal environmental review and public participation process.

A UNIQUE, INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP: On October 12, 2009 Secretary Salazar and Governor Schwarzenegger signed an agreement directing Interior agencies and California State agencies to create a federal-state initiative to advance development of environmentally appropriate renewable energy on U.S. lands in California. The STAR Energy Station Blythe Solar Power Project is one of the projects currently being jointly processed through the BLM and the California Energy Commission cooperative model. It was licensed by the California Energy Commission on September 15, 2010.

STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MITIGATION: The BLM worked closely with federal, state and local partners, members of the environmental and conservation community and interested stakeholders to advance environmentally sound projects.

- ✓ Alternative Habitat: Solar Millennium is providing funding to the BLM for more than 8,000 acres of desert tortoise, western burrowing owl, bighorn sheep and Mojave fringe-toed lizard habitat to mitigate the project's impacts.
- ✓ A Net Benefit: Solar Millennium must compensate for lands containing special-status plant species that cannot be avoided during construction.
- ✓ Water Friendly: Solar Millennium amended the project design to utilize "dry-cooling" technology instead of the traditional "wet-cooling," reducing overall water usage by 90%.

ANOTHER RECOVERY ACT LEGACY: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has served as an opportunity to transform the way we use energy, reducing our carbon emissions and create entire new industries based on America's resources, America's ingenuity, and America's workers. Through the Recovery Act's payments in lieu of tax credits for specified energy program, Solar Millennium can apply for payments of up to 30% of the eligible costs of the STAR Energy Station Blythe Solar Power Project. These payments are authorized by Section 1603 of the ARRA tax title.

THE BIG PICTURE: The STAR Energy Station Blythe Solar Project is one of the projects that will help achieve the Administration and Interior initiative to make a rapid and responsible move to large-scale production of renewable energy on public lands. The State of California is working to achieve a 33% Renewable Portfolio Standard, which will require 15,000 – 20,000 MW of renewable energy by 2020.