



FILED

09-02-08
03:32 PM

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of The Nevada Hydro Company for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano 500-KV Interconnect.

Application 07-10-005
(Filed October 9, 2007)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
RELATED TO THE NEVADA HYDRO COMPANY'S JULY 29, 2008
PROPONENT'S ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Applicant, the Nevada Hydro Company (Nevada Hydro), filed the present application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Talega-Escondido/Valley-Serrano 500 Kilovolt (kV) Interconnect Project (Project) on October 9, 2007. The Commission's Energy Division staff (Staff) issued a review notice on November 16, 2007 to Nevada Hydro explaining the deficiencies in the Proponents Environmental Assessment (PEA). Nevada Hydro filed its PEA on February 8, 2008. On February 14, 2008, an Administrative Law Judge's Ruling extended the protest deadline and ordered revisions to existing protests in light of the February 8, 2008 PEA.

On March 6, 2008, Staff issued a review letter concluding that the February 8, 2008 PEA was incomplete based upon a number of factors, including problems with the descriptions of the location, environmental setting and mitigation measures as those factors relate to required system upgrades, reasonably foreseeable future phases, and related projects.

On July 29, 2008, Nevada Hydro filed a new PEA, and served a Notice of Availability to the service list in this proceeding.

On August 18, 2008, Staff issued a review letter to Nevada Hydro noting that the PEA is incomplete, in that it lacks sufficient details to allow a clear and comprehensive understanding of all aspects of the Project, and that the project description information is insufficient, vague, confusing or missing. As a result, Staff has requested that the deficient sections be replaced, with the other sections remaining as filed.

New deadlines cannot be reasonably set until Nevada Hydro responds to Staff with revisions to the PEA.

Also, certain individuals have requested hard copies of the PEA. While distribution of CD-ROMs is generally acceptable, Nevada Hydro should provide the Lake Elsinore Historical Society with one hard copy, directed to its Vice President, Linda Ridenour.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The Nevada Hydro Company's (Nevada Hydro) Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) of July 29, 2008 was deemed incomplete, for the reasons set forth in the deficiency review notice dated August 18, 2008.
2. New deadlines for protests and revisions of protests will be set once Nevada Hydro submits its revisions to the PEA to the Commission's Energy Division staff and the service list of this proceeding. No action is required of any intervener in this proceeding until the assigned Administrative Law Judge issues a ruling setting a schedule.

3. Nevada Hydro will provide the Lake Elsinore Historical Society with one hard copy of the July 29, 2008 PEA, as well as any subsequent PEA-related filings.

Dated September 2, 2008, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ VICTORIA S. KOLAKOWSKI

Victoria S. Kolakowski
Administrative Law Judge

