

Thank you for your comment, Wendy Pulling.

The comment tracking number that has been assigned to your comment is SolarM60096.

Comment Date: July 16, 2009 20:12:53PM

Solar Energy Development PEIS

Comment ID: SolarM60096

First Name: Wendy

Middle Initial:

Last Name: Pulling

Organization: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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Privacy Preference: Don't withhold name or address from public record

Attachment: PGE PEIS extension.pdf

Comment Submitted:



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company®**

Wendy Pulling
Director
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July 16, 2009

Linda Resseguie
Bureau of Land Management
Washington Office

Re: Request for a 45-day Extension to Comment Period

Dear Ms. Resseguie:

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) appreciates the opportunity, as part of the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) PEIS process, to provide comments to develop an agency-specific program to facilitate environmentally responsible utility-scale solar energy development in western states. As a supplier of energy to approximately five percent of Americans and more than 40 percent of Californians, PG&E has a commitment to clean, reliable, and renewable sources of energy.

PG&E also maintains a firm commitment to environmental stewardship and to addressing issues of climate change. PG&E plans to double its existing commitments to buy renewable solar thermal power by adding 1,000 megawatts over the next five years. The additional solar thermal energy will be enough to power more than 750,000 homes. PG&E has also entered into commitments with developers of utility scale solar photovoltaic technology. PG&E, itself, intends to develop and operate solar power resources in the desert southwest utilizing a range of solar power technologies. Much of this solar power will be developed in the Mohave Desert and on lands administered by BLM

PG&E is pleased to see that the Bureau is undertaking a comprehensive look at the environmental impacts of large-scale solar development, and agrees solar energy development is fundamental to the nation's energy security and economy. **In light of the critical nature of the PEIS' analysis, PG&E formally requests a 45-day extension to the comment period for review of the Administration's plans for its solar program.** Identifying appropriate locations for utility-scale solar development in sensitive desert ecosystems is an extremely important, highly complex undertaking—one that requires coordination among stakeholders and thoughtful examination of data resources. While we understand the urgency of moving this process forward, we also believe the magnitude of the task warrants the additional time to develop a sound strategy to protect fragile desert ecosystems and to facilitate productive solar energy development.

PG&E thanks you for considering this request and we look forward to continuing our participation in the PEIS process.

Sincerely,