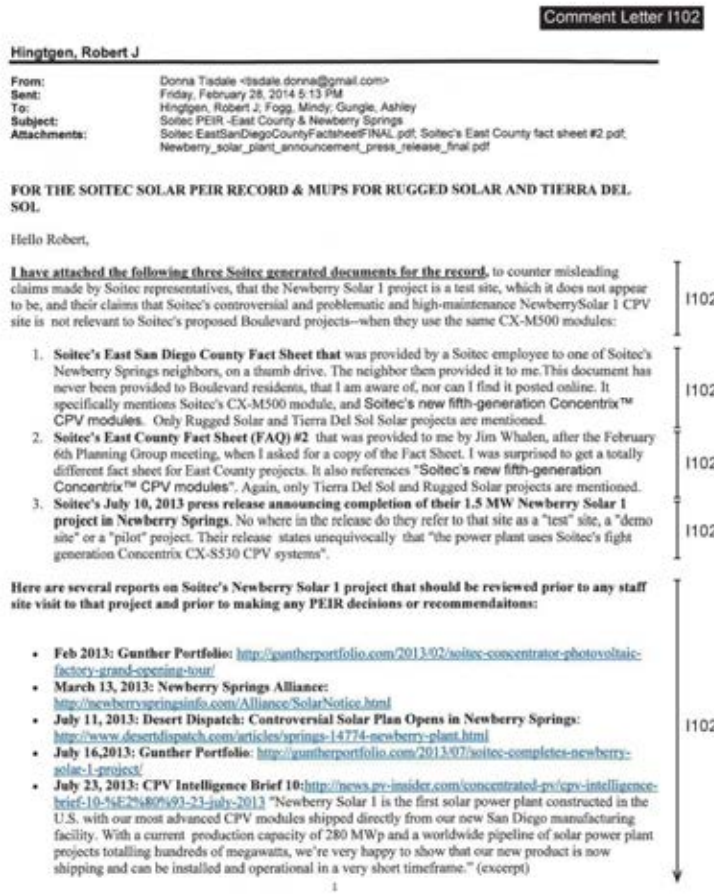

Comment Letter I102

Hingtgen, Robert J

From: Donna Tisdale <tisdale.donna@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 5:13 PM
To: Hingtgen, Robert J; Fogg, Mindy; Gungle, Ashley
Subject: Soitec PEIR -East County & Newberry Springs
Attachments: Soitec EastSanDiegoCountyFactsheetFINAL.pdf; Soitec's East County fact sheet #2.pdf; Newberry_solar_plant_announcement_press_release_final.pdf

**FOR THE SOITEC SOLAR PEIR RECORD & MUPS FOR RUGGED SOLAR AND TIERRA DEL SOL**

Hello Robert,

**I have attached the following three Soitec generated documents for the record,** to counter misleading claims made by Soitec representatives, that the Newberry Solar 1 project is a test site, which it does not appear to be, and their claims that Soitec's controversial and problematic and high-maintenance NewberrySolar 1 CPV site is not relevant to Soitec's proposed Boulevard projects--when they use the same CX-M500 modules: I102-1

1. **Soitec's East San Diego County Fact Sheet that** was provided by a Soitec employee to one of Soitec's Newberry Springs neighbors, on a thumb drive. The neighbor then provided it to me.This document has never been provided to Boulevard residents, that I am aware of, nor can I find it posted online. It specifically mentions Soitec's CX-M500 module, and Soitec's new fifth-generation Concentrix™ CPV modules. Only Rugged Solar and Tierra Del Sol Solar projects are mentioned. I102-2
2. **Soitec's East County Fact Sheet (FAQ) #2** that was provided to me by Jim Whalen, after the February 6th Planning Group meeting, when I asked for a copy of the Fact Sheet. I was surprised to get a totally different fact sheet for East County projects. It also references "Soitec's new fifth-generation Concentrix™ CPV modules". Again, only Tierra Del Sol and Rugged Solar projects are mentioned. I102-3
3. **Soitec's July 10, 2013 press release announcing completion of their 1.5 MW Newberry Solar 1 project in Newberry Springs.** No where in the release do they refer to that site as a "test" site, a "demo site" or a "pilot" project. Their release states unequivocally that "the power plant uses Soitec's fight generation Concentrix CX-S530 CPV systems". I102-4

**Here are several reports on Soitec's Newberry Solar 1 project that should be reviewed prior to any staff site visit to that project and prior to making any PEIR decisions or recommendaitons:** I102-5

- **Feb 2013: Gunther Portfolio:** http://guntherportfolio.com/2013/02/soitec-concentrator-photovoltaic-factory-grand-opening-tour/
- **March 13, 2013: Newberry Springs Alliance:** http://newberryspringsinfo.com/Alliance/SolarNotice.html
- **July 11, 2013: Desert Dispatch: Controversial Solar Plan Opens in Newberry Springs:** http://www.desertdispatch.com/articles/springs-14774-newberry-plant.html
- **July 16,2013: Gunther Portfolio**: http://guntherportfolio.com/2013/07/soitec-completes-newberry-solar-1-project/
- **July 23, 2013: CPV Intelligence Brief 10:**http://news.pv-insider.com/concentrated-pv/cpv-intelligence-brief-10-%E2%80%93-23-july-2013 "Newberry Solar 1 is the first solar power plant constructed in the U.S. with our most advanced CPV modules shipped directly from our new San Diego manufacturing facility. With a current production capacity of 280 MWp and a worldwide pipeline of solar power plant projects totalling hundreds of megawatts, we're very happy to show that our new product is now shipping and can be installed and operational in a very short timeframe." (excerpt)

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# Response to Comment Letter I102

## Donna Tisdale
## February 28, 2014

**I102-1** The comment is acknowledged and will be included in the Final Program Environmental Impact Report for review and consideration by the decision makers, as requested by the commenter. Information related to the Newberry Springs project referenced and attached by the commenter, as well as the commenter's assertions related to the reliability or maintenance record of the Project technology, do not raise an environmental issue or concern the adequacy of the environmental analysis in the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (DPEIR) for the Proposed Project; therefore, no response is required. The DPEIR accurately describes the technology that will be utilized for the Proposed Project in Section 1.0.

**I102-2** Please refer to the response to I102-1.

**I102-3** Please refer to the response to I102-1.

**I102-4** Please refer to the response to I102-1.

**I102-5** Please refer to the response to I102-1.

- **Aug 2, 2013: Renewable Energy World.com: Soitec To Shutter German CPV Manufacturing, "Regroup" at Its San Diego Facility**. In July, Soitec completed its 1.5-MW Newberry Solar 1 plant in San Bernadino, Calif., the largest CPV plant in the state. In June the company announced a 1-MW pilot project in Saudi Arabia (the country will use the plant to determine future CPV deployment)". (excerpt)http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/08/soitec-to-shutter-germany-cpv-manufacturing-regroup-its-san-diego-facility

I102-5 Cont.

**Additional Soitec projects that have been specifically identified as "pilot" or " demonstration" projects:**

- 2 different size Soitec demo CPV modules at UCSD microgrid
- 1 MW "demonstration project" at Fort Irwin
- 1 MW "pilot project" in Saudi Arabia
- Four Soitec CX-S420 systems (64kWp) installed at "pilot plant" Minera El Tesoro Mining Group facility in Chile
- There are a few more more...

I102-6

Regards,

Donna Tisdale
619-766-4170
PO Box 1275
Boulevard, CA 91905

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**I102-6** Please refer to the response to I102-1.

Soitec

# TIERRA DEL SOL & RUGGED CPV SOLAR PROJECTS
# BOULEVARD, CALIFORNIA

FACTSHEET

## PROJECT *QUICK FACTS*

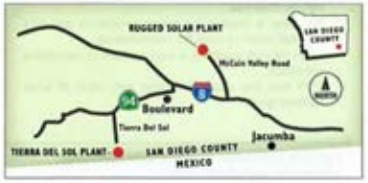
**Location:** South Eastern San Diego County

- **PROJECT SIZE**
  140 megawatts (MW)
- **POWER PURCHASER**
  SDG&E
- **TARGET GROUNDBREAKING**
  Q2 2014
- **TARGET COMPLETION**
  Q1 2015
- **SAN DIEGO HOMES SERVED**
  Over 100,000
- **GHG EMISSION REDUCTION**
  93,800 Tons per year

Solar CPV Modules

## PROJECT MAP

Soitec Solar Development, LLC has plans to build two projects in San Diego County. See the map for locations:




## SOITEC'S CPV SOLAR TECHNOLOGY

In a Soitec CX-M500 module, Fresnel lenses concentrate sunlight onto 2400 tiny multi-junction solar cells which convert sunlight into clean, renewable energy. Dual-axis tracking ensures the system produces a high and constant power production output throughout daylight hours.

Soitec's new fifth generation Concentrix™ CPV modules provide a market-leading module efficiency that exceeds 30% (about twice the efficiency of conventional PV technology).

## ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP

Soitec's Rugged and Tierra del Sol solar farms have been certified as a California Environmental Leadership Development Project by Governor Brown and the state legislature under the Jobs and Economic Improvement Through Environmental Leadership Act of 2011 (AB 900).

Soitec's San Diego County projects qualified for the Environmental Leadership Development Project designation based on their innovative concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) technology and the economic and environmental benefits the projects will bring to San Diego County, including:

- A capital investment of approximately $469 million.
- Creation of hundreds of temporary construction jobs at prevailing wages and 30-40 permanent jobs in San Diego County.
- Soitec's commitment to offset all greenhouse gas emissions, which when combined with the projects' offset of fossil-fuel powered electricity generation, will result in a substantial reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

## SOITEC'S SAN DIEGO FACTORY

In 2011, Soitec USA, Inc. acquired a 176,000-square-foot manufacturing center on 14.8 acres of land located in San Diego to support over 280 MWp of utility-scale projects throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Soitec uses a distributed manufacturing strategy in which our CPV factories are located near customers to provide the most cost-efficient and environmentally beneficial green power. This approach also provides significant economic development benefits through direct and indirect jobs, annual payroll and sales tax revenues.

The first phase (140 MWp) of production is operational and the factory is targeted to reach full production by the end of 2013.

This major project represents an investment of more than $150 million and will create approximately 450 on-site jobs and more than 1,000 indirect jobs at full capacity.

## ABOUT SOITEC

Soitec is a world leader in generating and manufacturing revolutionary semiconductor materials and is at the frontier of the most exciting challenges for energy and electronics.

Listed on the stock exchange (Euronext, Paris) since 1999, Soitec has more than 1,600 employees worldwide, and manufacturing plants and R&D centers in France, Singapore, Germany, and the United States.

Soitec holds a dominant global position in its total approved project pipeline of utility-scale power plants. The company also has projects installed in 18 countries around the world.

Soitec's Concentrix™ CPV technology is based on more than 10 years of research at Germany's Fraunhofer Institute, Europe's largest solar research institute, and more than six years of industrial implementation.

## ADVANTAGES OF SOITEC'S CPV

- Soitec's Concentrix CPV technology has achieved cost parity to traditional solar projects, and in sunny locations it has a 10% to 15% cost advantage.
- Soitec's technology uses dual-axis tracking systems to follow the sun's trajectory throughout the day and produce energy when it is needed the most, in summer afternoons.
- Soitec's Concentrix™ technology provides an extremely high module efficiency of 30%, or almost 2 times the efficiency of traditional PV technologies.
- Soitec is continuously working on R&D and is developing its own Smart Cell for use in Concentrix technology. With this program, Soitec aims to bring solar cells with record efficiency into production.
- CPV has a small environmental footprint and land can be dual-use.
- No water is needed for power generation and only minimal water is used for maintenance.
- Each module contains a high content of recyclable materials.
- CPV has the shortest energy pay back of solar technologies.

For more information on Soitec CPV technology, please visit: www.Soitec.com

For more information about these projects, please contact Patrick Brown at:

Patrick.Brown@Soitec.com
(619) 733-2649

Soitec

## TIERRA DEL SOL & RUGGED CPV SOLAR PROJECTS
## BOULEVARD, CALIFORNIA

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q: What are the Tierra del Sol and Rugged Solar Projects?**
**A:** Tierra del Sol and Rugged are proposed Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) solar energy projects that will be located near the community of Boulevard in eastern San Diego County. When built, the projects will create a new local source of renewable energy, improve air quality by offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, generate a capital investment of approximately $469 million in San Diego County, and create 200-250 construction jobs as well as 30-40 permanent jobs.

**Q: What is CPV technology?**
**A:** CPV technology converts sunlight directly into "clean" electricity via concentrator optics and high-efficiency solar cells, offering the best design for use in sunny regions since it delivers environmentally friendly, low-cost, reliable solar-generated electricity. Additionally, the CPV system's two-axis tracker produces high and constant power output throughout daylight hours.

**Q: How does CPV technology work?**

**A:** Soitec's CPV technology uses multi-junction cells mounted on a glass plate. Fresnel lenses (manufactured using silicone on glass) concentrate sunlight 500 times before it reaches these cells, which convert it into electricity. A metal frame holds two glass plates to form highly robust, durable and resilient modules. By combining several modules on biaxial trackers (based on a proprietary algorithm automatically optimizing their position based on the path of the sun), Soitec maximizes energy generation throughout the day. Soitec's new fifth-generation Concentrix™ CPV modules provide a market-leading module efficiency that exceeds 30% (two to three times the efficiency of conventional PV technology).

**Q: Where are these projects located?**
**A:** The 420-acre Tierra del Sol solar farm site is located in Boulevard, south of Interstate 8 on private property located adjacent to the U.S.-Mexico border in eastern San Diego County.
The approximately 765-acre Rugged solar farm site is also located in Boulevard north of I-8 to the east of Ribbonwood Road and primarily west of McCain Valley Road.

**Q: Who is developing these projects?**
**A:** Soitec Solar Development, LLC, a subsidiary of Soitec. Soitec (Euronext Paris) is a world-leading supplier of advanced solutions for the electronics and energy industries and a global leader in the manufacture of Concentrix™ concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) technology.

**Q: Why did Soitec select to build the projects near Boulevard?**
**A:** These locations were selected because of their proximity to SDG&E's transmission facilities, the amount of land available, and the strong solar resource, which has very high direct normal irradiance (DNI).

**Q: How will local residents benefit from Soitec's projects?**
**A:** Renewable energy generated by sun would provide a number of benefits, such as improving air quality by offsetting greenhouse gas emissions, providing a local source of clean renewable energy, creating new jobs, and generating tax revenues to fund County services.

**Q: Have the projects been approved?**
**A:** The County of San Diego is currently preparing a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR), which is expected to be available for public comment in early October. The San Diego County Planning Commission will review the projects, a public hearing will be held, and the commissioners will vote on whether to recommend them to the Board of Supervisors. The San Diego County Board of Supervisors will hold a second public hearing to consider whether to approve the PEIR and issue a Major Use Permit for the projects. Soitec anticipates that the Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing on the projects in April 2014.

**Q: How many jobs will the projects generate?**
**A:** The projects will generate approximately 200-300 temporary construction jobs subject to prevailing wages, and 30-40 permanent jobs in San Diego County.

**Q: What is the capital investment in San Diego County?**
**A:** Soitec Solar Development, LLC's capital investment in these two projects is approximately $469 million.

**Q: Where will the modules be manufactured?**
**A:** The modules will be manufactured locally at Soitec's new North American manufacturing headquarters in Rancho Bernardo.

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

For more information on Soitec CPV technology, please visit: www.Soitec.com.

For more information about these projects, please contact Patrick Brown at:

Patrick.Brown@Soitec.com

(619) 733-2649

Soitec

**SOITEC COMPLETES ITS FIRST SOLAR POWER PLANT IN CALIFORNIA WITH MODULES FROM ITS NEW SAN DIEGO MANUFACTURING FACILITY**

**New installation establishes Soitec's latest CPV technology in California and represents a major milestone in company's ambitious deployment plans in the region**

***San Francisco, California July 10, 2013*** — Soitec, a world leader in generating and manufacturing revolutionary semiconductor materials for the electronics and energy industries, announced today at the Intersolar North America Conference that Soitec Solar Development, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary, has completed construction of the 1.5 $MW_{AC}$ Newberry Solar 1 project in San Bernardino County, California. Renewable power generated by Newberry Solar 1 will be sold to Southern California Edison under a 20-year power purchase agreement. It is the largest concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) power plant in California, featuring Soitec's latest and most efficient technology with modules manufactured in nearby San Diego.

*"This announcement represents a major milestone for Soitec in establishing its newest generation of CPV technology and a critical step in our ambitious deployment plans in the region,"* said Gaetan Borgers, executive vice president of Soitec's Solar Energy Division. *"Newberry Solar 1 is the first solar power plant constructed in the U.S. with our most advanced CPV modules shipped directly from our new San Diego manufacturing facility. With a current production capacity of 280 MWp and a worldwide pipeline of solar power plant projects totaling hundreds of megawatts, we're very happy to show that our new product is now shipping and can be installed and operational in a very short timeframe."*

The Newberry Solar 1 power plant connects directly to Southern California Edison's distribution network and will provide approximately 500 Southern California homes with clean, renewable energy while offsetting the emission of almost 2,300 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

The power plant uses Soitec's fifth generation Concentrix™ CX-S530 CPV systems, designed as Soitec's next step towards achieving a Levelized Cost of Electricity (LCOE) for utility-scale solar power plants in the sunniest regions of the world. With a module area of over 100 square meters (1,130 square feet), one Soitec CX-S530 generates a capacity of 28 kWp. The size of the system is optimized to deliver high performance while drastically reducing costs for manufacturing, installation and maintenance. The system utilizes 12 of the large Soitec CX-M500 modules and delivers an efficiency of 30 percent, about twice the efficiency of conventional photovoltaic panels.

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The 720 CX-M500 modules used at Newberry Solar 1 were manufactured in Soitec's new North American manufacturing headquarters in San Diego on fully automated assembly lines, ensuring high-precision manufacturing. The factory, commissioned in December 2012, is currently targeted to reach its full capacity of 280 MWp by October 2013, making Soitec the third largest solar module manufacturer in the U.S.

With installations in 18 countries around the world, Soitec's CPV technology is proving its competitiveness to generate solar power, largely due to its higher production yields throughout the sunlight hours. In addition, CPV technology's ability to operate without cooling water, withstand hot ambient temperatures and have minimal environmental impact make it perfectly suited for use in desert areas. Soitec is well positioned to expand quickly in the sunniest regions in the world, which are also the fastest growing market segments of the solar industry.

**About Soitec**
Soitec is an international manufacturing company, a world leader in generating and manufacturing revolutionary semiconductor materials at the frontier of the most exciting energy and electronic challenges. Soitec's products include substrates for microelectronics (most notably SOI: Silicon-on-Insulator) and concentrator photovoltaic systems (CPV). The company's core technologies are Smart Cut™, Smart Stacking™ and Concentrix™, as well as expertise in epitaxy. Applications include consumer and mobile electronics, microelectronics-driven IT, telecommunications, automotive electronics, lighting products and large-scale solar power plants. Soitec has manufacturing plants and R&D centers in France, Singapore, Germany and the U.S. For more information, visit: www.soitec.com.

**International Media Contacts**
(trade press)
Camille Darnaud-Dufour
+33 (0)6 79 49 51 43
camille.darnaud-dufour@soitec.com

(business press)
Marylen Schmidt
+33 (0) 4 76 92 87 83
marylen.schmidt@soitec.com

# # #

2

# Soitec Concentrator Photovoltaic Factory Grand Opening Tour

[San Diego, California USA]

*In January, first production modules shipments apparently went to a municipal utility project in Newberry Springs, CA USA.*
*1 MW Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) Demonstration Project at Fort Irwin.*
*Tour of the fully automated production line set to become one of the top three solar module manufacturing plants in the US.*


From Soitec San Diego

Just before the holidays on December 19, 2012, Soitec SA (EPA:SOI) celebrated the grand opening of the new San Diego manufacturing facility producing Concentrator Photovoltaic (CPV) modules for the North American solar market. For once, the timing was right, and I was able to arrange a daytrip to the San Diego grand opening event.


From Soitec San Diego

Soitec purchased the 176000 square foot (~16400 square meter) Rancho Bernardo facility from Sony Electronics just over a year ago. Complemented by a $25 million SUNPATH (Scaling Up Nascent PV At Home) award from the US Department of Energy (DOE), Soitec invested over $150 million upgrading the facility and installing fully automated manufacturing production lines and processes. For the first phase, two front end assembly lines totaling 140 MWp (MegaWatt-peak) were installed along with 280 MWp of back end module assembly capacity. The first 5th generation (CX-M500 CPV) module was produced in October 2012 as planned. Two additional front end lines are needed to reach the facility's 280 MWp full production capacity.

In his first proclamation since entering office just two weeks earlier, San Diego Mayor Bob Filner said: "*We proclaim this as Soitec Day in the City of San Diego in recognition of your significant investment in clean technology manufacturing.*" Not long after the proclamation in political speech time, a symbolic *Flip the switch ceremony* was held to turn on a CPV module behind the speaker podium and get the factory up and running.

**US Project Pipeline**

Soitec won two major projects in Southern California to back the new manufacturing facility for Soitec Concentrix CPV technology. In the first, Tenaska Solar Ventures affiliate CSOLAR IV West, LLC, selected Soitec CPV technology for the Tenaska Imperial Solar Energy Center West project to deliver up to 150 MW of power over a 25 year PPA (Power Purchase Agreement) with San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), a subsidiary of Sempra Energy (NYSE:SRE). Tenaska Solar Ventures is in turn part of the

Tenaska, Inc. Development Group. Later in 2011, Soitec Solar Development, LLC, a Soitec subsidiary, had five (5) PPAs with SDG&E representing 155 MW of Soitec CPV capacity in San Diego County approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

During the ceremony, Dr. Lidija Sekaric, PV Program Manager, SunShot Initiative, with the US Department of Energy said:

*So we are very excited to be working with our partners at the Department of Defense to build what will be the largest CPV power plant on any DoD installation to date from Soitec's technology coming out of the world's largest CPV factory.*

Her statement confirmed my deduction at the SunShot Grand Challenge that Soitec must be the recipient of the two 1 MW demonstration projects planned by the US Department of Defense (DoD). Thus far, only the Fort Irwin project has been confirmed in the DoD FY 2013 Awards for Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP) Installation Energy and Water Technology Demonstrations:

**Soitec Solar, Inc.**: Soitec 1MW Concentrated Photovoltaic (CPV) Demonstration Project for On-Site Distributed Power Generation
Demonstration Site: Fort Irwin, CA

"*Soitec Raises Solar Stakes in San Diego*" by Morgan Lee for the *San Diego Union-Tribune* mentions the initial deployment from Soitec San Diego:

*The first sun trackers are bound for a modest-sized solar installation outside Barstow that will supply electricity to a municipal utility.*

View Newberry Solar I LLC in a larger map

Well, using this cryptic info I was able to find the Newberry Solar I LLC project in Newberry Springs, CA USA, located just east of Barstow as shown in the Google Map. The 3 MWac (MegaWatt alternating current) project is documented with site maps in:

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CEQA Addendum
To The Mitigated Negative Declaration for a
Conditional Use Permit
Project Number: P200900339

Concentrix Solar Inc. acquired the original flat plate PV project from Solutions for Utilities and later transferred it to Newberry Solar 1, LLC, a subsidiary of Soitec Solar Development LLC, for conversion to CPV. The 3MWac are supposed to be connected into the distribution lines of Southern California Edison (SCE), an Edison International

(NYSE:EIX) company. However, I was only able to find a 1.5 MW Executed CREST (California Renewable Energy Small Tariff) Project for Newberry Solar I, LLC. The CREST Program is SCE's implementation of the AB 1969 Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). So perhaps there is another offtaker for the 1.5 MW balance?

Outside the US, Soitec achieved a significant CPV milestone when Moody's assigned (P)Baa2.za rating to proposed notes for the 44 MWp Touwsrivier solar project in South Africa. The Soitec SDG&E PPA projects have not yet closed financing.

**Job, Jobs, Jobs**
Housing a former Sony assembly line and converted repair depot, the Soitec facility was completely reconstructed except for the roof and four walls. The M+W U.S., Inc., subsidiary of the M+W Group, acted as the general contractor for the facility and employed over 280 people at peak construction. Soitec captured the extensive construction, equipment move in, and shake out in a time-lapse video scored to "*Let's get it started*"!

This was the defining example of "*Soitec Time: doing things at the speed of Soitec*" first mentioned by Mayor Filner in his remarks.

Soitec San Diego began 2012 with 20 employees and ended the year with 125 employees. At full capacity, Soitec expects to create 450 jobs including the joint venture Reflexite Soitec Optical Technology, LLC.

**Factory Tour**
After a ceremonial French and Soitec style toast and luncheon, the tours of the state of the art, fully automated CPV production facility began in earnest.

Alas, photography was not allowed on the factory tour. Before the ceremonies began, I snapped a few photos of substrate arrays stacked in cassettes at the start of the solar cell assembly line. That's when I was interrupted and told photos were not permitted.


From Soitec San Diego

Before substrate assembly, the III-V triple junction solar cell wafers must be singulated and mounted on wafer tape. Each wafer was said to hold about 1000 cells rated at about 1 Watt each. The Soitec cells are laser cut as hexagons to optimize wafer material utilization. Our group was shown a presorted wafer, and a handful of cells were inked to mark them as out of spec. Soitec has said multiple sources of III-V triple junction solar cells have been qualified for the CX-S530 CPV System. However, AZUR SPACE Solar Power GmbH appears to receive the bulk of the orders to date.

During his keynote, Soitec Chairman and CEO Dr. André-Jacques Auberton-Hervé said:

*Our cells shipped today have an energy yield of 38% close to 40%, but Soitec is developing a new type of cell and the aim is to achieve 50% of yield transforming light to electricity.*

At the first solar cell assembly step, a solar cell is pick and placed from the wafer onto an aluminum substrate (aluminum heat sink with copper silver coating) of the array and attached to the die bonding area using a conductive (thermal and electrical?) adhesive and cured in an oven. The solar cell is then wire bonded to adjacent bond pads on the same substrate. One bypass diode is assembled onto every fifth substrate in a similar fashion. In earlier generations of the technology, a bypass diode was integrated on every III-V solar cell.

Solar cell assembly used very standard semiconductor equipment and processes promising reliability and high uptime when run 24/7. Each line can process around 10000 cells per hour and together the two lines can process upwards of 500000 (half a million) cells per day. Two additional lines will need to be installed for the facility to reach nameplate capacity and process one million cells per day.

Soitec employed a copy exact philosophy in replicating this and all the production lines and processes implemented in San Diego from the 70 MWp Freiburg production site.

Next, the substrate arrays are separated into individual substrates and flash tested.

Moving on to the bottom plate line, the bottom plate glass is washed, dried, and then 200 substrates are placed into preformed depressions in the glass. The substrates are glued to the glass as placed and flashed with UV (ultraviolet) light from underneath to cure. Alignment of the substrate cell with the bottom glass plate is critical for subsequent assembly with the silicone-on-glass (SOG) Fresnel lens top plate glass and frame.

Once the 200 substrates, arranged as a ten (10) by twenty (20) matrix, are glued to the bottom plate, the cell substrates are series wirebonded with provisions for module interconnect in the master CX-M500 CPV module (datasheet).

At the end of the line, each assembled bottom plate is flash tested, subject to 100% automated visual inspection, and binned by a rather large robotic arm into cassettes for transport to the module assembly area.

The factory tour on the module assembly side was not quite continuous. To start, bottom plates were glue sealed to metal frames followed by the silicone-on-glass (SOG) Fresnel lens top plate glass. I do not recall seeing the process used by the Reflexite Soitec Optical Technology joint venture to fabricate the SOG lens top plate glass although a large area for lens curing was observed at the end of the tour.

At the other end of the line, the CX-M500 CPV module frame was welded in a semi-automated process. In the only manual steps observed at the factory, the precut aluminum beams were loaded into a frame jig for subsequent automated alignment and conveyance into a factory floor welding enclosure. Once welding is completed, the module frame exits the enclosure, is manually removed, visually inspected, plasma cleaned, and a coating is applied.

Again, I don't recall seeing a complete master CX-M500 CPV module assembled from twelve (12) individual modules. However, Soitec mentioned the CX-M500 series and parallel interconnect could be optimized to change the current-voltage characteristics, and our group was shown bent aluminum "brackets" being made for module interconnect.


From Soitec San Diego

Last, the CX-M500 CPV modules are packed ten (10) modules per pallet for shipment to installation sites. A few CPV module pallets were parked outside the back of the facility, perhaps to make room for the indoor celebration.

**CPV System CX-S530 at UCSD**

As discussions wound up after the tour, I was reminded Soitec had deployed a 5th generation CPV System CX-S530 28.1 kWp (kiloWatt-peak) demo tracker at UCSD (University California, San Diego) around October 2011. It does not take much CPV bait for certain Photovoltaic Bloggers. I decided to route my return to the San Diego Airport via UCSD. With a quick stop to look up the location of the first Concentrix UCSD installation, I headed to the East Campus and almost gave up until I saw the tops of the unmistakable trackers.


From Soitec San Diego

I had not seen a Soitec Concentrix system since Intersolar 2007 when I walked over to the *Concentrix Solar Concentrator Proving Ground* at the Solar Info Center in Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. I thought the CX-S530 System was quite breathtaking with the near transparent modules on the sunny, 850 DNI (Direct Normal Irradiance) day. Does that make me sound like a CPV geek?


From Soitec San Diego

Beyond the usual suspects, Soitec invited the gamut of suppliers, potential suppliers, and competitors from across the CPV ecosystem to the grand opening celebration.

From Soitec San Diego

The burden now falls on Soitec to prove CPV can be manufactured cost competitively in the United States using state of the art automation and generate competitive kiloWatt-hours when deployed in high DNI regions on an LCOE (Levelized Cost of Energy) basis.

From Soitec San Diego

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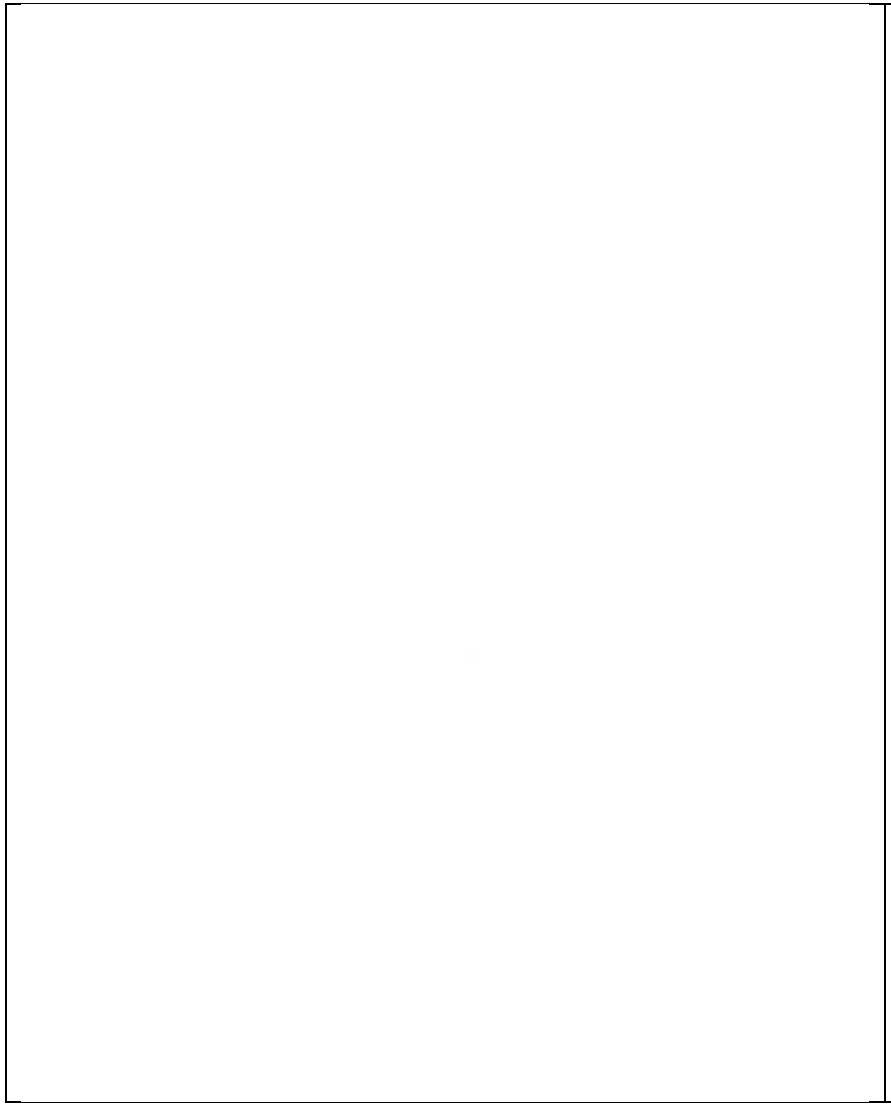


# County Land Use Services Screws Newberry Springs

## Neighboring property owners to solar plant did received notice of modification. But. . .

**March 13, 2013**

Most Newberry Springs residents who have seen the size of the new solar structures being installed on Mountain View Road have been shocked by their massive size. Under the original plan approved by the county, the structures were to be no higher than 7-feet from the ground.

The new solar tracking photovoltaic panels will reach a height of just under 28 feet when in a full up-right position.

Surprised residents have been asking, how did this happen. Why weren't we notified. The answer is that the owners of the properties surrounding the perimeter of the project, most of whom are absentee landowners, were notified of an application to modify the original permit that was acquired by Solutions for Utilities, Inc. (Mary Hoffman) on July 13, 2010.

The property and building permit of Solutions for Utilities was sold by Mary Hoffman to German based Concentrix which was then later acquired by Soitec Solar of France. Soitec's application for the Newberry site is under the name of Newberry Solar 1, LLC; and Soitec is installing its photovoltaic equipment developed and built by Concentrix.

With its research still ongoing, the Newberry Springs Community Alliance has acquired a copy of what it believes is the notice for the drastic modification in the height. Unfortunately, the notice appears to have been intentionally written by the county so as not to describe and inform Newberrians of the main purpose of the modification; or to alert and raise a concern over the project's increase of four-times the structure height.

The county Land Use Services Department's project public notice states:

**PROPOSAL**

**REVISION TO AN APPROVED SOLAR POWER GENERATING FACILITY (3 MEGAWATT) TO MODIFY THE**

**PHOTOVOLTAIC TECHNOLOGY TO USE LESS EQUIPMENT WITH LESS LAND DISTURBANCE ON THE SAME 27 ACRE PORTION OF A 73 ACRE PARCEL.**

This strongly sounds like less. Definitely not BIGGER and not more obstructiveness to visibility!

This public notice only states a change in technology; "less equipment;" and "less land disturbance." It states nothing about a modification to the originally approved structure height.

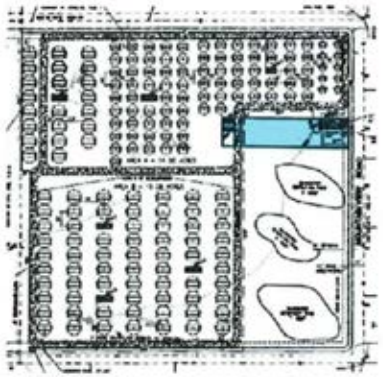
It is even arguable that not less equipment is involved; only that it is being supported in the air by columns.

This raises the issue as to whether this highly misleading and inadequate notice constitutes the necessary constructive notice required by law. Do the neighboring residents now have a meritorious claim against the county?

**And more...**

Troublesome is another Land Use document associated with the county's negative EIR declaration. In the document, *San Bernardino County CEQA Addendum To The Mitigated Negative Declaration,* the county willy-nilly skips over the environmental impact assessments of concerns that appear to require assessment under an Environmental Impact Review. No mention of an earthquake fault running through the property; and remarkably, in Table Two (below on bottom of this page), concern with sun glare reflecting off of the 7-foot metal frames that was in the original Hoffman application, was apparently resolved in the Soitec application by placing the photovoltaic panels high in the air to track the sun. County slants and appraises everything as not having any *significant environmental effect(s);* therefore, streamlining the county's self-serving interests in not having to handle, as the lead agency, an otherwise mandated EIR. Page 4 of document.

**Newberry Solar 1 layout**



Simply look at the sun glare in the photographs (above) of a Soitec photovoltaic sun tracker. . . then picture the glare from all of these at once.

The County's verbiage pertaining to the aesthetics of the project reads more like a Carnival Cruise Line brochure than an objective site description.

So many things appear to be mishandled by the county. For instance, the column pedestals that are being buried in the ground to support the photovoltaic panels are reportedly being placed 15-feet deep; yet upon the future decommissioning of the project, the county is only requiring that the first 3-feet of the columns from the surface be removed. That can be a massive savings to the project's owner; and a nightmare and hazard to an unsuspecting future landowner who might try to install a septic tank, trench sewer or utility lines, or grade the property.

Why is the county bending over to accommodate the solar developer and not doing its job to protect the community and the safety of its citizens?

**Documentation**

**SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT**
**PLANNING DIVISION PROJECT NOTICE**

San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department/Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA, 92415-0182

Referral Date:
February 03, 2011

**ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS**

**Page 1 of 2**

The development proposal listed below has been filed with the County Land Use Services Department/Planning Division. You are invited to comment because your property is located near the proposed project. Please comment in the space below. You may attach additional pages as necessary.

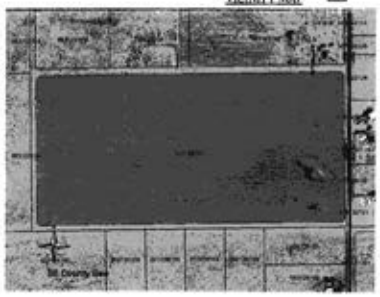
Your comments must be received by this department **no later than February 17, 2011 to be sure that they are included in the final project action. However, comments will be taken up to the time of the project decision.** Please refer to this project by the Applicant's name and the Assessor Parcel Number indicated below. If you have no comment, a reply is not necessary. If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact **Project Planner, DOUG FEREMENGA** at **(909) 387-0240** or mail your comments to the address above. If you wish, you may also FAX your comments to (909) 387-0235.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER:** | **0531-231-55** | **(See map below for more information)** |
| **PROJECT NUMBER** | **P201100836/RMC** | |
| **APPLICANT** | **NEWBERRY SOLAR 1 LLC** | |
| **LAND USE DISTRICT (ZONING):** | **RL** | |
| **IN THE COMMUNITY OF:** | **NEWBERRY SPRINGS/1ST/ SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT** | |
| **LOCATED AT:** | **MOUNTAIN VIEW ROAD, COTTONWOOD ROAD, TUJUNGA AVENUE, STELLITE AVENUE: BOUNDED BY** | |
| **PROPOSAL** | **REVISION TO AN APPROVED SOLAR POWER GENERATING FACILITY (3 MEGAWATT) TO MODIFY THE PHOTOVOLTAIC TECHNOLOGY TO USE LESS EQUIPMENT WITH LESS LAND DISTURBANCE ON THE SAME 27 ACRE PORTION OF A 73 ACRE PARCEL.** | |

**If you want to be notified of the project decision,** please print your name clearly and legibly on this form and mail it to the address above along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope. All decisions are subject to an appeal period of ten (10) calendar days after an action is taken.

**Comments** (If you need additional space, please attach additional pages):

VICINITY MAP



SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY LAND USE SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PLANNING DIVISION PROJECT NOTICE
San Bernardino County Land Use Services Department/Planning Division
385 North Arrowhead Avenue, First Floor, San Bernardino, CA. 92415-0182

ATTENTION PROPERTY OWNERS

Page 2 of 2

PARCEL MAP

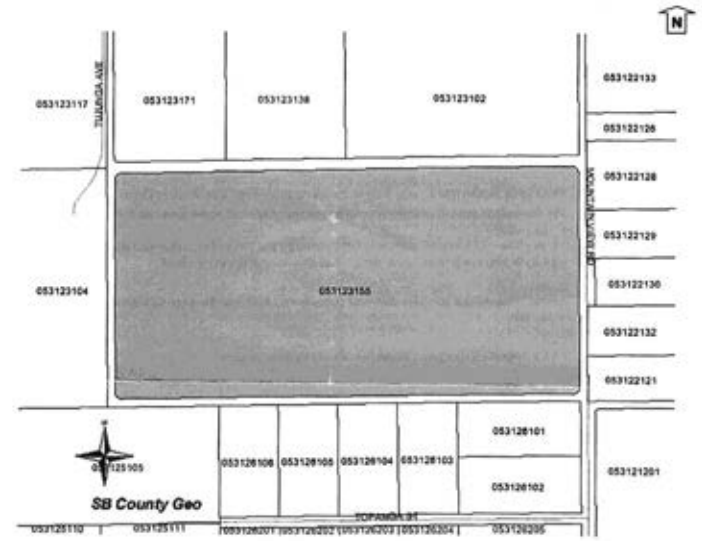


**Table 2**: A Comparison of the Original and Revised Project Impacts

| | **Original Project** (Solutions for Utilities) | **Revised Project** (Concentrix CPV) |
|---|---|---|
| Land Use | • Significant grading<br>• Land exclusively used for the proposed solar PV Project | • Minimal grading (if at all)<br>• With this technology, the use of the site for solar electricity generation does not preclude the potential dual use for other RL compatible uses e.g., a residence or accessory crop production |
| Hazardous Material | Thousands of PV wafers[1] needed | 325 times less semiconducting material than regular PV |
| Fire Access | Specific roadway designated for emergency vehicles' access. | All rows wide enough for emergency vehicles |
| Vegetation | No plant life can live underneath | Vegetation can grow below trackers; therefore, site regenerates faster compared to the original project |
| Sun glare | Sunlight reflects off of the metal frames | None |

**This highly biased and selective table by the county's Land Use Services Department, to promote the Concentrix equipment, represents pro-propaganda and some items do not reflect reality:**

**• Land Use - The new (Concentrix CPV) installation has fully graded and disturbed the land; and both proposals could have designated dual use of the excess land.**

**• Hazardous Material - The different (Concentrix CPV) technology still uses hazardous materials.**

**• Fire Access - Emergency access continues to be necessary.**

**• Vegetation - Still needs to be limited underneath the trackers for fire protection.**

**• Sun glare - The photovoltaic panels being raised and placed on Concentrix sun trackers greatly amplify the possibility of sun glint and glare over a far greater area than the original stationary low-to-the-ground proposal. The original project had some reflection concerns from the frames; the new Concentrix designed installation will create glint and glare from massive upright photovoltaic panels that will act as mirrors and move.**

**This table, and the supporting claims behind it, was used to spin antidotal evidence for the county to avoid having to perform a necessary EIR as the lead agency.**

DESERT DISPATCH
WWW.DESERTDISPATCH.COM

## Controversial solar plant completed in Newberry Springs

BROOKE SELF
2013-07-11 09:29:19

NEWBERRY SPRINGS • A solar plant that caused an outcry from its Newberry Springs neighbors and spurred the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to pass a moratorium for future solar projects has been completed.

The 1.5-megawatt Newberry Solar 1 project by Soitec Solar Development LLC is the largest concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) power plant in California.

The plant comprises 12 panels, each one 1,130 square feet in size. The panels will operate under unique sun-tracking technology and allow for greater efficiency, or the delivery of about twice the efficiency of conventional photovoltaic panels, according to a news release. The solar power plant also connects directly to Southern California Edison's distribution network and will provide approximately 500 Southern California homes with renewable energy, the release stated.

Newberry Springs residents were outraged after new owners of the project dramatically increased the size of the panels. The original plans included the use of photovoltaic panels about 6-to-7 feet in height. The current panels are 27 feet tall and 47 feet in length. A county notification sent to locals stated that modifications meant the project would "use less land disturbance on the same 27-acre portion of a 73-acre parcel."

Local resident Robert Berkman found that deceiving. He had said that the project's location contradicted the reason he lived in the unincorporated community — to view the natural scenery.

"The road is called Mountain View and right now there are no mountains in that view," Berkman told the Desert Dispatch in March.

Jim Doles of Newberry Springs lives across the street from the project on Mountain View Road. While initially opposed to the location of the solar plant, Doles said he has now warmed up to the company and the project.

"As we went along I found myself speaking at public hearings against the project and I found myself opening up with the statement 'I'm not opposed to solar energy but it doesn't belong across the street in a neighborhood,'" Doles said.

Later he said he saw "things almost in direct opposition." He said he didn't want to be a "NIMBY" or "Not In My Back Yard" person.

"My belief system in all of this is not that shallow," he said. "The project planners through Soitec are doing all they can to mitigate the affects of the project they put in."

For example, after Doles was outspoken about one particular issue, loose dust in the area of the project, he was also able to sit down with the project manager Brian Barker, he said. Barker worked with Doles to prevent what is termed "fugitive dust" from the solar plant lands. When the panels were installed the company graded the land and uprooted the natural "desert asphalt," he said.

The company plans to install soil stabilization fertilizer that will help to alleviate the issue, according to Doles.

"I'm accepting it because I'm in favor of alternative energy and as long as they can address my little concerns — having dust burying my house — then I'm for it," he said. "They're going to be quiet neighbors; I'm not going to hear loud rock music. It's going to be a silent operation for the most part."

The county's temporary 45-day moratorium on future solar projects was approved on June 12, following the Newberry Springs solar plant complaints. The moratorium put a temporary hold on all industrial solar projects that have not been approved and allowed the county time to incorporate renewable energy into their General Plan, according to previous reports.

Contact the writer:BSelf@DesertDispatch.com or 760-256-4123.

Jul 16 2013, 01:40am | Edgar A. Gunther

# Soitec completes Newberry Solar 1 Project

[Newberry Springs, California USA]

*In Search of Soitec's Newberry Solar 1 Project and AAA.*


From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

With "*Soitec completes its first solar power plant in California with modules from its new San Diego manufacturing facility*", Soitec SA (EPA:SOI) announced the completion of the 1.5 MWac (MegaWatt – alternating current) Newberry Solar 1 project during Intersolar North America 2013.

Developed and constructed by Soitec Solar Development, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Soitec, electricity generated by Newberry Solar 1 will be sold to Southern California Edison (SCE), an Edison International (NYSE:EIX) company, under the CREST (California Renewable Energy Small Tariff) program over a twenty (20) year period.


From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

Newberry Solar I used 720 CX-M500 CPV (Concentrator Photovoltaic) modules manufactured at the Soitec San Diego facility I visited in the *Soitec Concentrator Photovoltaic Factory Grand Opening Tour*. Since each Concentrix CX-S530 CPV system has twelve (12) CX-M500 CPV modules, Newberry Solar 1 has a total of sixty (60) CX-S530 CPV systems.

From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

Soitec also said the San Diego facility is supposed to reach its full 280 MWp (MegaWatt-peak) production capacity by October 2013, implying the addition of two (2) front-end assembly lines.

**July 4th Site Visit**

As foreshadowed by *The Soitec Concentrator Photovoltaic Newberry Springs Uprising* post, Newberry Springs was the first stop on my July 4th holiday weekend SoCal (Southern California) Road Trip. Arriving late in the afternoon, I was disappointed to find the Soitec solar plant offline with all of the Concentrix CX-S530 CPV systems stowed. I had expected the plant to be operating.

From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

Through onsite and photo analysis, I was able to confirm there are 60 CX-S530 CPV systems at Newberry Solar I. However, the arrangement differs from the Site Plan submitted in the San Bernardino County Conditional Use Permit. From north to south, the CPV systems are built in six (6) east to west oriented rows of 14, 14, 13, 6, 6, and 7. I think each row of CPV systems is justified towards the western edge of the property as shown in the inset photos and the Picasa slideshow. It appears Newberry Solar I was built on the northern Area A sized 14.4 acres (5.75 hectares) shown on the Site Plan.

From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

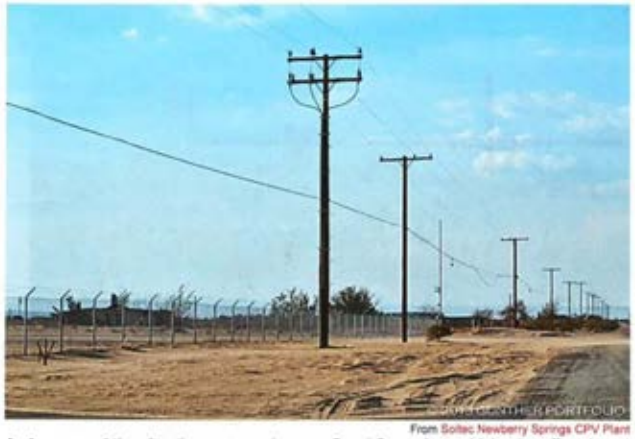
I surveyed the site and neighboring properties for visual impacts and glare. The property to the north appears abandoned with nothing but building ruins. Neighbors to the east and west will have obstructed views of sunsets and sunrises respectively but still have good mountain views to the north and south. The southern neighbor will have certain views of the distant northern mountains obstructed. I could not assess the full impact of glare from the project since the systems were stowed. The metal trackers themselves did not create any noticeable glare as can be seen in the photos. I guess I'll need to revisit the Newberry Solar I CPV plant again!


From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

"*Controversial solar plant completed in Newberry Springs*" by Brooke Self for the *DesertDispatch.com* has the latest on local resident reactions. In my opinion, the biggest issues with the Newberry Solar I project changes were the sparse resident notification and the de-emphasis of the quadrupled array height by San Bernardino County in the project review.

**My first AAA experience**

Well, this was not my first solar site survey or desert visit. As I pulled off the edge of the lightly trafficked asphalt Mountain View Road, my rear wheel drive sport coupe sunk into the loose shoulder sand. Thinking the better of my maneuver, I tried to reverse back onto the road without success.



From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

As I assessed the situation, not one but two Good Samaritans driving by offered assistance. Since the temperature was about 107 Fahrenheit (41.7 Celsius), I got the impression folks living in the desert are sensitive to the dangers and eager to pay it forward just in case they need help one day.

Since I had joined AAA, the American Automobile Association or "Triple A", years earlier when I began these desert tours, I called them for professional help and the towing company dispatched from Barstow arrived at the exact time of the initial estimate! Maybe I should upgrade my AAA membership level?

While waiting for the towing company, I continued to take photos and was completing my survey when a third car pulled into the solar plant entrance driveway. I was a bit concerned about these two gentlemen until one of them unlocked the gate and then drove into the plant. Of course, they were the evening and nighttime security for Newberry Solar I!


From Soitec Newberry Springs CPV Plant

Earlier, when I pulled onto the gravel shoulder of the I-40 access road to get my bearings to the project, another motorist stopped to check if I needed help. When I explained I was looking for the new solar plant, the resident directed me to the old parabolic trough Solar Electric Generating Station I (SEGS I) and SEGS II plants in Daggett. Not everyone in Newberry Spring knows or is concerned about the Newberry Solar I plant.

Newberry Springs was the undisclosed location.

INSIDER
Solar PV business intelligence

Published on *PV Insider* (http://news.pv-insider.com)

# CPV Intelligence Brief 10 – 23 July 2013

Posted by Katherine Steiner Dicks [1] on Jul 23, 2013

Soitec completes California's largest CPV plant

**Companies mentioned: Soitec, Southern California Edison, Newberry Solar Project, Solar Systems, Silex Systems, Mildura Solar Demonstration Facility, Diamond Energy**

*CPV Intelligence Brief 10 – 23 July 2013*

**Soitec completes California's largest CPV plant**

France-based Soitec, a semiconductor company that specialises in CPV technology and module manufacturing, has completed construction of the 1.5 $MW_{AC}$ Newberry Solar 1 project in San Bernardino County, California. Renewable power generated by Newberry Solar 1 will be sold to Southern California Edison under a 20-year power purchase agreement. It is the largest concentrator photovoltaic (CPV) power plant in California, featuring Soitec's latest and most efficient technology with modules manufactured in nearby San Diego.

"This announcement represents a major milestone for Soitec in establishing its newest generation of CPV technology and a critical step in our ambitious deployment plans in the region," said Gaetan Borgers, executive vice president of Soitec's Solar Energy Division.

"Newberry Solar 1 is the first solar power plant constructed in the U.S. with our most advanced CPV modules shipped directly from our new San Diego manufacturing facility. With a current production capacity of 280 MWp and a worldwide pipeline of solar power plant projects totalling hundreds of megawatts, we're very happy to show that our new product is now shipping and can be installed and operational in a very short timeframe."

The Newberry Solar 1 power plant connects directly to Southern California Edison's distribution network and will provide approximately 500 Southern California homes with clean, renewable energy while offsetting the emission of almost 2,300 tons of carbon dioxide each year.

The factory, commissioned in December 2012, is currently targeted to reach its full capacity of 280 MWp by October 2013, making Soitec the third largest solar module manufacturer in the U.S.

**Australia's largest CPV plant connects to grid**

Solar Systems, a utility scale solar power technology, and wholly owned subsidiary of Silex Systems has opened its 1.5MW Mildura Solar Demonstration Facility, which is Australia's largest concentrated photovoltaic (CPV) solar power plant.

Earlier this month the official opening of the plant was delivered by Victorian Energy and Resources Minister The Hon. Nicholas Kotsiras MP, and other distinguished guests, who were be given a tour of the new facility.

The plant is now connected to the national grid and providing enough electricity to power

Up to 500 average sized homes under a PPA with Diamond Energy, which was signed in 2012.

"The official opening of the Mildura Solar Demonstration Facility is a seminal milestone

for Australian clean energy and an outstanding showcase of Australian innovation," Silex Managing Director and CEO Michael Goldsworthy said in a statement.

The project is expected to demonstrate the economic feasibility of the company's Dense Array CPV dish technology for utility is expected to demonstrate the economic feasibility of

the company's 'Dense Array' CPV dish technology for utility scale solar power generation.

**Soitec ready for efficiency step change**

CPV technology developer and module makerSoitec announced recently at a North American trade conference that it has plans to produce a 50 per cent efficient cell, which could push the NREL's roadmap by up to ten years.

During a talk the company's chief executive officer, Gaetan Borgers said that the industry needed a step change and by using a smart cell- a four junction cell which is currently under development- the company is set to reach the 50 per cent efficiency mark by as soon as 2015.

The company is collaborating its research efforts with Germany's Fraunhofer Institute. The company began working towards this goal close to two years ago and has since reported efficacy rate milestones, including one this year reaching 43.6 per cent.

Borgers expressed in his talk that if it reaches a 50 per cent efficiency rate the company could install solar power at a levelised cost of energy of $80 per MWh, which could hit the price point that will give the company and CPV industry the step change it needs to get utility scale applications off the ground in ideal CPV locations.

**Links:**
[1] http://news.pv-insider.com/users/katherine-steiner-dicks

## Soitec To Shutter German CPV Manufacturing, "Regroup" at Its San Diego Facility

Meg Cichon, Associate Editor, RenewableEnergyWorld.com
August 02, 2013 | 0 Comments

New Hampshire, USA --Soitec, one of the few remaining active concentrating solar photovoltaic (CPV) manufacturers, announced that it plans to shut down its 40-megawatt (MW) plant in Freiburg, Germany, according to reports from Photon and several German outlets.

In a financial release last week, Soitec stated that it is "assessing the option to regroup its solar manufacturing operations at its San Diego, California facility in order to improve the cost-base structure of the Solar Energy Division." Indeed, the company intends to consolidate its manufacturing efforts to "only high-volume manufacturing" at its 280-MW manufacturing plant in San Diego, which opened its doors in late 2012, according to Camille Darnaud-Dufour, vice president of communications. The San Diego plant is currently operating at 140 MW of capacity.

Research and development, marketing and product development will remain at the German site, confirmed Darnaud-Dufour; however, according to Photon, Soitec will lay off around 70 of its 200 workers there.

Soitec has made some recent positive strides lately. It teamed up with the Fraunhofer Institute for Solar Energy Systems to develop its first four-junction cell ("smart cell"), which scored 43.6 percent efficiency at a concentration factor of 319 suns. CPV technology thrives in areas of high direct solar insolation (DSI), and uses special optics (mirrors or lenses) to concentrate sunlight on these highly efficient photovoltaic cells, which are mounted together on a glass plate and placed on a tracker. Its new "smart cell" is manufactured with what it calls "smart cut" and "smart stack" technology that it says allows cells to stack without lattice matching. It hopes to reach 50 percent efficiency by 2015.

In July, Soitec completed its 1.5-MW Newberry Solar 1 plant in San Bernadino, Calif., the largest CPV plant in the state. In June the company announced a 1-MW pilot project in Saudi Arabia (the country will use the plant to determine future CPV deployment). Soitec is also set to complete its 44-MW plant in South Africa by 2014, which will be the largest CPV plant in the world, and some of its modules will be shipped there from its San Diego facility.

CPV technology is well-suited for areas close to Soitec's Calif. plant, and it is eager to break into surrounding markets (it recently installed pilot projects in Chile). "We are already very active in the San Diego area and in Latin America," said Darnaud-Dufour. "[Soitec] technology is best where DNI is high, [the] sun belt and Chile are very good examples."

Soitec's full restructuring plan is "still in discussion," and Darnaud-Dufour noted that more information would become available in the coming weeks. Stay tuned for updates.

*Read more solar energy news here*

**0 COMMENTS** REGISTER TO COMMENT

http://www.renewableenergyworld.com/rea/news/article/2013/08/soitec-to-shutter-germany-cpv-manufacturing-regroup-its-san-diego-facility