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## **CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION APPROVES BRIGHTSOURCE ENERGY CONTRACT WITH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON**

**(OAKLAND, CA) August 12, 2010** – [BrightSource Energy, Inc.](#), developer of utility-scale solar thermal power plants, announced today that the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved the first of BrightSource's contracts with Southern California Edison (SCE) for 117 megawatts to be produced at the company's [Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System](#).

John Woolard, President and CEO of BrightSource Energy, issued the following statement in response to the CPUC's contract approval:

"The CPUC's approval of our 117 megawatt contract with Southern California Edison moves us one more critical step closer towards constructing the Ivanpah project and to helping California's leading utilities meet the state's renewable energy goals. We look forward to developing the world's largest solar power plant with the highest environmental standards, and delivering clean, reliable solar power to our customers."

BrightSource has seven contracts with Southern California Edison for a total of 1,300 megawatts. The other six contracts with Southern California Edison are currently under CPUC review.

The Ivanpah project has been identified as a "fast-track" priority by the BLM. In February 2010, BrightSource received a conditional commitment from the U.S. Department of Energy for [\\$1.37 billion in loan guarantees](#) to support the financing of the Ivanpah project.

The CPUC's approval marks the third milestone reached by BrightSource's Ivanpah project in the past two weeks. On August 6, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued its [Final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)](#) for BrightSource's [Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System](#). On August 4, the company announced that a California Energy Commission (CEC) siting committee [issued a proposed decision](#) recommending approval of the project. BrightSource expects to have all of the final permits to commence construction in fall 2010.

### **About the Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System**

The approximately 3,600 acre project is located in San Bernardino County, California. When constructed, the project will be the world's largest solar energy project, nearly doubling the amount of solar thermal electricity produced in the U.S. today. Ivanpah will:

- generate enough clean energy to power 140,000 homes
- reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions by more than 400,000 tons annually, the equivalent of taking more than 70,000 cars off the road
- provide more than 1,000 local union jobs at the peak of construction; 650 jobs annually on average for its three year construction period
- provide \$650 million in employee wages over its first 30-year life

The project will consist of three separate solar thermal power plants and provide power under separate contracts with PG&E and Southern California Edison (SCE). PG&E will purchase approximately two-thirds of the power generated at Ivanpah and SCE will purchase approximately one-third. In all, BrightSource has contracted with PG&E and SCE to deliver 2,610 megawatts of electric power.

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**About BrightSource Energy, Inc.**

*BrightSource Energy, Inc. provides clean, reliable and low cost solar energy for utility and industrial companies worldwide. The BrightSource Energy team combines nearly three decades of experience designing, building and operating the world's largest solar power plants with world-class project development capabilities. The company now has contracted to sell 2610 megawatts of power to be generated using its proprietary solar thermal technology. BrightSource Energy's solar plants are designed to minimize their impact on the environment and help customers reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. Headquartered in Oakland, Calif., BrightSource Energy is a privately held company with operations in the United States, Israel, and Australia. To learn more about BrightSource Energy and solar thermal energy, visit [www.brightsourceenergy.com](http://www.brightsourceenergy.com).*