

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking Pursuant to Assembly Bill  
2514 to Consider the Adoption of Procurement Targets  
for Viable and Cost-Effective Energy Storage Systems.

R.10-12-007  
Filed December 16, 2010

**MOTION OF ALTON ENERGY, INC. FOR PARTY STATUS**

Harold M. Romanowitz, P.E.  
Chief Executive Officer  
ALTON ENERGY, INC.  
4039 Alton Way  
Escondido, California 92025  
Telephone: (661) 747-0990  
Facsimile: (661) 825-8299  
Email: [hal@altonenergy.com](mailto:hal@altonenergy.com)

February 4, 2013

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Alton Energy, Inc., a California Corporation, is a developer and member of the Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project, a closed loop pumped hydro storage project to be located in and electrically interconnected in Kern County, California. Alton Energy, Inc. respectfully moves for Party Status in this proceeding in accordance with Section 1.4 of the California Public Utilities Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure.

**I. ALTON ENERGY, INC. INTEREST IN THIS PROCEEDING**

This motion for Party Status is filed in order that Alton Energy, Inc. (“Alton Energy”) participate formally as an active party in the proceeding. Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project has received its approved FERC Preliminary Permit for 1000 MW of capacity, and is in advanced preliminary development stage. Alton Energy is an active member of Bison Peak Pumped Storage, LLC. Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project is located in Kern County, California, between Whirlwind Substation and Windhub Substation, strategically located in the Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project Area.

The Proposed Project is a large utility-scale bulk energy storage project that will provide electrical generation, capacity, ancillary benefits, fast ramping, frequency response and other valuable system and transmission benefits to the electric system. The project is strategically located in the center of many thousands of megawatts of renewable variable generation resources in the Tehachapi Region, near extra high-voltage transmission, adjacent to the LA Basin, and close to paths serving Northern California.

Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project is a closed-loop pumped hydro storage facility, with the ability to store a large quantity of off-peak low cost energy, and dispatch on demand to generate fast response on-peak energy and other benefits at times of highest system value. The Project will utilize proven and reliable variable speed hydro turbines to provide ternary technology with very fast ramping capability. The Project will be able to maximize the value of the large volume of intermittent renewable energy in the Tehachapi Area, increase the utilization of the most efficient gas generators on the margin during time of charging need, and displace large quantities of otherwise dispatched high polluting peaker plants during on-peak hours. The Project, through strategic and efficient dispatch, will ultimately help to improve the efficiency of the electric grid, and lower rates to ratepayers. Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project has an approved FERC Preliminary Permit for 1,000 MW of installed capacity, has a head of ~ 2,500 vertical feet, and will have a storage reservoir capacity capable of ~11,000 MWh.

The Alton Energy Team has many years of both wind energy and storage project development experience. The founding partners were the originating developers of the Alta Energy Center in Tehachapi, now at over 1,320 MW installed operating capacity. They were heavily involved with

the development of the 4,500 MW Tehachapi Renewable Transmission Project which is bringing substantial renewable energy onto the CAISO grid near the LA Basin from the Tehachapi Area, now the location of the Bison Peak Pumped Storage Project. Alton Energy hopes to contribute to this proceeding from their successful history and experience in regulatory process with the CPUC, CAISO, and FERC, as well as significant policy and project development experience. The Alton Energy Team has previous distributed energy storage experience in California directly coupled with wind energy turbines for capacity and firming.

## **II. NOTICES**

Services of notices, orders and other communications and correspondence in this proceeding should be directed to the address below.

## **III. CONCLUSIONS**

Alton Energy's participation in this proceeding will not prejudice any party, delay the schedule, nor broaden the scope of issues in the proceeding. For the reasons set forth herein, Alton Energy, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Motion for Party Status.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Harold M. Romanowitz, P.E.  
Chief Executive Officer  
ALTON ENERGY, INC.  
4039 ALTON WAY  
ESCONDIDO, CA 92025  
(661) 747-0990  
HAL@ALTONENERGY.COM

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