

## **2 more DOE loan guarantees awarded to Calif. projects**

**Colin Sullivan, Environment & Energy Publishing, 6-15-11**

SAN FRANCISCO -- Two more concentrated solar power projects yesterday won big-money loans from the U.S. Energy Department.

Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced conditional offers of nearly \$2 billion to NextEra Energy Resources LLC and Abengoa Solar Inc. for plants to be built in an arid, open section of Southern California that has become a target for large-scale solar development.

Loan guarantees of \$1.2 billion and up to \$681 million were offered to Abengoa and NextEra, respectively, for a pair of 250-megawatt facilities that were fast-tracked last year by California and federal regulators.

Abengoa's Mojave Solar Project is slated for construction in San Bernardino County, with the power going to Pacific Gas & Electric Co. starting as soon as late 2013. NextEra's project is to be located on Bureau of Land Management land in Riverside County, also under a power purchase contract with PG&E.

A DOE release said the plants' combined capacity would double installed concentrated solar power in the United States. Abengoa's will use solar trough technology, while NextEra's will deploy parabolic mirrors.

Other such projects to obtain large cash loan guarantees include BrightSource Energy's Ivanpah plant, SunPower Corp.'s California Valley solar ranch project in San Luis Obispo County, and Solar Trust of America LLC's 1,000 MW project in Blythe, Calif.

All the projects are being developed with an eye on the state's renewable portfolio standard of 33 percent by 2020.