



# Abengoa Mojave Solar (AMS)

Application for Certification  
Docket # 09-AFC-5

Informational Hearing & Site Visit

Craig Hoffman – Project Manager

December 9, 2009

**DOCKET**

**09-AFC-5**

DATE DEC 09 2009

RECD. DEC 10 2009



## Energy Commission's Role

- **Energy Commission (CEC) Permitting Authority**
  - Thermal power plants “50 Megawatts or Greater”
  - Related facilities:
    - electric transmission lines to first point of interconnection
    - water supply pipelines
    - natural gas pipelines
    - access roads
- **Lead state agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**



## Overview of Licensing Process

### 1. Data Adequacy

- Minimum requirements to accept application

### 2. Staff Discovery and Analyses

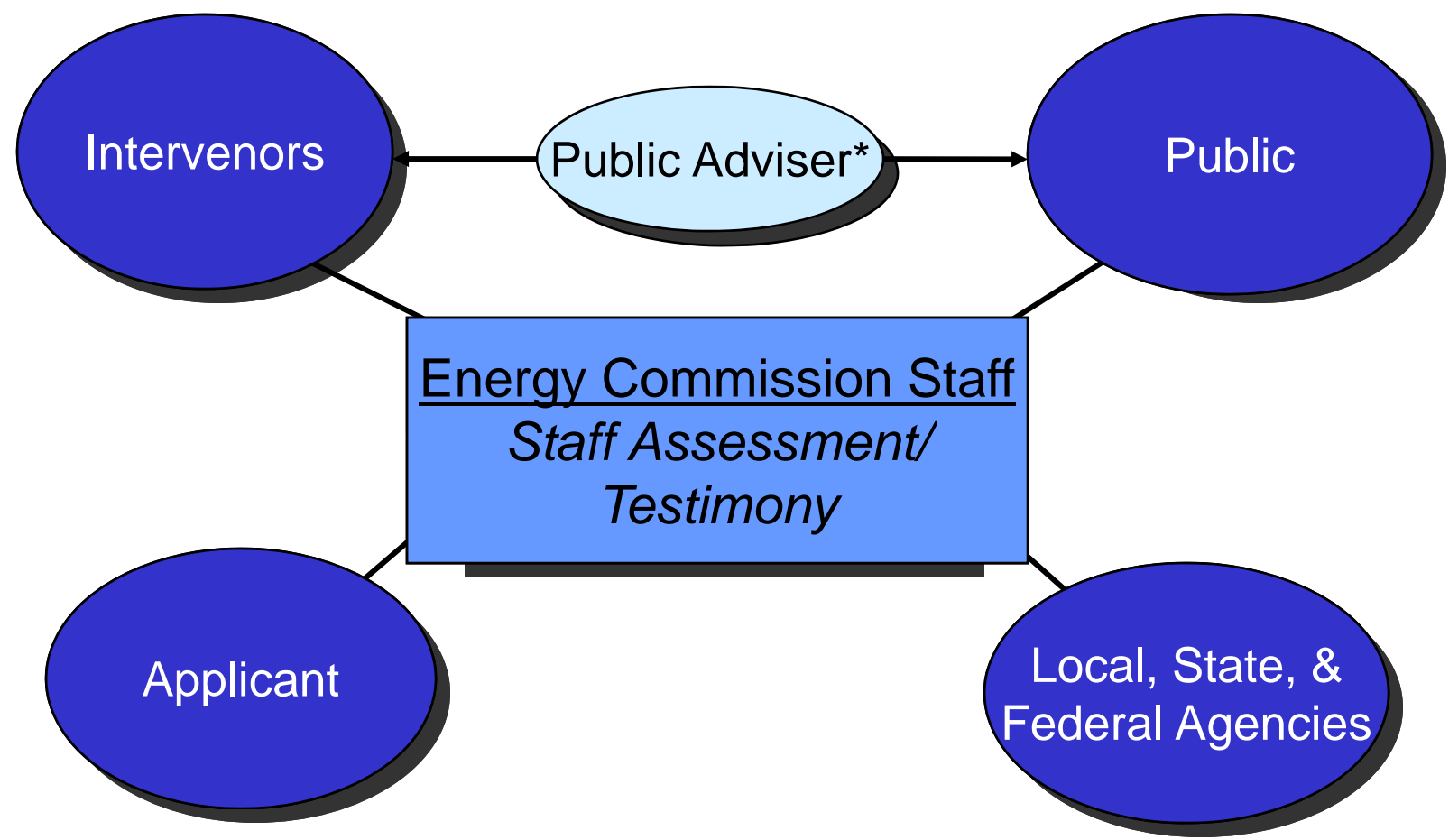
- Issues Identification
- Data requests
- Public Workshops (1<sup>st</sup> was held yesterday 12/8)
- Staff Assessments (SA)

### 3. Committee Evidentiary Hearing and Decision

- Evidentiary Hearings on SA and other information
- Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)
- PMPD hearing and Commission decision



# Discovery & Analysis Process



\* The Public Adviser provides assistance on how to participate in the CEC's public process.

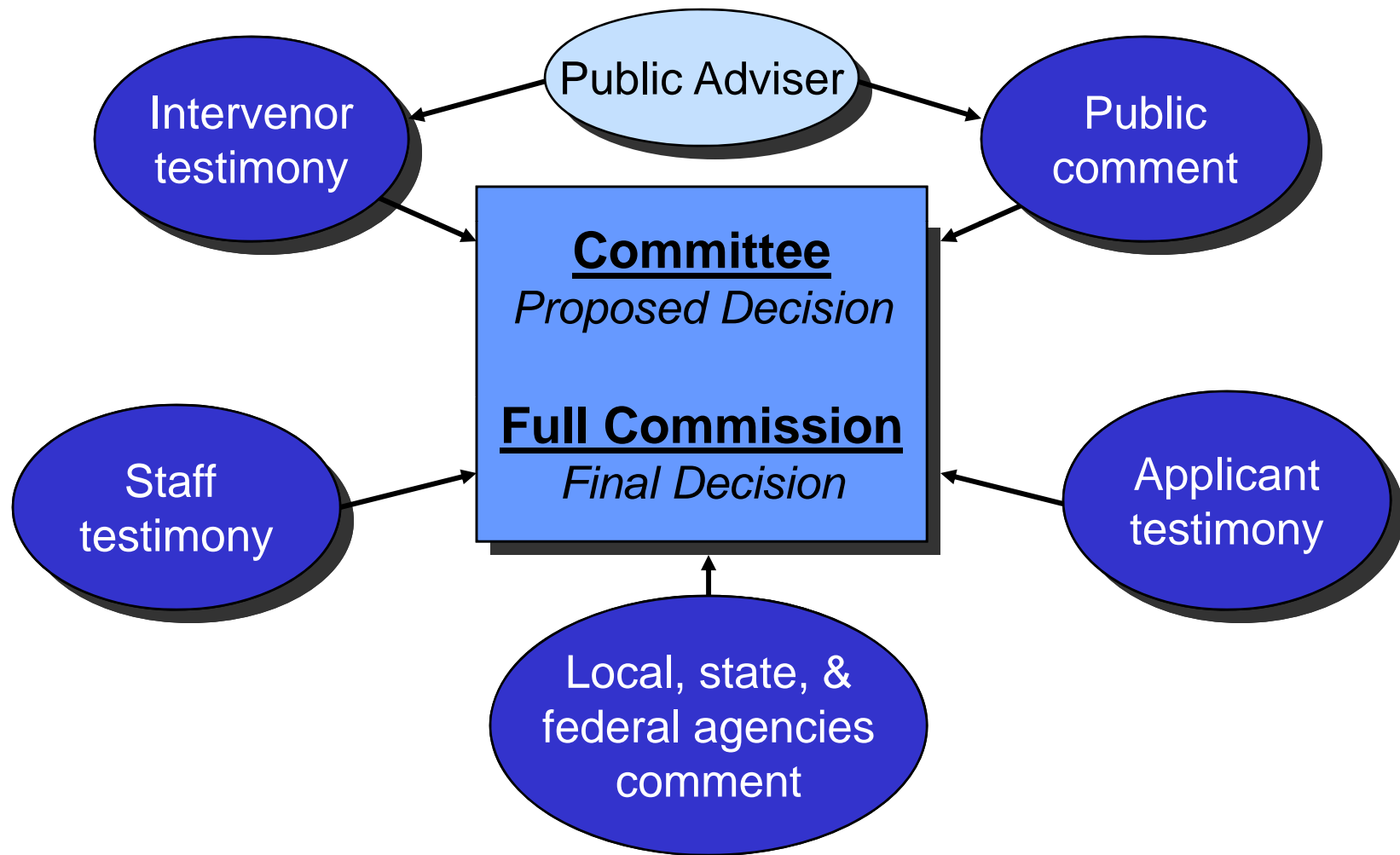


## Discovery and Analysis Process

- **Determine if proposal complies with Laws, Ordinances, Regulations, Standards (LORS)**
- **Conduct engineering and environmental analysis**
  - Identify issues
  - Evaluate alternatives
  - Identify mitigation measures
  - Recommend Conditions of Certification
- **Facilitate public and agency participation**
- **Staff products: Staff Assessment (SA) and Supplement to the Staff Assessment (SA)**
- **Make recommendations to the Committee**



# Evidentiary Hearing & Decision Process





## Evidentiary Hearing & Decision Process

- **Committee conducts evidentiary hearings**
  - **Issues Presiding Member's Proposed Decision (PMPD)**
  - **PMPD contains:**
    - **Findings regarding environmental impacts, public health, engineering**
    - **Findings regarding project's compliance with LORS**
    - **Conditions of certification**
    - **Discussion regarding agency/public comments**
    - **Recommends whether or not to approve the project**
- **Full Commission makes decision**
- **Energy Commission monitors compliance with all conditions of certification, for the life of the project and closure**



# Local, State and Federal Agencies

- **Staff works closely with local, state and federal agencies, for example:**
  - **Local/Regional**
    - **City of Barstow, San Bernardino County : Planning, Health, Public Works, Water Resources**
    - **Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District**
    - **Mojave Valley Groundwater Basin**
  - **State**
    - **California Department of Fish & Game**
    - **Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board**
  - **Federal**
    - **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**
    - **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**





## Public Participation Information

### ■ Open Public Process

- Workshops and Hearings noticed at least 10 days in advance
- Mailing lists: Energy Commission  
1516 9th Street, MS - 4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512
- List Server: [www.energy.ca.gov/listservers](http://www.energy.ca.gov/listservers)
- Energy Commission Web site:  
[www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/abengoa/index.html](http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/abengoa/index.html)



## Public Participation Information

- **Documents are available for public review at:**
  - **Barstow Branch Library, Victorville City Library, Apple Valley Newton T. Bass Branch Library, Adelanto Branch Library, Kern County Library - Mojave Branch, Barstow Community College Library and Victor Valley College**
  - **Energy Commission Library in Sacramento**
  - **Dockets Unit at the Energy Commission  
1516 9th Street, MS - 4  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512  
(916) 654-5076**



## Abengoa Project Contacts

### **California Energy Commission's Committee**

**Commissioner - Julia Levin - Presiding Member**

**Commissioner – James Boyd - Associate Member**

**Paul Kramer – Energy Commission's Hearing Officer**

### **California Energy Commission Staff**

**Craig Hoffman - Project Manager**

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### **Abengoa Mojave Solar Project**

**Scott Friar- Chief Operating Officer – Abengoa Solar**

**Fred Redell - Project Manager – Abengoa Solar**



# Staff's Issues Identification Report

## Purpose

- Inform participants of potential issues
- Early focus on important topics

## Criteria

- Significant impacts that may be difficult to mitigate
- Potential non-compliance with LORS
- Potential conflicts between parties that could delay schedule

## Potential Issues

- Water Resources



## Water Resources Concern

- Staff wants to ensure that the project will not result in significant impacts to other users.
- Staff has concerns about groundwater pumping in the Mojave River Basin.
- Staff has concerns that project pumping in this portion of the basin could change hydraulic gradients and cause migration of impaired groundwater.
- The Energy Commission staff will be working with the Mojave Water Agency and the Mojave Water Agency watermaster to fully evaluate potential impacts and feasible mitigation.



## Staff's Proposed Schedule

- **Meeting this schedule will depend on:**
  - **Applicant's timely response to staff's data requests.**
  - **Required actions by other local, state, and federal agencies.**
  - **Resolution of the identified issues.**
  - **The proposed AMS project, qualifies for the 12-month licensing process.**



# Staff's Proposed Schedule

	ACTIVITY	DATE
1	Applicant files Application for Certification (AFC)	8/10/09
2	Commission's determination that AFC is complete	10/21/09
3	Staff files Issues Identification Report	10/22/09
4	Staff files Data Requests Sets 1A and 1B	10/22 & 26/09
5	Applicant provides Data Responses	11/24 & 25/09
6	Data Response and Issue Resolution workshop	12/8/09
7	Informational Hearing and Site Visit	12/9/09
8	Applicant provides additional data responses	12/21 – 24/09
9	Local, state and federal agency draft determinations AQMD files PDOC	1/21/10
10	Staff Assessment (SA) published	3/4/10
11	Staff Assessment Workshop	3/23/10
12	Local, state and federal agency final determinations AQMD files FDOC	3/22/10
13	Addendum to Staff Assessment prepared	5/5/10
14	Prehearing Conference*	TBD
15	Evidentiary hearings*	TBD
16	Presiding Members Proposed Decision (PMPD)*	TBD
17	Committee Hearing on PMPD*	TBD
18	Addendum/Revised PMPD	TBD
19	Energy Commission Decision*	TBD



## Post-Licensing Project Compliance Oversight

- **If the project is approved:**
  - **The Compliance phase would apply during construction, operation & decommissioning**
  - **Purpose: To assure compliance with all Conditions of Certification and applicable LORS**
  - **Compliance Project Manager (CPM) – provides oversight of construction and operation.**