INFORMATIONAL HEARING AND SITE VISIT
BEFORE THE
CALIFORNIA ENERGY RESOURCES CONSERVATION
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

In the Matter of:           )
) Docket No. 99-AFC-8
Application for             )
Certification for the       )
BLYTHE ENERGY PROJECT       )
(Blythe Energy, LLC)        )

BLYTHE CITY HALL - ADMINISTRATION
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
235 N. BROADWAY
BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2000
9:13 A.M.

Reported by:
Valorie Phillips
Contract No. 170-99-001

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

William Keese, Presiding Member

STAFF PRESENT

Edward Bouillon, Jr., Hearing Officer
Lisa De Carlo, Staff Counsel
Lance Shaw, Project Manager

REPRESENTING THE APPLICANT

John P. Grattan, Attorney
Grattan and Galati
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801 K Street, Penthouse Suite
Sacramento, CA 95814

Thomas L. Cameron, Project Manager
Bob Looper, P.E., Project Director
Blythe Energy
101 E. Hobsonway, Suite C
Blythe, CA 92225

ALSO PRESENT

James H. Charters, Planning Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Desert Southwest Region
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Jeffrey Harvey, Ph.D.
Greystone Environmental Consultants, Inc.
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Sacramento, CA 95825

PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345
ALSO PRESENT

Les Nelson, City Manager  
City of Blythe

Robert Crain, Mayor  
City of Blythe  
Chairman, Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District

Roy Wilson  
County Board of Supervisors  
Mojave Desert and South Coast Air Quality Management Districts

Charles "Butch" Hill  
Assistant City Manager

David Avila, Captain  
Riverside County Fire Department

Quenton Hanson  
Palo Verde Community College

Gretchen Jessup  
Blythe Ambulance Service  
President, Chamber of Commerce

Ivan Murray, Public Information Officer  
Palo Verde Community College District

Charles Van Dyke, President  
Palo Verde Irrigation District Board

Virgil Jones, Board of Directors  
Palo Verde Irrigation District

Christine Herron

Charles Grotre  
Blythe City Council

Noel Muyco  
Sempra Energy

Angie Patel  
Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce  
Best Western Sahara Motel Owners

Pat Wolfe, Blythe Airport
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PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION (916) 362-2345
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PETERS SHORTHAND REPORTING CORPORATION  (916) 362-2345
PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Good morning.

This is an informational hearing conducted by a Committee of the California Energy Commission on the proposed Blythe Energy Project.

The Energy Commission has assigned a Committee to conduct these proceedings. And before we begin we will introduce ourselves, the Committee Members, and others, to you.

I'm Bill Keese, Chairman of the California Energy Commission. And I will be one of the two Commissioners on this Committee. To my left is my Hearing Officer Ed Bouillon, who will be conducting most of the activity.

Commissioner Robert Laurie, who is the Associate Member on this Committee, could not be here this morning, but will be joining us in the other events in this proceeding.

Blythe Energy filed an application with the Energy Commission to obtain a license to build and operate the Blythe Energy Project, a proposed power plant facility near the City of Blythe.

The purpose of today's hearing is to provide information about the proposed power
plant, and to describe the Commission's licensing process in reviewing the application.

Although it will be described in more detail later, I should mention here that this is a process that will be jointly conducted with the Western Area Power Administration, Western, who sits here to my right. And I'd like the Western representative to introduce himself and his role at this time.

MR. CHEVANCE: Good morning, my name is Nick Chevance. I'm the Environmental Project Manager for Western Area Power Administration. I'm currently out of Lakewood, Colorado. And to my right is Jim Charters.

MR. CHARTERS: I'm the Planning Manager for Western's Desert Southwest Region. And we're the people doing the planning for the interconnection.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. Recognizing this is Blythe the jacket's coming off right away.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: At this time I'd like the parties to introduce themselves. For the applicant, Mr. Grattan, who do you have? And
we're going to have to use mikes, please. This
mike, I would think we're like you to use this
mike, which is both recording and --

MR. GRATTAN: I'm John Grattan, and I'm
counsel to the project. And I would like now to
introduce Bob Looper, who will introduce the
project team. I'm sorry, Tom Cameron is going to
introduce the project team.

MR. CAMERON: Good morning, ladies and
gentlemen. My name is Tom Cameron, I'm the
Project Director for Blythe Energy.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: You're going to
have to speak to the mike, sorry about that, for
the recording here.

MR. CAMERON: Good morning, again. My
name is Tom Cameron, I'm the Project Director for
Blythe Energy. I'll be speaking this morning on
behalf of Blythe Energy and going through the
project, the scope, some of the things that we've
put together here over the last few years.

Bob Looper, if you could stand up and be
recognized. Bob Looper will also be presenting
with me. There's a couple of folks that myself
and Bob Looper would like to introduce as we go
along.
Two additional folks for Blythe Energy, Bob Muehlenkamp and also Dan Dickinson I'd like to recognize. They've been involved in the project on behalf of Blythe for some time now.

Before we start I just wanted to say a couple things. I wanted to thank the City of Blythe for hosting this meeting. It's been a lot of effort that they've put into setting this meeting up, and you can see all the presentation materials. This is a rather nice facility. I'd like to thank them.

I'd also like to make sure that everybody has a hand-out. This was at the front desk. If you don't have this, pick one up as you go out. It explains the project, gives you a few diagrams, and also answers some of the questions that you might have.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

Lance Shaw, would you like to introduce your staff.

MR. SHAW: Yes, I would. Good morning, my name is Lance Shaw. To my right is the counsel for the Energy Commission Staff, Lisa DeCarlo. I'll ask the rest of the people from the staff of the Energy Commission if you would please stand.
And you will know who we are. Please.

A bunch of us. I can introduce as you stand, if you'd like. Bob Anderson, you may sit.

Linda Bond is a consultant working with us on water. Bob is paleo and geo. Rich Sapuda, water.

Gabe Beheimer -- Bemeier -- Beheimer, I was right the first time -- Gabe, okay; air. You may sit.

Terry Wallace is a consultant, worked with us on safety. Steve Munro is a compliance project manager. Laiping Ng, transmission systems. Pat Owen, project secretary. Roger Johnson is in charge of siting; he's the siting program manager, my manager.

Bob Therkelsen to the back runs a division of environmental and project management. Kathy Matthews is cultural. I think I got everyone.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. Do we have any intervenors or potential intervenors? Seeing none.

From the agencies. The City of Blythe. Please. A transcript works wonders.

MR. NELSON: Members of the Commission, Western Power, audience, my name is Les Nelson, City Manager for Blythe. Pleasure to have you
here this morning.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Do you have
anybody else from the City of Blythe that will
be --

MR. NELSON: Everybody affiliated with
the City of Blythe, if you'd stand up, please.

Lord.

(Laughter.)

MR. NELSON: Rob Holt, City Engineer;
Jennifer Wellman, Planner; Butch Hall -- you can
sit down -- Butch Hall, Assistant City Manager;
Curtis Cricillias, Fire Chief/Chairman of the
Planning Commission; Randy Weiss, Planning
Commission; Jack Nelson, Building Official; David
is brand new, I'm not sure, David, your last name?

MR. EVANS: Evans.

MR. NELSON: Planning Department. Chuck
Grotre, City Council Member.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you very
much.

Do we have anybody here from the
Riverside County Air Quality Management District?

Department of Fish --

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chair, I should also
say that the Mayor will be here. His name is
Robert Crain. And in addition to the hat of
city, Mr. Crain is the Chairman of the Mojave
Desert AQMD.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: We will make
arrangements to introduce him when you let me know
he has --

MR. NELSON: I will do that.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. The
Department of Fish and Game.

Local fire protection district, other
than what we heard.

CAPT. AVILA: Mr. Chair, good morning.
David Avila with Riverside County Fire Department,
Fire Marshal's Office. And if everyone will stand
who represents the fire department? Oh, that's
me.

(Laughter.)

CAPT. AVILA: That's all I have to say,
thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you very
much. The Independent System Operator, the Cal-
ISO.

Do we have any other agencies for whom
somebody wants to appear in a representational
capacity?
Recognizing that this is a rather open proceeding, we will allow members of the public to comment at the end of our proceeding. But at this time if there are any members of the public who would like to identify themselves, they're welcome.

I'm going to start with a list of four who have submitted their names. Quenton Hanson, would you like to just come to the mike, please, and identify yourself for the record. And the testimony will be later.

MR. HANSON:  I have nothing to testify to other than my name is Quenton Hanson from Palo Verde Community College, Small Business Economic Development Center.

On behalf of the businesses and town I've heard nothing but positive comments in support of this project.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

MR. HANSON:  Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Gretchen Jessup.

MS. JESSUP:  Good morning, my name is Gretchen Jessup, owner of Blythe Ambulance Service and President, Chamber of Commerce.
PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

Ivan Murray.

MR. MURRAY: Good morning. I'm Ivan Murray. I'm the Public Information Officer for the Palo Verde Community College District. And I have a few comments later on.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

Charles Van Dyke.

MR. VAN DYKE: Charles Van Dyke, President of the Irrigation District Board of Palo Verde Irrigation District. And we also have Virgil Jones, a member of the Board of Directors, Irrigation District.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

Christine Herron.

MS. HERRON: Hi, I'm Christine Herron and I'm just a property owner, and trying to find out what this is all about.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Welcome. And Chuck Grotre.

MR. GROTRE: Chuck Grotre, Blythe City Council; also small businessperson here to comment on the proposed project.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. At this time is there anybody else from the public
who wishes to identify themselves. Again,
understanding you don't have to identify yourself
to be able to speak later. You're welcome to
speak later.

Thank you.

Noel Muyco.

MR. MUYCO: Noel Muyco representing
Sempra Energy. I'm here to comment on the
project.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. At
this time I'd like to also introduce Roberta
Mendonca, our Public Adviser. I'm just
introducing Roberta Mendonca. She comes later.

And, as I started, later in the hearing
she will explain how the public can obtain
information about the project and how to
participate or offer comments during this review
process. She'll also tell you how to intervene as
a formal party, should you wish to present
evidence or cross-examine witnesses.

We have scheduled a site visit to
observe the location where the project will be
built. Once we adjourn this hearing we will meet
outside at the buses for a tour of the site.

Transportation will be provided for all
those interested in viewing the site. We will
depart at approximately 11:00 a.m., and return
approximately noon.

There are a few logistical steps that we
need to take right now, and I will be handling the
next part of the program over to Mr. Bouillon.

So, Mr. Bouillon, would you like to start with our
logistical.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Yes. First
of all, on behalf of the Energy Commission I'd
also like to thank the City of Blythe for hosting
this meeting. And the Assistant City Manager has
asked me to inquire about how many people are
going on the bus trip and various factors about
lunch. And I'd ask him to come forward and --
Butch, would you come forward and you can ask your
own questions.

MR. HILL: Thank you, sir. Good morning
and welcome to Blythe. I do need to get a hand
count, at least, for the bus tour at 11:00. If
you'll hold your hands up.

We're about two buses short.

(Laughter.)

MR. HILL: Keep your hands up, please.

This is a stick-up.
PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Why don't we find out if there's anybody not going on the bus.

MR. HILL: That might be easier, then I can count all. An excellent idea, Mr. Chair. All those not going on the bus tour raise their hands. We have 16 that are not going that are in the room presently. Lock the doors.

(Laughter.)

MR. HILL: -- you will speak to the availability of taking your own vehicles following the bus.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Due to the limited number of buses, I think certainly some of us have cars. What's your bus count?

MR. HILL: We have a charter bus with 48 seats -- 47. We have two standby buses. Also, do we have any handicap needs for the tour? I see none, thank you.

MR. SHAW: Butch, I have another comment. We have about five people who are looking around at the airport and such who will want to go on that site visit.

MR. HILL: Okay, thank you. We'll get an exact count, but I know we have it covered.

Also, for lunch we have a Cobb salad and
we have scheduled 50 plates. I need to know if there's somebody who is not attending for lunch, again a show of hand, not attending for lunch.

Thank you, again. Again, our restroom facilities are out this door to the left in the hallway there.

And lunch will be served in the multipurpose room where we had the breakfast this morning. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. Mr. Bouillon.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Thank you. As Butch said, once we adjourn this hearing, which should be at about 11:00, we'll meet outside at the buses and tour the site, and return here around noon for the hosted lunch by the City of Blythe.

To give you some background on this case, Blythe Energy filed its application for certification, or what we call an AFC, and you'll hear that word thrown around a lot, for the Blythe Energy Project in December of last year.

The project is a 520 megawatt facility that will be built on a site about five miles west of here.
The purpose of today's hearing is to provide information about the proposed power plant, and to describe our licensing process along with the review process that must be undertaken under federal rules by the Western folks.

A notice of this hearing was mailed by the Energy Commission on April 20, 1999, to all parties, and I believe the meeting was also noticed by Western Power people.

In addition, we mailed notices out to adjoining landowners, interested governmental agencies and other individuals. And I believe the notice was also published in the local newspaper.

Today's hearing is only the first in a series of formal Committee events that will extend over the next 12 months approximately. The Commissioners conducting this proceeding will eventually issue a proposed decision containing recommendations on the proposed project. Those recommendations then would be reviewed by all interested parties who will be afforded the opportunity to submit comments on that proposed decision. And that proposed decision would then be reviewed by the Energy Commission as a whole.

It is important to emphasize that the
Committee's proposed decision must, by law, be based only on information that is contained in the public record of this case.

To insure that that happens, and to preserve the integrity of the Commission's licensing process, the Committee's regulations and the California Administrative Procedure Act expressly prohibit private contacts between the parties and the Committee Members. That means, in this case, Commissioner Keese, who's the Chairman of the Energy Commission, and Commissioner Laurie, the Associate Member of this Committee.

This prohibition against off-the-record communications between the parties and the Committee is known as the ex parte rule. Which are lawyer words meaning you can't do anything all by yourself.

This means that all contacts between the parties and the Committee regarding a substantive matter must occur in the context of a public discussion such as today's event. Or in the form of a written communication that is distributed to all of the parties.

The purpose of this ex parte rule is to provide full disclosure to all participants of any
information that may be used as a basis for the
future decision on this project.

Additional opportunities for the parties
and governmental agencies to discuss substantive
issues with the public will occur in public
workshops to be held by the Commission Staff,
which is an independent party to these
proceedings. They don't function as an arm of the
Commission, but rather as an independent party in
these proceedings. Those workshops will be held
at various locations in and around Blythe.

Information regarding other
communications between the parties and
governmental agencies is contained in written
reports or letters that summarize such
communications.

These written reports and letters are
distributed to the parties and are made available
to the public. Information regarding hearing
dates and other events in this proceedings, as
well as many of the documents, are available on
the Commission's website. And if you need to know
how to access that, you can get that information
from the Public Adviser.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: The application
for certification, or AFC process, is a public proceeding in which members of the public and interested organizations are encouraged to actively participate and express their views on the matters relevant to the project.

The Committee is interested in hearing from the community on every aspect of this project. And I'm glad to see that we have some members of the community here.

The members of the public are also eligible to intervene in the proceeding. And if there are potential intervenors, we encourage you to file petitions to intervene soon, to allow for full participation.

At this time I'm going to ask Roberta Mendonca, our Public Adviser, to explain the intervention process and to also provide an update on her efforts to contact local residents and other interested groups and organizations regarding this proceeding.

Ms. Mendonca.

MS. MENDONCA: Good morning. My name is Roberta Mendonca and as you've heard the word come up several times already, the Energy Commission is definitely dedicated to public participation. We
are one of the very few state agencies in the state that has a person like myself called the public adviser, specifically appointed for the sole purpose of helping you understand the process that's about to be undertaken, as the Energy Commissioners go into almost a year-long process of considering an application for certification.

So when they tell you that public participation is important, they're not just using the words. It is, in fact, an important element to arriving at the best possible decision on what's before them.

The role of the Public Adviser, with that background, generally I don't sit up in the front of the room, because I am not a decision-maker, I'm not a member of the Commission in that capacity, and I'm also not a part of the staff that you've heard will be doing an independent analysis. I'm not an analyst.

I am strictly here to be a guide through the process. And for that reason, the Public Adviser is neutral. I am happy to help you if you want to do cartwheels and can hardly wait for this project to be here, or I'm here to help you if you have concerns and you want to have those concerns
addressed before the process is concluded.

So, let me, before I go on too much further, say that for many of you this is a new experience. You've not been through this before. And you share that with my new Associate, Wanda Yepez, who's at the back of the room. Wanda is brand new on the job, and she is the Associate Public Adviser. So you may contact the Public Adviser's Office asking either for myself or for Wanda.

So, Wanda.

And, again, backing up the commitment to public participation I do have an 800 number. My number is 800 822-6228. And I'm also available on the email.

You're going to have an opportunity this morning before we're done to get an idea of really the weight of the decision that's before the Commission. And just to kind of help you graphically understand that process, in the back corner of the room I brought some documents.

Back there is a copy of the application for certification, which is what the applicant has submitted on this project. It is in two three-ring binders, and I think, if you stacked them up,
it would be more than eight inches high. It's a technical project.

The Energy Commission documents that are available for you to take a look at and go hands-on if you like, include the documents that the staff and the Commissioners will be producing as they go through that process.

To make it simply you might want to walk away with the blue sheet, which is a graphic explanation of the year-long process and the various steps.

And also because you will be hearing a lot of information this morning, there is a one-page summary of the project that the Public Adviser puts out; has my phone number and my email address on it.

So, back to what Commissioner Keese asked me to explain. Public comment is always welcome at any public meeting of the Energy Commission. And as members of the public your opinions, your attitudes, your thoughts, your concerns are a welcome part of our process.

Sometimes people wish to have an active role in our formal hearings. We call those hearings evidentiary hearings. If you wish to be
participating in the way of offering evidence at
those hearings, or if you wish to cross-examine
the expert witnesses at those hearings, you need
to file a petition to intervene.

And I have brought materials with me to
explain that process. The Public Adviser has a
guide which is a step-by-step walk-through of our
process. Actually the petition to intervene is
not a difficult process, but you do need to
understand, if that's your desire, there are
responsibilities.

And the responsibilities include being
responsible as a party in the case. You must be
prepared to serve documents and respond to all the
documents requesting information from you, as well
as being able to ask your questions.

I believe I've covered everything that I
intended to cover. I am available after this
meeting -- oh, one other comment.

Usually we have a sign-in sheet and an
ability to indicate if you want to get on our
mailings. So be kind of interesting, how many of
you are already receiving mailings from the Energy
Commission announcing our meetings?

Okay, for those of you that signed in,
I'm going to take that mailing list and add it to the Energy Commission's mailing list. So if you don't want to get our mailings in the future you might tell me before we get on the bus, or whatever. Otherwise we're going to use that sign-in sheet as a way to get you on our mail list.

Staff will also go over some ways for you to have information. The application for certification is available in your local library. And again, the Public Adviser is there to help you with the process.

Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Thank you, Roberta. During the course of this proceeding we're going to ask the parties to make their presentations in the following order. First, Blythe Energy will describe the proposed project and explain its plans for developing the project site.

Next we're going to ask the Commission Staff to provide an overview of the Commission's licensing process and the staff's own role in reviewing the proposed Blythe Energy Project.

We will then hear comments from Western about their role and their processes.
Upon completion of these presentations the intervenors, other interested agencies and members of the public may offer comments and ask questions. And specifically we hope that by that time Mayor Crain will be here and able to offer his comments.

Following the public comment we will discuss scheduling and other matters addressed in the staff's issue identification report, which I believe has been distributed to all the parties. And there probably are some copies available.

This will be a somewhat informal process, and we will provide time at the end of each presentation for the parties or members of the public to ask questions.

Before we begin, are there any questions about the agenda, itself? Hearing none, Mr. Cameron, you may begin your presentation.

Excuse me, Mr. Cameron, right before you begin I've been handed another card, Angie Patel has asked to -- has submitted one of these blue cards. Ms. Patel, would you like to come forward and say something? I guess she stepped out again. We'll get to her at the end.

MR. CAMERON: I wonder before we start
if we could get somebody who knows how to turn the
lights down to maybe dim them a little bit.

MS. PATEL: Oh, hi, I'm Angie Patel. I
represent Blythe Chamber of Commerce, I'm Board
Director, and I represent Tourism Committee, so I
was interested in this project and how it goes on.
And I'm all for it. And I represent motel owners
from Best Western Sahara. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Thank you.

MR. CAMERON: If any of you can't see
the wall, if you want you can stand along this
side if that's comfortable for you. Otherwise,
we'll just --

As the Commission has indicated, today
begins the public process portion of the project
development that we're here to talk about. It's a
formal process, as they've said.

I'd like to just indicate that for
Blythe Energy this process began almost two years
ago. For the last two years we've been working
with the local city folks, the landowners, several
consultants, Western to develop this project and
really bring a vision into play.

What we'd like to share with you over
the next half hour is what this vision is so that
you have a good concept.

Bob's going to talk a little bit about
the initial history of the project. Bob has been
involved for the last two years on this project.

MR. LOOPER: First of all, it appears
we're the only party remiss in introducing our
full project team. So, although it wasn't proper
order, I think what we ought to do is have the
full project team that we have here, Blythe Energy
folks. And I know Tom introduced the folks from
Wisvest, but I'd like our project team to stand up
and acknowledge them. So, everybody in the room
that's part of our project team, and for those of
you who don't know John, you ought to stand up,
too, just so that they know you're there.

Stay standing for a minute, and we'll
just run around very quickly. Jeff Harvey is
Project Manager for Greystone. They've been
heading up all the environmental effort. And he's
got members of his team here, Leon and Sally, out
in the hall is Kayne, Joel. This is all -- Mike
on the cultural resources -- this is all the
Greystone environmental team. Why don't you guys
sit down for a moment.

And they're all here, and other folks
here because of our workshop this afternoon. You introduced Rob before, and Rob also, we've been using Rob Holt and Holt Engineering to do all of our local engineering. And he's going to help us identify out on our field tour today what all those stakes are waving around the project site.

In the back we have Kirk Ketcherside and Bob Mooney from IGI Resources. They've been handling gas, electricity transmission issues for us. And they'll be also -- and all these folks will be on the tour.

And then Dan was standing up momentarily in the back from Wisvest, so, sorry that I'm a little out of order, but that is the Blythe Energy Project team.

I'm going to tell you a little bit about the history of how we got started in this project. And some of the events that took place for us. About two years ago we took a look at the Blythe area for locating this project. And we've really been in contact with the city in our own public outreach program. Some informal and some formal in terms of public meetings and presentations.

Over the last year and a half in the City of Blythe, my company, Summit Energy Group,
was the original applicant in going after and
actually developing this project. We developed
some 3000 megawatts of gas-fired power projects
across the country.

About January of this year Wisconsin
Energy and their subsidiary, Wisvest, which you'll
hear more about from Tom, has purchased the
project. They are the deep pocket -- I hate to
use that term, but in fact they are, behind what
builds one of these projects. As you know they
are very costly, very expensive. It takes a
substantial entity like that to build the project.
And they've been involved since January as 100
percent owners of this project. And that happened
in January.

We actually, back in November of '98,
for those of the Commissioners who remember that,
did our NOI, filing notice of intent. That's how
long this project goes back in terms of when we
started really the first process with the
Commission.

And then some other key things you
should know about is our first contact with PVID.
Charles, his group and the board, for the water
issues. And Western Area Power Administration,
they became involved when we filed our request for
interconnection back in October of '98.

    And that's kind of a history of how we
got to this point here, ultimately filing this
AFC, application for certification, this large
document which now is in front of us all, and
beginning this formal process.

    MR. CAMERON: I wanted to talk a little
bit about Wisconsin Energy. A lot of you have
heard about Blythe Energy, but Blythe Energy
actually is a wholly owned subsidiary of Wisconsin
Energy.

    Wisconsin Energy is an entity that is
made up of regulated subsidiaries, much like a
utility, Southern California Edison, for example.
We also have a regulated gas utility.

    Other businesses we have are more on the
unregulated side. Wisvest, who is the sponsor of
Blythe Energy, is the unregulated subsidiary of
Wisconsin Energy.

    We are developing the project. We are
allowed, by regulations, to go out and develop
projects throughout this country. Much because of
the deregulation of the electrical market.

    Wisconsin Energy has been in business
for almost 100 years. We have over 93 generating units. These are of many types of fuel, coal, oil, gas. This plant we're talking about building here is a gas-fired, natural gas-fired power plant.

Wisconsin Energy also has received several awards for its performance. We have very high availability in our generating assets. And we've also received several environmental awards. Because of the way that we operate the plants, we're always in environmental compliance.

Why Blythe, and for this project. For some of you, you've heard this before. For some of you this may be new. And I'd be remiss not to point out the city's newly acquired -- do I have to do an on-switch here, Jeff? There we go.

Our newly addressed aerial map of the entire city, showing the City of Blythe, the airport location. And you'll see these points on our tour today. And then the little area right there is the proposed site of the Blythe Energy Project.

So, when you get an opportunity, if you haven't already gone up close and taken a look, you will be able to see where the project's at,
and this is kind of going to be our bus tour route today. Going all the way over to the river crossing, over in through here where our proposed pipeline, and then all the way up to the project. So we've got quite a tour lined up for you today.

But, why Blythe? Pretty simple. It's on a major interstate natural gas transmission route. It's at a siting, for those people who have been out there, the Blythe substation, which is a Western Area Power Administration-owned substation out there. It has 561 kV transmission lines that interconnect at the Blythe substation.

We have access to water. As you know, we're right on I-10, so we have good highway access. There is rail access into the city which is important to us to bring our heavy equipment in. We perceived that this could be a good economic value to the overall community, which is where we started this process. And we believe that we can successfully complete the process.

This is not a simple undertaking. And you have to believe that you have done enough preparation and planning that you can ultimately succeed in permitting this project.

And so all of these were reasons why we
sited here. Site specifically, the site is a 76-acre project site, for those of you who don't know. It's right in the middle or actually in the corner of the Sun World property. Sun World owns about 4000 acres out there.

It's adjacent to the lemon grove which actually houses the Blythe substation. The Blythe substation being there. And on the map, in through here, you can see the little carve-out there where the Blythe substation is and the Sun World lemon groves around those.

The actual 76 acres is right here, that is the project site. We have two gas alternative interconnections that we've proposed. We will be constructing a new substation, ourselves, adjacent to the project, that will interconnect over to the Blythe substation here. And we're proposing to put some wells down for our water supply.

MR. CAMERON: These next few slides that I'm going to go through are really an overview of the project, itself, the power plant.

As I said before, the technology for this power plant is naturally gas fired, gas turbines. A gas turbine is much like what you'd find on an aircraft. It's just a lot bigger, has
a lot more generating capacity. We put a
generator on the back of this turbine and we make
power with it.

The technology that we're using is state
of the art. It's the latest and greatest
technology. There are only three major suppliers
of gas turbines left in this country, Siemens
Westinghouse, who we're using, General Electric,
and ABB. The other ones have just not survived in
this market.

The turbines that we're using are, as I
said, Siemens Westinghouse. There's several
different versions of Siemens Westinghouse
turbines. What we have selected, what we call the
V843A gas turbine.

And we have since revised our
application, revised the information that we
submitted earlier in December to reflect this
turbine, so that we've made the decisions.

These machines are highly efficient.
They're used in a combined cycle mode, and I'll
explain that a little bit later. They are very
environmentally friendly. The emissions that are
coming out of the stacks of this power plant is so
much less than existing generating units that you
might find in other parts of the country.

Because of the Blythe area, we've had to
do some, I guess, creative things with this power
plant design. It's very hot out here, as most of
you know. And in the peak summer month when it's
100 degrees, 110 degrees, we want to be able to
maximize the generating capacity of this unit.

So we've added some features like inlet
chilling. We will actually cool the inlet air
going into the gas turbine which helps the
performance of the unit.

We're also adding a feature called duct
firing just to add a little more capacity to the
unit. It's just burning some more gas.

We've also designed this plant to be a
zero discharge facility. We don't have the luxury
of interconnects with the city for water and
sewer, so we're keeping everything self-contained
within the site.

Just a quick overview of the process
here, for those of you that can see this. There's
really three elements of this power plant. As I
said before, we have two gas turbines. Each one
of these gas turbines are capable of generating
about 180 megawatts of electricity.
We take the exhaust heat from the gas turbines, which is about 1000 degrees, and through duct work we direct this exhaust energy into a boiler. And it's really a large heat exchanger. And by taking the difference in the temperature of water which circulates through this boiler, and the exhaust energy from the gas turbine, we're able to extract heat and make steam with this heat. And the temperature that is going up the stack has been reduced from about 1000 degrees down to something that's very close to 200 degrees. That's how we make this plant efficient. We're taking all of the energy out of the gas turbine.

The steam here actually gets routed to a steam turbine. We use this energy to create another 180 megawatts, thus giving the whole combined output of the plant of about 520 megawatts.

We're using groundwater to cool the steam, convert it back to water so we can go through the cycle. We're also using water to cool our inlet chilling system so that we can, in the hot summer months, cool the air to the gas turbine. And I'm an engineer so you'll have to
forgive me, but it's hard sometimes to explain
things in simple terms.

Our site is about 76 acres, and for
orientation purposes, north would be over on this
end here. Highway 10 would be down in the
southern part. We have about 76 acres, as I said.

This area here is for evaporation ponds.
Our wastewater will go into these ponds. The
ponds are lined. Everything will be self-
contained so that there's no discharge off the
site.

We have the power island equipment here,
which I've explained, gas turbine and steam
turbines. And we have a switchyard here that will
provide for an interconnect with Western's system.

A few additional details about the
plant. We have a gas turbine train here. Gas
turbine and heat recovery steam generator. We
have another one here, so each of these is about
180 megawatts.

We have a steam turbine generator over
here, which converts the steam to electricity.
Another 180 megawatts.

And we have a few peripheral buildings
and structures. An admin building where we will
have our 20 on-site staff to operate this plant.

We have a few water tanks here for raw water storage and demin water storage.

We have a cooling tower here which will cool our steam from our steam turbine. And also a cooling tower here which will serve our inlet chilling system.

And then over in the northeast part of the property, the switchyard interconnect.

This is just a 3-D model of what this plant would look like. Obviously it's not going to be purple or blue. It's going to be more of a tan color so it blends in with the natural background.

We have a steam turbine and gas turbine hall here. This houses the equipment that generates the electricity. Our boilers are here. We call them heat recovery steam generators.

Over on this wall over here there is a rendition here, for those of you that can see that. Also here. This is a fly-over that was taken of the site. The plane was about 500 feet off the surface, so it gives you kind of an aerial perspective of what the plant looks like.

In the background we have the power
plant; we have the evaporation ponds. You won't see this from the ground level. Ground level is going to look more like what you see in your handouts. There is a picture looking at it from highway 10. You won't see the evaporation ponds because they're bermed.

You'll see some of the tall structures that are in the power plant, the stacks, a little bit, and the HRSGs.

Bob talked a little bit about the land use. We have been working with the city, and the city is interested in annexing this property, the 76 acres into the city, along with other properties. That process is ongoing. In April it was unanimously approved by the city.

That plant is now in front of LAFCO, and has been in front of the -- the County of Riverside is also for it. And sometime, most likely the end of July, maybe early August, we expect that this annexation process will be approved, and the land will become part of the city.

These next few slides we're going to talk about some of the issues that have traditionally been major issues for power plant
sitting around the country. Because of how we've structured this project, because of where we're locating it, because of some of the design features we don't see these as big issues, as you might find with other projects.

Our air quality, we are currently in a federal unclassified area for the major pollutants. Most of California, for those of you that know, is a federal nonattainment area for ozone precursors and PM10 particulate. The federal EPA does not classify this area as such.

Under state law, however, we are nonattainment. So we are doing the right things. We are putting in the best technology that we can to control the pollutants from this machine.

Our NOx levels will be designed to be 2.5 ppm or less. Our CO levels will be less than 5 ppm. VOCs, volatile organic compounds, less than 2.6 ppm. These are really state of the art numbers for the industry.

We're doing this by using emissions controls that are inherent to the gas turbine technology. We're also using selective catalytic reduction, which will reduce the NOx coming from the gas turbines before it goes into the
One important thing that I think the Commission and the staff would be interested in is that we have secured our emissions credits. What that means is we are securing offsets for what we're putting into the air here. We're actually trying to reduce the total emissions for the state.

MR. LOOPER: It would be tough for me with the audience, with Charles and all you knowledgeable people about water to tell you the history of water in Blythe. You know it much better than I do. But obviously water is an important part of the development of this entire valley. And we're very conscious of water use in this project.

The project proposes to use groundwater up on the mesa. This groundwater is, in fact, brackish water. Brackish being defined 1000 or greater mg/liter total dissolved solids.

I think it's an important distinction for this project, it's important relative to state water policy, it's important relative to how this project fits in relative to agricultural development here. We wanted to be the least...
intrusive that we could in the valley. You know there has been some historical agricultural development up on the mesa. You can see the old circles that were there. I was told that you're growing asparagus. What else is growing out there, Charles? There was -- alfalfa was growing out through there. Very difficult because of the water quality up on the mesa, economically did not survive.

Sun World is irrigating up in through here, but for those of you that know, they actually blend that water. They actually have an agreement with PVID and they pump the water up from the canal up onto the mesa. They blend that water because of the poor groundwater quality in the basin.

So the first thing that everybody knows, that this is not fresh water. This is brackish water. It's very difficult water quality.

The next thing that you need to know is that we have spent quite a bit of time working with PVID and the Bureau in developing a water conservation plan that mitigates for the taking of water. And that includes looking at all the design features of the plant so that we can
minimize.

For those who remember a year and a half ago, the early slides came in at 5000 acrefeet of water use. That's if you remember. That was a big issue for the city. And we said, this is what we think we're going to consume.

We now, through some advanced technologies that we've invested in the plant, have gotten that consumption down to 3000 acrefeet. So we've done our part, we believe, in reducing our overall water consumption. We're re-using that water over and over again. And worked successfully with PVID and the Bureau in developing our water conservation plan.

The next issue that I think is in everybody's mind is transmission. Transmission is important to us. Why did we select Blythe? Why is this project here? And why do we think this is a good spot to put a power plant? And part of it is transmission.

This is a unique area right here because this substation is interconnected with several different parties. For those of you who have heard the term, the California ISO. That's the California entity that was set up to regulate...
transmission in predominately the State of California.

But some of you may know that Imperial Irrigation District is not a member of the California ISO. And in fact, there is another organization that's being formed called Desert Star. And Desert Star takes into players from like Arizona and maybe IID, and maybe the Western Area Power Administration. And that's a whole other entity.

And this plant would be basically at a mini-hub interconnected with several markets. The California market, the Desert Star area market, and several liquid electric markets including Palo Verde, Mead and other places in the system.

So electrically it made a lot of sense for us to put this plant here so that we could reach substantial electrical markets. And for our economic survival that's what motivates us for putting the project here.

There are 560 kV lines that come into this project. We are going to be constructing a brand new 230 to 161 kV substation immediately adjacent to the project that's going to allow us to interconnect with the system. And generally
the project improves overall system reliability
because there really is not a whole lot of
generation source south of Parker, what we call
south of Parker system.

And by putting this added generation in
through here, there are some benefits to the
system. And ultimately we hope there's some
benefits that accrue to the Blythe area.

The benefits that we hope ultimately
accrue to Blythe, talking about the electricity,
just having the access to -- we are basically a
wholesaler of electricity, selling it to a variety
of entities that we hope are going to be helping
the overall power cost in California come down.

By building the latest state-of-the-art
technology power plant at a very cost effective
basis, we believe we're going to provide a very
cheap energy commodity available to those
wholesalers, so that the overall price of power
can come down in the region.

We think that's going to allow the
Blythe area to become very effective in attracting
industries here, and in nurturing economic growth
and helping your power rates down the road.

We think that it's clean industrial
development. It's certainly compatible with the overall vision out at the airport to expand industrial development. And the Blythe project could serve as an anchor tenant for that.

There's certainly going to be additional tax base that's brought into the City of Blythe and Riverside County area on this project.

And we hope that there's some long-term economic value to businesses and the general area. This is no a short-term proposition. This is not a five- or ten-year economic venture. We expect this power plant to be around a long time.

MR. NELSON: By prearrangement, I did indicate to the Chair that when the Mayor got here I would let him know. So, if I may introduce, we have with us Mayor Robert Crain, Mayor for the City of Blythe. Also Chairman of the Mojave Desert AQMD.

And also joining us is County Supervisor Roy Wilson. Supervisor Wilson also has a spot on the Mojave Desert AQMD, as well as the South Coast AQMD.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Welcome. Are you -- one more slide? Why don't we let -- thank you.
MR. CAMERON: As a summary, for the last 30 minutes you've heard Bob and I talk about this power plant. We think this project has been well planned.

For the last two years we've been working with the city, with members of the community, with all of our consultants, with Western. We think we have all of the issues worked out. We don't think that there are any unsolvable issues environmentally or any other such.

As Bob has indicated, we're improving the electrical reliability of the system. We think, in the end, that the CEC process for approving this plant can be very expedient, and we look forward to working with them to solve any issues they might have.

Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. We have an order, as Mr. Bouillon has indicated, of presentations. We've heard the presentation by the applicant, then we're going to move to staff.

Mayor, this time would be a very appropriate time, if you have a few comments to make.
MAYOR CRAIN: Of course, I'd be the one
to break the microphone.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: I must say,
this is a very nice facility. It suits this
hearing very well. Having participated in a
number of these, I appreciate the facility.

MAYOR CRAIN: Thank you. We're glad
you're able to enjoy it and be with us here today
for this occasion.

For your record, my name is Robert
Crain. I'm the Mayor of the City of Blythe. And
I would like to make a few comments on behalf of
the city at this time.

We have followed the development of
Blythe Energy Project since its beginning about
two years ago. At that time we wanted to fully
understand the project and to know the people
which we would be dealing with.

For the City of Blythe, Les Nelson, who
is our City Manager, and Councilman Chuck Grotre
has been following the issue for us. We've looked
at the prospectus of land use. We've taken into
consideration water and other related
environmental issues.
We're now very familiar with the project. We've worked with representatives of Blythe Energy. And we believe that they will be good neighbors and an asset to the community.

As part of our review we visited facilities in Missouri which use similar technology. We presented the results of their tour to the city council.

We've discussed pertinent issues with Riverside County, LAFCO, PVID and other stakeholders, all with favorable results.

Blythe Energy representative addressed most of the community's groups, with three public information hearings conducted by the city.

The widespread support for the project throughout these efforts are confident of the overall support of Blythe of the project.

The City of Blythe has implemented many successful programs to stimulate economic growth, and I'm sure that we will have many more to follow.

In April of this year the planning commission, in conjunction with the city council, held a joint meeting and unanimously annexed the land west of the city to accommodate industrial
development, consistent with the City of Blythe's
general plan.

Upon completion of our ongoing
environmental review under CEQA, and a favorable
by LAFCO, the Blythe Energy Project can be
incorporated into the City of Blythe.

We firmly believe Blythe Energy is
consistent with our plans for economic growth and
will benefit the City of Blythe and the Palo Verde
Valley. We know that you do have a lot on your
plates. I read earlier this morning that you have
12 such projects, expecting three more very
shortly. So I know how busy you're going to be
and how full your plate will be.

We also understand that the siting of a
power plant is a very serious undertaking. The
community of Blythe supports this project, and we
hope that you will do everything within your power
to move this project through the permitting
process in the shortest timetable.

Again, sir, I thank you for allowing me
the time and opportunity to address you this
morning. And welcome to the gem of the desert.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you,
Mayor, and we appreciate your joining us, making you statement. Thank you.

Supervisor Wilson, I mentioned that our schedule, we've heard from the applicant, we're going to hear from staff and then others. You're welcome -- we'd be happy to offer you a chance to make a statement now or later, or both?

MR. WILSON: Just I'll be very brief, let you know that Riverside County is supportive of the City of Blythe in its efforts in working on the feasibility of this project. There is concern in the community about the air quality impacts, and I know you folks will look at that very carefully. And I'm sure that the best available control technologies will be used to make sure that the quality of this community will be maintained, while enhancing the economic development, if this project does go forward.

So, we're here to answer any questions and to lend our support.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you, thank you very much. Mr. Bouillon.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE BOLOGNA: Yes, we'll proceed with the planned presentations. Mr. Shaw, are you prepared?
MR. SHAW: Yes, thank you.

Good morning, my name is Lance Shaw, and I speak for the Staff of the Energy Commission.

What I'd like to do is talk about the process that the Energy Commission carries forward, and if you don't mind I'll use a picture on the wall that's been referred to. I'm going to sort of outline it, what goes on, and a little bit to the left of that would be what's happened before. Other people have mentioned it. What happens afterward. But most of it will be focused on about the next several months, totaling about a year from the time of data adequacy. So that's where this is headed. It's about 20, 25 minutes.

This is the Blythe Energy Project. And again I speak for the staff, the people who you saw standing, an independent staff who will be looking at all of these impacts and working with various agencies.

It was in 1999 that it was filed, December 9. And it was the eighth application for certification we received. So those are significant numbers, 99-AFC-8.

I am in the Energy Facility Siting and Environmental Protection Division.
The purpose of siting is to insure a reliable supply of electrical energy, and that it's maintained to protect the public health and safety and promoting the general welfare.

There are copies of this, and many of you probably already have that.

As has been stated before, there are five members of the California Energy Commission, two are assigned to each siting case. Commissioner Keese and Commissioner Laurie, who is absent today. Ed Bouillon is the Hearing Officer. His name is there.

And as part of the picture or puzzle, if you will, there's some pieces that still aren't identified and will be addressed as we go forward.

Dan Dickinson, who you met a bit earlier, is my contact representing the applicant.

We involve local, state, federal agencies. And you've met Nick Chevance and other people here from Western Area Power Administration.

I speak for the Energy Commission Staff, and as a project manager. Roberta Mendonca, Ed Bouillon and Commissioner Keese have mentioned intervenors. There's a role for intervenors that
has not been filled in yet. And you, the public,
we want to make sure the issues that you have are
addressed in this process. And Roberta Mendonca,
again, the Public Adviser.

Our siting process. The Energy
Commission's jurisdiction has to do with power
plants, thermal power plants that are 50 megawatts
and above. You may have a figure for that, but
I'll give you one.

If you look in your house you probably
have about 1000 watts going, or one kilowatt. A
megawatt is 1000 of those, so that's about 50,000
households, just to give you a frame of reference.

This plant being proposed is an order of
magnitude higher, about ten times higher. So
about 500,000 people. But that's our
jurisdiction, and we look at what we refer to as
linears. So when we get into our jargon, don't
forget to translate.

A linear is the facilities going in and
out. Roads that get you there. Transmission
systems that get you in and out, if they need to
be upgraded. The water supply, where it comes
from and where it goes. So those are the linears.

We coordinate with federal, state and
local agencies. And it is equivalent to a -- you
heard the term CEQA before, California
Environmental Quality Act. So there's a full
review of the environmental impacts. There will
be public workshops and hearings, not all in
Blythe. There may be some in other locations.
But today there's a workshop that's taking place
at about 1:00, after this. And you're in a
hearing right now.

There will be documents, reports, all of
which are in the public domain. We will tell you
how to have access to them.

We also understand that not everybody
can come to these because you have jobs. So,
we'll tell you how you can keep track of this, and
how to reach us. And several people have already
mentioned that.

Again, workshops, hearings, as Mr.
Bouillon said, notices, a minimum of ten days,
those are calendar days, in advance, so you'll
know where they are. Roberta and others have
mentioned the mailing list. You can be noticed on
our mailing list. And where you can obtain copies
of the AFC. The library in Blythe has a copy, and
there have been several supplements. We send
copies to all those. In Parker, I sent a copy, Parker, Arizona, which is the county seat of La Paz County, other side of the river. Riverside Main Library has copies, as well as the Energy Commission in Sacramento, and a number of other locations in the state.

This case can be followed on the worldwide web, www.energy.ca.gov/siting cases/blythe. So you can keep track of what's going on. Slash, slash, okay.

Calendar timeframe. Bob Looper and Tom Cameron mentioned the time that happened before. We would call that the left side of the puzzle.

Prefiling. We encourage applicants to call on the Energy Commission to find out how to file. It's a -- a lot of money is on the table and it's an involved process. Again, all the documents are available from other cases, as well. So the time of prefiling at the top, we don't have a number on that. It started about two years ago.

Then once the application is filed, the thick binders in the back, we begin to review to see if it has covered a sufficient amount of information to go forward. And that's called data adequacy. So once it's filed we have 45 days,
that's why that's minus, to render -- to submit to
the Commission whether or not our judgment says
it's data adequate. It attained data adequacy on

And so we're now in a discovery phase.

It was data adequate, yet we have additional
questions, as the gentleman mentioned, about air.
We will ask questions about air, about water, and
so on. And that's in data requests, where we're
asking for information. So that's in the
discovery phase.

Information hearing, you're here. Site
visit, you will be there. Data requests, this
afternoon we're scoping out the project.

Then about 120 days or so from today
start analysis. There will be more workshops.
Later we will present what's called a preliminary
staff assessment. We call that a PSA. That will
be made available. You can comment. There will
be workshops on the PSA. Then a final staff
assessment, or an FSA.

There will be Committee hearings where
we take testimony. Roberta mentioned that. If
you are an intervenor you'd be willing to give
testimony. And evidence will be heard.
A decision will come forth, a draft proposed decision. Hearings on the decision. And then the Committee's recommendation on the plant. That is certification and conditions under certification, if it's certified.

And so beyond that is the length of the plant. That could be 30, 40 years. Our process covers any changes that the applicant wants to make. Has to come through a compliance project manager. And that comes to the Committee. If there are changes requested from the conditions of certification, as well as plant closure. All of that is covered in the process.

This is going kind of fast, and I'll certainly take questions if you have any.

There will be workshops, as I said, data request. We will go over questions. We're asking the applicant very specific questions. Tell us exactly how you will do. And the purpose of that is to make sure the question is understood, not to get the answer. The answer is in a data response that may or may not be workshopped. It depends on whether the need is there.

I told you about preliminary staff assessment. There will be Committee hearings, and
such. The public is always welcome. You are in that box, and it has not been filled out. So, public is quite welcome in this process.

We want to make sure that if the plant is certified that it is consistent with the laws, ordinances, regulations and standards. We sometimes refer to those as LORS. Federal, state, local.

The environmental assessment, again, is equivalent to CEQA. It identifies environmental consequences; evaluates alternatives; identifies mitigated measures, how can you lessen the impact or attenuate the impact, for the engineers; and recommends conditions of certification.

Again, public participation. In this case it impacts two states, and that's why Arizona is mentioned. We don't have jurisdiction, but we want to make sure that we do not usurp the sovereignty of the State of Arizona.

Again, City of Blythe and Ehrenberg. And it mentions many departments. And Commissioner Keese asked earlier, are there members from Departments of Fish and Game, Air Resources, et cetera, federal, Western Power, Fish and Wildlife Services, and such.
Ways you may participate. Roberta asked earlier, please be sure to sign up so we know that you want to be noticed as things happen. You can provide verbal comments. You've been asked several times, and will be asked before this meeting adjourns, whether or not you have comments.

And you may become a formal intervenor. And Roberta Mendonca will show you how to go about that.

Contacts. How you can reach us. My name, as the siting project manager. I answer my own phone. And how you may reach me on the web.

Ed Bouillon, Roberta, Dan Dickinson, all of us are there. And, again, this is on handouts, which many of you already have.

These are issues which we've identified and now I'll read from the bottom. The main thing is might they have an impact on the schedule. Might they be potentially contentious. Might they not comply with local laws, ordinances, regulations and standards. Or will there be impacts that are difficult to mitigate.

Those are the issues. We've identified three, which I'll mention in a minute, and they
are to inform you. It's an early focus, and that
does not mean the door is shut on issues. There
may be others. This is what we've seen to this
point.

Our staff has identified as issues, air
quality. And that is do you have a way to
mitigate the emissions. Thermal power plants, as
well as anything you have that burns, has residual
effects. And PM10, you're probably familiar with
a meter stick, it's a yardstick that's 10 percent
longer. I guess it's on steroids. And if you
slice and dice that down to 1 millionth, you would
have a micron. And so that is particles that are
10 microns in diameter or greater. That's about
what talcum powder is. Or if you're in the rock
business, which I have been, those are fines,
okay, or less. And how will you offset PM10s.

Transmission systems engineering. As
Bob Looper and Tom Cameron mentioned, there are
five lines that come into the substation just west
of here. And they're 161 kV, to be upgraded to
230 kV. Anything that is involved in, quote, "the
footprint of the plant" is our concern. We want
to make sure it's mitigated.

Water resources. Do you need permits
from Bureau of Reclamation. Some concerns about water.

Those are the three issues we've identified, again, air, transmission system and water.

You probably wonder why this is here. Again, it's an attempt to show the transmission system upgrade planned by Western from 161 kV to 230. Some lines will be removed. Some lines will be coming in. That's part of the transmission thing.

I'm winding down. Again, just to give you a feel for the schedule and how we get that year. That application was deemed data adequate on the 22nd of March. Staff filed its data requests a day late, 5/2. I didn't change the slide. We're having the informational hearing today. We'll have the site visit today. We'll have the data request workshop number one today.

The Air Pollution Control District, we believe, will have its preliminary determination of compliance around July 21st. This is not a schedule in granite.

Preliminary staff assessment or PSA about September, mid. Workshops on the PSA will
be after that. Then there will be a final staff
assessment, as you can see.

And then down near the end the Presiding
Member's Proposed Decision, Executive Director
files a notice of decision. That will be about
the end of March.

This is my last slide. As a summary,
staff provides periodic status reports, to let you
know what's going on, to the Committee. And those
are available for you. To address the issues and
new issues that may have been identified, not just
the three, but more.

And then the next step, the workshop
this afternoon, the issues that have been
identified, air, transmission and water. And we
have data requests, specific questions of the
applicant. And we also have hard copy of those on
air questions, questions about biology, questions
about cultural, facility design, geological,
hazardous materials -- I know there are nouns on
the end of these but I'm going to just short-
circuit -- land use, noise, public health, safety,
plant reliability, traffic and transportation,
transmission system engineering, visual impact,
waste management, water, soil and worker safety.
That's all I have. I'll answer questions if you have them when the appropriate time is.

Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Mr. Chevance, are you ready, presentation for Western.

MR. CHEVANCE: Again, I'm Nick Chevance, the Environmental Project Manager for Western Area Power. Mr. Charters is going to give us an overview of what Western is, and how we're involved in this process.

But I'd like to beg your indulgence for a second. There are actually four people out in the audience that have not been introduced so far, and realize I should really introduce everyone. So, if the people from Western could stand so that I can just give you a brief introduction.

The gentleman in the blue shirt is George Perkins, an environmental specialist from our Desert Southwest office. Behind him is Milt Percival, who works for Mr. Charters. Young lady in the yellow sweater is Kathy Cunningham, who is an assistant to myself and the rest of us out of our Lakewood office. And Mary Barger, who is Western's historic preservation officer.
Thank you. I don't think there's anyone left.

I'd also like to thank the city, Mr. Mayor, for these fine facilities. And I never thought that I would come to Blythe and be cold.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHEVANCE: But I do appreciate it, gentlemen, for turning down the air conditioning. It was fine when I got in here this morning, and now I wish I had that jacket.

Jim.

MR. CHARTERS: For the record I'm James Charters. I'm the Planning Manager for Western's Desert Southwest Region.

And Mr. Percival is the brains of our group, so if we have a technical question we'll get Milt Percival to talk to you.

Western Area Power Administration is kind of a different organization, and so we thought we'd give you an overview of what it is. We are part of the Department of Energy, created in 1977 under the Carter Administration, out of the Bureau of Reclamation.

We take the energy from the hydroelectric plants and deliver it to various
preference customers. And we'll look at that in a second.

We are hydro power and high voltage transmission lines. We, Western-wide, have 17,000 miles of transmission lines of 115 kV and above. That's pretty good sized thing. You only make one mistake when you touch that guy. And it's wholesale power.

To give you an idea of the geographic, WAPA is this thing here. Being of Italian ancestry I don't like to use the term WAPA. So, --

(Laughter.)

MR. CHARTERS: -- if you call us Western I'd appreciate that. Only older people know that. I've said that to some younger folks and they didn't know what I was talking about. And I think that's great. We've changed, haven't we?

We sell our power to towns, cities, municipalities, rural electric cooperatives. Arizona Electric Power Co-op is one of ours, irrigation drainage districts.

We don't have them up here, but one of them is Imperial Irrigation District's one of our major customers. We sell our transmission, the
excess transmission to what we use for delivering
our hydro power we sell on a first-come/first-
serve basis to anybody that comes down the pike.
And we have actually a lot of customers.
What we don't do is we don't do
distribution and we don't do, in this case, we
don't do the generation. Our generation is sold,
is gone. We sold it out in 1984, 87 process.
It's an open public process that comes up in, I
think, was 2006, or something like that.
Milt and I don't get much sleep. We've
been working on these kinds of projects. We have
four that we're showing here. There's actually
six going on right now.
Griffith Energy is in the Kingman area.
South Point is north of here at just about
Needles. It's actually north and a little bit
west, just on the other side of the Topock Marsh,
for those of you from the local area, know where
that's at.
Blythe Energy, we're talking about. Big
Sandy is in the Big Sandy Wash about Wikieup,
those of you from the local area, know where
Wikieup is at.
Western follows the mandates of the
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. We are not FERC-jurisdictional, but the boss says we will, so we do. And we also, as such, have a formal request for interconnection from Blythe Energy, which we are processing in a FERC open access tariff manner. And, as such, we have delivered back the impact study of this project. And we've been working with them and the Commission to provide data that the Commission is requiring.

We will be going through another piece of that study called the peer review process, where we get together with our neighboring utilities and under the auspices of the Western System Coordinating Council process, to review all of the data, as well, on the impacts on the transmission systems and the ratings east of the river, west of the river, and all of this sort of thing that goes on with making sure that you have a reliability source.

Western's interest in this also extends to the fact that we have our customer IID, and our customer Southern California Edison, and we're concerned about the people of the City of Blythe, and the fact that we have three lines going in here means that somebody back along the way was
concerned that you'd have high power quality in this area.

I don't know what we can do about the distribution, but -- actually nothing.

(Laughter.)

MR. CHARTERS: But from a transmission point of view we're interested in making sure that the power quality stays very high. And I'm sure that the Blythe Energy Project, with a generator on your doorstep, will give you a much better voltage support.

So, if you have any questions of technical nature, ask Milt. Milt, raise your hand. Thank you.

MR. CHEVANCE: Thanks, Jim. Just to define my purpose here is that one of the -- when someone comes to Western requesting an interconnection, we have a handbook for that interconnection.

One of those requirements is that the necessary environmental studies need to be done. The National Environmental Policy Act, or also known as NEPA, was passed in 1969, and it defines a process for planning federal projects.

It does not mandate an outcome, which is
different from CEQA, in that CEQA requires that there be no significant environmental impacts without other steps be taken.

However, the NEPA process, the decision-maker for the federal government only needs to be aware of environmental impacts. I've characterized this to others that it doesn't keep you from making a dumb decision, but it does keep you from making an uninformed decision.

So if you wish to go ahead with something, at least you knew the consequences ahead of time.

However, in this particular case we're going to join our process with the CEC's process. Normally this type of project, upgrades to our system involving the addition of new generation in excess of 50 megawatts, would require normally an environmental impact statement.

Western worked with the CEC on a previous project and we hit a few bumps in the road. We have gone back to our regulations and found that there is a variance. And we've decided to apply that variance, because it matches the process that the CEC has already established. And it also keeps the amount of confusion on the part
of the public to a minimum.

So, essentially our environmental assessment process will mirror that of the CEC's process. When you see those workshops announced, Western will be there to take comment. When the staff files the preliminary staff assessment, that will serve as Western's draft environmental assessment. You will also have an opportunity to comment on that.

And when the staff files its final staff assessment, that will serve as Western's final environmental assessment.

Now, essentially the environmental assessment then leads the decision-maker to issue either one of three decisions. The first decision is if there are no significant impacts identified during the analysis process, Western will issue a FONSI, a finding of no significant impact. Then the application process will then continue.

Should environmental impacts be identified that may seem to be significant, Western can then consider whether or not the mitigation proposed for the project would reduce that impact to less than significant. Then we have something that's sort of a hybrid in the
business called a mitigated FONSI. In other words, it is a finding of no significant impact provided that the conditions of mitigation are followed through.

Finally, if we do find significant impacts that cannot be mitigated beyond the level of significance, we are then required to go into an environmental impact statement. At that point we would not begin the process again, but the process for Western would become much more intense.

We are following the regulations of the Department of Energy. We are following the regulations of the President's Council on Environmental Quality to insure that the public is fully protected; they have their interests protected.

If you have any comments for any of us, please come to Western. Any comments that come to Western will be shared with the CEC, and the reverse is true, I'm sure.

I don't know that I have anything else to say other than the fact that the public participation process is extremely important for Western. The amount of public involvement in this
process will probably be greater than normally
seen in most federal projects. And to that we're
very much grateful, because we do want to hear
from the public.

If anyone has any questions for us, I'll
be glad to entertain that. See none.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. And
I'll just say, on behalf of the Commission, we're
pleased to work this collaborative effort.

I was involved in the Southern Power
Project where we got started with the initial
try to work together. And eventually it
worked out. I hope this one sets a precedent for
the future, too.

At this time I'm going to ask. I did
notice there was somebody from the Imperial
Irrigation District here. Would anybody care to
make a statement at this time on behalf of
Imperial Irrigation, or shall we hold off on that?

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT
REPRESENTATIVE: I don't think so, thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. We
have no intervenors? Any agencies care to make a
statement at this time?

Members of the public, and would you
just start with those who identified themselves at the front end. If you would like to make a statement.

I do have a series of questions that have been submitted in writing. And you're welcome -- what I'm going to do first is ask those who would like to ask their question from the microphone, if they'd like to make their comment and ask their question. If not, I will read in the questions that have been submitted.

And identify yourself for the record as you come forward.

CAPT. AVILA: Mr. Chair, Members of the Commission, and audience, I'm Capt. David Avila with Riverside County Fire Department, Fire Marshal's Office, Planning Protection.

On behalf of Chief Larry Benson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to comment and discuss some of the concerns I have right now.

I think this project is real good. I think it's going to be good for the community and for the county, as a whole. And the fire department, also, with the County of Riverside. We support this project and hope it comes to fruition.
However, I do have a couple of questions for the project proponents, the applicant, regarding fire department and emergency protection issues.

The applicant has stated that he has worked with the city and has pretty much ironed out all the issues that they had there. However, when I read the text of the supplements, they refer to the county fire department as being the primary provider of fire and emergency services.

And in the discussion the applicant has suggested that the City of Blythe is going to annex this. And there's some inconsistencies here, and I'd like to know, you know, who actually will be the final provider for these services.

In addition, the applicant had indicated that the Blythe Energy Project will bring in industry to the Blythe Airport. Currently, right now there are inadequate water for fire protection at the airport. According to the California Fire Code, a minimum fire flow, and this is just informational, is 1500 gpm. And right now the infrastructure supports a little more than half of that.

So, a water source needs to be
identified to bring in the needed fire flows. And if we're talking, these are the minimum. Sometimes, depending on the size of the structure, the use, the hazard class, it could generate, you know, even twice the required fire flow.

And the project proponent had indicated that they're going to use well water which, in their terms, is low quality brackish. Which is not suitable for fire protection, as per the Water Quality Board of California. Now, we can use other than potable water, however this doesn't qualify.

So these are my questions for the applicant and for the Commission. And if they can address that, and if you have any questions I'll be glad to answer them.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. Having made the statement, this will be a subject that will be taken up at the workshop this afternoon.

Would the applicant like to make any particular comment at this time?

MR. CAMERON: Not at this time. We will address this at the workshop.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.
CAPT. AVILA: Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: It will be addressed in the workshop this afternoon.

Any other party?

MR. WOLFE: Right here.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you, come forward.

MR. WOLFE: My name is Pat Wolfe. I'm a local resident here in the Valley. I also run the Blythe Airport. I've got a small statement and I've got a couple of questions.

By being a pilot and living here in the Valley, we have an inversion layer that sets on this Valley quite often. This is the reason the weather goes around us so much.

This has two effects. It's like a fence. One that keeps things out also keeps things in. I'm worried about the pollution aspect of the exhaust.

The question is, do we have a monitoring system in the Valley now to monitor our air quality. And if we do, at what altitude is it taken? If we don't have one now are they going to put one in, and is it going to be continued to be monitored after the plant goes in? So we can have
a before-and-after effect of our air quality.

And you'll take it up at the workshop
this afternoon or can you comment on it now?

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Are you going
to be at the workshop this afternoon?

MR. WOLFE: Sure, I'll be there.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Okay, is there
anybody here who'd like to give an answer to that?
This certainly is taken up by the air district --
why doesn't the applicant give just a brief
comment. Would you mind giving a one-minute
response to that?

MR. CAMERON: Sure. If I understand
your question right you're concerned about the air
pollution and how it may stay in this area because
of the atmospheric --

MR. WOLFE: Yes, and do we have a
monitoring system in place now to check it so we
know before-and-after effects of this? We can't
put one in after it goes in because we don't know
what the air quality was to start with, unless we
have a system in place now.

MR. CAMERON: Um-hum.

MR. WOLFE: I know Indio does have a
system of air quality checks. It goes up every
single day at 5000 feet.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: You know, since
we're being recorded here, either it's going to be
up here or --

MR. WOLFE: Okay.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Why don't we
hear the answer.

MR. CAMERON: I can't speak to whether
there's existing recording here. I don't know if
you can, Jeff, or one of your consultants?

I think we need to ask our team some
questions. We are having monitoring of the plant
emissions. One of the things that is required by
the CEC and the EPA is that we monitor the
emissions from the plant. That's done on a
continuous basis. Those are recorded, they're
submitted as reports to the agencies periodically.
So that we will do.

MR. HARVEY: I'm Jeff Harvey from
Greystone Environmental Consultants, environmental
permitting for the project.

Just as a short answer for the question.
We are working very closely with the Mojave Desert
Air Quality Management District, and with the EPA
on formal air permitting for the project in which
all these issues are considered.

There is a major modeling for the project, all of the existing data for the area is taken into account, and then the emissions from the project, how the emissions will be dispersed, given all of the meteorological conditions here in the local environment.

And then we are required to mitigate for whatever those effects are. And that's what we are developing with plant design features, and with the emission reduction credits which have been attained.

So, the answer to your question is yes, those things have been considered. No, there's not the kind of local monitoring that you've described. And, yes, there is a whole process that the project has to go through for permitting on air quality issues to insure the protection of air quality in this region, as the plant goes forward.

MR. WOLFE: Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

MR. NELSON: Mr. Chairman, would it be helpful for me to just briefly address the first question on the fire issues?
PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: It would be fine.

MR. NELSON: Fire protection was, as I understand, the first question. And the City of Blythe and the County of Riverside have fire service agreements in all newly annexed areas, which means that fire protection would be provided jointly by both the county and the city.

And in terms of the fire flows, we are also concerned with that. And in the conditions of approval we'll probably be looking for the extension of infrastructure to the site, specifically to address the fire flow condition.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. I have a series of -- do we have anybody else? I have a series of questions I want to read which I believe are appropriate for the workshop this afternoon.

How does Blythe Energy intend to meet its air quality offset requirements?

An interdistrict trade is being proposed for this project, what is the proposed effect and how will this affect air quality?

In the interest of obtaining offsets we encourage the project to seek out local sources to
supply potential offsets before any other options are considered.

Those are the series of questions. I believe they're appropriate for the workshop.

Mr. Bouillon.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Yes, I have a question submitted by a member of the audience that I think is appropriate for response here. I think it's easily explainable.

One member of the public noted that the project involves two gas-fired turbines, each at 180 megawatts, and a steam recovery turbine that -- or a steam turbine at 180 megawatts. They added it up and got 540, and you guys talk about 520.

So, for the benefit of everyone, I'd like the applicant to explain that.

MR. CAMERON: The new math. What I spoke about was actually gross generation. Net generation, which takes out the plant auxiliary load, which services a lot of the pumps and motors that go along with the power plant, would bring that down to 520.

Also one thing you should note is that power plant output changes with ambient temperature. The lower the ambient temperature
the more the gas turbines are able to produce.

It's just a matter of the size of the air molecules and the mass that they take up.

That's why we're adding in the chilling.

We can keep the inlet air at a constant low temperature and maximize the output of the plant.

So, 520 is kind of a general number for the output of the plant.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Okay, we have about ten minutes more that we don't have to use up. However, as a number of the members of the public introduced themselves at the front end, I know that they intended to say statements that I see on their cards of support for this project.

If they feel like saying anything at this time, that would be appropriate, any of those members of the public who identified themselves.

MR. VAN DYKE: For the record my name's Charles Van Dyke. I'm the President of the Board of Directors, Palo Verde Irrigation District.

I just wanted to say that Blythe Energy has worked with the Palo Verde Irrigation District for about two years now, from the beginning of the project.

Palo Verde Irrigation District has water
rights that they share with the other five agencies in California. Actually we have a first priority for 104,500 acres. And then we also share a third priority with Imperial Irrigation District and Coachella Valley Irrigation District.

The Blythe Energy Project is within that third priority, which is for 60,000 acres.

I want to say that we also share conservation as the other five agencies in California do. And so we've worked with Blythe Energy Project to make a conservation program that would not impact agriculture in any way.

I think everything else was covered by Bob Looper.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

MR. MURRAY: For the record, once again, I'm Ivan Murray from the Palo Verde Community College District.

Just wanted, on behalf of our district, since our president/superintendent is out of town, the president of our board of trustees asked me to lend the support of the district to this project.

Our district, for those of you who are unfamiliar with it, extends from the Imperial County line to the south. With our recent
annexations we go clear north, take in Needles and
go to the San Bernardino County, and north to the
Nevada line.

We're now under construction with a new
campus just to the north of where this proposed
plant would go, roughly 200 acres, which we
anticipate will be completed a year from this
August.

We think that this plant will provide
not only educational opportunities for the
students at the college, but economic development
for the whole area. And we are in support of it.

Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you very
much.

MS. JESSUP: Hi, once again, I'm
Gretchen Jessup. I'm the new President of the
Chamber of Commerce, the Blythe area Chamber of
Commerce.

From the Chamber's perspective we've
been aware of the Blythe Energy Project for about
two years. The city has hosted face-to-face
meetings with representatives from Blythe Energy.
And I'm of the opinion the community has a
reasonable understanding of the project.
We know it will operate on natural gas, and we understand it will provide reliable and affordable power.

As long as the power plant is environmentally safe and clean, and I understand that's what this process is all about, then the Blythe Chamber of Commerce favors siting the 520 megawatt plant in our community. It will stimulate the economy, create jobs and make affordable power available for industry.

The Chamber of Commerce supports the Blythe Energy Project.

Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you, Ms. Jessup.

MR. MUYCO: For the record my name is Noel Muyco, representing Sempra Energy. I have a question, just asking for clarification of a statement the project team made earlier regarding banked emission credits.

Who are they with, and how much have you banked and secured?

MR. LOOPER: This is something we're going to go over in detail in the workshop. But we've banked credits in the amount of what our
expected emissions were, and South Coast credits.
And we have an offset package plan in place that
we'll be talking about.

MR. MUYCO: Would that document be

available for --

MR. LOOPER: Yeah, it will be, and at
the workshop we'll talk in greater detail about
the whole offset plan and where that's headed.
MR. MUYCO: Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Yes, let me
just ask the applicant. You had asked for
confidentiality because of the business
relationships in your offset package at the front
end, and we have granted you a limited
confidentiality till a certain point.

Are you going to maintain that
confidentiality, or are you going to disclose
today, or what is your plan?
MR. GRATTAN: John Grattan, counsel to
the project. We're going to maintain that
confidentiality until the offset credits are
actually secured and in the possession of the
applicant.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. I
thought that would be a good point to clarify
here. We granted limited confidentiality until
the point at which the air district, I believe,
issues its permit.

MR. GRATTAN: That's correct.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: At which time
the confidentiality will cease, and there will be
disclosure of where the offsets are.

MR. GRATTAN: We anticipate that we'll
be able to disclose in advance of the preliminary
determination of compliance.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Mr. Grattan,
before you sit down would you please explain to
the audience the need for -- what the need is for
that confidentiality, so it doesn't appear that
we're doing things in secret for no reason.

MR. GRATTAN: Yes, thank you, thank you.
The reason for maintaining confidentiality till
the offset credits are actually secured is the
impact on the market for offset credits, impact
on, well, let's say, advantage, perhaps giving
advantage to competitors. It affects the price,
basically.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you very
much.
We have one more task before us, and we might just make our timeframe. Mr. Bouillon, would you like to cover issue identification.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Yes, the final topic on our agenda is the issue identification report and proposed schedule, submitted both by the applicant and by the staff.

Mr. Shaw, as part of his presentation, covered both of those issues in a bit of detail. The applicant has submitted a written proposed schedule also.

At this time I'd like to ask the applicant if they have any response to any of the issues raised by the staff, any differences with them at this point. And if they have any comments about the schedule that staff has presented.

MR. CAMERON: We have one issue we'd like to talk about, and that is the schedule for receiving approval to construct this project.

Staff has presented a schedule which reflects approximately a one-year process from the time that data adequacy was determined. What we're showing here, and what we have submitted formally on May 1st, is a schedule which is, we think, realistically aggressive. The
reason it's aggressive is because we, as the
applicant, have taken it upon ourselves to respond
to our issues, and to respond to our data requests
in a very timely manner.

And I'll use an example that happened
yesterday. Yesterday morning we received about
130 questions from the staff. We actually had our
team assembled, waiting for the questions. We sat
down and we went through all of the questions. We
formulated our responses, and we're prepared to
talk about them today. So that within about two
to two and a half weeks we can submit these
responses.

So we're going to work aggressively to
minimize the timeframe between the point where
information is requested from us, and the time
that we respond to you. We think we can take
roughly five to six weeks out of the process.

That gets us to the last point where
testimony is filed. From then on that process is
pretty much a -- it's a regulated process with not
a lot of float in it, I guess I would say.

So we recognize that the staff has 12 or
so applications in front of them. We recognize
that the staff is short of people. The whole
industry is short of people. 

But we also recognize that this is not
the first application that has gone through.
These are not issues that they've never seen
before. There are, I think, five projects that
are now approved recently.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: I think
we're --

MR. CAMERON: The fifth one's coming
maybe today?

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: -- four, I
think we're four right today.

MR. CAMERON: Okay.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Did we do the
fifth? We did one yesterday, High Desert, yeah.
Four or five.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: High Desert was
approved yesterday, yes.

MR. CAMERON: But we think that a lot of
lessons and process-related issues have been
addressed in these five previous applications.
And we think that will only help the process for
the additional ones that are going through now.
And as we've said this morning, with
what we think we have for issues, the public
support that we have for this project, we think that it should be a fairly easy and straightforward process. And we would appreciate your support.

Thank you.

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: Thank you.

Mr. Shaw, do you have any response to --

MR. SHAW: None.

HEARING OFFICER BOUILLON: All right.

For members of the audience, and for the parties, I would indicate that the Committee must issue a scheduling order by regulation by May 19th. And we will do that.

We will take all that we've heard here today and consider it, and come forth with a scheduling order which will be mailed out to all of the parties, and will be on our web site no later than May 19th.

I believe we have -- does anybody in the audience have any comments on the contested issues or on the scheduling, as that's been discussed here today?

All right, hearing none, I believe we're ready to adjourn.
PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you.

I'll just make a comment that it's wonderful to be in Blythe. Some of us, I'm sure all of you appreciate it, I happen to live in the mountains. And we take -- the snow is still on the ground. We take off our jackets when it gets up to 40.

(Laughter.)

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: So, you're welcome to keep this room as cold as you want anytime you want.

Thank you, everybody. We look forward to joining you on the bus tour.

MR. LOOPER: We wanted, before you go, just to explain to everybody the bus tour, so --

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Okay, and then I'll let Western --

(Off-the-record discussion, site visit tour and route.)

PRESIDING MEMBER KEESE: Thank you. We will adjourn. And I thank the Mayor and Supervisor, Mr. Nelson.

The workshop will start after lunch, which might be a little before 2:00. So when lunch is over the workshop will start. Thank you.

(Whereupon, at 11:04 a.m., the informational hearing was concluded.)
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, VALORIE PHILLIPS, an Electronic Reporter, do hereby certify that I am a disinterested person herein; that I recorded the foregoing California Energy Commission Hearing; that it was thereafter transcribed into typewriting.

I further certify that I am not of counsel or attorney for any of the parties to said hearing, nor in any way interested in outcome of said hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 12th day of May, 2000.

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