

WELCOME

Public Scoping Meeting

Abengoa Biorefinery Project

Environmental Impact Statement



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Meeting Agenda

- 6:00pm Open doors
- 6:15pm Welcome and Introductions
- 6:20pm DOE EERE Biomass Program
- 6:30pm Abengoa Project Overview
- 6:45 pm NEPA Process Overview
- 7:00pm Public Comments followed by Open-house



Scoping Meeting Purpose

- Why have a public scoping meeting?
 - **Establish the scope** and content of an environmental analysis to be prepared by DOE.
 - Invite **input and comment on the scope of the environmental analysis** from all interested parties.
- A court reporter is present and a transcript will be prepared



What is NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act
 - U.S. Federal Law – effective January 1970
- Applies to all Federal agencies.
- National charter for the protection of the environment.
- Mandate
 - Environmental information must be available to public officials and citizens before Federal decisions are made and before Federal actions are taken.



NEPA Objectives

- Make decisions based on an **understanding of environmental consequences**
- Take actions that **protect, restore, and enhance the environment**
- Focus on truly **significant issues**
- Promote **better environmental planning and better decision-making**



What is in an EIS?

- An Environmental Impact Statement provides a comprehensive **analysis of environmental and socioeconomic impacts**
- Describes the **purpose and need** for the proposed program
- Identifies environmental **impacts and mitigation**
- Analyzes **alternatives** to a proposed action
- Analyzes the **short and long term impacts, cumulative impacts**, and the **commitment of resources** that could result
- Describes how **public concerns** were treated in the analysis

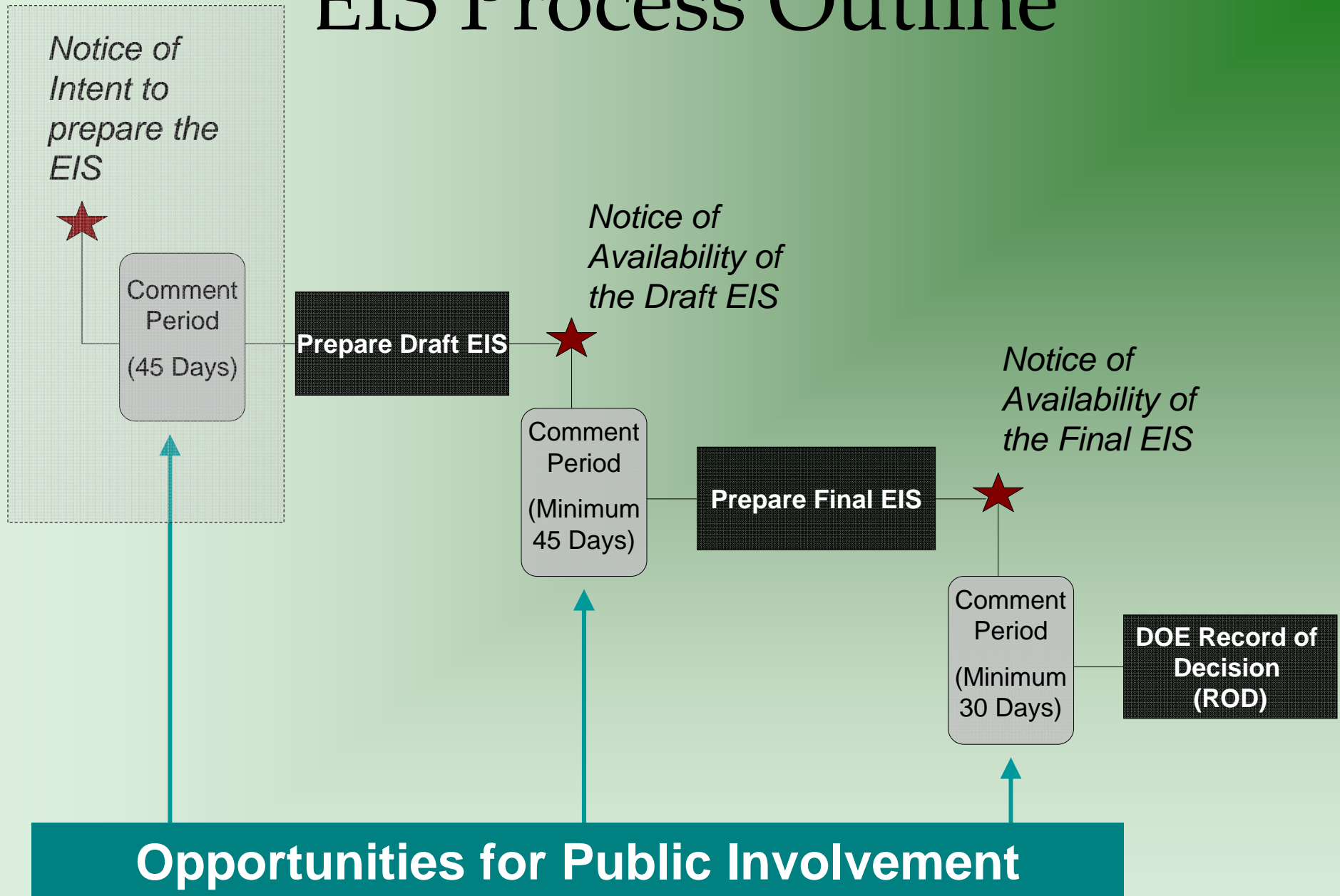


What is Public Scoping?

- Scoping is the **first phase of public involvement** in an EIS. It is the process by which the Agencies gather information on:
 - Proposed action,
 - Alternatives to be considered,
 - Significant issues to be analyzed,
 - Possible mitigation measures,
 - Availability of data relevant to the analyses, and
 - Interested individuals and organizations and their specific concerns.



EIS Process Outline



Abengoa Biorefinery EIS

Potential Environmental Impacts

- **Water Resources** – including surface water and **groundwater**
- Wetlands
- **Infrastructure** – including utilities and **transportation**
- **Land Use**
- Local and Regional Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Ecological Resources – terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals
- Health and Safety
- Noise
- Socioeconomic Impacts – including **public services** and environmental justice
- Aesthetic and Scenic Resources
- Cumulative Impacts
- Global Climate Change



Public Comments

- What do you need to know about commenting?
 - Your comments and concerns are very important.
 - All comments will be considered in the preparation of the environmental analysis.
 - We are in the early stages of the analysis process.
- There are several ways to provide scoping comments:
 - At this scoping meeting
 - Via mail, email, fax or telephone



Public Comments

- **5 Minutes** per speaker, please
- If time allows, you will have an additional opportunity to speak at the end
- A court reporter is present and a transcript will be prepared
- Please state your name and whether you are speaking on behalf of yourself or an organization and then provide your comment



Public Comments

- Comment cards are available
 - Comments can be turned in tonight or mailed to DOE
 - Comments are due to DOE by October 9, 2008
- Additional information is available on the DOE Golden Field Office Website:
 - http://www.eere.energy.gov/golden/Reading_Room.aspx
 - The Funding Opportunity Announcement
 - Abengoa's Agreement with DOE
 - Link to the Abengoa Biorefinery Project EIS webpage



THANK YOU

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