CARSON CITY
DISTRICT OFFICE

NEW COMSTOCK WIND PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

- Carson City District Office
- Sierra Front Field Office - Linda Kelly, Field Office Manager
- NEPA Process – Jane Peterson, Energy Project Manager
- Cooperating Agencies
- Next Steps

PROJECT OVERVIEW

- Approximately 71 turbines
  - 210’ to 330’ tall
  - Blade length - 115’ to 170’
- 20 miles underground electrical lines
- 5 miles of 120 kV transmission line to substation
- Access roads
- Miscellaneous storage buildings and yards

RIGHT OF WAY AUTHORITIES

- Federal Land Policy and Management Act – BLM authority for granting ROWs on public lands
  - Authorization to use a specific piece of public land for a certain project for a term appropriate for the life of the project
  - Specifies authority to grant ROWs for systems to generate, transmit, and distribute electric energy

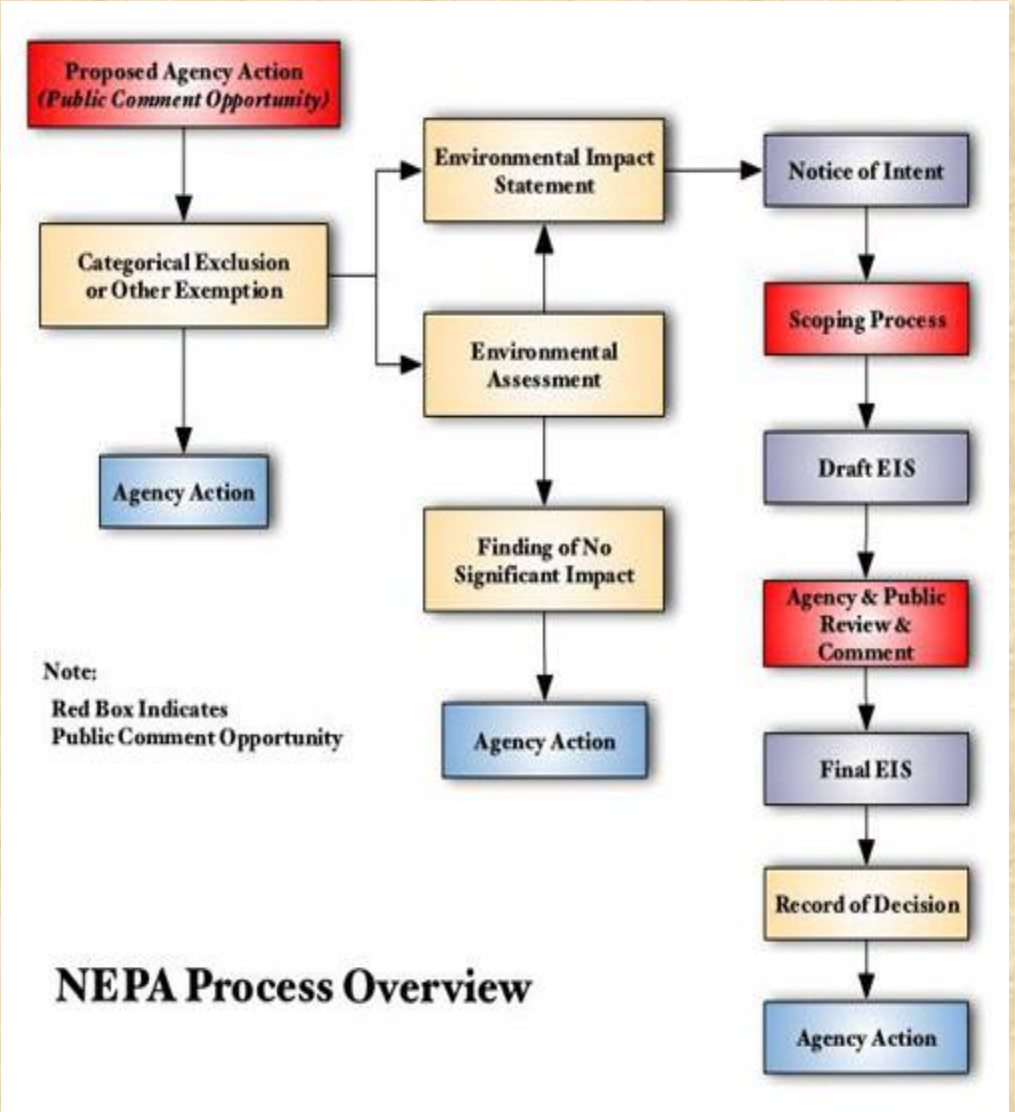
- Further authority in the Energy Policy Act of 2005
  - 10,000 MW of renewable energy projects located on public lands by 2015

ROW PROCESS – NEW COMSTOCK

- Great Basin Wind LLC submitted an SF-299 Right-of Way application to construct and operate a commercial wind turbine facility and an initial Plan of Development
- BLM to prepare Environmental Impact Statement
- Decision on to be made on the ROW after completion of EIS is based on:
  - Outcome of EIS
  - Determination if proposal is in the public interest
  - Consistency with Federal, State, or local laws

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA)

- A public, interdisciplinary process to ensure informed decision-making by federal agencies
- Requires agencies to follow a particular process
- Requires agencies disclose the information used to support those decisions


Proposed Agency Action
(Public Comment Opportunity)
Categorical Exclusion or Other Exemption
Agency Action
Environmental Impact Statement
Environmental Assessment
Finding of No Significant Impact
Agency Action
Notice of Intent
Scoping Process
Draft EIS
Agency & Public Review & Comment
Final EIS
Record of Decision
Agency Action
Note:
Red Box Indicates
Public Comment Opportunity
NEPA Process Overview

EIS COMPONENTS

- **Scoping**
- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Development
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Draft EIS
- **Public Meetings**
- **Public Review Period**
- Final EIS
- Record of Decision (ROD)

SCOPING SUMMARY

- Scoping period: 11/26/2008 – 1/31/2009
- Approximately 80 people attended the December 10, 2008 scoping meeting
- Approximately 95 comment submissions
  - 33 supporting the project
  - 32 opposing the project (half support wind in general but oppose current proposal)
  - 17 miscellaneous comments
  - 13 requesting inclusion on mailing list only
- Comments submitted by 7 agencies

SCOPING ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN EIS

- Visual Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Noise
- Wildlife
- Recreation Access
- Tourism
- Vegetation
- Electromagnetic Interference
- Socioeconomic
- Wildfire
- Invasive Species
- Erosion
- Safety
- Emergency services
- Travel management
- Transportation

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Objectives:
  - Gain early and consistent involvement of CA partners
  - Incorporate local knowledge of economic, social, and environmental conditions, as well as state and local land use requirements
  - Address intergovernmental issues
  - Avoid duplication of effort
  - Enhance local credibility of the planning review process
  - Encourage CA support for planning decisions
  - Build relationships of trust and cooperation.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Eligibility:
  - State, local, tribal and federal agencies with:
    - Jurisdiction by law and/or
    - Special expertise
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) establishes roles and responsibilities

COOPERATING AGENCIES

- Cooperating agencies participate in various steps of the EIS process as feasible
  - Collect data
  - Identify interest groups/organizations
  - Help identify alternatives
  - Assist in analysis
  - Assist in responses to comments
- All NEPA decisions remain responsibility of the BLM

SCHEDULE

- Scoping — December 2008 – January 2009
- Draft EIS — Late 2009
- Final EIS — mid-2010
- Record of Decision (ROD) — Late 2010