



## COMMITTEE QUESTIONS FOR EVIDENTIARY HEARING

SALTON SEA GEOTHERMAL PROJECT  
APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION  
DOCKET NO. 02-AFC-2

### Committee Questions:

The California Energy Commission Salton Sea Geothermal Project Committee (Committee) is reviewing an Application for Certification (AFC) by CE Obsidian Energy, LLC, to construct a 185 megawatt geothermal power plant near Calipatria, California.

At the Prehearing Conference, Commissioner Pernell's Adviser, E. V. (Al) Garcia, requested the Applicant and Staff make available witnesses at the October 27, 2003 Evidentiary Hearing and address several questions which are outlined below:

#### Hazardous Materials

- Describe the physical arrangement of the containment structures for the hazardous materials in AFC Table 5.14.1. We are interested in assessment/analysis conducted regarding hazardous materials spill compatibility (e.g. ammonium compounds & (sodium) hypochlorite, diesel & sulfuric acid)
- Describe rationale for excluding hydrochloric acid from CalArp/RMPP plan preparation.

#### Environmental Justice

- Staff's FSA indicates that the minority population exceeds 50% within a six mile area of the proposed site. Describe outreach efforts to this population by Applicant (and/or Staff) and efforts at meaningful involvement/ input by the minority population into the process.

#### Hazardous Waste

- Applicant's AFC and Staff's FSA both indicate that project will generate approximately 2.5 tons/day of elemental sulfur from the H<sub>2</sub>S abatement system. According to the AFC, if this material is characterized as hazardous, it will be disposed as a hazardous waste at an approved site; if the material is classified as non-hazardous, it will be disposed in a Class I landfill. Describe characteristics of similar wastes from other similar projects. (Will the characteristics of this material be significantly similar/different?) Also, describe recycling alternatives for the elemental sulfur, related economics and feasibility of recycling.

