# **Evaluating, Selecting & Financing Energy Projects**



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## **Setting Context**



### Recycled Energy Development ("RED"):

- Our Mission is to profitably reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- We design, build, own, operate & finance energy project with our Industrial Hosts
- We focus on "profitability":
  - Profitable for our industrial hosts
  - Profitable for our investors
  - Reduce carbon for the benefit of Society

#### Benefits to Industrial Host:

- Stronger balance sheets,
- Lower Operating Expenses,
- Greater competitive position,
- Reduced carbon footprint

## Industrial Perspective

- These issues and questions contribute to your "Wall-of-Worry":
  - Boiler MACT has caused a lot of consternation because of the uncertainty and potential high costs to comply
  - It is unclear HOW and WHEN EPA/MACT requirements will be enforced
  - It is currently a challenging market for the products you manufacture and sell
  - This is exacerbated under a scenario where the economy slows or if we face greater price pressure from foreign competition?
  - Your CEO is laser focused on your core business and life cycle of your product line(s)
  - Non-core business units (like energy) get starved for capital and high hurdle rates for investment
  - Is this the end of coal and solid fuels?
  - Your business lives or dies on the profitability of your products

# CEO's Questions

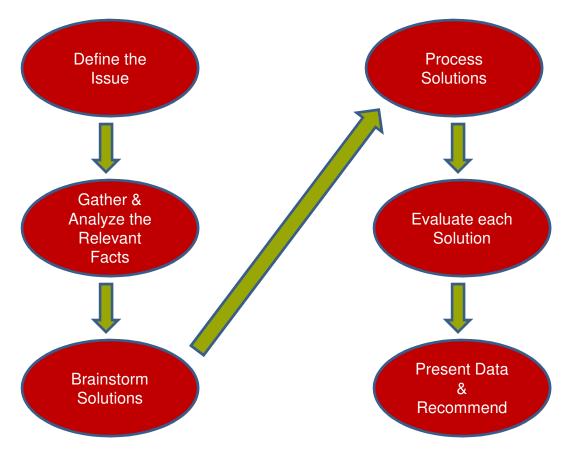
- Your CEO's or Executive team may pose the following questions:
  - What are our compliance options?
  - What is OUR COST to comply with MACT?
  - What return will we get on this investment?
  - When will we have to make the investment?
  - How will we finance this investment?
  - Will this legislation double or triple our cost of energy?
  - What does this do to our per-unit cost of production?
  - Are our competitors in the same position?
  - Can our business survive?



# Tough Issues Require Creative Solutions



Implement process for creative problem solving:



 Use a process like this to: (a) prepare answers for your CEO, and (b) present a defensible case to seek funding for your MACT compliance needs



### **Defining the Issue & Fact Gathering**

#### Step 1

#### Define the Issue:

• What are our top 3 actions to respond to the EPA/MACT regulations?

#### **Suggestions:**

- Consider the questions your CEO may pose
- Ask her directly
- Seek input! More input from the various stakeholders the sharper your understanding of the problem <u>& Constraints!</u>

#### Step 2

Gather & Analyze the *Relevant* Facts:

#### Sample Questions (to answer):

- When do we need to make a decision?
- What is currently known/unknown?
- Will the unknowns be known at some point?
- If so, when? Can I wait for that information?
- Is there a party or organization driving this issue?
- Can my Company influence their decisions?
- What is important to our leadership's decisionprocess on this issue?
- Who is affected by the issue?
- What is the Market telling us?
- What do vendors/suppliers/competitors say about the issue?
- What are the specific ways our company is impacted?
- What is the specific impact on our product line(s)?
- •What are the key metrics OUR company will use to evaluate this issue?



## **Brainstorming Solutions & Processing**

### Step 3

#### **Brainstorm Solutions:**

- Back-end Controls
- "Do-Nothing" (close plant on compliance date)
- Move production facility off-shore
- Outsource production
- Try to influence outcome/final ruling
- Install CHP

#### Recommendation:

- The concept is to be as creative & open minded as possible
- Don't rule anything out at this stage, save that for Step 4

#### Step 4

Process & Analyze Each Solution:

- First, identify simple & defensible ways to narrow the list of potential solutions to a manageable number
- Do a complete and thorough analysis of each option



## **Evaluating, Presenting & Recommending**

### Step 5

#### Evaluate each Solution:

- Summarize your analysis of each option from Step 4
- Frame your evaluation so it will be understood by Leadership
- Focus on the key information that is critical to your Leadership

#### Recommendation:

• This stage can uncover gaps in your analysis, take the time to address them

### Step 6

## Present Data & Make Recommendation:

- Present your analysis
- Highlight the facts
- Be prepared to share and defend your recommendation



## CHP Example



### Step 1

#### Define the Issue:

Identify our top 3 actions to comply with EPA/MACT regulations?

### Step 2

Gather & Analyze the *Relevant* Facts:

### Step 3

**Brainstorm Solutions:** 

- Back-end Controls
- "Do-Nothing" (close plant on compliance date)
- Move Production Off-shore
- Outsource Energy Production
- Work with Industry Trade Groups to Lobby for Alternatives
- Install CHP

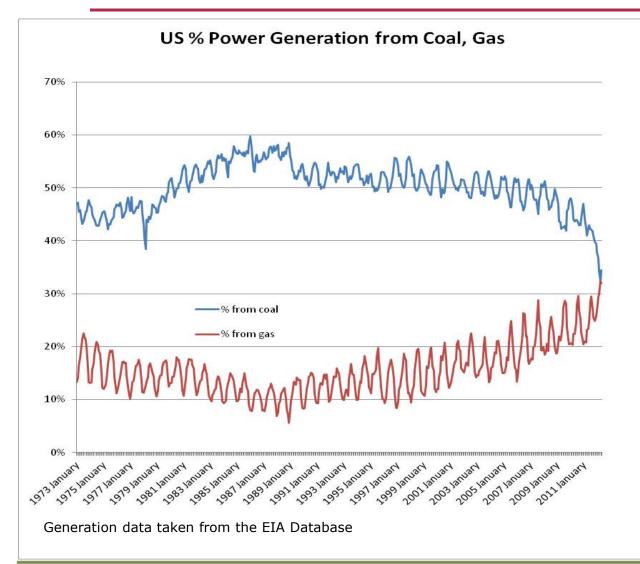
#### Step 4

Process & Analyze Each Solution:

Answer key questions that impact each solution



# **Step 4: Future Power Prices; Facts about US Generation**



#### **OBSERVATIONS:**

Declining Coal Generation is not new, its been falling steadily since the late 1980s

Minimal new coal built since Clean Air Act

Feeding recent collapse:

- a. Falling gas prices
- b. Maxing Utility Coal Fleet Reserve Margin

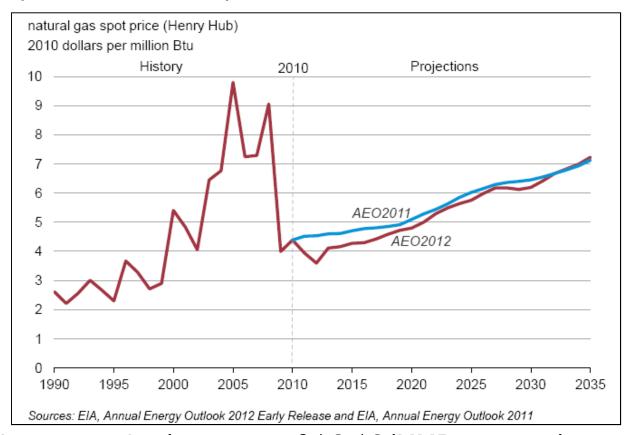
#### **IMPACT**:

- electric grid becoming increasingly gas marginal
- 2. Future gas fired CHP likely much better hedged in Coal country
- 3. CHP can provide the lowest cost power to Utilities



### **Step 4: Our Natural Gas Price Forecast**

 Based on our analysis of the volumes and cost of extracting shale gas, coupled with industry estimates, below:



We estimate gas in the range of \$6-\$8/MMBtu over the next 15 years



## **Stage 4: State Remaining Assumptions**

#### Facts about Current Operations:

- 1. Existing coal boilers produce 100,000 lbs/hr of steam
- 2. Our steam load follows production, which is 24/7
- 3. Age of boiler is 35 yrs old
- 4. Boiler efficiency approx. 75%
- 5. Currently burning low-sulfur 'compliance' coal
- 6. Our long-term view of the price of compliance coal is \$3.60/MMBtu

### Assumptions of CHP Installation:

- 1. Replace coal boiler with standard GT, matched to thermal needs
- 2. Typical gas turbine efficiency of 30% and approx. 75% of exhaust heat recoverable as steam
- 3. We are using \$6/MMBtu for Natural Gas
- 4. Current US average retail power price is about \$100/MWh, but we've assumed we sell the power for only \$50/MWh

a) Example: secured a Heat-Rate-based PPA with the Utility



## Stage 4: Cost Analysis of CHP Option

#### Math:

- Current Operations:
  - Cost of delivered steam is (\$3.60 MMBtu / 75% efficiency) = \$4.80/MMBtu
  - Temporarily ignore the additional costs: maintenance, fuel handling and ash disposal
- Gas fired CHP: for every 100 MMBtus of fuel burned, you produce:
  - 100 x 30% = 30 MMBtus of electricity, and;
  - 100 x (1 30%) x 75% = 53 MMBtus of steam
  - CHP plant achieves 83% efficiency, more than 2x the US power grid

Net Cost of Steam (\$11.32 - \$8.29) = \$3.03/MMBtu (steam)

#### Comparison:

- Current Ops= \$4.80/MMBtu vs. CHP = \$3.03/MMBtu
- So in the name of pollution control, we've reduced our steam costs by 37%
- <u>Additional Bonus</u>: (a) eliminates 100% of the sulfur, mercury and particulate emissions and reduces CO2 emissions (b) ignores the reduction in operating costs, (c) benefits of local power generation for your Utility (VAR support, etc)



### \*KEY: Benefits of Economic Gain

- Economic gain, simply defined is an amount of money that is saved or generated as a result of a certain action
  - Note the cost comparison did not include the cost of capital recovery
    - Fully Amortized Coal Plant vs. Newly Funded CHP Project
  - However, the CHP plant did show a cost savings, or economic gain
- It is significantly harder to finance a project that has an economic penalty than an economic gain
- To complete the analysis of economic gain need to include:
  - Mill Risk
  - Industry Risk
  - Product life-cycle
  - The security or back-stop behind the investment
  - Term of the investment
  - Source of funds
  - Strength of the PPA/Power off-take agreement



## **Stage 4: Risk & Mitgants**

	Risk	Mitigant(s)		
Execution Risks	Power Export stretches Corp comfort	<ul> <li>Work with Third Party Developer</li> <li>Hire Experts or Consultants</li> </ul>		
	Challenges securing PPA	<ul><li>Initiate constructive conversations with Utility</li><li>Hire Advisors</li></ul>		
	Regulatory Risks	<ul> <li>Leverage existing coalitions to lobby Utilities &amp; Government Agencies</li> </ul>		
	Permitting/NSR	<ul> <li>Join RED; resolve why Gov't classify back-end control as pollution control device, but a CHP plant that reduces more pollution triggers NSR?</li> </ul>		
Fuel Risks	Unexpected Fuel Price Increases	<ul> <li>Secure Heat Rate-based PPA with Utility</li> <li>Implement gas hedging strategy</li> </ul>		



## Step 5: Evaluating & Attracting Capital

- Speak the language of your audience!
  - a) Assume your key decision makers (CEO, Chairman, CFO, etc) and your Banks/Lenders/Investors will not follow a conversation about MMBtus, Thermal Efficiency, etc.
  - b) Use key financial metrics important to them, for example:
    - Return on Investment (ROI)
    - ii. Net Present Value (NPV) of investment over Product lifecycle
    - iii. Simple Payback (# of years required to recoup your investment)
    - iv. Savings/(Cost) on a per unit cost of production basis
    - v. Unlevered (or Levered) Internal Rate of Return (IRR) on investment
    - vi. Multiple of Investment (MOI) over product lifecycle
  - c) Frame each option using the key financial metrics
- Know the constraints of your business



## **Step 6: Presenting the Data**

		Option 1:	Option 2:	Option 3:	Option 4:
	Current Plant	Emissions Controls	Do Nothing	GT CHP No PPA	GT CHP w/ PPA
Boiler A	Coal	Replace	Retire	Retire	Retire
Boiler B	Coal	Coal	Retire	Retire	Retire
New Gas Boilers	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Gas Turbine	-	No	No	Yes	Yes
CapEx	Base Case	\$12M	n/a	\$30M	\$100M
Energy Cost (2017)	Base Case	+3%	n/a	-9%	-16%
*ROI	n/a	(negative)	n/a	+11%	+19%

<sup>\*</sup>Replace with key financial metrics for your business

### Overview of Process of Evaluating, Selecting & Financing an Energy Investments

## Summary

- MACT is a challenging topic for a host of reasons
- Tough issues require creative solutions; be open to different alternatives
- Following a systematic and defensible process will increase your credibility with key decision makers
- Know the constraints of your business
- Evaluate the options once your analysis is complete
- Present each solution simply & clearly using language that resonates with your audience
- Highlight the key financial metrics associated with each solution
- The best way to attract capital is identify projects with the greatest economic gain for your business



## Thank you