

**MINUTES**

STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

**October 9, 2000 – Regular Meeting**

Rowe Six Conference Center – Building 1  
4224 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE  
Lacey, Washington

**Item 1: Call to Order**

Chair Deborah Ross called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

**Item 2: Roll Call**

<b>Chair</b>	Deborah Ross
<b>Department of Agriculture</b>	Daniel Jemelka
<b>Department of Community, Trade &amp; Economic Development</b>	Heather Ballash
<b>Department of Ecology</b>	Charles Carelli
<b>Department of Fish &amp; Wildlife</b>	Jenene Fenton
<b>Department of Health</b>	Ellen Haars
<b>Department of Natural Resources</b>	Gayle Rothrock
<b>Utilities and Transportation Commission</b>	Dick Byers
<b>Department of Transportation</b>	John Doyle, Gary Ray - via phone

**Others in Attendance**

**EFSEC Staff and Counsel**

Allen Fiksdal	Irina Makarow
Mike Mills	Mariah Laamb
Robert Fallis, AAG, EFSEC	

**Guests**

Mike Elmer, Northwest Power Enterprises	Darrel Peeples, Newport Northwest
Rose Spogen, Critical Issues Council	Bob Divers, Newport Northwest
Grant Bailey, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc.	Cindy Custer, Bonneville Power
Bill Staeger, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc.	Bill Kiel, Energy Northwest
David Broadfoot, Jones and Stokes Associates, Inc.	Paul Margaritis, Tractebel
Kurt Humphrey, Cogentrix	Bill Holmes, Stoel Rives
Jim Thornton, Golder Associates	Russ Rasmussen, Mercer Ranch
Mary Barrett, AAG, CFE – Sumas Energy 2	

**Item 3: Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 14, 2000 meeting and the September 11, 2000 meeting were approved.

**Item 4: Adoption of Proposed Agenda**

The Chair proposed moving Item 6, Chehalis Generation Facility to the end of the meeting. The Council approved the Agenda with this change.

**Item 5: Sumas 2 Generation Facility, Application No. 99-1**

<b>Status Report</b>	<b>Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager reporting</b>
Adjudicative and PSD public comment hearings were completed in Bellingham on September 29, 2000. Staff are working with JSA to prepare a final EIS. Staff will require Council input to finalize the schedule for FEIS completion.	

**Item 6: Chehalis Generation Facility**

<b>Status Report</b>	<b>Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager reporting</b>
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Chehalis has submitted a proposed Compliance Plan outlining a review process for the Council to use in examining initial design documents that are required prior to the construction and operation of the Chehalis Generation Facility. Chehalis Power has announced a start of construction date of June 13, 2001, and that date triggers plan submittals beginning in December 2000. The Executive Committee is recommending that the Council be involved in the review and approval of the plan documents. Mr. Fiksdal encouraged Council members to take a close look at the proposed plan review procedures to assist staff in determining the level of detail that will be required for conducting the plan reviews. EFSEC staff are working with local and state agencies to establish contracts for those agencies to provide plan review and construction inspection services.

Mr. Paul Margaritis, Chehalis Power, reported that Chehalis Power was in the process of developing those plans and specifications that are required to be submitted six months prior to the start of construction, i.e., December 13, 2000. These initial plan submittals are not expected to be affected by the SCA amendment currently being reviewed by the Council. Chehalis Power hopes to have some of the documents ready in November and plans to stagger submittals and identify the most critical plans to help establish priorities for completing the reviews.

Mr. Margaritis again asked that the Council expedite their decision on the amendment process once deliberations were completed. He requested that the Council hold a special meeting to act on this matter rather than wait for the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Council member Heather Ballash stated that Council made note of Mr. Margaritis' request, verbally at the September Council meeting and in writing on September 22, 2000. She noted that Council is aware of the company's concerns, and is proceeding with deliberations with the due consideration that the complex procedural and substantive issues in this case require, and within the time constraints of members' schedules. Ms. Ballash indicated that the Council hopes to be able to make a decision and vote on the amendment at its next regularly scheduled meeting in November.

**Item 7: Energy Northwest Columbia Generating Station, WNP 1/4, and Satsop Combustion Turbine (CT) Project**

<b><i>Columbia Operations</i></b>	<b><i>Bill Kiel, Energy Northwest reporting</i></b>
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On Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, the Columbia Generating Station was shut down due to a loss of vacuum in the main condenser. Maintenance workers found the problem was a broken pipe in the main condenser and the pipe was repaired and better supports installed. On Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, the plant was returned to operations with a total of 85 lost hours of operations. The plant is currently operating and providing over 1100 megawatts of power.

On September 12-13, Energy Northwest, along with a number of local, state and federal agencies, participated in a graded exercise of the Columbia Emergency Response Plan. Mr. Kiel reported that all of the emergency centers had done well and there were no reported deficiencies. Some minor issues will require corrective action by several of the off site agencies, who participated in the exercise.

WNP-1 is in the process of selecting the contractor for the Cooling Tower Transite Removal Project, which will remove and dispose of WNP-1/4 cooling tower transite asbestos-cement fill material. They expect to select a contractor by the end of October. The contractor will be responsible for developing work plans and procedures for disposing of the material in the WNP-1/4 demolition waste landfill. Those plans will be developed in cooperation with the Benton County Clean Air Authority, and require EFSEC approval. In response to a question from Chair Ross on whether removal and burial of the asbestos material would jeopardize a comprehensive solution to restoration, Mr. Kiel replied it was one of the initial restoration tasks identified in the June 1999 plan and funding is available to complete the work.

Mr. Kiel reported that Energy Northwest will also be sending a letter requesting authorization to remove four (4) non-reusable buildings from the site as cleanup efforts continue on the WNP-1/4 property. Energy Northwest is continuing to work on site restoration with the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE), and the Benton Redevelopment group. USDOE has indicated an interest in meeting with the Council to discuss current activities at the site and future restoration plans.

Mr. Kiel provided an update on USDOE efforts to investigate the location and source of high levels of radioactive tritium that were observed earlier in the year at a well located near the 618-11 waste burial ground just west of the Columbia plant. USDOE is continuing to sample along the perimeter of the burial ground and plans to put in an additional well(s) to further identify the source of the tritium. The Phase 2 testing activities are expected to be documented in a report due the end of the year that will identify options available to USDOE regarding future activities.

<b><i>Hanford Wildlife Mitigation</i></b>	<b><i>Mike Mills, EFSEC staff reporting</i></b>
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The Department of Fish and Wildlife is proceeding to purchase the seed to begin the restoration of the Rattlesnake Slope Area, which was severely burned this summer. The department expects to begin planting when the soil moisture is high enough to ensure a higher success rate, probably starting in November. Mr. Mills and Mr. Kiel plan to meet with Ms. Fenton after the meeting today to look at drafting a resolution, that would approve the rehabilitation strategy now being implemented.

**Item 8: Newport Northwest – Wallula Project**

<b><i>Public Meetings Scheduled</i></b>	<b><i>Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager reporting</i></b>
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Two public meetings have been scheduled to inform local residents of the Wallula Power Project. The dates are October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, in Burbank and Walla Walla, consecutively, with an open house from 5 p.m.-7 p.m. and a formal presentation from 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a meeting during the day with local, and federal agencies and tribes to talk about their possible involvement in the review of the proposed plant.

Local tribes with a possible interest in the project have been contacted and Mr. Fiksdal will meet with the Umatilla Tribal Council on November 7<sup>th</sup> regarding their possible involvement with the Wallula and Starbuck projects. Mr. Fiksdal is also meeting with the Walla Walla County Commissioners on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, to discuss this project and EFSEC’s review process.

The Department of Transportation plans to appoint Todd Trepanier, as a site specific representative to the Council for this project. Mr. Trepanier, from the Yakima, Washington DOT office, will attend the public and agency meetings and expects to be appointed to the Council at the time the formal application is submitted.

EFSEC Counsel, Robert Fallis, was asked to research if the Port of Walla Walla can appoint a non-voting member to the Council, given that the proposed project site is under a purchase option from the Port.

<b><i>Application Review Process for Wallula &amp; Starbuck</i></b>	<b><i>Jenene Fenton, EFSEC member reporting</i></b>
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The sub-committee looking at integrating the SEPA process and the EFSEC application process, have brought a proposal forward for applicants to follow regarding pre-application and application submittals.

The SEPA sub-committee is requesting that the DEIS and the Application be consolidated into a single document. All applicants would go through a pre-application review, focused on conducting environmental scoping, and ensuring extensive communication with all interest groups to make sure they have an opportunity to learn about the project and help in the identification of key issues in developing the DEIS and Application. It is expected that this preliminary scoping will result in many of the concerns identified through that process being addressed in the Application/DEIS submitted to EFSEC. The Council and their consultants will do a completeness review to ensure compliance with EFSEC’s statues and rules and SEPA regulations. The complete Application/DEIS would then be the basis for issuing a DEIS pursuant to SEPA.

All the related documents, which must be considered for SEPA, need to be included in the Application/DEIS with some delineation of tabs, or color-coding to clarify those items that technically only apply to the application and are not DEIS related documents.

It was discussed whether adhering to this integrated review process was mandatory for future EFSEC applicants or merely a guideline to follow in submitting the information necessary for an

application. The Council indicated that it would like new Applicants to comply with this integrated review process and is committed to improving and if possible shortening the review process. Council will remain open to project specific changes to the integrated review process as circumstances arise.

**Item 9: Northwest Power Enterprises – Starbuck Power Project**

<b>Status</b>	<b><i>Allen Fiksdal and Mike Elmer reporting</i></b>
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Mr. Fiksdal reported that EFSEC and JSA staff met with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) representatives to discuss and how the EFSEC and BPA environmental reviews will be coordinated. All parties are committed to coordinating the timelines required by each agency. Mr. Fiksdal will be meeting with the Columbia County Commissioners on Monday, October 16<sup>th</sup> to also discuss this project and the review process.

Northwest Power Enterprises (NPE) has provided the Council with a \$110,000 check to start the Preliminary Site Study. This is in addition to the \$10,000 that accompanied their initial filing in February 2000.

Mr. Fiksdal is also working with JSA to amend their contract and scope of work to include this Potential Site Study. Mr. Fiksdal expects to have a contract amendment ready for Council consideration its November meeting. It is expected that the contract amendment will address EFSEC’s integrated review process by accomplishing the work in two stages: Scoping and Agency/Public meetings; and initial review of sections of the draft Application/DEIS.

The Council requested that staff work with JSA to fully include the integrated review process in the scope of work to be established.

Mike Elmer summarized the agency contacts that have already been initiated by NPE and their contractors regarding water rights and air emissions.

**Item 10: Cogentrix – Mercer Ranch Generation Facility**

<b>Proposed Project</b>	<b><i>Kurt Humphrey reporting</i></b>
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Mr. Humphrey presented the proposed Cogentrix Energy Inc. project to the Council, highlighting the unique coordination of water usage with the Mercer Ranch, one of the largest vegetable crop producers in the state.

Mercer Ranch has about 10,000 acres under irrigation and uses at peak demand approximately 80,000 gallons of water per minute. Cogentrix plans to incorporate this water usage with power generation by using the field irrigation water to cool the power plant first, then send the water to a cooling pond, where the Ranch will draw the same water to irrigate their crops. This will save on water usage, conserve on electrical usage by the Ranch and allow energy to be created for the State. Members of the project team present were: Bill Holmes - Attorney, Jim Thornton – Environmental Engineer, and Russ Rasmussen, representing Mercer Ranch.

Cogentrix is looking at GE 7FA equivalent combustion turbine technology, with 3 combustion turbine/heat recovery steam generator trains, for a total 850 MW output.

The 40 acre proposed project site is located 3 miles from Alderdale, in Benton County, 2 miles north of Highway 14 with the closest settlement about 13 miles NE in the town of Paterson.

There is an electric transmission line and a gas pipeline running across the site. The cooling pond would be created in a natural canyon area by building a 400-yard dam structure. Water from the reservoir would be used for once-through cooling.

Because local conservancy boards do not have the authority to grant changes in water use permits, Cogentrix plans to request, as part of the conditions in the SCA, a change in water rights for Mercer Ranch, which would allow the plant to coordinate usage in the described manner.

They anticipate requiring a water rights conversion, dam construction and safety permits, and air and wastewater permits in addition to the Site Certification Agreement. They have initiated discussion with Ecology's dam group, as well as the Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding fish and riparian studies that would be required for water discharging to the Columbia River.

**Item 11: Siting Task Force/Symposium**

*Report Oct. 2-3 sessions*

*Deborah Ross, EFSEC Chair reporting*

Chair Ross reported that the Symposium sessions were well attended with many good ideas brought forward by participants. The Council will look into having Jim Arthur provide a report outlining the next steps for EFSEC, if funding permits.

The next Task Force Work Group meetings are being held Wednesday, Oct. 11, at the John A. Cherburg building, Hearing Room 1, all day. The Legislative Task Force group will meet in Bellingham on Tuesday, Oct. 17. Chair Ross plans to attend. There will also be an October 24<sup>th</sup> Task Force Work Group meeting in Olympia.

**Item 12: Other**

Mrs. Rose Spogen provided comments on her observations as an attendee at the Task Force Symposium. Mrs. Spogen attended the symposium both days and was appreciative of the ability to speak to the issues. She spoke of her recommendations to continuing processes and suggested others. She felt the time was worthwhile, but would have liked to had more time devoted for audience comments. She felt the basic EFSEC concept and process were working, but asked that the following ideas be considered: maintaining Council representation from state agencies; insuring Council members continuity; looking at Oregon's siting process regarding integration of the related parts of a proposal in the review; and integrating a concept of state energy strategy. She expressed her disappointment that none of the Symposium panels had a citizen representative.

**Item 13: Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.