

MINUTES

**STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL**

February 18, 2003 - Special Council Meeting
WSU Extension Building, Conference Room 308
925 Plum Street, Olympia, WA 98501, 1:30 p.m.

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was called to order by acting Chair Chuck Carelli.

ITEM 2: ROLL CALL

EFSEC Council Members

Community, Trade and Economic Development
Department of Ecology
Department of Fish & Wildlife
Department of Natural Resources
Utilities and Transportation Commission

Dick Fryhling
Charles Carelli
Jenene Fenton
Tony Ifie
Tim Sweeney

The presence of Acting Chair Chuck Carelli was noted and there was a quorum.

EFSEC Staff and Counsel

Allen Fiksdal
Irina Makarow
Mariah Laamb

Mike Mills
Michelle Elling
Julian "Pete" Dewell, ALJ – BP Cherry Point
– via phone

EFSEC Guests

John Arbuckle, Energy Northwest
Alan Harger, Dept. of Transportation

Charles Lean, Wallula Power

ITEM 3: ENERGY NORTHWEST COLUMBIA GENERATING STATION

<i>Columbia Operations</i>	<i>John Arbuckle, Energy Northwest</i>
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Mr. Arbuckle reported on the status of operations at the Columbia Generation Station. The plant has been running continuously for 360 days and all activities are normal. A 34-day outage is planned from May 10 through June 12, 2003 for maintenance and refueling purposes.

Mr. Arbuckle summarized the principal reasons for the Energy Northwest's January 13, 2003 request for approval of the installation of a Hydrogen Storage and Supply Facility. Hydrogen is currently being used at the Columbia Generating Station (CGS) as an oxidant for reduction of stress corrosion cracking in the facility feed water systems. Referring to site maps and photographs, Mr. Arbuckle explained that the proposed facility would be located outside of the security barrier to comply with Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission security requirements. The facility is to be sited on previously disturbed ground next to the railroad tracks. Referring to burnt-out railroad ties visible in the photographs, Mr. Arbuckle confirmed that this area had also been burned out in the 1984 range fire. The hydrogen would be transferred through a piping system running parallel to the railroad tracks to the generator building. The hydrogen would then be fed into the feed water system. In addition to compliance with security concerns, Energy Northwest believes this location would cause the least amount of impact to the environment.

A SEPA checklist was submitted to EFSEC, and EFSEC staff issued a Determination of Non Significance on January 28, 2003. Mr. Arbuckle explained that he has forwarded some of the photographs to Lauri Vigue at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), but had not heard back from Ms. Vigue. Mr. Mills from EFSEC staff has also not heard back from WDFW.

Mr. Mills proceeded to present proposed Resolution No. 303. The first four to five paragraphs of the Resolution provide background to the proposed action. Based on the review of the SEPA checklist, on January 28th staff made a Determination of Non-Significance (DNS), concluding that the proposed facility would not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. A notice of the SEPA determination was sent to Ecology to be published in the SEPA register, and was also mailed to approximately 200 people on EFSEC's interested persons list for this type of action. Recipients of the mailing were provided with the checklist in addition to the special notice that this matter would be an action item at today's meeting. The comment period closed on Friday, February 14, 2003, and no comments were received on this proposal.

The Proposed Resolution No. 303 concludes that the Energy Northwest proposal to construct and operate a hydrogen storage and supply facility in support of Columbia Generating Station operations is consistent with the public health, safety and welfare, all applicable laws; and the intent of the original Site Certification Agreement. The proposed resolution would approve Energy Northwest's request to construct a liquid hydrogen storage and supply facility at the Columbia Generating Station subject to the provisions of Energy Northwest's January 13, 2003 proposal and the commitments therein, the Columbia Site Certification Agreement; and Council rules. Staff recommends the Council approve this action and execute Resolution No. 303.

Chair Carelli asked for questions from the Council. Council member Fryhling inquired what would happen if the liquid hydrogen were spilt and whether this would lead to an environmental problem or be harmful to humans. Mr. Arbuckle responded that it is considered a hazardous substance, and several safety features will be in place, including an onsite spill plan and an onsite spill team to take care of any problems that might arise from a spill. Berms would be installed in

certain areas on the concrete pads to prevent and mitigate that type of problem, a precaution that is normally taken when dealing with hazardous chemicals. Mr. Arbuckle added that the Hanford Fire Department which serves Energy Northwest projects, will be made aware of the addition of this facility, adding it to the Fire Department's design checklist and register, so if they ever get called out they would know where it is and what type of chemicals (hydrogen & nitrogen) would be involved. In response to a question by Acting Chair Carelli, Mr. Arbuckle confirmed that there would be containment provided, but he was not certain if containment would be provided for the full contents of the tank.

Mr. Arbuckle further explained that the hydrogen storage facility had to be located outside the security barrier because it contains a potentially explosive substance, and even though many safeguards and design redundancies are included, the facility has to meet certain criteria for not having that type of explosive substance inside of the security barrier. At the present time hydrogen is stored on a skid-mounted system at the rear of the plant. It is located within the barrier because it is a smaller amount, and the plan is to replace the current hydrogen skid with the new system. There were no comments or questions from members of the public present.

Acting Chair Carelli entertained a motion that the Council adopt Resolution No. 303 as provided by staff. The Motion was moved and seconded by members Fenton and Fryhling respectively. Without any further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 4: ADJOURN

The Special Meeting adjourned at 1:44 p.m.