



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

May 2007

Dear Reviewer:

Enclosed for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Pacific Mountain Energy Center (PMEC). The proponent, Energy Northwest, has requested a Site Certification Agreement to construct and operate a 680-megawatt Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle (IGCC) facility at the Port of Kalama in Cowlitz County, Washington.

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has issued this DEIS using a submittal from the URS Corporation, on behalf of Energy Northwest. The analysis was undertaken to meet the requirements of the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and EFSEC Rules.

To ensure a complete analysis, we are asking you to review this DEIS and provide comments. Comments should be as specific as possible and may address the adequacy of this DEIS, the merits of the alternatives discussed, or both. Commentors are encouraged to supply relevant additional information, respond to the methodologies and processes identified in the DEIS, and/or respond to the mitigation measures identified.

Please note that Energy Northwest is requesting a Site Certification Agreement for the IGCC facility, a natural gas pipeline of approximately 5 miles, and the railroad spur from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe mainline. As part of and concurrent with the application, Energy Northwest is requesting approval to fill approximately 1.3 acres of Class 2 wetlands for the railroad spur. The environmental impacts associated with the construction and operation of the IGCC facility, the gas pipeline and the railroad spur are evaluated in this DEIS.

There are four separate actions related to the PMEC that are occurring outside of EFSEC's jurisdiction, through other permitting processes. These actions, while outside of EFSEC's permitting process, are considered as connected actions for SEPA purposes:

1. Electrical transmission line: An approximately 12-mile transmission line would be constructed and owned by either Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) or Cowlitz County Public Utility District (PUD) from the site north to transmit the power to the BPA electrical grid. The line would be located within existing BPA and/or PUD right-of-way and has not been designed yet. To the extent the potential impacts are known, the analysis of the impacts have been included in this DEIS. When

designed, the transmission line would go through an additional SEPA and/or National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review separate from the EFSEC process.

2. Expansion of the existing 600-foot-long dock: The Port of Kalama has obtained a permit to extend the existing 600-foot-long dock near the site to add approximately 1,000 feet of dock to the north. Because this dock has already been permitted and has already gone through a SEPA review, the environmental impacts of the dock expansion are not included in this DEIS.
3. Replacement of outfall: The Port of Kalama currently discharges domestic wastewater from the Port of Kalama wastewater treatment plant and industrial wastewater from Steelscape, Inc., a Port tenant. The existing outfall is located at the North Port pier, extends 250 feet from shore and includes a diffuser. The Port would replace the existing wastewater outfall to accommodate the flow from the PMEC, in addition to the other Port tenants. This replacement would include the installation of a new 16-inch discharge line to convey wastewater to a discharge point and diffuser to be located on the dock expansion described above. The new discharge line and diffuser would be constructed in a manner similar to the existing Port discharge line, and would be structurally supported by the dock. The potential construction and operation impacts of the new outfall are discussed in Section 3.3 of the DEIS.
4. 2.1 acre wetland fill: The Port of Kalama has applied for a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County to fill approximately 2.1 acres of wetlands located along the north edge of the PMEC site. This wetland fill is undergoing a separate environmental analysis. The cumulative impacts of this wetland fill with the wetland fill proposed by Energy Northwest have been considered in this DEIS.

EFSEC has scheduled a public meeting to receive comments on the DEIS. The public meeting will be held at the following time and location:

Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 6:30 pm

**Location: Kalama Community Building
126 North 2nd Street
Kalama, Washington 98625**

The comment period for this document closes on June 13, 2007. Please send your comments to Allen Fiksdal, Manager, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, Washington 98504-3172, or by e-mail to allenf@cted.wa.gov. Mailed comments on this document must be postmarked by June 13, 2007.

Please remember, for a comment to be considered to have substance, it should:

1. Provide new information pertaining to the proposed action or an alternative
2. Identify a new issue or expand upon an existing issue
3. Identify a different way to meet the underlying need

4. Provide an opinion regarding an alternative, **including the basis or rationale for the opinion**
5. Point out a specific flaw in the analysis
6. Identify a different source of credible research which, if used in the analysis, could result in different effects

Reviewers should provide EFSEC with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This will enable EFSEC to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision making process.

For further information regarding this proposal, or to receive a copy of the DEIS please contact Stephen Posner, Siting Specialist, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, Washington 98504-3172, (360) 956-2063.

A complete copy of the DEIS is also available on the EFSEC website at:
www.efsec.wa.gov.

Allen Fiksdal, Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council