December 14, 2009

To: Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager

From: Douglas E. Taylor and Family
      Russell Taylor and Family
      Arnold Lowe and Family
      Brandon Moore and Family
      Jerry Thorne and Family
      Matt Tuttle and Family

Re: Written Comments
   Grays Harbor Energy Center
   Satsop Combustion Turbine (CT) Project

I strongly request the rejection of the expansion of units 3 and 4. The residents and the County have had this facility shoved down their throats under false pretenses from the start. The driving selling factor to the county and residents has been a tax revenue increase to the County and that four letter word J-O-B-S. I still, to this day, wonder how many local residents (people who lived in this area prior to this plant) have ever worked there. The sad part about this is, the power from this plant does not, as presented to the public, go to the people of the northwest. It is sold on the open market power grid to the highest bidder.

Not only were jobs a driving selling point for this depressed area, but a rendition of what the facility would look like was presented at the original public hearings. That rendition of what units 1 and 2 would look like never materialized. What you see up there on the hill is what you got. An iron curtain wall with some little trees and weeds in front. Behind the iron curtain wall you have this noisy, steamy, mess of iron, roaring jets engines, steaming pots and stacks that appear to be a huge fire from viewing in the valley below. The plume of steam going hundreds of feet in the air seems to have its own weather pattern at times. If the steam, light and noise pollution is not enough you get the constant roar of jet engines running day and night, twenty-four hours a day. On top of that you get this intermittent, inconsistent in volume and pitch squealing sound that just rings in your ears. This is like a Chinese torture test. The noise and squealing is not bad for a few hours but day in and day out it is just too much. The only way we can deal with this noise is to stay inside our houses or get into our cars and leave the area for sort of relief. Even the pitchy noise we hear while inside our homes is too much. You cannot open windows in the summer and you cannot sleep because of the noise. I cannot even imagine the noise from two more units. This was once a peaceful quiet neighborhood.
This last Saturday morning, December 12, 2009, at approximately 6:30 AM, was a classic example of how things operate with the current owners, Grays Harbor Energy. There were numerous intermittent loud blasts of air or something that woke us out of deep sleep. After about fifteen minutes of this noise, I decided it was not going to stop, so I got up and started calling. After about 3 calls to the local number the control house answered. The person was just a little on the rude side and indicated that they might have it under control in about 15 minutes. I then called both Mr. Todd Gatewood and Mr. Allen Fiksdal and left a message on a recording. My thought at the time while talking with the control room person was if it might be under control in 15 minutes than that means it is out of control. These out of control events happen quite often, usually at night when it is almost impossible to call a person. Since I am here only at nights how often are these out of control events happening during the day. It almost seems planned to do these out of control events at night so people won’t be available to answer the phones. If these out of control events are planned, than out of respect, communication to the county, police and the neighborhood might be in order. This respect of and communication with the neighborhood has been a complete failure.

I would like to make some comments about The Daily World newspaper article that also came out last Saturday morning, December 12, 2009.

The newspaper article states:

- “We want residents’ comments on how they think they may be impacted”. First of all we don’t think we are being impacted, we are being impacted both physically and financially. Physically because we can not sleep. Financially because our properties are pretty much worthless. Our quality of life and the enjoyment of our land has been compromised.

- “The community will benefit from the project through new jobs—up to eight additional permanent positions—and a boost in tax revenue”. There’s that tax revenue boost and the four letter word j-o-b-s again. This comes to the county at the expense to the local area residents for a few tax revenue dollars and eight jobs. I’m certainly impressed. Those eight jobs will be imported from outside the area, again.

- “Grays Harbor Energy contends there will be minimal impacts to air, water and noise for the surrounding area”. Come on now, with the current units 1 and 2 you have numerous impacts. I cannot believe with the addition of two more units that the impacts will be minimal. Everything will be double. Two more jet engine turbines and their corresponding equipment noise will be louder, the squealing pitch will be unbearable, the steamy boiling metal maze will be a site pollution, and it will be just plain ugly.
Douglas E. Taylor  
Patricia A. Taylor  
95 Keys Rd W  
Elma, WA 98541  
(360) 482-2669  
d.taylor@centurytel.net

- “About three neighbors near the plant continue to complain about noise that comes from it, like steam releases that must occur to keep the plant functional. He said sometimes the releases occur early in the morning, creating a problem with residents”. First of all, the three neighbors referred in the article often represent several other residents. When these occurrences happen in the middle of the night, most of the residents wait it out for a few hours with the intention of calling in the morning. With the rushing to get to work and the unavailability of talking to a person on the phone it just does not happen. The neighborhood does not feel Grays Harbor Energy has been a good neighbor.

- “The amount of light visible at night and steam from the cooling towers would also likely increase”. Yes, it will be double what you see there now. Looking from the freeway at night it looks like a huge forest fire. There are days or nights when the steam is so dense you can hardly see where the road is when driving through. We assume both the light steam will double.

- “He does not anticipate traffic problems during construction at the intersection of Highway 8 and Keys Road as it was previously enlarged to handle increased traffic”. How many lives have been lost at that intersection because of “no impact to traffic”. How many more lives will be sacrificed on the pretense of “not anticipating traffic problems”. The enlargement in the median areas to handle increased traffic came at a price from the so called tax revenue.

- This last bullet is in response to the public comment notice, “The 1,600-acre Satsop Development Park surrounds the site on all four sides”. This is a play on words to make it seem like the 22-acre Satsop Combustion Turbine project site is in the middle of 1,600 acres. Although this may be a true statement, the combustion turbine site is at the western most boundary, along the cleared strip a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) power lines, which allows the pitchy loud noise to be most noticeable by the neighbors west of the facility.

Please, do not allow this permit process to proceed without a full consideration of those people most directly impacted by your decisions.

Thank you!
Mr. Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
Please accept the attached written comments in reference to the Grays Harbor Energy Facilities request to build units 3 and 4 at the Satsop location.
Thank you for this opportunity to express concerns that both myself and the neighbors I am representing have in regards to this expansion.
December 15, 2009

101 Keys Road West
Elma, WA 98541

Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
P.O. Box 43172
905 Plum St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear Mr. Fiksdal,

We live on Keys Road West approximately 0.7 miles west of the Satsop CT plant, and we had concerns with the location of the first plant and am alarmed with the prospect of having another plant being located so close to our home.

With the help of my brother-in-law we built the house we live in on 7 acres of family property. Construction lasted 2 years and consumed our lives pretty much entirely during this time period. We finished the house in 1996, and we have raised our 3 children on this place. To say that we’re emotionally attached to our place is somewhat of an understatement. My wife’s family have lived on Fuller Hill since 1961 and have seen the quality of the area degraded due to projects like the nuclear plant and the CT project.

Our initial concerns about noise, we have found, were well founded as our solitude as well as our sleep have been interrupted by the noise emitting from the plant. Not being familiar with the intricacies of how a CT plant operates, we’re not sure why at times it is noisier than other times. All we know is that when we hear it, it’s extremely annoying and certainly doesn’t add to the value of my property nor will it help sell my property should we ever decide to sell.

Some of my neighbors have told me that occasionally they smell a chemical smell coming from the CT plant when the wind is coming out of the east; we personally have not noticed any smells, however, after reviewing the EFSEC document regarding the kinds of chemicals in the emissions, we are concerned about the long term effects they may have on our family’s health. The prospect of having another plant build at this site is totally unacceptable to us because it will double the pollution put into the air, the noise, and the water usage. It seems that we value the potential economic benefits of projects of this type over the impact they may have on people’s quality of life and health.

Sincerely yours,

Russell and Janyce Taylor

Russell and Janyce Taylor
Date: December 15, 2009

Name: Sherry Rudrud

Address: 173 Newman Middle Branch, FLMK, WA 98541

(Please include your Zip!)

Which issues do you think the Council should consider with respect to this request for Site Certification Amendment?

Please write any comments you have below and leave this sheet in the Comment Box

1. Air quality - There is too much pollution from frequent odor smell. Taste is on previously clean air. Who monitors this? How often? Where?

2. Light pollution - There are too many lights at the present facility. Adding any more will further degrade our dark night sky. The present number of light should be drastically reduced and the remaining ones shielded.

3. Noise - even 13 miles away it is frequently too loud (not birds or lawn mowers, etc. this)

4. EIS - A new EIS is needed. If necessary, much of the present planning slipped in under the original nuclear facility EIS. There's change, fees change, B.A.C.T. change.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

☐ For more information about EFSEC's review of this request for SCA amendment, please contact:

Jim La Spina
Siting Manager
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
Phone: (360) 956-2047
Fax: (360) 956-2158
efsec@commerce.wa.gov
www.efsec.wa.gov

☐ To obtain future updates about the project and notice of public meetings, please be sure to include your name and complete address on this comment form or call (360) 956-2121.
Date: December 15, 2009

Name: Jerry D. Thorpe

Address: 224 Keys RD W Elma, WA, 98540

(Please include your Zip!

Which issues do you think the Council should consider with respect to this request for Site Certification Amendment?

Please write any comments you have below and leave this sheet in the Comment Box

I recall some traffic problems with the power plant construction crews, such as three cars in the center between the East and Westbound lanes instead of one.

A worker leaving the plant and passing every once in a while heading North down Keys Road (and around the blind corner).

Also the freeway access is not adequate, no on ramp Eastbound. They need to stagger work hours of employees.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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December 15, 2009

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Elma, WA 98541

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P.O. Box 43172
905 Plum St. SE
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

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Sincerely yours,

Russell and Janyce Taylor

Russell and Janyce Taylor
December 16, 2009

101 Keys Road West
Elma, WA 98541

Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear Mr. Fiksdal,

My name is Janyce (Lowe) Taylor. My family has owned homes and lived on Fuller Hill since 1961. The move to Fuller Hill was a wonderful experience for me. I was only 10 years old at the time with 28 plus acres of forests to run on and explore. Our 28 acres were surrounded by beautiful wooded areas as well. Then came the Nuke Plant in 1975. Things began to change. They demanded 2.3 acres from my dad for the existing gravel road that runs behind my property. My dad did not want to sell, but they said they would condemn it and take it anyway so he gave in and sold the land, leaving him 1 acre south of the gravel road and 25 plus acres on the north of the road. The promise was made (and stated in the contract) that if the Nuclear Plant was abandoned they would put our hill back to the original state. Obviously that promise was never kept and the neighboring land became the Satsop Public Development Park.

Over the years we have fought against many projects that would have negatively impacted our lives such as a Correctional Center, Garbage dump, and someone who wanted to turn the west tower into a rock concert area somewhat like the Tacoma Dome, just to name a few. Then came Duke Energy with promises of what wonderful neighbors they would be, and how the noise level, as quoted from their presenter, would never be louder than “the sound of your refrigerator.” No one mentioned the emissions — only the steam.

Quite frankly I am tired of unkept promises and lies that come from these representatives. Tired of fighting something new every year that threatens my quality of life. I would like to go on record as opposing this second power plant site, not only because of the noise (which is already depriving my sleep) or the emissions (God only knows the long term effect on our health due to this) but also the water. This plant not only draws from the river but also from wells on the hill. How will this affect the table of my well water? Does anyone really know? How dare you think of selling us out for the almighty dollar. And what exactly do you stand to gain by allowing this plant to be built?

As for jobs, please check and see just how many people employed there lived in Grays Harbor prior to the opening of this plant. I think you’ll be surprised. This is not bringing jobs to the people in Grays Harbor, it is just bringing more people here with more lies and more promises that won’t be kept. Again I ask you to please stop this second plant.

A frustrated and tired inhabitant of Fuller Hill,

Janyce Taylor

Janyce Taylor
Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
905 Pulum St, SE
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Subject: Satsop CT Amendment

Mr. Fiksdal,

I am writing to indicate my support for the subject amendment and energy project at Satsop. I believe the project should be sited and completed as proposed by the applicant and that there should be a minimum of mitigation measures required for the project. The proposed project represents a unique opportunity to recycle infrastructure and avoid environmental impacts of alternative locations. I appreciate the difficulties associated with the development of any large energy project since no one desires development in their backyard. Although residents of cities utilize most of the power produced they strongly oppose energy development in their neighborhood just the same as rural residents oppose the location and impacts to their surroundings. Likewise locating an energy plant in the most isolated and pristine environment raises the ire of anyone concerned about protecting the uninhabited area from development. Nonetheless our lifestyles and standard of living depends on electricity and electricity depends on generating resources.

My support for this project and the site is based on the following facts and opinions:

1) Additional base load or on-demand power resources will be needed to firm the increased amount of power being proposed and completed using alternative energy resources such as wind and solar power. Although these resources are renewable they are not reliable and even the best wind and solar energy sites often have capacity factors that are below 35%. To offset these periodic energy producers the region needs power plants that can firm alternative energy plants. Washington State will not be able to achieve the alternative energy goals established by the legislature unless reliable and firm resources are also constructed to improve reliability of alternative energy resources.
2) The proposed plant represents a type of thermal power resource with a very high thermal efficiency of nearly 50%. As you know most thermal generating power plants such as coal, nuclear, waste burners, or other steam producing fuels typically operate at efficiencies well below 40%. The combined cycle gas turbine technology with duct firing provides a major increase in efficiency over traditional thermal plants. This feature represents an opportunity to reduce carbon emissions by replacing older inefficient resources with the more efficient combined cycle gas plant. As older plants such as the coal generating plant in Chehalis are retired or shut-down due to air quality concerns a logical replacement will be plants such as the unit proposed for Satsop.

3) The project will utilize a fuel which is readily available and currently underutilized. Although I believe that the best use of natural gas is for direct heating, cooking, and water heating since these uses do not involve the thermodynamic losses associated with conversion to electricity the resource is currently very abundant and prices have remained competitive for power plant generation. Natural gas is often wasted or burned off as a by-product of petroleum refining and utilization as an electrical generating fuel is a higher and better use. In addition the carbon emissions from natural gas plants are substantially lower than the primary fossil fuel used for electrical generation which is coal (coal currently represents about 50% of US electrical generation).

4) The proposed site represents an opportunity to re-cycle assets and use infrastructure which has would otherwise be lost. The proposed use of the existing energy site and existing Ranney Wells, pipelines, access road, and other utility infrastructure that were never utilized as part of the defunct nuclear plant is far more cost effective than constructing new facilities at another location. The Satsop site is a logical location for energy development due to the existing BPA transmission lines, available water rights, proper zoning, and publicly owned buffer lands surrounding the proposed site that prevent residential development next to the project.
5) The site development will cause little to no environmental damage and should require no significant mitigation measures for the project. The site does not impact any wetlands, the zoning is already established for industrial development and the site has a long history of heavy construction and anticipated energy production. One of the advantages of the site location is that there are substantial water rights and resources available that will not encumber water availability in the lower Chehalis River and water discharges to the river will actually return the water to the river upstream from the withdrawal point. I understand that there will be gas emissions although as noted above these are much less than other carbon gas emitters and other air pollution constituents in the exhaust gases can be managed to meet environmental standards using existing technologies. Likewise the noise associated with the operating plant can be designed to meet current standards and the large distance (approximately 2000') between the plant and any residential neighbors represents a mitigation factor for the transmission of sounds.

6) Finally I believe the location of additional resources at Satsop has several electrical transmission advantages. The Satsop site is located approximately halfway between two major load centers represented by the metropolitan areas of Seattle and Portland. Since between 5-10% of electricity produced is lost in the transmission system and these losses increase with the distance between the resource and the end user it only makes sense to locate energy plants near major loads. There is currently a major initiative towards building a ‘Smart Grid’ which entails improving transmission efficiency, load balancing, and managing demand during the day. The Satsop project has several Smart Grid benefits. It can easily change output to follow load conditions and it is located near major population centers thereby reducing transmission losses. In addition, the proposal does not require new transmission lines or right-of-way corridors that are attendant to many new renewable energy developments.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Joel Rett
2010 Eskridge Blvd SE
Olympia, WA 98501
EFSEC Council

Attached comments for the subject SCA Amendment request.

Joel Rett
2010 Eskridge Blvd SE
Olympia, WA 98501

360-747-7388