



EFSEC

# News Release

Washington State  
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
P.O. Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – May 24, 2002**

**CONTACT ALLEN FIKSDAL  
(360) 956-2152**

## **EFSEC recommends Governor Locke Approve the Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility.**

Today the twelve member state Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) unanimously recommended that Governor Gary Locke approve the Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility (SE2), a 660 megawatt combined cycle gas turbine located in Sumas, Washington near the US-Canadian border. The recommendation includes specific conditions that will mitigate environmental impacts.

EFSEC found that the SE2 project meets or exceeds all US, State, and Canadian air emission standards. The Council also accepted SE2's proposal to provide 100% offsets in the airshed for its NO<sub>x</sub> and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>) emissions, and fund from \$5-\$9 million for CO<sub>2</sub> mitigation. These offers likewise exceed US, State, and Canadian regulatory requirements.

EFSEC Chair Jim Luce said, "Sumas Energy listened carefully. It significantly changed its application in response to the earlier concerns of EFSEC and the public. This project sets a new standard of excellence for the protection of the environment and the public interest."

Luce continued, "Sumas's 660 megawatts of power would light 660,000 homes, approximately one-half the annual load of Seattle." He noted that, "Sumas has offered improvements that will result in an energy benefit for the region and reduced impacts on its neighbors and on the environment. The proposal eliminates diesel oil as backup fuel and, by so doing, improves air quality and resolves issues associated with transportation and fuel storage in a manner consistent with the public interest."

Prior to making its recommendation on the reconfigured SE2 proposal, EFSEC prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, drafted a new air emission permit, and conducted a second round of adjudicative and public hearings. EFSEC received thousands of comments from the public in opposition to and in support of the project.

EFSEC's recommendation includes a draft Site Certification Agreement that contains conditions the SE2 project would have to meet prior to and during construction, as well as during operation of the facility. These conditions would reduce or eliminate potential impacts to air, water, wetlands, traffic, noise, and flooding.

EFSEC will allow parties until June 7<sup>th</sup> to file petitions for reconsideration of its recommendation. If such petitions are filed, EFSEC will review the petitions and determine if reconsideration of its recommendation is warranted. EFSEC will forward its recommendation to the Governor after the completion of the reconsideration process.

Once Governor Locke officially receives EFSEC's recommendation, he has 60 days to approve or reject the SE2 proposal, or direct EFSEC to reconsider certain aspects of the draft Site Certification Agreement.

EFSEC is the state board responsible for reviewing applications for major energy facilities in Washington State. It is comprised of a Governor appointed Chair and representatives from state agencies. For each individual project, representatives from local governments augment EFSEC's membership for purposes of application review.

Information regarding EFSEC and the SE2 recommendation can be found at [www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov).