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6 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

7 In the Matter of)
8 Application No. 99-1)
9 SUMAS ENERGY 2, INC.) EXHIBIT _____ (CJ-T)
10 SUMAS ENERGY 2 GENERATION)
11 FACILITY)
_____)

12 WHATCOM COUNTY'S PREFILED TESTIMONY
13 WITNESS # _____ : CALVIN JAGER

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16 Q: Please introduce yourself to the Council.

17 A: My name is Calvin Jager. I am a 67 year old resident of Sumas. I have lived and farmed
18 in the Sumas area since 1962. I currently reside at 3904 Barker Avenue, Sumas, which is
about 1/2 of a mile to the north of the existing Sumas Energy 1 Plant on Moe Hill. My 57
acre farm is located about 1/3 of a mile to the West of the plant.

19 Q: What are the subjects of your testimony?

20 A: As I live and work near to the site of the proposed SE2 plant and the Sumas Energy 1 plant,
I will describe my experiences with the noise that comes from the existing energy plant.

21 Q: Please describe your home to the Council.

22 A: It is a single story wood frame ranch style house. It is insulated and has double paned
windows.

23 Q: How long have you lived there?

24 A: About six years. As I recall, we were moving in on the day the existing plant started up.

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1 Q: Can you hear the existing energy plant at your house?

2 A: Yes, depending upon the wind, when I am outside of the house on the patio or inside with
3 the windows open I can hear the plant.

4 Q: Describe the sound you hear please.

5 A: It is a humming noise, much like the sound of an electric motor, about a one horsepower
6 electric motor running at a distance of approximately 10 feet away.

7 Q: Are you concerned about noise impacts related to the energy generation plants?

8 A: I am not so much concerned about the current plant, it is already there. I can live with it.
9 My concern is directed to the proposed plant as the scale of that plant is of much greater
10 proportion than the existing one. I am expecting that given its larger size, the new plant will
11 be noisier than the existing plant.

12 Q: Does the existing plant disturb you in your home?

13 A: As I have mentioned, I have learned to live with the existing plant. I don't seem to hear the
14 existing plant when I am in my house and the windows are closed or when the wind is
15 coming from the northeast, as that drives the sound away. The sound does not keep me
16 awake at night. I am afraid, however, that given the larger size of the proposed new plant it
17 may very well disturb my sleep.

18 Q: Does the sound from the existing plant vary?

19 A: Yes it does.

20 Q: How does it vary?

21 A: It varies by the plant operations and by environmental factors. The humming noise I
22 described is the typical operating mode, however, after the plant shuts down, when it
23 restarts there is temporarily a very large increase in noise from the plant. During a
24 restarting of the plant, the noise is extremely loud, but this level lasts for only a short time
25 and it not a problem for me.

Q: How do environmental factors impact the sound level?

A: As I mentioned, the wind is a major factor. When the wind is calm or is blowing from the
direction of the plant to my house, I will hear the sound of the existing plant. However,
when the wind blows from the northeast the sound of the plant seems to be carried away.

Q: You mentioned that you farm near the existing plant, are the sounds different there?

A: Yes, the hum is much louder, depending upon your proximity to the plant.

Q: What to you mean?

A: As I said, my farm is about 1/3 of a mile due west of the existing plant, but up until this
year I had farmed the land to the west and immediately adjacent to the plant. When I
worked the land adjacent to the plant, the sound was loud enough that it was difficult to

1 carry on a conversation with another person. The sound was particularly problematic when
2 I had to work with another person in moving irrigation pipes around in the field. However,
3 as one moves away from the plant, for example, to my own farmland, the sound level
diminishes.

4 Q: Are there other factors that impact the sound from the existing energy plant at your farm?

5 A: Yes, I have noticed that when there are stacks of wood placed on the west side of the plant,
6 the wood acts to buffer and reduce the sound level. The wood stacks seem to act in the
7 same manner as the wall which was built to the east of the plant to buffer the noise of the
plant from the City of Sumas. We also have a house located on the farm. There is a
windbreak of trees located between the house and the existing power plant. This
windbreak acts to muffle the sound from the power plant.

8 Q: Does the sound from the existing plant pose a problem for you on your own farmland?

9 A: No, it does not. In fact, the new shingle plant's rock crusher has much more impact when it
10 is running than does the energy plant. The shingle plant is just across the road, to the north,
of my farm.

11 Q: Given your personal experiences with the sounds from the current plant, do you think any
steps could be taken to minimize the sound impacts?

12 A: Yes. During the hearings for the current plant, the owners said that they were going to plant
13 trees to buffer the sound. That was not done, but based on my experience, it appears that
such buffers may be useful in lowering the sound level. The owners of the current plant
14 have offered to upgrade windows and insulation in homes, but that remedy is unacceptable
15 to me since we would then be forced to live with our windows closed all the time in order
to reduce the noise impacts. Better on site measures, such as tree buffers and containment
structures, should be required.

16 END OF TESTIMONY

17 I declare under penalty of perjury that the above testimony is true and correct to the best of
18 my knowledge.

19 Executed at _____, Washington, on this _____ day of June, 2000.

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21 By: _____
22 Calvin Jager