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WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY LLC  
JASON SPADARO  
PREFILED TESTIMONY  
EXHIBIT NO. 1.00

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of Application No. 2009-01: WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY LLC; WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT	EXHIBIT NO. 1.00
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**APPLICANT'S PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY**  
**WITNESS #1: JASON SPADARO**

Q Please state your name and business address.

A My name is Jason Spadaro, and my business address is P.O. Box 266, Bingen, WA 98605.

Q What is your present occupation and profession, and what are your duties and responsibilities?

A I am President of SDS Lumber Company and Whistling Ridge Energy LLC. SDS Lumber Company is an independent forest products company with operations in Oregon and Washington, and since 1978 it has operated a wood-fired cogeneration

1 plant in Bingen, Washington. I have been SDS Lumber Company's president since  
2 1998. My primary duties and responsibilities include managing SDS Lumber  
3 Company's operations and providing the leadership and direction necessary for its  
4 continued success. I assisted in the preparation of the Application for Site  
5 Certification for this Project.  
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8 Q Please summarize your education and prior professional experience.

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10 A I graduated from the University of Washington with a Bachelor of Sciences degree in  
11 Forest Management in June of 1990 and began work for SDS Lumber Company as a  
12 forester that same month. In 1998 I became President of SDS Lumber Company and  
13 later that year earned a Masters in Business Administration through University of  
14 Oregon Executive MBA. Over the years my responsibilities have expanded to  
15 include managing and developing multiple businesses and investments for the  
16 shareholders of SDS Lumber Company related to forestry and natural resources, forest  
17 products, real estate, energy and other areas.  
18

19 Q Are you sponsoring any portions of the Application for Site Certification for the  
20 Whistling Ridge Energy Project?  
21

22 A Yes. I am sponsoring the following sections:

23	Section 1.1	Description of Applicant
24	Section 1.2	Designation of Agent
25	Section 2.1	Site Description
26	Section 2.2	Legal Descriptions and Ownership Interests

1	Section 2.3	Construction on Site
2	Section 2.4	Energy Transmission Systems
3	Section 2.5	Water Supply System
4	Section 2.6	System of Heat Dissipation
5	Section 2.7	Characteristics of Aquatic Discharge Systems
6	Section 2.8	Wastewater Treatment
7	Section 2.12	Construction and Operation Activities
8	Section 2.13	Construction Management
9	Section 2.14	Construction Methodology
10	Section 2.16	Security Concerns
11	Section 2.19	Analysis of Alternatives

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14 Q Are you sponsoring any appendices or other documents that are part of the Application  
15 for Site Certification?

16  
17 A No.

18  
19 Q Are you familiar with the identified sections of the Application for Site Certification?

20  
21 A Yes. These sections provide a description of certain elements of the Project. As  
22 President of the Applicant, I was directly in charge of their development and  
23 have direct knowledge about them.

24  
25 Q To the best of your knowledge, are the contents of those sections of the Application  
26 for Site Certification true?

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2 A Yes.

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5 Q Do you incorporate the facts and contents of those sections as part of your testimony?

6

7 A Yes.

8

9 Q Are you able to answer questions under cross examination regarding those sections?

10

11 A Yes.

12

13 Q Do you sponsor the admission into evidence of those sections of the Application for  
14 Site Certification?

15

16 A Yes.

17

18 Q Are there any modifications or clarifications to be made to those portions of the  
19 Application for Site Certification that you are sponsoring?

20

21 A Yes. S.D.S. Co., LLC is a Washington limited liability company rather than a  
22 corporation, and Whistling Ridge Energy LLC is a special purpose limited liability  
23 company formed in Washington rather than a special purpose corporation incorporated  
24 in Washington.

25 Table 2.1-1 in the Application indicates that approximately 5 acres are required  
26 by BPA for the substation site with an overhead line running parallel and adjacent to

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the BPA lines for Project interconnection. Preliminary engineering of the substation by BPA after the preparation of the Application indicates that the substation may require additional area , up to a total substation site size of 10 acres, to facilitate BPA requirements in the same location, but that interconnection would no longer require an overhead line running parallel and adjacent to the BPA lines. The result of these changes are expected to have approximately offsetting effects on the total area to be developed within the Project site shown in Table 2.1-1. Final substation design and layout has not yet been prepared by BPA so exact numbers are not currently available, but those shown in Table 2.1-1 are not expected to change significantly. Figure 2.3-1, Section 2.3.3.5, and the general discussion in Section 2.3 of the Application should also reflect this additional information regarding substation site size.

The first sentence of the second paragraph of Section 2.3.1 of the Application should be corrected to read “Turbines will be located on forested ridges of the Underwood Mountain area, Chemawa Hill, and Whistling Ridge” rather than Saddleback Mountain.

Q Would you please briefly describe the Applicant?

A Whistling Ridge Energy LLC is wholly owned by S.D.S. Co., LLC, which is a privately-held Washington limited liability company. Whistling Ridge Energy LLC would own and operate the Project, which would be located on land owned by S.D.S. Co., LLC. Portions of the Project site are owned by Broughton Lumber Company, which is a privately-held Washington corporation.

Q Would you please briefly describe the Project?

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A The Project submitted for review and approval under Chapter 80.50 Revised Code of Washington includes the following elements:

- An installed capacity of approximately 75 MW of electricity;
- Up to fifty 1.2- to 2.5-MW wind turbines;
- Electrical transformers;
- 34.5 kV collector lines and systems (primarily underground);
- Permanent meteorological towers;
- An operations and maintenance facility (in one of two alternative locations);
- A substation located adjacent to BPA’s existing North Bonneville to Midway 230-kV transmission line; and
- Approximately 2.4 miles of newly-constructed and 7.9 miles of improved roads to provide access to the wind turbine locations during construction and for ongoing operation and maintenance.

Q Where would the Project be located?

A The Project would be located on 1,152 acres of private land located approximately 7 miles northwest of the City of White Salmon. The Project site is commercial forestland owned by S.D.S. Co., LLC and Broughton Lumber Company in an

1 unincorporated area of Skamania County, outside of the Columbia River Gorge  
2 National Scenic Area.

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5 Q How many of the 1,152 acres would be used for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project?

6  
7 A The total permanent impact of the Project (*i.e.*, turbine strings, roadways, overhead  
8 transmission lines within the Project site, the operations and maintenance yard and  
9 storage area, and the substation) would be approximately 54 acres (see Table 2.1-1 of  
10 the Application).

11  
12 Q Why has this site been selected for the Project?

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14 A The Project's location is intended to reduce or eliminate the environmental impacts  
15 that would occur if a similar project were to be construction on an undisturbed site:

- 16
- 17 • The site has been in commercial forest operation for over a century and the  
18 majority of the locations proposed for the wind turbines have recently been  
19 harvested and reforested, eliminating the need for large amounts of clearing for the  
20 purpose of locating a wind project. With this Project, the site will remain in  
21 sustainable forestry operation.
  - 22 • The site has existing forest roads that can be used with minimal widening for  
23 equipment delivery and for operation and maintenance, eliminating the need for  
24 new clearing.
  - 25 • The site can be accessed from County roads via existing roads.
  - 26 • The site is crossed by BPA's regional transmission lines, including the existing  
North Bonneville to Midway 230-kV transmission line, allowing direct connection

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through a substation, and eliminating the environmental impacts associated with the need to create a new high voltage transmission line.

- The site is situated in proximity to the Vancouver/Portland metropolitan area, and can provide a source of new clean energy to these markets.
- Unlike a fossil fueled power generation plant, wind energy produces no air emissions, and contributes no green house gas emissions.

The site has also been selected for the following reasons:

- The site is on the Applicant’s privately owned or controlled land, giving the Applicant the opportunity to use it for this purpose.
- Ridge top portions of the site have a known high wind resource as evidenced by poor forest growth and form.
- The site is located outside of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Q Could you please describe how water would be used for the construction and operation of the Project?

A Water used during construction would be primarily associated with road construction, wetting of concrete, dust control, and other activities. Water used during construction activities would be purchased by the contractor from an off-site vendor with a valid water right and transported to the Project site in water-tanker trucks. There would be no water treatment requirements or methods on site. Environmentally benign dust palliatives such as lignin may be added to water used for dust suppression to improve efficiency and reduce water use. No water would be used from the site during construction.

Project operations would not require the use of any water for cooling or any

1 other use aside from the limited needs of the operations and maintenance facility.

2 There would be no industrial wastewater stream from the Project beyond wastewater  
3 from the operations and maintenance building discharging to an on-site septic system.

4 The anticipated use is expected to be less than 5,000 gallons per day for kitchen and  
5 bathroom use. Potable water intake would be in the form of a well accommodating  
6 the operations and maintenance facility's needs.

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9 Q Would you please summarize and briefly describe how forest practices on the Project  
10 site would be affected by the Project?

11  
12 A The Project site is located on land managed for commercial forestry (*i.e.*, an  
13 approximately 50-year continual cycle of growth, harvest, and replanting). No old-  
14 growth forest exists in areas where the Project is proposed. Many of the remaining  
15 stands of second growth trees in areas where turbines are proposed are near harvest  
16 age. Prior to construction, areas around the turbine locations would need to be  
17 harvested/cleared to allow for safe construction and to reduce the potential that tree  
18 growth could interfere with the wind resource during the 30-year commercial life of  
19 the Project. Harvesting/clearing would also be required for the construction of  
20 permanent improvements, such as access roads. As with typical timber harvests,  
21 crawler tractors, rubber-tired skidders, and mobile feller-bunchers would be used to  
22 harvest/clear these areas.

23 Harvested/cleared areas would be replanted with trees in the spring  
24 immediately following completion of construction, except for an area extending  
25 approximately 50 feet in all directions from the turbine and any other areas that must  
26 remain clear for ongoing maintenance and operation access needs. Such areas would

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be surfaced with crushed rock and not replanted. In the area between 50 and 150 feet from the turbines, except for any portion of this area that must remain clear for an ongoing crane access pad, replanting will occur with appropriate native grasses, low growing shrubs and/or trees. Tree and vegetation heights in this area would be limited to approximately 15 feet above the elevation of the base of the turbine. In the areas between 150 and 500 feet from the turbines that are bounded by a 90-degree angle centered on the prevailing upwind side, and on the downwind side of the prevailing wind direction, tree heights would be limited to approximately 50 feet above the elevation of the base of the turbine. Due to the topography of the Project site, particularly in the upwind direction, many trees in this 150- to 500-foot area would never reach this height limit (Figure 2.3-4 in the Application). There would also likely be an approximately 100-horizontal-foot limitation on trees along any overhead electrical cable corridors. The permanently disturbed, cleared areas would be considered a “forest conversion” under the Washington Forest Practices Act, because they would be implemented for the purpose of the Project.

Q Could you please explain why in September 2003 the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) disapproved Broughton Lumber Company’s Forest Practices Application (FPA) No. 2702754, which included property in the vicinity of the Project’s Turbine Line A? The Notice of Decision stated “This application is disapproved due to unstable land features. Four shallow landslides or earthflows were identified, including a shallow landslide with bedrock hollow and Perennial Initiation Point, and inner gorge.”

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A In September 2003 Broughton Lumber Company submitted FPA #2702754 to harvest timber on about 100 acres in the following three sections in Skamania County (Township 3 North, Range 9 East of the Willamette Meridian):

Section 3 (Unit #2)

Section 10 (Unit #1)

Section 13 (Unit #3)

The harvest units in Sections 3 and 10 are across the valley from the Project site on Rock Creek and Pine Creek tributaries, which have deep incised canyons where high water flows have eroded soils and cause bank failures. The harvest unit in Section 13 is in the vicinity of the Project's Turbine Line A, and has no streams or evidence of landslide potential. The landslides that concerned DNR implicated the harvest units in Sections 3 and 10 but not the harvest unit in Section 13, which is the one in the vicinity of Turbine Line A.

Subsequent to DNR's disapproval, Broughton Lumber Company removed the areas of concern to DNR and submitted a new FPA to harvest in Sections 3 and 10. That FPA was approved by DNR. Broughton Lumber Company later applied to harvest the area in Section 13, which is in the vicinity of Turbine Line A, under a new, separate FPA. That FPA was approved by DNR. DNR has issued numerous forest practices permits for areas within the Project site without any conditioning for unstable slopes or mass wasting potential.