BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of
Application No. 2009-01

WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY, L.L.C.

WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT

COMES NOW the Port of Skamania County (Port) and submits the following issues, its position on these issues, and its legal arguments, in response to Prehearing Order No. 1 (Council Order No. 84238).

LEGAL ISSUES:

• Are projects such as Whistling Ridge appropriate uses on the Applicant’s property in Skamania County?
• If yes to the above, is this Project’s approval is in the public’s interest, including provision of significant benefits to the Port?
PORT’S STATEMENT OF POSITIONS:

- The Whistling Ridge Project is consistent with the Skamania County comprehensive plan’s land use designation for this property. Authority for this position is found throughout the Skamania County comprehensive plan.
- The Whistling Ridge Project is consistent with the Skamania County zoning provisions for this property. Authority for this position is found in the Skamania County zoning provisions.
- The Whistling Ridge Project will provide significant economic and social benefits to Skamania County and the Port, specifically,
- Approval of the Whistling Ridge Project, taking into consideration all environmental effects to the built and natural environment and sited in accordance with the Washington Energy Facility Site Location Act, is in the public interest.

SCOPE OF ARGUMENT: Port Districts are created for the sole purpose of enhancing the economic vitality of a community through commercial and industrial operations that increase their revenue. This revenue enables the Port to provide public infrastructure to sustain and enhance the economy of Skamania County.

The Whistling Ridge Project is proposed on land that allows this type of use. As such, its development not only implements the county’s land use policies and requirements, but promotes the economic vitality of Skamania County. The socioeconomic benefits of the project are a significant factor to the review and approval of the Project. Consideration of these benefits must be considered by the Council both under the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (RCW 43.21C) and the substantive Energy Facility Site Location Act (RCW 80.50) provisions and rules that guide siting of energy facilities in Washington. These socioeconomic impacts and benefits should be given appropriate weight as a critical element of the impact to
the community and environment, and substantive review and consideration the Council should
give to this Project.

DATED THIS ___ day of _____________, 2009.

PORT OF SKAMANIA COUNTY

John McSherry, Manager