A. INTRODUCTION OF PETITIONER

The Port of Skamania County (Port) respectfully submits this petition to intervene in support of Whistling Ridge Energy, L.L.C. pursuant to the authority of RCW 34.05.443, WAC 463-30-091, and the June 24, 2009 Notice of Opportunity and Closing Date to File Petitions for Intervention issued by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

Approval of the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project will play a critical role in the continued funding of the Port of Skamania County. As a unique creature of statute, only the Port has authority to speak for its interest in the outcome of this Project application, an interest not represented by the parties hereto and one which would be impaired if intervention is not granted in this matter.

For reasons further discussed below, it is respectfully requested that this petition be granted and the Port's participation be allowed to the fullest extent that Project approval,
including proposed conditions placed thereon that reduce it size or operations, will affect the
Whistling Ridge Energy Project’s value and viability, which in turn will impact the Port.

Petitioner’s Information:
Port of Skamania County
John McSherry, Manager
PO Box 1099
Stevenson, WA 98648
509.427.5484/phone
509.427.7984/fax

B. PORT OF SKAMANIA COUNTY’S INTEREST IN WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY

Ports are authorized by Washington law and exist with a goal of becoming self-supporting vehicles that promote economic development. Ports accomplish this in a variety of ways. First, Ports receive a percentage of all the sales tax that comes into the county. See RCW 82.14.370. Presently, the Port receives slightly over $200,000 per year in these sales tax revenues. The sales tax revenues associated with the Whistling Ridge project in Skamania County will directly benefit the Port.

This sales tax revenue is used by the Port as matching funds for grants and loans obtained by the Port to develop facilities that are leased to businesses. The affordable lease rates, when coupled with reasonable utility and other tax benefits provided to tenants, enables the Port to attract business to the area. The lease amounts received by the Port at the present time are approximately $600,000 per year, another source of matching funds for grants and loans to further develop business infrastructure.

The Port’s ability to borrow money is limited by its bonding capacity. This amount is a function of the assessed valuation of the property within the Port’s district boundaries. Major projects outside the district boundaries that are of an area-wide impact have the effect of not only lifting up assessed valuations in the immediate project vicinity, but across the county. Jobs are created, housing prices rise, and values go up. As the Whistling Ridge project builds out and operates, its contributions to the economic health of Skamania County will drive up area-wide
valuations, including the assessed valuation within the Port’s boundaries. With increased
valuation, the Port’s bonding capacity also increases, making it possible for the Port to
undertake further infrastructure investment, which generates more lease money it can plow
back into itself to perpetuate economic development and its own self-sufficiency.

The Port’s infrastructure and development opportunities would be greatly supported by
the development of the Whistling Ridge project through sales tax and valuation increases. That
contribution to the Port’s viability, and the Port’s contribution to the county’s economic health,
would build upon itself over time. The Port’s reliance upon such private industry investment as
that of the Whistling Ridge project in order to promote business development should not be
underestimated.

By way of example, one of the Port’s new tenants is an aerospace manufacturer that
generates components for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (“drones”). This Boeing subsidiary
anticipates creating 100 skilled jobs, a majority of which pay a substantial wage of over $80,000
per year. This is considerably in excess of the average annual wage for Skamania County, which
is under $30,000 per year. When the governmental sector jobs are removed from the existing
annual wage calculation, that annual average county wage falls even further, to a point where
service industry annual average wages can dip below $20,000 per year. These Port-housed jobs
are critical contributors to the county’s economic welfare, which both directly and indirectly
enables the Port to attract more such jobs and investment.

As can be seen, the Port is directly dependent on projects such as Whistling Ridge Wind
Energy succeeding in order to jump start the long road to economic self-sufficiency. The
contributions that the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project will make to the Port will improve
the Port’s ability to continue and expand development of infrastructure that is currently
underway.

Conversely, the limitations placed on the Project will reduce the benefits to be derived
by the Port. Reduced project size means reduced valuation, and fewer jobs, which generates
few revenues for the Port, and in such a fashion, slows the entire county’s ability to climb out of
a decades-long economic downturn. The Port is concerned with the limitations and reductions
being urged upon the Council, as every reduction has the potential to negatively multiply across
the county, just as added revenue from a robust Project has a similar positive multiplier effect.

C. LEGAL ARGUMENT

Intervention may be sought by written request to EFSEC. Intervention “shall be allowed
to any person upon whom a statute confers a right to intervene and, in the discretion of the
council, to any person having an interest in the subject matter and whose ability to protect such
interest may be otherwise impaired or impeded. WAC 463-30-091.

As described above, the Port of Skamania County has both a direct (sales tax revenue)
and indirect (assessed valuation base) interest in the approval of the Whistling Ridge Energy
Project. The Port looks to projects such as Whistling Ridge as contributors to the Port’s ability to
move further down the long road to economic self-sufficiency.

As a Port, our position in this matter is unique. We rely on projects such as the Whistling
Ridge project to generate revenues so we can develop infrastructure. That infrastructure
enhances the tax base and generates sales tax that the Port reinvests into itself, in effort to
develop a self-perpetuating cycle of sufficiency for all. Project conditions and constraints
pressed upon the Council that serve to reduce the robust nature of the Project will have both a
direct and indirect impact on the Port, and the Port’s ability to protect this interest would be
impaired if intervention were not granted.

The Port is cognizant of the effect that is participation could have in these proceedings,
and will ensure that its participation in these proceeds will neither unduly delay proceedings
nor will it impair the rights of the existing parties.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, the Port of Skamania County respectfully requests that its
Petition to Intervene in this matter be granted by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council so
that the Port may participate in the adjudicative process and protect its interest and that of its
constituency.

DATED THIS 10th day of July, 2009.

PORT OF SKAMANIA COUNTY

Tony Bolstad, President

Port of Skamania County
Petition to Intervene
VERIFICATION

Tony Bolstad states and declares as follows:

I am the President of the Port of Skamania County, which seeks to intervene in this matter. I have personal knowledge of the facts in this declaration and am competent to testify to those facts.

I have read the foregoing Petition to Intervene. I verify that the factual allegations in the Petition to Intervene are true, and request that the Petition to Intervene be granted.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

EXECUTED at Stevenson, Skamania County, Washington this 16th day of July, 2009.

[Signature]
Tony Bolstad

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 16th day of July, 2009.

[Signature of Notary]

T. M. Takami
(Legally Print Name of Notary)


Port of Skamania County
Petition to Intervene