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Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

COMMENT FORM

JAN 13 2011

Whistling Ridge Public Comment Meeting
Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity
ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Douglas R. Charters

Address: PO, Box [redacted] White Salmon Wa, 98672

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: N/A 509-493-[redacted]



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Please write any comments you have with respect to the

Leave this sheet in the Comment Box today, or mail it to:
EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

Comment letters must be postmarked by Saturday, January 15, 2011.

I think This Project should be Approved

The wind farm would be a Great Help to Skamania County
Klickitat County's wind farms have made the difference in it
County's Budget, Skamania County needs new funding
The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is not a
National Park, Wilderness, or Monument, Underwood Mountain
has development, and is not of high view value as is other
areas of the Gorge. Both sides of the Columbia River here
in the mid Gorge are already well developed. This project
would help the State of Washington become energy self-reliant.
The site area has no homes close to it, and has easy
access to transmission lines, overall it looks like a
very good project.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

For more information, please contact:
Stephen Posner, Siting Specialist, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,
call (360) 664-1903, or e-mail efsec@utc.wa.gov.

It would have BEEN nice if The Dept of Natural Resources would have stayed with the project. Wind farms at the Forest would help School Funding this would have been a Good place to start to try something new. We need to try new system like this, it shows a Greater Good. I've talked with folks Both for and not for this project. I've looked in to the system and placement of this project. My over all Finding, show that Approval should go ahead, My hope is if this project is Approved, that more projects of this type can go forward in west Kiski. It County we need more projects of this type to help meet our Power needs, and help fund our Schools

Best wishes to you folks

Doug

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EVALUATION COUNCIL

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JAN 13 2011

Name: Isaac Kinsey

Address: [Redacted] Root Rd, Mosier, Or 97040

Email Address: [Redacted]@aol.com
(Please include your Zip!)

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As an orchardist and a student in
the Renewable Energy Program at Med
Columbia Community College, I would like
to have the wind farm installed at Whistling
Ridge. My motivation for such is not political
correctness or environmental concerns, but my
concern for our national security. In this
country we have lots of energy resources including;
wind, hydro, coal and oil. We need to
move away from dependency on other governments
through more local energy production and conservation
of our energy resources. Thank you Isaac

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Whistling Ridge
Public Comment
#363

Gary C. Brannan
S.E. Ankeny Street
Portland, OR 97215-1137
Phone (503) 232-
Email: GCBranan@comcast.net

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JAN 13 2011

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

January 10, 2011

Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

To Whom This May Concern,

As a native Oregonian who believes in the preservation of an incredible gift to mankind which we know as the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA), I am alarmed and dismayed that anyone would attempt to establish any facility within that area which would in even the slightest way degrade the purposes for which the CRGNSA was created. Period. I think we all know that greed and indifference are at play here.

The Columbia River Gorge is a national treasure. In recognizing this and to protect it, including undamaged view and appreciation of every inch of it, in November 1986, Congress recognized the world-class significance of the Gorge when it passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

The Scenic Area Act identifies two purposes:

- a. To establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge (this includes not permitting any commercial development that could spoil it); and
- b. To protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with purpose a., above.

The Scenic Area lies to the east of Portland, Oregon and Vancouver, Washington. It stretches about 85 miles from the Sandy River in the west to the Deschutes River in the east in Oregon and from Gibbons Creek in Clark County to a line 4 miles east of Wishram in Washington. For map challenged Oregonians that means from Troutdale to a point east of The Dalles. One does not need a survey instrument to SEE that the Whistling Ridge Project violates the CRGNSA visually, and probably audibly, in addition to disturbing, perhaps even damaging indigenous and transitory wildlife, but in my opinion also violates a national trust.

Bottom Line: Every surface inch of the CRGNSA is a vantage point from which it should be impossible to see one square inch of a turbine or any object that is foreign to and could serve to degrade it in any way; and installation of "screening vegetation" to mask a problem/violation would be some kind of sick joke.

If the slightest bit of 'fudging' is allowed, the integrity of and purpose for designation of the CRGNSA will be compromised and on a slippery slope thereafter. How dare anyone to even think of desecrating something as beautiful, special and irreplaceable as the Columbia Gorge. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project in its present form and location will, and must not be allowed. I'm not against alternative energy – but the CRGNSA isn't the place for it.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Brannan

cc. Ms. Judy S. Davis, Commissioner – Columbia River Gorge Commission
Ms. Jeanette Kloos, President – Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway
Mr. Rick Till, Conservation Legal Advocate – Friends of the Columbia Gorge

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Douglas Tuning

Address: Adams Loop RD, Goldendale, WA 98620
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

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I would respectfully have to say that
I don't support the idea of the placement of wind
turbines at the Whistling Ridge site near Stevenson, WA.
Given the perspective of the pictures on your Whistling
Ridge site, there is no right time perspective
to give the public.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Timo Macke

Address: [REDACTED] Trevitt St. The Dalles OR 97058

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [REDACTED]@hotmail

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I Believe in a brighter future. A future where humans still have a chance of survival. But this future is not to be handed to us freely, we must strive as a civilization and as a species if we are to continue the technologically advanced, modern society we have come to enjoy. Alternative powers beyond fossil fuels is an absolute necessity for the foundations of tomorrow. This Wind farm is but one vital piece of what the future demands and it needs to happen. Now.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Michael Easton

Address: PO Box [redacted] THE Dalles OR 97058

Email Address: [redacted]@comcast.net
(Please include your Zip!)

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I believe the turbines would benefit
the local economy, as well as
the local ecosystem. Low impact
energy is a good replacement for
coal. Please consider the benefits
of this project.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Mark Parsons

Address: [Redacted] W. 14th Ave The Dalles OR 97058

Email Address: [Redacted] @ Yahoo.com
(Please include your Zip!)



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With the BP oil spill in the gulf coast
over the summer, more money needs to be spent
on Renewable Resources such as Wind Farms.
This site would be good for the local economy
and the Energy sector and it would help
raise our Renewable Resource output.

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JAN 13 2011
ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Dale Groeneveld

Address: [Redacted] NW Loop Rd. White Salmon WA, 98672
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [Redacted] @gmail.com

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I support wind turbines as a source of clean renewable energy. However being a big-picture person, I have concerns about locating turbines in a protected senie area w/ wild life and visual concerns. There are less desiraeable and ^{less} valueable areas in eastern Washington and Oregon that are more appropriate in the big picture sence. However, I think there are ways to conduct this project that would minimize some of the mal-effects of a situation like this. I hope that those who are involved in this project procede responsibly in finding, evaluating, and solving issues related to this project.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: STEVE JOHNSON

Address: PO Box [redacted] White Salmon WA 98672

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

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After viewing the images online of how ~~the~~ Whistling Ridge will
look after construction, my biggest concern is how the FAA lights will
affect the ~~area~~ surroundings, ie, Hood River, White Salmon, Bingen,
Stevenson etc. The visual impact during the day can go unnoticed
very easily, however, at night the synchronous flashing of the lights can
get pretty annoying. If an alternative for the FAA lights can be substituted
in this project, I would fully support it.

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Name: Martina Kokes

Address: PO Box [redacted] The Dalles, OR 97058
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [redacted]@hotmail.com

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Whistling Ridge Wind Farm will create many jobs for local wind techs and many other jobs for locals. Personally, I like looking at wind turbines. They are cleaner than our other power plants. So we have to see turbine blades spinning but that is a lot better than the "burn-off" clouds from using fossil fuels. We have wind, we might as well start harnessing the energy. We need more energy production. The United States energy consumption has been steadily increasing by 20 Quadrillion BTU every three years. If we don't keep using what we have available, soon we will be in trouble. We need to be harnessing as much renewable energy as possible. We have the ability to harness wind energy. I think we are foolish to deny any reasonable wind farm project. We have a wonderful resource at our fingertips. Let's use it to our benefit.
Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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Name: Mark Lira

Address: [Redacted] W 11th St The Dalles OR 97058
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

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Wind turbines are a viable and clean power source that provides
jobs to a hurting economy.

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Name: Vincent Maldonado
Address: [Redacted] Wahkiacus Heights road, Wahkiacus, WA 98678
(Please include your Zip!)
Email Address: [Redacted]@yahoo.com

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I think this project takes courage and
for thought to be implimented. making the harder
choices for sustainable energy is not without
sacrifice. In balance, this could be a good
thing.

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Name: Shane Richard Zrvin

Address: [REDACTED] E 13th St.

Email Address: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
(Please include your Zip!)

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I am a second year A.E.T. (Renewable Energy Technology) student through Columbia Gorge Community College. I am supporting the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. The project is outside of the National Scenic area and won't be in the line of sight for citizens driving through the Gorge. I feel that the project should be approved.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Stephen Jensen

Address: [REDACTED] Chenoweth rd Bld The Dalles OR 97058

Email Address: [REDACTED]@student.cgcc.us

(Please include your Zip!)

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Our country is heading for an energy crisis and the best way to attack this problem is by incorporating a smart grid. A main component of a smart grid is to generate power at a more local level. This project would be a great starting point for using a renewable energy source close to population centers. The climate and our country's future depend upon action now so I am in favor of Whistling Ridge Wind project.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Wes Bliven

Address: _____

Email Address:  (Please include your Zip!)
@Tuno.com

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As a RET student at CGCC, I am totally on board with creating as much energy via wind as we need. Since the land to be used for the turbines is also being used by the lumber industry, it only makes sense to combine the two industries. Also, I understand that these turbines will help shore up and stabilize the power generated from the east side of the gorge. It is unfortunate there are people in our country that don't fully understand the USA's need for these towers and how little they actually impact our environment. I fully support this project and possible future projects that can help our country become less independent on foreign oil.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments *Wes Bliven*

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call (360) 664-1903, or e-mail efsec@utc.wa.gov.

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Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity

JAN 13 2011
ENERGY FACILITY
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Scott Gatchet

Address: [redacted] Pine St. The Dalles, OR. 97058

Email Address: [redacted] @ yahoo.com
(Please include your Zip!)

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I am in favor of wind turbines to create renewable energy. Wind turbines have a temporary negative effect to the environment when they are first installed -vs- a long lasting effect to the environment with fossil fuels. Fossil fuels are not renewable. A small amount of fossil fuels and elements are used to build turbines. Wind is an endless source of renewable power, although it may be seasonal.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Charles Becker

Address: [redacted] E 11th St. [redacted], The Dalles, OR 97058

Email Address: [redacted] include your Zip! @ Yahoo.com

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This wind farm would benefit the local economy
and better Washington's image as a leader in
renewable energy. The location is descreant
& remote, and would be east of most wind
farms in the northwest contributing to ~~more~~
a more even baseline of power production.
I strongly support this proposal.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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Name: Grant Swanson

Address: [REDACTED] NE Albersom Rd Gresham OR 97119.
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

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I think that adding this wind farm would
be a huge benefit to us. It would create
a few more jobs and most importantly
add more renewable energy to the grid.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Warren Anderson

Address: [Redacted] Home Ct The Dalles OR 97058
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [Redacted]@live.com

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Whistling Ridge will be good to help move
more to a renewable energy power. It will
bring in a few jobs.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: Bobby Battle

Address: PO Box [redacted] The Dalles, OR 97058

Email Address: [redacted] (Please include your Zip!)
[redacted]@msn.com

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I believe the Whistling Ridge facility is not only a good thing, it is a necessary thing. As our population increases and our resources are decreasing, we must come up with ways to supply the increasing demands in a cleaner, less intrusive way. Although they are ugly, they are less damaging to the environment than dams or coal burning facilities. If we as a nation wish to be free from foreign energy, wind turbines are one of the keys that will break that bondage.

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Name: Jo Tyler Wells

Address: [redacted] with the dallas OR 97038
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

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The more renewables that can be developed
will only better our future. I say yes to
the installation of the new wind farms

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
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Name: WYATT RICE

Address: [REDACTED] E 4TH STREET THE DALLES OR 97058

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM



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I FEEL THIS IS A GREAT PROJECT
FOR THE REGION. I REALIZE IT WILL ONLY
BRING A FEW FULLTIME POSITIONS TO THE AREA,
BUT WIND ENERGY IS A GREAT ALTERNATIVE
SOURCE AND NEEDS TO BE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF
MORE

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Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
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Whistling Ridge Public Comment Meeting
Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity

Name: Jason Johnson

Address: [redacted] W 5th #14 97058 The Dalles, OR
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

Add me to the Mailing list

Please write any comments you have with respect to the

Leave this sheet in the Comment Box today, or mail it to:
EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

Comment letters must be postmarked by Saturday, January 15, 2011.

I believe it is a great opportunity for
new jobs and to help wind power be
more efficient along the gorge.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

For more information, please contact:
Stephen Posner, Siting Specialist, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,
call (360) 664-1903, or e-mail efsec@utc.wa.gov.

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JAN 13 2011
ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: MARLO CHAVARIN

Address: [REDACTED] W 17th St. The Dalles 97058

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

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I say build the facilities. They are a good
renewable energy source. Plus they will add
several new jobs to the area. We must all
change the way we think about consuming energy.

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call (360) 664-1903, or e-mail efsec@utc.wa.gov.

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Name: Ryan Lekberg

Address: [REDACTED] E 11th St #3, THE DALES OR, 97058
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Add me to the Mailing list

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All for it. I think it will help alot with the increase
of wind power. It will give more job opportunities to a better
future.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Adam Bauer

Address: [redacted] Main St. Kluckitnat, WA, 98628

Email Address: [redacted]@hotmail.com
(Please include your Zip!)

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I am pro wind turbine development. Building
more wind turbines in the US will help us
become a self-sufficient renewable energy country. Wind
turbines also provide jobs to the area.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Jeremy Bell

Address: [REDACTED] E 14th St, The Dalles OR 97058
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: _____

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I believe that this proposed project can be a great way for us within the NW region to make a point to the nation and the world that we will not stand any more on the shoulders of the worlds energy producers. But instead lead our country in this fight for energy independence by getting as far away from oil and coal and creating our own energy via wind power through projects like the one proposed for Wind Ridge. Make no excuses and start looking forward to our grandchildrens future and the future of this great nation and the health of the world, wind power is the future.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Matt Tomlinson

Address: [redacted] Mill Creek Rd The Dalles OR 97058
(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [redacted]@msn.com

Add me to the Mailing list

Please write any comments you have with respect to the

Leave this sheet in the Comment Box today, or mail it to:
EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

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I whole heartedly support this project. I understand people complain about their apperance, and say it damages nature. Well I tell them "metaphorically you can't own a dog and not feed it. Nature, birds, trees, and ourselves breathe in the contaminated air we produce. We can't just have a beautiful environment, and not take care of it. And that is what the folks who oppose this project are unknowingly suggesting. Build it!"

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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call (360) 664-1903, or e-mail efsec@utc.wa.gov.

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: ROBERT MATTHEWS

Address: [REDACTED] E. 2ND ST., THE DALLES, OR. 97058

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [REDACTED]@YAHOO.COM

Add me to the Mailing list

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EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

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I AM FOR THIS PROJECT AS RENEWABLE
ENERGY MUST BE BROUGHT INTO THE BIG PICTURE
FOR OUR NATIONS NEEDS.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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JAN 13 2011
ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: JAMES JENKINS

Address: [redacted] Hwy 197 Dales Port WA

(Please include your Zip!)

Email Address: [redacted]@yehed.com

Add me to the Mailing list

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EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

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I am totally in support of wind farms
I do not understand opponents viewpoints
they are negligible in the overall scheme
of things

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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call (360) 664-1903, or e-mail efsec@utc.wa.gov.

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JAN 20 2011



Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

COMMENT FORM

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

Whistling Ridge Public Comment Meeting

Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity

Whistling Ridge Public Comment #392

Name: Krista Thie + Daryl Hoyt

Address: PO Box [redacted] White Salmon WA 98672-2046

Email Address: [redacted]@gorge.net (Please include your Zip!)

Add me to the Mailing list

Please write any comments you have with respect to the

Leave this sheet in the Comment Box today, or mail it to:

EFSEC, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

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This would be a wonderful project sited in another location.

Whistling Ridge is excellent for timber growing. SDS is a timber company. Forests are repositories of genetic & chemical building blocks ^{For Agriculture, medicine & technology} for all humanity. Carving 38-50

new roads on this forested ridge top doesn't make sense.

Erosion will be high in this area of substantial rainfall.

Please site solar photovoltaics on SDS's industrial saw mill in Bingen, WA or even wind turbines. I am a rare plant botanist & worked in 2007+8 in Eastern Klickitat Cty as part of environmental

assessment for turbine placement & hiked under new turbine footprints are large - timber, fungi, shrub, herbaceous, lichen & habitat for wildlife will be destroyed in this forest now managed for timber.

Use the back of this form if you need more room for your comments.

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Red Flashing

Lights from the turbines destroy the rural dark night sky.
+ complex arrays of species

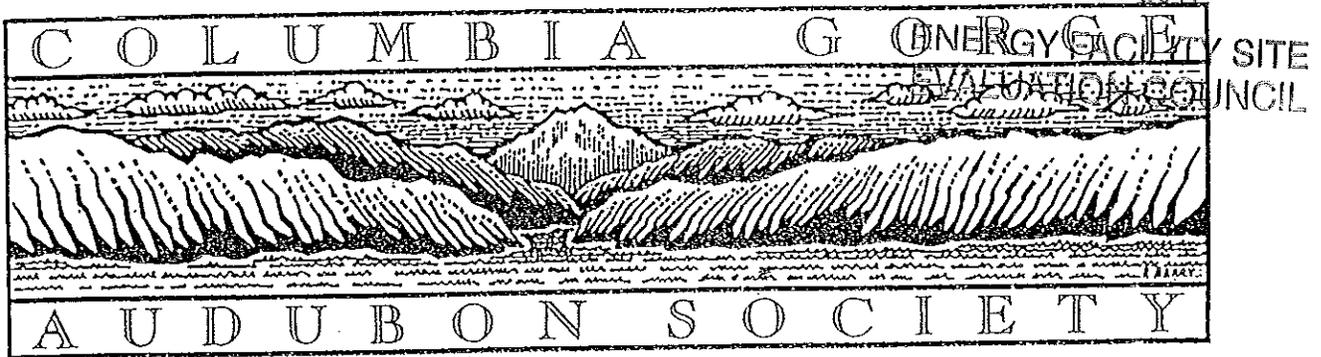
Some lands destroyed by overgrazing are better
environmental

Suited to the destruction from road building &
tower erection.

Our son grew up & was friends with part of the
Stevenson's family. Some are good friends -
Whistling ridge. While owned directly by the family
the environmental treasure embodied in these
forested lands - are a treasure that should be
in trust for all people.

I live just E of the White Salmon River & hike & explore
near this area on public lands - the lights from the towers will
destroy our night sky. red - blinking - Goldendale
area is destroyed - we will see this from our
house - The SDS cogeneration plant at
their mill using sawdust makes sense -
Doing solar at their mill makes sense -
Destroying a timber growing area for
the wide ^{cleared} swaths needed for turbines doesn't

JAN 20 2011



January 12, 2011

Re: Public testimony of the proposed Whistling Ridge wind power proposal

Members of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

There are several elements of the Whistling Ridge wind power project that are not on the table for consideration. We know that proponents failed to include their earlier proposed expansion onto DNR lands in EIS consideration of their first project proposal. (That expansion proposal never made it into the public notices of the local Enterprise newspaper, the paper serving the communities that would have been impacted.) Neither was the DNR notified about conversion plans from forest use to industrial use when the proponents applied for cut permits on the project site. This "hide the ball" attitude by proponents should make you skeptical judges of their proposal, and what they may be hiding in the wings.

For instance, consider the DNR lands to the north of the proposed project site. We know that DNR was originally very willing to let SDS place wind machines on their lands despite it being a Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area, so you should consider it likely that DNR will find a way to cut a deal with SDS in the future. We know that DNR has been trading out some of their lands in this area, and now that a spotted owl has been sighted on DNR property less than two miles from the proposed project site, perhaps the DNR will decide to dump this property. Also, it is not difficult to solve the owl problem by eliminating it. When wind power started facing off against hawks and eagles on the Columbia Hills, not that far to the east of the project site, it became public knowledge that someone was shooting raptors off of power poles. In short, we believe that it is still possible - we believe even likely - that SDS still has expansion plans on DNR lands to the north.

Also, you should know that Klickitat County recently greatly improved and increased the width of lower Snowden Road going north out of White Salmon, making it possible for wind power components to travel up this highway. Residential use did not justify these road improvements. Klickitat County has a long history of providing road infrastructure for wind power. Also, a large computer communication cable was put up this road, providing service way beyond residential needs. SDS owns land near the terminal of the Snowden Road improvement, and very near the BPA power lines going through this

community. We suspect this is another component of the SDS wind power plan. These two options- DNR lands and the Snowden SDS lands - could easily be wind power phases two and three that are being kept from your review.

We are not discussing anything unusual here. It is a known fact - and scandal - that this is exactly what has happened with several proposed Oregon wind power proposals. And it is going on in Klickitat County, witness Windy Flats and Windy Flats II. Same proponents, same developers, same everything; except they claim to have had no knowledge of the second phase when they did the EIS for the first project. It is called, splitting environmental review to make the impacts look smaller and to get a foot in the door.

Proprietary information has been an issue throughout your hearings. One issue that I did not hear being raised (and one that proponent would likely claim proprietary information on), is when commitment was made by proponent to wind machines and which machines were committed to? Do you see why this information might be critical to determining proponents real intentions for the total project they have in mind? These machines have to be ordered ahead, and we hear there is quite a backlog. We suspect that proponent had the larger machines in mind all along when they stated - at the start of you adjudicated hearing - that they were willing to reduce tower number but increase their size. We suspect that those machines are already ordered, and that there may be more on order or optionally ordered for additional phases. We request that you ask SDS for this information and offer them confidentiality in exchange. This would give you the real picture of what SDS is actually planning while at the same time protecting their proprietary rights.

It was interesting hearing the biologists making their strongest point: "No matter what happens, the site should continue to be studied." We are reminded of the saying, "The operation was a success, but the patient died." Will the birds using the area, including the spotted owl, be killed by the turbine blades or be driven out of the area by the associated industrial disruptions? "Let's study it and find out," seems to be the attitude.

A related matter concerns mitigation. We believe it to be a matter of extremely poor judgment to maintain that you can construct wind power facilities in major known bird flyways, and not have really significant negative impacts on birds. The Pacific Flyway centers north and south along the Cascade Mountains, and a lesser known but still important flyway follows the Columbia River through the Gorge. These flyways bisect over the proposed Whistling Ridge project site. Such a site, like many other wind power sites within the flyways, are bound to result in bird kills way beyond what is anticipated. The first - and probably only - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife monitored eagle was quickly killed by Klickitat County wind power (Google The Columbian, eagle kill) and when an independent bird kill study was conducted in Klickitat County it was confirmed that the kill rate was many times higher than anticipated (see same story). The kill rate was so high that the project would probably have been denied if the true kill rate had been known ahead of time. But, now it is too late, a lot of money has been spent,

those machines are up, and they will not be taken down for years to come. During that time they will continue their criminal slaughter of birds. We believe that - due to the prime bird habitat the area provides and because of the flyways - wind power proponents have resorted to greatly underestimating anticipated bird and bat kills as "standard operating procedure" for securing wind power permits.

For years wind power proponents have argued that on site mitigation works, that moving a few towers actually reduce the bird kills to insignificance. In Klickitat County, where proponents were proven wrong in this argument, they still bluster on and crow about all of the on site mitigation measures, none of which saves a single bird.

Whistling Ridge proponents seem to be focusing on off site mitigation to "solve" the impacts their project would have. Now think about this. The negative impacts caused by the project would still happen. That is important. And what about the off site mitigation? One of the biologists told you that he saw nothing that would assure the proposed mitigation sites would be secured long term. Usually, such sites have little use to the proponent (a swamp is not easily logged) and last until they are needed by the land owner for some other use. We wonder how this is different from no mitigation at all? We also wonder how the mitigation sites will aid resident and migrating birds more than they are already helped? No matter what, there is no net gain in habitat or flyway safety for the bird, only loss. Focusing on mitigation details tend to obscure these facts.

The Whistling Ridge proposal is not the first wind power facility proposed so close to rural residential areas. We know of two others - the proposal for Seven Mile Hill above Mosier, Oregon; and the proposal for Middle Mountain in the Hood River Valley - and they both faced heavy opposition and failed. We believe they failed because the Oregon Siting Council and the Hood River County Commissioners realized that there really was a heavy cost to be paid by residents having to deal with nearby wind power. We have also read in the Oregonian the story of residents in Union, Oregon voting against a nearby wind power proposal, and we have read in the Oregonian the 1-2-2011 story "Wind farm neighbors cash out," a title that pretty much explains itself. We believe it is a disservice to the renewable movement to try and site wind power so close to residents. We oppose such siting attempts as "cruel and unusual punishment."

Proponents would like you to believe that some people like nearby wind power, or maybe it's just that they believe everyone should suck up and drop their "not in my back yard" stand. We find that people claiming they like nearby wind power are probably doing their own sucking up, and we do not believe wind power should be in anyone's back yard. Proponents want you to believe real estate values do not decrease when wind power moves in. Probably not for the big land owners that have wind power development in mind like SDS, but they do certainly reduce the value of smaller residential lots, many of which are view lots, or at least have a nice rural view. In east Klickitat County, where wind power is King, land owners are known to be having a hard time selling their land since wind power arrived. How much is your land worth if you cannot sell it?

Early on I attended an Underwood Community Council meeting about the proposed wind power project near their community. I was disgusted by how Jason Spadero - representing SDS - tried to control and bully that council. It is not easy for a little community council to stand up to a big powerful corporation like SDS.

At the above mentioned council meeting SDS made sure that a Skamania County PUD commissioner was there to tell the council how having SDS's wind project in the area would assure emergency power for locals if power went out. However Jason Spadero has told you that the power will go out on the grid, basically to the highest bidder. If the power goes out, Whistling Ridge would not be able to transmit power either. This was an out-and-out lie to garner community support.

You may not realize that transmissions lines are at the maximum load right now, but wind power projects continue to be built. Right now, wind towers are shut down about a third to one half the time, waiting for open lines. The largest transmission line in the United States is being proposed between Klickitat County and Los Angeles. The Northwest's environment is being sacrificed to provide electrical power for California, a state that has - for the most part - called a halt to wind power because of all the environmental damage it has done there.

Columbia Gorge Audubon Society urges you to deny the proposed Whistling Ridge project.

Sincerely,



Dave Thies, President
Columbia Gorge Audubon Society
P. O. Box [REDACTED]
White Salmon, WA 98672

Talbert, Tammy (UTC)

From: Dale and Ina Glasgow <[REDACTED]@gorge.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2011 10:14 AM
To: Talbert, Tammy (UTC)
Subject: Fw:

From: Dale and Ina Glasgow
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2011 1:30 PM
To: efsec@utc.wa.gov

Re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

We propose Little Buck Road as an alternative route (from DEIS) off Cook Underwood Road for the following:

- 5000 20-ton truck loads of construction gravel and sand
- 2000 concrete mixer truck loads
- 50 20-ton truck loads of reinforcing steel
- many truck loads of water
- many low boy trucks to haul caterpillar tractors, back hoes, front-end loaders, etc.

If this is not possible, all of the 7100 trucks of this major industrial construction project will pass within 50 feet of the head of our bed in our home, in addition to many SDS logging and commercial trucks which already use Cook Underwood Road. We do not think we should have to breathe diesel fumes, listen to the noise, and interact with congestion. If any of these trucks interfere with or stop an ambulance, what will be the consequences?

Dale W. and Ina Glasgow
[REDACTED] Cook Underwood Road
Underwood, WA