

Talbert, Tammy (UTC)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com on behalf of Sonja Lane <[REDACTED]@wwww.org>
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 4:37 PM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Dear Members of the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council:

After more than a year of input, the record is clearly sufficient to provide the basis for you to make a positive recommendation to the Governor.

WindWorks! Northwest supports the development – in its entirety – of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. The EIS has found no significant impacts and the proposed wind farm will be built entirely on private land outside the boundary of the Scenic Area. Moreover, locally elected officials representing the citizens of Skamania County actively back the project; they know what the electorate wants for the sliver of developable lands lying within the county.

While people's opinions are not a factor in your evaluation, it is still noteworthy that the Northwest public remains supportive of wind power development. According to a poll of 1200 Washington, Idaho and Oregon residents just released by KUOW news, "An overwhelming percentage – 80% actually of residents of rural areas of the Northwest – support wind farms being developed within sight of their homes. What's more interesting is that 50% strongly – not just somewhat – but strongly support this." (KUOW, January 7, 2011)

EFSEC has demonstrated time and again that it knows how to separate truth from fiction and reach a recommendation consistent with its mandate. Please continue in that tradition.

Thank you for your hard work on this case.

Sincerely,
Todd Myers

Executive Director,
WindWorks! Northwest
PO Box [REDACTED]
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Status: 5.2.2

X-Display-Name: EFSEC (UTC)

From: Scot and Rebecca <[REDACTED]@gorge.net>

Date: January 14, 2011 6:54:32 PM MST (CA)

To: efsec@utc.wa.gov

Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Comment

As you can see, I sent my comment on January 14th, 2011, which is before the deadline of January 15th. I will try again, but if it fails again, I would like for you to accept this email as my comment received in the proper time frame.

Please let me know that you received this email and my comment and that my comment will be considered as part of the public comment.

Thanks, Rebecca

Hello EFSEC Board,

I was unable to attend the public hearings held in Skamania County January 5th and 6th regarding the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. So I am submitting written comments (which is good because I feel I express myself more eloquently in writing than verbally).

First, thank you again for all of your efforts, time and energy spent on this project.

At first glance, the Whistling Ridge Energy Project might seem like a great solution for a lumber business to convert to a green business like wind generation. Why would anyone oppose wind generation, and what right do we have to tell a business what they can do and what they cannot do on their own property?

Those were the questions I asked myself before the EFSEC's first public hearing in 2009. After thinking about it, I came to the conclusion that I could not support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project because this project affects the domestic tranquility of our community and the greater community in a negative way by the building of an industrial site in the heart of one of the most beautiful scenic areas in the world.

First, I live in Mill A, Washington which is located in Skamania County. SDS Lumber Company is a part of my community; it has provided work for our area since the 1940's. Because SDS is a part of my community, I feel I have an obligation to speak up and tell SDS that I oppose the building of a wind farm in our community because it will affect me as well as other community members.

The Whistling Ridge Project will affect me as a community member as to my quiet lifestyle (constant large trucks on CookUnderwood Road), my aesthetic views (the wind generators will obscure my sunrise, moon rise and night time sky with flashing red lights), and interfere with my ability to create a successful permaculture garden by killing bats and birds. I chose to live in Mill A because of it's peaceful nature and beautiful scenery. Living in a rural situation has draw backs like using gas to get the grocery store, missing cultural events, and being miles away from good hospitals. But we ruralites live out in the country so we aren't bothered by a lot of traffic, city lights and industrial sites. This wind project would bring all that to our wonderful Mill A community and Underwood community and so I do not support this project.

When I look out east in the Gorge and see all the wind generators, there is something very different about the placement of those wind generators compared to the ones SDS is proposing. The wind generators out east are placed on land where there are no trees, not much animal life and no houses. The placement of those wind generators makes the most sense. Locating wind generators in the mountains where lots of animals live and where people live does not make sense. We should not have wind generators in Yosemite National Park, the Grand Canyon and the Columbia Gorge. The beauty of our land is sacred and should be honored like all things should be honored.

I also feel that SDS should be honored. They have provided work for people in the area which is a wonderful community service. From the start, I have stated that I believe that SDS should be able to continue providing work for our community. But as a responsible community member, SDS has an obligation to provide work which should be a conscious co-creation where everyone in the community benefits and where no one feels taken advantage of. As you all know from the EFSEC's public hearings, not all of the community is backing this proposal because the building of 50 odd wind towers in a forested and human populated area just plain does make sense and is, in my opinion, irresponsible. It is irresponsible because it directly obscures and degrades the views of one of the most scenic areas in the world, and therefore, not only is our community affected, but the world is affected.

We, as a community, still keep in place processes like the one we are involved with you all there at the EFSEC. I understand that you as a Board have guidelines you have to follow, but as of right now, this process we are in to determine whether SDS can build this wind farm or not does not resonate with me because the process sets up winners and losers and who is right and who is wrong. We (the EFSEC, the community members of Skamania and SDS) need to create win-win situations so that there are no losers and everyone wins. It can be done, but not with the process that is in place now. The community is divided which breaks my heart. But if we could all co-create a win-win situation, wouldn't

that make more sense and make for a happier, healthier, and more peaceful community? We are at a stage in our conscious evolution where we desperately need to help each other co-create situations that enable all of us to fulfill our highest individual and collective potential.

Lastly, it is my hope that you all look at the evidence provided and think about everything presented and then go to your heart and see what your heart has to say. Your heart is connected to the love and beauty of this beautiful place called earth and you will find your answer.

Thank you.

Rebecca Stonestreet

██████████ Cook Underwood Road

Mill A, Washington 98605

Talburt, Tammy (UTC)

From: Posner, Stephen (UTC)
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2011 7:19 AM
To: 'Scot and Rebecca'
Cc: Talburt, Tammy (UTC)
Subject: RE: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Comment

Thank you for your comment. It will be recorded and become part of the official record.

Sorry for the trouble you had in sending it to the EFSEC mailbox.

Sincerely,

Stephen Posner
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
(360) 664-1903
stephen.posner@utc.wa.gov
www.efsec.wa.gov

From: Scot and Rebecca [mailto:██████████@gorge.net]
Sent: Friday, January 14, 2011 7:46 PM
To: Posner, Stephen (UTC)
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Comment

Hello Stephen,

My name is Rebecca Stonestreet. I have a written comment that I want to submit, but my email has come back as a delivery failure. I sent my comment to efsec@utc.wa.gov twice and it came back as a delivery failure.

Here is my proof....

This is an automatically generated Delivery Status Notification.

Delivery to the following recipients failed.

EFSEC@utc.wa.gov

Reporting-MTA: dns;ssvmxoly01.ssv.wa.gov
Received-From-MTA: dns;WAMSG.WA.GOV
Arrival-Date: Fri, 14 Jan 2011 17:47:37 -0800

Final-Recipient: rfc822;EFSEC@utc.wa.gov
Action: failed



Jurgen A. Hess • Environmental Design

24th St. • Hood River OR • 97031 • 541.386. [REDACTED]@gorge.net

January 15, 2011

Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear Council Members:

This is additional written testimony for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This testimony deals primarily with scenic impact assessment and supplements my previous comments.

I-84: an Important Viewing Area

I've reviewed testimony on the EFSEC website that I find disconcerting and misleading with respect to potential project impacts on Interstate 84 views. As I explained in my January 5, 2011 testimony, Interstate 84 is of equal importance to all other key viewing areas. The testimony of the project applicant's witnesses appears to diminish the importance of these views by relying on vegetative screening adjacent to Interstate 84 and an analysis of view duration for highway travelers.

My work as the Landscape Architect for the Columbia River National Scenic Area office of the US Forest Service included coordinating a "Corridor Study Team" that inventoried views from State Route 14, Interstate 84, and portions of the Historic Columbia River Highway. The results were published as the "*Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Corridor Visual Inventory*" (April 1990). Among other things, the Corridor Visual Inventory analyzed vegetation along the highway corridors to serve as a base-line for protecting and enhancing views of Gorge vistas. Subsequently, the Forest Service and Gorge Commission also collaborated with the Oregon Department of Transportation and other partners to develop plans to protect and enhance views of the Columbia River and Gorge vistas from the primary travel corridors. This collaboration resulted in the document "*Interstate 84 Corridor Strategy, A Vision and Design Guidelines for Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area*" (November 2005).

Foreground Vegetation and View Duration along I-84

Vegetation along highways is subject to change from wildfires, disease and pests. Recent wildfires along I-84 in the Gorge have opened views that were formerly screened. Because of the ephemeral nature of vegetation, the US Forest Service does not use vegetation as a primary element to screen project visual impacts. That agency rather uses landform which is much more permanent. Therefore the consultant's use of existing foreground vegetation to screen project visual impact is inappropriate and does not meet visual resource professional standards.

The above described I-84 visual inventory and strategy developed goals for providing public viewing opportunities along that travel route. Those views are important even if viewers are traveling at highway speeds and the viewing opportunity is relatively short in duration. In fact, where vegetative openings occur viewers are often drawn to that opportunity to see the Columbia River and the mountain vistas. These views are important assets to the National Scenic Area. The long-term goals

also recognize that new openings may need to be created or existing openings be expanded to improve viewing opportunities.

Based on this information it is incorrect to assume that existing vegetation can be relied upon to screen the Whistling Ridge Energy Project from Interstate 84 views. It is also wrong to assume that relatively short view durations are not important public viewing opportunities.

Using Appropriate Analysis Protocols

The National Academy of Science's publication "*Environmental Impacts of Windy Energy Projects*" (National Academies Press, 2007) Appendix D provides some guidance on project visual impact assessment. From that document, pages 374-375, I have listed a number of concerns that are applicable to the Whistling Ridge Project:

- Is the project located within an area of identified scenic or cultural significance?
- Would the project significantly degrade views or scenic resources of regional or statewide significance?
- Is the project on or close to a natural or cultural landscape feature that is a regional focal point?
- Is the project in a landscape area that is visually distinct and rare or unique?
- Will the project occupy an area valued for its wildness and remoteness? If these values have been specifically documented, then consideration of the appropriateness of a wind-energy project becomes even more important.
- Does the project violate a clear, written community standard intended to protect the aesthetics or scenic beauty of the area?

These questions and concerns have been answered in the affirmative by me, many expert witnesses and members of the public for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Per my January 5, 2011 testimony and the document *The Visual Issue, Architech Animation Studies, UK Ltd. April 2007* use of a camera lens of 75-80mm focal length has been shown to accurately portray human vision. As an expert witness in the legal case *Skamania County vs Columbia River Gorge Commission, 1998*, (Bea house visible across from Multnomah Falls) I testified and proved that 75-80mm focal length is the correct lens for doing visual simulations. Whistling Ridge Project consultant's visual simulations need to be corrected to use this appropriate lens focal length.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Best regards,

/s/ *Jurgen A. Hess*

Jurgen A. Hess

Talbur, Tammy (UTC)

From: Wright, AI (UTC)
Sent: Tuesday, January 18, 2011 10:31 AM
To: Talbur, Tammy (UTC)
Cc: Michelle, Kayce (UTC)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge testimony
Attachments: EFSEC Jurgen Hess additional testimony.doc

For the Record. -- AI

AI Wright, Managing Director
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Utilities & Transportation Commission
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From: Jurgen Hess [mailto:████@gorge.net]
Sent: Saturday, January 15, 2011 1:44 PM
To: Wright, AI (UTC)
Subject: Whistling Ridge testimony

Additional Whistling Ridge testimony.

Jurgen A. Hess
████ 24th Street
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late

Whistling Ridge
Public Comment
#399

Talburt, Tammy (UTC)

From: Jeremiah Leipold <[REDACTED]@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 8:24 AM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Deny Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Dear Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I am writing to urge the Council to recommend that Governor Gregoire deny the Whistling Ridge Energy Project for the following reasons:

- It's the most controversial and problematic wind energy development ever proposed in Washington State.
- It would permanently convert hundreds of acres of forested land to industrial development.
- The project is proposed within a state-designated "Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area" where suitable habitat for the recovery of this endangered species must be protected and enhanced. The project would adversely affect many species of birds, including Northern Spotted Owls, listed as endangered in Washington.

Wind energy projects should be an important part of our energy future in Washington, but poorly planned projects like Whistling Ridge should not be allowed to sacrifice our national heritage like the Columbia River Gorge and the Lewis and Clark Trail and state scenic byways like State Route 14.

For these reasons, I urge you to recommend to Governor Gregoire that the Whistling Ridge Project be denied.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Leipold
[REDACTED] SE 34th Circle
[REDACTED] SE 34th Circle Troutdale
Troutdale, OR 97060