

Considering Cumulative Effects

Under the National
Environmental
Policy Act



Council On Environmental Quality
Executive Office of the President

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2010 9:54 AM
To: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge

Kayce,

Please process as a comment on the WR DEIS. Thanks.

From: Greg Erdmann [mailto:██████████@ocas-as.no]
Sent: Thu 6/17/2010 8:24 AM
To: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Whistling Ridge

Subject: Wind farm siting and permitting officials can help lower the visual impact of wind farms by recommending the deployment of new AVWS technologies on wind turbines.

While large wind farms generate clean energy, their constantly flashing red strobe lights cause great public annoyance and is usually not noticed until after the wind farm is sited and constructed. The wind farm's legacy can include this "light pollution" and have a tremendous negative impact on the community. For example, a 100-turbine wind farm can have approximately 30-50 turbines with two high-intensity flashing lights on at all times of the night. The effects of these flashing lights on the nearby community should be considered during the wind farm permitting and development process.

Recently approved by the FAA, the new generation of "on-demand" lighting systems solves this problem by keeping all wind turbine obstruction lights OFF at all times - unless an aircraft is detected flying on an unsafe heading towards the wind farm. Only then does the turbine-based radar system turn the lights on for aircraft safety, and turn the lights off when the aircraft exits the airspace. An Audio Visual Warning System (AVWS) is an on-demand lighting solution. *Wind siting and permitting officials can request wind power developers to implement an AVWS into their wind farms to reduce these adverse visual impacts in your communities.*

An AVWS will benefit your community by:

- Lowering the overall environmental and visual impact of wind farms by reducing "light pollution" and increasing public acceptance in wind energy-producing communities.
- Reducing bird death rates in some areas since migratory birds are less likely to be attracted to wind farm lights and lured toward the operating turbines.
- Fostering more responsible siting practices and therefore overall positive and growth in the wind industry.

Feel free to contact me if you would like further information.

Greg

Gregory S. Erdmann
OCAS, Inc.

Office: (703) 752-██████████ or Direct (802) 878-██████████
Mobile: (802) 922-██████████
Email: ██████████@ocasinc.com

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Stoops, Tom [mailto: [REDACTED]@odoe.state.or.us]
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2010 4:52 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM)
Cc: Luce, Jim (COM)
Subject: Response to question from Jim Luce

Al,

Jim Luce called last week and left the following question "How does EFSC work with critical viewing areas in the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area?"

Historically, protected areas are listed as part of our rules (OAR 345-22-0040) and the Columbia River Scenic Area is one those listed, see paragraph (g). By virtue of being listed an energy facility is not allowed. The big however, is that we do not assume that an energy facility outside the scenic is automatically precluded.

For example, when FirstWind proposed the Seven Mile Hill project, just east of the Dalles and bordering the scenic area, the issue of the CGSA came up and the applicant was told that they could not place their facility in the that protected area. Multiple discussion were had that being able to see the facility from the CGSA was not the issue as you can stand within the CGSA and see a myriad of industrial views. However, as FirstWind withdrew the application that regulatory finding was not challenged. Thus, it remains our hypothesis that, for Oregon, only a facility within the CGSA would be prohibited.

Naturally, we assume that if a facility was proposed for construction near the CGSA that our EFSC would likely receive numerous comments about the visual impacts. One of the tools we are hoping to test in the near future on some of our joint State/Federal projects is their visual impact model. I don't know much about it, but it is at least a starting point for determining when an impact is significant. Viewshed degradation is becoming a significant issue associated with both the commercial wind projects and the large transmission projects.

Hope that helps some,

Tom

Thomas M. Stoops
Division Administrator, Siting
Oregon Department of Energy
(503) 378-██████

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Louise Brown [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 12:45 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Louise Brown
PO Box [REDACTED]
Goldendale, WA 98620

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Diana Cathey [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 12:58 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Diana Cathey
[REDACTED] SE Scott Drive
Portland, OR 97215

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Summer Scheyer [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 24, 2010 9:13 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

To Whom It May Concern:

My husband and I are residents of Skamania County and are also employees of the county. For numerous years, our county has relied on Federal tax dollars to subsidize our county's existence in lieu of logging. Although I am a proponent of environmentally responsible logging, I realize those who live outside of our county continue to control our forests and logging will not sustain our economy. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project is, finally, a light at the end of a hopeless tunnel of poverty and welfare. The project is based on environmentally-safe practices and will improve our community as a whole. Many of the opponents of the project DO NOT live in our county. We are tired of those using our county as a "playground" making decisions for our economy and well-being. Friends of the Gorge and other non-profit groups based on "protecting" the Gorge have done nothing more than continue our economical downturn. My husband and I are very active within the county and enjoy fishing, hunting, kiteboarding, and backpacking. We want nothing more than to protect this incredibly beautiful and unique area. We believe the Whistling Ridge Energy Project will do nothing more than improve this beautiful county we call home. Thank you in advance for taking the time to read this email and consider our opinion for this project.

Sincerely,

Summer Scheyer & Russ Hastings
Carson, Washington

Hotmail is redefining busy with tools for the New Busy. Get more from your inbox. [See how.](#)

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Julie Britt [redacted]@willamette.edu
Sent: Sunday, June 27, 2010 7:18 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I am especially concerned about the impact on spotted owls, as recent studies have shown their numbers continue to decrease steadily, even dramatically in some areas. Any development that might disturb their habitat must be closely, closely scrutinized.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Julie Britt
[redacted] State Street Box [redacted]
Salem, OR 97301

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 8:22 AM
To: Talburt, Tammy (COM)
Cc: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge

Public comment for the record. Thanks.

From: Richard Hertz [mailto: [REDACTED]@vistage.com]
Sent: Friday, June 25, 2010 4:18 PM
To: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Whistling Ridge

Dear Commission,

I cannot believe in this age of BP that we are questioning any environmentally friendly wind project.

This, just like all such projects, should be expedited as fast as possible.

Richard Hertz
Reno Vistage Chair

Vistage International, Inc.
[REDACTED] Strasbourg Ct.
Reno, NV 89511

Direct: 775-657-[REDACTED] • Fax: 775.657-[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@vistage.com • www.vistage.com

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Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: tim kohl ([REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2010 9:42 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: WHISTLING RIDGE

It would be in every ones best interest to be in FAVOR of the excellent energy creation project proposed for Skamania County. Whistling Ridge will benefit the entire region with clean affordable electric power for generations. This is exactly what we need here. I live in district 3 in Skamania County where this project is proposed and support it wholeheartedly. I would encourage both of your fine organizations to approve Whistling Ridge as soon as is reasonably possible. tk

Tim Kohl
[REDACTED] Metzger Rd
PO Box [REDACTED]
Carson, WA 98610
541 490 [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

A personal note ...

JUN 23 2010

June 23/2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

To EFSEC:

I am all for the Whistling Ridge energy project. I think it's a good idea to put this wind that we have in good use. The gorge and where I live in Murdock area we get alot of wind so why not make good use of it and benefit people by supplying jobs and energy.

I like the name whistling Ridge cause the wind does whistle here @ times -

Sincerely
Bonnie Lapelje

JUN 28 2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

This is in regards to the slick mailer I received lamenting the wonders of the SDS Lumber Company's plans to install wind turbines on Underwood Mountain. Jason Spadaro says its the right project, right place, and right time.

Well Jason if its the right time, why are they about to dismantle the Condit dam? If we needed this energy wouldn't you think they would first ask us to conserve energy? All this wind power is going to California, none is staying here locally. We have more energy coming out of our ears right here on the Columbia river, Every 40-60 miles in the hydroelectric dams, and most of that energy goes south too.

If its the right place, then why did Hood River County pull their proposed wind turbines on Middle Mountain in the hood River Valley, because its the wrong place. This is the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, you don't put wind turbines in the Grand Canyon, and you don't put them here. I say why don't you put these turbines on your SDS mill site right on the Columbia River in Binger. There is plenty of wind there. These wind turbines belong nowhere near the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, this is not the right place.

As for the ^{right} project, It really saddens me that the SDS Lumber Co. can stroll in and clear cut the entire side of Underwood mountain or spend thousands of dollars mailing ~~CRS~~ ^{Everyone} A slick brochure on how

Much this Area needs this project, we don't need it, you need it. Myself as a Landowner in underwood can't cut a tree down or paint my house a different color without jumping through the gorge Commission hoops. You clearcuts and proposed wind turbines will be visible throughout the Scenic Area for close to 20 miles.

IF this energy were to be used locally I'd be more apt to sign up, but since it's all going to California, I say put the wind turbines up on the California Coast and see how they feel about that, not in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Stephen J. Culey

██████████ Cook Underwood Id.

Underwood WA

98657

509-493-██████████

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

I live on the gorge. I am
opposed to the proposed site of
Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Although the site is outside the
Scenic Area, it will be visible from
the Scenic Area. It will be an
eyesore and kill many birds. Bald
Eagles inhabit the area.

The brochure photo from Hwy 84
is misleading. What it does not
show is Mt Adams, east of the
site. The project will be very
visible to Hard River residents
who live at a higher elevation
from Hwy 84.

The area must remain pristine.
Visual pollution is what Whistling Ridge →

with a bridge in the proposed location.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Jacqueline Moreau

██████████ Catherine Creek Road
White Salmon, WA 98672

509.493.██████████

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Cris McEwen [REDACTED@co.klickitat.wa.us]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 1:28 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project, EFSEC Application #2009-01 - Comments
Attachments: Cmmnts Klick Co Whistling Ridge Wind Prjct.pdf

Please allow the attached letter to serve as Klickitat County's comments on the joint Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Our comments are also being sent via regular US Postal Service.

Respectfully,

Crystal D. McEwen, Executive Secretary on behalf of the Board of County Commissioners

*Clerk of the Board
Board of County Commissioners
Klickitat County, Washington
[REDACTED] S. Columbus, Room 103 MS-CH-04
Goldendale, WA 98620
(509) 773-[REDACTED]
(509) 773-[REDACTED] (Fax)
[REDACTED]@co.klickitat.wa.us*

*Email is considered a public document and may
be subject to the Public Records Disclosure Act.*



Klickitat County
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

205 S. COLUMBUS AVENUE, ROOM 103, MS-CH-04, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • FAX 509 773-6779 • VOICE 509 773-4612

REX F. JOHNSTON, DISTRICT #1
DAVID M. SAUTER, DISTRICT #2
RAY THAYER, DISTRICT #3



June 29, 2010

Via E-Mail and Mail

EFSEC
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98504-3172
efsec@commerce.wa.gov

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office - DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, Oregon 97293-4428
www.bpa.gov/comment

RE: Whistling Ridge Energy Project, EFSEC Application No. 2009-01
Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS)

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Klickitat County appreciates the opportunity to provide this comment on the joint Draft EIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Whistling Ridge is proposed for location in Skamania County, adjacent to Klickitat County. Klickitat has permitted several wind projects over the past decade, so has acquired experience with evaluating and mitigating project impacts, as well as an appreciation for the socio-economic benefits wind development can bring to a rural community. It is within this context that the County offers these comments and support for Whistling Ridge.

1. Wind Development, Generally: Addressing Both Economic Recovery and Environmental Objectives

Wind development has become increasingly important to both Washington's economy and achieving environmental objectives. Washington voters expressed this when they approved the Energy Independence Act, Ch. 19.285 RCW, in 2006.

[A]ppropriately sited renewable energy facilities ... will promote energy independence in the state and the Pacific Northwest region. Making the most of our plentiful local resources will stabilize electricity prices for Washington residents, provide economic benefits for Washington counties and farmers, create high-quality jobs in Washington, provide opportunities for training apprentice workers in the renewable energy field, protect clean air and water, and position Washington state as a national leader in clean energy technologies¹

Securing our energy independence is critical not only to economic recovery, but also to our ability to compete in a global economy in which traditional energy supplies are increasingly difficult

¹ RCW 19.285.020; see also RCW 70.235.020; RCW 80.80.005.

to obtain. And, it is Washington's rural counties which will play a critical role in generating that energy.

2. Environmental Review for Whistling Ridge

This is EFSEC's fourth wind development project, and the state has been addressing wind project siting now for a decade. BPA has been addressing wind project siting for nearly two decades, if not longer. EFSEC's and BPA's environmental review processes are comprehensive.

Skamania County has reviewed Whistling Ridge for consistency with its land use plans and zoning requirements, as documented through Resolution 2009-54. Klickitat County respects this determination. We also offer the following observation with respect to the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.

Whistling Ridge is proposed for location outside the National Scenic Area boundaries. It is outside the purview of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, the Scenic Area Management Plan, and all National Scenic Area Act provisions affecting land use.

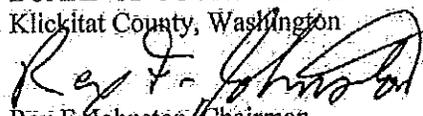
Similar to Skamania County, Klickitat could not realize its community and economic development objectives or address its historically high unemployment levels, if Scenic Area proximity were to restrain wind or other types of development in the thirteen exempted urban areas (e.g., the cities of Hood River, Bingen, White Salmon, and The Dalles) or external to the National Scenic Area boundaries. Such an outcome would be inconsistent with the letter and intent of the National Scenic Area Act.

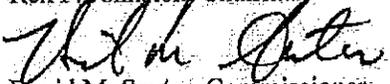
3. Conclusion

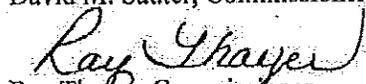
Klickitat County appreciates your consideration of these comments. EFSEC and BPA are thoroughly reviewing the Project, which, if constructed, will be an economic and environmental asset to the region and state.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington


Rex F. Johnston, Chairman


David M. Sauter, Commissioner


Ray Thayer, Commissioner

cc: Al Wright, EFSEC Manager
Skamania County Board of Commissioners

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 7:29 AM
To: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Renewable Northwest Project Letter re Whistling Ridge
Attachments: WA_Whistling Ridge_draft EIS letter_final_6-30-10.doc; ATT870557.htm; WREP WDFW
SEPA Comments MWR-01-10.doc; ATT870558.htm

unable to open
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resent 7/7/2010

Yes.

From: COM EFSEC
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 1:51 PM
To: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: FW: Renewable Northwest Project Letter re Whistling Ridge

Shall I process this as a comment?

From: John Audley [mailto: [REDACTED]@rnp.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 2:47 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Cc: Nelson, Travis W (DFW); Jason S. Spadaro
Subject: Renewable Northwest Project Letter re Whistling Ridge

Dear EFSEC Members and Staff,

Attached are RNP's comments and supporting document for the proposed Whistling Ridge Project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Regards,

John J. Audley, Ph.D
Deputy Director
Renewable Northwest Project
[REDACTED] SW Oak, Suite 303
Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 223-[REDACTED] (office)
(503) 863-[REDACTED] (cell)
[REDACTED]@rnp.org



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 2620 North Commercial Avenue (509) 543- 3319
Main Office Location: 2620 North Commercial Avenue – Pasco, WA 99301

MWR-01-10

January 19, 2010

Katy Chaney
URS Corporation
Century Square
1501 4th Avenue, Suite 1400
Seattle, WA 98101-1616

SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Dear Ms. Chaney:

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has reviewed the above reference document and offers the following comments at this time. Other comments may be offered as the project progresses.

Overall, the Preliminary DEIS is consistent with the 2009 WDFW Wind Power Guidelines, including early and regular consultation, as well as avian and bat studies, habitat characterization, and impact analysis.

WDFW is in agreement with the following excerpt from *Section 3.0 Affected Environment*:

“For permanent impacts to vegetation and habitat, the Section 8.2 of the Wind Power Guidelines (WDFW 2009) recommend mitigation be tailored to specific classifications. The project is located within the classification for “Forestry,” which are those commercial forested areas defined and regulated under the Forest Practices Act. Minimization of conversion of forested areas is suggested, and consultation with WDFW is the only recommended mitigation. No form of acquisition, restoration or conservation of lands is suggested by the guidelines.”

However, we would like to further discuss the proposal as it relates to the table in Section 8.2 of the 2009 WDFW Wind Power Guidelines mitigation for both temporary and permanent impacts.

We support the two-year minimum post-construction avian mortality study, as well as the development of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

WDFW is in general agreement with the proposed commercial forestry operations within the vicinity of each turbine as described in Section 3.0 ("turbine timber buffer") and would like to offer the following interpretation.

According to Section 3.0, "Vegetation surrounding each turbine would be managed according to the following specifications:

- A circular area extending 50 feet from each turbine tower base would be harvested and graveled
- From 50 feet to 150 feet from the base of the turbine towers, tree heights would be limited to 15 feet above the elevation of the base of the turbine
- From 150 feet to 500 feet from the base of the turbine towers, tree height would be limited to 50 feet above the turbine base within an area formed by a 90 degree arc centered on the ordinary downwind direction."

From this, we conclude that within a diameter of 100 to 300 feet surrounding each turbine, tree heights would be limited to 15 feet, and from a diameter of 300 to 500 feet, tree heights would be limited to 50 feet, but only within a 90-degree arc on either side of the turbine aligned with the direction of the prevailing wind. The other 90-degree arc on either side of the turbine perpendicular with the direction of the prevailing wind will essentially be unchanged habitat (i.e. existing commercial forest). We are interested in how this type of habitat and commercial forest management in the immediate vicinity of operating wind turbines will or will not affect the avian and bat mortality. We look forward to working with Whistling Ridge through the TAC to address this issue and cooperatively develop management strategies, if needed, to reduce avian and bat mortality.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Preliminary DEIS and offer these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ritter". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Ritter
Wind Mitigation Biologist

**Renewable
Northwest
Project**

917 SW Oak, Suite 303
Portland, OR 97205

Phone: 503.223.4544
Fax: 503.223.4554
www.RNP.org

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Water Enterprises
Washington
Environmental Council
WashPIRG
Western Resource Advocates
Western Wind Power



Renewable Northwest Project

June 30, 2010

James Luce, Chairman
Stephen Posner, Compliance Manager
Al Wright, Managing Director
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504

Stephen J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

Andrew M. Montano, Environmental Project Manager
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

**RE: Renewable Northwest Project's Comments Concerning the
Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft Environmental
Impact Statement**

Dear Chairman Luce, Director Wright, Mr. Posner, Administrator Wright, Mr. Montano and Council Members:

Renewable Northwest Project (RNP) provides the following comments with respect to the environmental review conducted for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project pending before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and currently undergoing a comment process for the joint BPA and EFSEC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

RNP does not, as a practice, advocate for particular renewable energy projects. But we have commented, and will continue to comment, on renewable energy projects that we believe have significant policy ramifications for the development of renewable energy in the Northwest.¹ In our view, the Whistling Ridge Energy Project has significant policy ramifications for the development of renewable energy in forested areas of the Northwest, thereby establishing precedent for forestland projects in other regions of the state.

Among the many lessons taught by the recent Gulf Coast oil disaster, one of the clearest is the need for comprehensive clean energy policy. Reliable, renewable energy will play a key role in overall effort to reduce our reliance upon fossil fuel, and pave the way towards a more robust economy. Realizing its potential to drive future economic development, Washington legislatures charged the Clean Energy Leadership Council (CELC) "to create a clean energy leadership initiative that will set the path to leverage Washington's energy infrastructure and make Washington a hub for clean energy technology and a leader in the creation of green jobs and the

¹ For example, RNP was an active participant in the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, due to its significant policy ramifications in shaping the direction of Washington's energy policy.

development, deployment, and export of clean energy technologies and services.”²

Reliable, cost-competitive renewable energy benefits from diverse geographic locations of renewable energy projects. Geographic diversity helps integrate variable renewable energy resources into the system at low cost as resources with different daily or seasonal operating characteristics can help support each other. While the State of Washington is endowed by an abundant supply of wind resource potential, to date these resources have been harvested primarily in Washington’s dry, shrub-steppe eco-system that peaks in the spring and summer months. West-side resources may help supply wind during other seasons of the year and blunt the effects rapid wind ramping events.

The Whistling Ridge Energy Project provides Washington with an important opportunity to diversify the supply of wind energy to include resources harvested from forest eco-systems. We are aware of efforts by officials from the Washington Department of Natural Resources to develop procedures for wind power leasing on forestlands.³ However, as the State has yet to adopt procedures or criteria specific to forested land, or to permit a forestland-based project, review of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project must be conducted with the highest standards for science and due process in mind.

We are writing to express our support for acceptance of environmental information contained in the DEIS, and to commend EFSEC, BPA and Whistling Ridge Energy for their compliance with both the spirit and the letter of applicable siting standards and process, including Washington’s Wind Power Guidelines.

RNP was actively involved in the negotiation and development of the 2003 Washington Wind Power Guidelines, as well as the revised 2009 Washington Wind Power Guidelines. We were also active participants in the 2008 Oregon-Columbia Plateau Ecoregion Wind Energy Siting and Permitting Guidelines. As a key participant in these processes, it is our view that the most important element of good wind energy facility siting that minimizes impacts to wildlife and habitat is the early, active and regular consultation with the interested public and with wildlife agencies, including the development of specific protocols to evaluate potential impacts.

As noted in a January 19, 2010 letter from WDFW to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project permitting consultant (enclosed), the wildlife data and information supporting the agency review draft of the DEIS “is consistent with the 2009 WDFW Wind Power Guidelines, including early and regular consultation, as well as avian and bat studies, habitat characterization, and impact analysis.” Under the 2009 Wind Power Guidelines, for commercial forestlands, consultation with WDFW is the principal measure to address habitat and wildlife concerns. Whistling Ridge Energy’s early and regular consultation with WDFW, and its use of study protocols and analyses particularly tailored to commercial forestlands, satisfies the spirit and letter of the Guidelines.

The Whistling Ridge Energy Project has undergone consistent and regular wildlife and habitat studies for multiple seasons and multiple years, beginning as early as 2003. Avian data has been secured over multiple years and in every season of the year. Whistling Ridge has also completed three years of season-specific analysis of bat populations, demonstrating a commitment to wildlife agency review of data concerning impacts to bats. This survey work is beyond what has typically been done in other Northwest wind power

² See The Washington Clean Energy Leadership Council at <http://www.washingtoncelc.org/mission/>

³ See Washington Department of Natural Resources, “Draft Strategies and Procedures for Wind Power Leasing on HCP Trust Lands,” May 27, 2010.

projects, and is consistent with the guideline's theme of siting the project in a manner that will avoid, minimize and mitigate impacts.

We applaud the Project sponsors for the open and transparent manner in which they conducted their research, shared their findings, and engaged the interested public in a series of discussions, field trips, and constructive dialogue. We appreciate the sensitivities associated with a project proposed for location between DNR land historically associated with Northern Spotted Owls and the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. In light of these sensitivities, we respectfully suggest that membership in the technical advisory committee (TAC) proposed by the Project sponsors be broadened to include representatives from Washington's environmental community, as well as tribal representatives from the neighboring Yakima Nation. Given its potential as a first project on Washington forestland, we also recommend the Project sponsors work collaboratively with TAC members to develop a comprehensive and robust long-term research agenda.

In sum, RNP believes that the Whistling Ridge Energy Project has demonstrated the commitment to meaningful engagement with wildlife agencies, to rigorous environmental review, and to constructive community dialogue that we believe is consistent with the Washington Wind Power Guidelines, and that characterizes responsible wind energy development in the Northwest's commercial forestlands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this comment.

Very truly yours,



John J. Audley, Ph.D
Deputy Director
Renewable Northwest Project



Megan Walseth Decker, J.D.
Senior Staff Counsel
Renewable Northwest Project

Attachment:

cc: Jason Spadaro, Whistling Ridge Energy Project
Phil Anderson, WDFW Director
Ken Berg, USFWS Region Manager
Travis Nelson, WDFW Wind Energy Team

Here it is again.

I've also inserted the text in the body of this note.

Please let me know if you continue to have problems accessing our input.

**Renewable
Northwest
Project**

June 30, 2010

James Luce, Chairman
Stephen Posner, Compliance Manager
Al Wright, Managing Director
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504

Stephen J. Wright, Administrator
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

SW Oak, Suite 303
Portland, OR 97205

Phone: 503.223. [REDACTED]

Fax: 503.223. [REDACTED]

www.RNP.org

Andrew M. Montano, Environmental Project Manager
Bonneville Power Administration
PO Box 3621
Portland, OR 97208-3621

RE: Renewable Northwest Project's Comments Concerning the Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Members

Dear Chairman Luce, Director Wright, Mr. Posner, Administrator Wright, Mr. Montano and Council Members:

3TIER

Renewable Northwest Project (RNP) provides the following comments with respect to the environmental review conducted for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project pending before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and currently undergoing a comment process for the joint BPA and EFSEC Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

BP Alternative Energy

RNP does not, as a practice, advocate for particular renewable energy projects. But we have commented, and will continue to comment, on renewable energy projects that we believe have significant policy ramifications for the development of renewable energy in the Northwest. In our view, the Whistling Ridge Energy Project has significant policy ramifications for the development of renewable energy in forested areas of the Northwest, thereby establishing precedent for forestland projects in other regions of the state.

Bonneville Environmental Foundation

Efficiency & Renewable Technologies

CH2M Hill

Among the many lessons taught by the recent Gulf Coast oil disaster, one of the clearest is the

Citizens' Utility Board

need for comprehensive clean energy policy. Reliable, renewable energy will play a key role in overall effort to reduce our reliance upon fossil fuel, and pave the way towards a more robust economy. Realizing its potential to drive future economic development, Washington legislatures charged the Clean Energy Leadership Council (CELC) "to create a clean energy leadership initiative that will set the path to leverage Washington's energy infrastructure and make Washington a hub for clean energy technology and a leader in the creation of green jobs and the

Climate Solutions
Energy Windpower
Columbia Gorge
Community College

David Evans & Associates

Element Power

Environment Oregon

Environment Washington

enXco, Inc.

Eurus Energy America

Everpower Renewables

Geothermal
Resources Council

GE Energy

Green Mountain Energy

Horizon Wind Energy

Iberdrola Renewables

Jones Stevedoring

Lane Powell PC

Montana Environmental
Information Center

MontPIRG

Natural Resources
Defense Council

NextEra Energy Resources

Northwest Environmental
Business Council

NW Energy Coalition

Northwest
Environmental Advocates

OSPIRG

Port of Vancouver, USA

Portland Energy
Conservation, Inc.

development, deployment, and export of clean energy technologies and services.”[2]

REC Silicon

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REpower

Developments

Ridgeline Energy

Stoel Rives, LLP

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Farmer Creek Energy

CSC Corp LLP

Whistling

Wind Technology, Inc.

We are writing to express our support for acceptance of environmental information contained in the DEIS, and to commend EFSEC, BPA and Whistling Ridge Energy for their compliance with both the spirit and the letter of applicable siting standards and process, including Washington’s Wind Power Guidelines.

Warm Springs Power &

Water Enterprises

Washington

Energy

Guidelines

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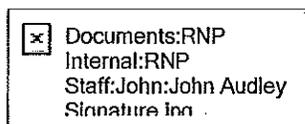
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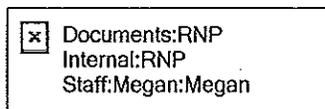
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In sum, RNP believes that the Whistling Ridge Energy Project has demonstrated the commitment to meaningful engagement with wildlife agencies, to rigorous environmental review, and to constructive community dialogue that we believe is consistent with the Washington Wind Power Guidelines, and that characterizes responsible wind energy development in the Northwest's commercial forestlands.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this comment.

Very truly yours,

 Documents:RNP
Internal:RNP
Staff:John:John Audley
Signature Inn

 Documents:RNP
Internal:RNP
Staff:Megan:Megan

John J. Audley, Ph.D

Megan Walseth Decker, J.D.

Deputy Director

Senior Staff Counsel

Renewable Northwest Project

Renewable Northwest Project

Attachment:

cc: Jason Spadaro, Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Phil Anderson, WDFW Director

Ken Berg, USFWS Region Manager

Travis Nelson, WDFW Wind Energy Team

[1] For example, RNP was an active participant in the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, due to its significant policy ramifications in shaping the direction of Washington's energy policy.

[2] See The Washington Clean Energy Leadership Council at <http://www.washingtoncelc.org/mission/>

[3] See Washington Department of Natural Resources, "Draft Strategies and Procedures for Wind Power Leasing on HCP Trust Lands," May 27, 2010.

John J. Audley, Ph.D
Deputy Director
Renewable Northwest Project
SW Oak, Suite 303
Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 223- (office)
(503) 863- (cell)
@rnp.org

On Jul 6, 2010, at 1:29 PM, COM EFSEC wrote:

Please be aware, the .htm attachment opens simply as a blank page – please resend it if you would like it included in your comments to the Council. Thank you very much.

From: John Audley [mailto: @rnp.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 2:47 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Cc: Nelson, Travis W (DFW); Jason S. Spadaro
Subject: Renewable Northwest Project Letter re Whistling Ridge

Dear EFSEC Members and Staff,

Attached are RNP's comments and supporting document for the proposed Whistling Ridge Project. Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions.

Regards,

John J. Audley, Ph.D
Deputy Director
Renewable Northwest Project
SW Oak, Suite 303
Portland, Oregon 97205
(503) 223- (office)

(503) 863-██████ (cell)
██████@rnp.org

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #232

From: Anthony Lyon [redacted@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2010 10:48 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Anthony Lyon
[redacted] N. Gantenbein Ave.
Portland, OR 97217

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Marshall Goldberg [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 30, 2010 10:12 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

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I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Marshall Goldberg
[REDACTED] SW Raleighview Dr
Portland, OR 97225

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Cam Thomas [redacted]@gorge.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 01, 2010 12:20 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling ridge letter
Attachments: EFSEC letter.doc

To: EFSEC

Mr. Stephen Posner,

Please find attached my letter in support of the Whistling Ridge Energy project.

Cam Thomas

Date: July 1, 2010

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

From: Mr. Cam Thomas
Underwood, WA 98651

Re: Whistling Ridge wind turbine project

Like many people giving open testimony, I am all FOR the project. All persons giving testimony about the Whistling Ridge project seem to agree the time is right for a turbine project. Utilities are being mandated to use larger & larger percentages of wind power. The market is here and now, and the time is perfect.

Progress takes change and change can be good for the world as a whole. There are those who want to stop all progress, just for the sake of having no change. Then there are the Not In My Back Yard people. And, from the world wide environmental perspective, wind power is much friendlier than transporting oil half way around the world in ships.

The location of this turbine project seems to be the primary question. Whistling Ridge is where the wind is abundantly available, locally. The ridge's name is derived from the fact that the wind literally whistles thru the trees when it blows. Trading the whistling noise for the soft slap of turbine blades, and then only when the wind blows, may be better than the whistle.

The power connecting substation can be located optimally close to the project sight and right next to a main Bonneville distribution line. This very rural area will limit impact on a very few humans. The wildlife habitat in the area will change, but the habitat itself will not be "lost." Some animals will move out while others will move into the area. In this case, change might be good, or at least neutral. Since all wind turbines will be located outside of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic area, this should not even be an issue. I hope the lazy turning turbine blades will soon be a sign of progress, and a promise of better things to come.

This privately funded project would mean temporary and permanent local employment. No taxpayer government money will be used to support the construction or maintenance of the project. Economically this project is in a perfect area to help bring desperately needed work dollars into Skamania County. The prime example of this is the money now flowing into neighboring Klickitat County.

The many positive aspects of the project far, far out weigh any temporary negatives. Construction traffic will undoubtedly cause some issues for the local residents. But this too will not last forever, and will soon become a distant memory.

For the reasons stated above, I endorse and SUPPORT this project.

Cam Thomas
[REDACTED] Thomas Rd.
Underwood, WA 98651

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: STEVE GIBSON [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 7:33 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: RECOMMEND SUPPORT of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS

Energy Facility Siting & Evaluation Council

As a five year resident of Klickitat County and a near life long Gorge area resident I support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project & urge your support of this project. The project area is outside the Scenic Area thus concerns that relate to it should/do not apply.

Also & more importantly I urge the Council to disregard the Portland Oregon downtown based Friends of the Gorge's (FOG) thoughts/ efforts to miss lead the EFSE Council otherwise. Any large corporation or private organization like FOG worth **7.5 million** can offer/promote a lot of directed comments & miss represent the **true opinions** of the area citizens who reside in the nearby communities & live here within the Gorge.

Steve Gibson
White Salmon WA

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gorge.net
Sent: Friday, July 02, 2010 12:11 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: whistling ridge enery project draft EIS

Hello,

My name is Mary Twombly. I live at 842 Little Rock Creek Rd. Mill A Washington. I moved here almost 3 years ago. The day we signed the papers on our house we found out about the proposed Industrial Wind Turbine Project. After doing some research on my computer my heart sank as I read all the reports from families living within 2 miles of the Industrial monsters. People like us who had sold their big family homes and wanted to scale down, simplify their lives and live a simple life in the country, gardening, working and enjoying nature. Many of these people now live with insomnia, headaches, irritability, decreased concentration, anxiety, and more. This was very disturbing indeed as I read this information. These are real people, not whiners. They have had to leave their homes to get well. Some have returned only to have the symptoms return. The wind industry disputes these claims dismissing them (without any intelligent responses on why they don't believe it) as whiners, angry etc. Well I would be angry if I had to spend thousands of dollars on medical bills, leave my beloved home and suffer health consequences. People would never do this just to spite the wind industry. These are people just like you and me, and they are sick. It is obvious that there is a problem with placing these large industrial wind turbines too close to residential communities. Why are we continuing to site these projects so close to human habitation? On June 30th 2010 Carl B. Phillips an epidemiologist and health policy researcher with a PHD from Harvard testified at wind siting hearings held at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission in Madison Wisconsin. He stated that there was ample evidence of a problem of some magnitude with siting the Industrial wind turbines near homes. He had studied the subject in depth and submitted a 5 minute verbal testimony and handed in a lengthy written testimony. Dr. Nina Pierpont has done extensive work with persons who live with "wind turbine syndrome" and has written a book called "Wind Turbine Syndrome" A Natural Experiment.

I am a nurse and a massage therapist. I am also a sound healer and work with sound. I am aware of the positive and negative effects of sound. Sound vibrations can harm. Sound vibrations destroyed the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. Low frequency sound vibrations were used as torture in WW2. I am very nervous about the installation of these turbines on the ridges of our beautiful community. There are many people who will be living within 2 miles of the project. How can we risk sacrificing the health of our neighbors? Not everyone is affected by the low frequency vibration.

It would be simple if everyone was, but because of this it makes the ones who are look like liars or crackpots. They are not.

There are many other reasons that I am against the Turbine project. I am opposed to the destruction of the landscape and the wildlife that will be affected.

The migratory birds are at risk, golden eagles, bats etc. In other installations it has been noted that with wildlife nearby disappears or is killed.

The Fish and Wildlife Service recommends not to place these turbines on ridges. I have also heard that one cannot predict what will happen with the sound when turbines are placed on ridges.

I am not opposed to wind turbines, but these ridges so close to the scenic area and long established communities are not a good fit. I told Jason Spadero almost 3 years ago, just because you have this land here and you want to be in the energy industry doesn't mean that it is a good fit.

So my biggest concerns are for the health of the people in this community. It's not fair to put them at risk. Pay attention to the new studies coming out.

Carl Phillips says it would be easy to prove that these turbines are causing health problems, but the money isn't being spent on the studies. The industry doesn't want this type of thing "getting in their way".

If you knowingly OK this project with reliable information about causing humans physical harm, you will be liable for their health problems and could be liable in lawsuits down the road. I beg you to look further into this information. Don't be responsible for harming our community. It just isn't right.

Respectfully,

Mary Twombly

Mill A WA

RECEIVED

JUL 01 2010

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #237



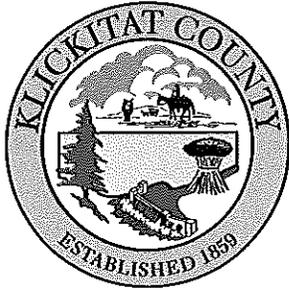
Klickitat County

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

205 S. COLUMBUS AVENUE, ROOM 103, MS-CH-04, GOLDENDALE WASHINGTON 98620 • FAX 509 773-6779 • VOICE 509 773-4612

REX F. JOHNSTON, DISTRICT #1
DAVID M. SAUTER, DISTRICT #2
RAY THAYER, DISTRICT #3



June 29, 2010

Via E-Mail and Mail

EFSEC
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, Washington 98504-3172
efsec@commerce.wa.gov

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office - DKE-7
P.O. Box 14428
Portland, Oregon 97293-4428
www.bpa.gov/comment

RE: Whistling Ridge Energy Project, EFSEC Application No. 2009-01
Comment on Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS)

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Klickitat County appreciates the opportunity to provide this comment on the joint Draft EIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Whistling Ridge is proposed for location in Skamania County, adjacent to Klickitat County. Klickitat has permitted several wind projects over the past decade, so has acquired experience with evaluating and mitigating project impacts, as well as an appreciation for the socio-economic benefits wind development can bring to a rural community. It is within this context that the County offers these comments and support for Whistling Ridge.

1. Wind Development, Generally: Addressing Both Economic Recovery and Environmental Objectives

Wind development has become increasingly important to both Washington's economy and achieving environmental objectives. Washington voters expressed this when they approved the Energy Independence Act, Ch. 19.285 RCW, in 2006.

[A]ppropriately sited renewable energy facilities ... will promote energy independence in the state and the Pacific Northwest region. Making the most of our plentiful local resources will stabilize electricity prices for Washington residents, provide economic benefits for Washington counties and farmers, create high-quality jobs in Washington, provide opportunities for training apprentice workers in the renewable energy field, protect clean air and water, and position Washington state as a national leader in clean energy technologies¹

Securing our energy independence is critical not only to economic recovery, but also to our ability to compete in a global economy in which traditional energy supplies are increasingly difficult

¹ RCW 19.285.020; *see also* RCW 70.235.020; RCW 80.80.005.

to obtain. And, it is Washington's rural counties which will play a critical role in generating that energy.

2. Environmental Review for Whistling Ridge

This is EFSEC's fourth wind development project, and the state has been addressing wind project siting now for a decade. BPA has been addressing wind project siting for nearly two decades, if not longer. EFSEC's and BPA's environmental review processes are comprehensive.

Skamania County has reviewed Whistling Ridge for consistency with its land use plans and zoning requirements, as documented through Resolution 2009-54. Klickitat County respects this determination. We also offer the following observation with respect to the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area.

Whistling Ridge is proposed for location outside the National Scenic Area boundaries. It is outside the purview of the Columbia River Gorge Commission, the Scenic Area Management Plan, and all National Scenic Area Act provisions affecting land use.

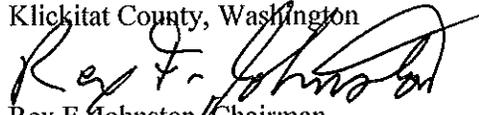
Similar to Skamania County, Klickitat could not realize its community and economic development objectives or address its historically high unemployment levels, if Scenic Area proximity were to restrain wind or other types of development in the thirteen exempted urban areas (e.g., the cities of Hood River, Bingen, White Salmon, and The Dalles) or external to the National Scenic Area boundaries. Such an outcome would be inconsistent with the letter and intent of the National Scenic Area Act.

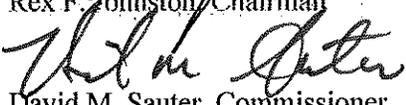
3. Conclusion

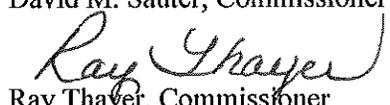
Klickitat County appreciates your consideration of these comments. EFSEC and BPA are thoroughly reviewing the Project, which, if constructed, will be an economic and environmental asset to the region and state.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Klickitat County, Washington


Rex F. Johnston, Chairman


David M. Sauter, Commissioner


Ray Thayer, Commissioner

cc: Al Wright, EFSEC Manager
Skamania County Board of Commissioners

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JUL 01 2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

June 29, 2010

EFSEC
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

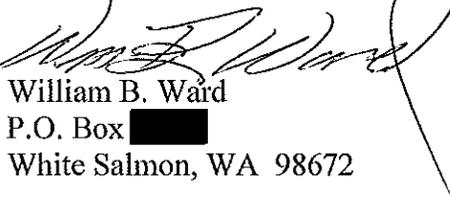
WR - DEIS
Public Comment #238

Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

I was unable to attend the recent public hearings regarding the Whistling Ridge Energy Project proposed by SDS Lumber Company. I am in full support of this project and strongly favor its implementation. Sustainable wind energy is an obvious course to pursue in this area of sustainable and abundant energy source.

Having just returned from the eastern Oregon/Washington area, and having seen first-hand the remarkable success being accomplished with harnessing wind power, it only makes good economic sense to take advantage of the site that SDS is proposing.

I have had the pleasure of business relationships with SDS Lumber Company in the past and regard them as a very successful operation. They will install this project in a manner that will certainly benefit this area and the energy needs of the future.



William B. Ward
P.O. Box [REDACTED]
White Salmon, WA 98672

Cc: Jason Spadaro, President
SDS Lumber Company

JUL 02 2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Friday 8:00 AM, 6-25-10

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #239

E.F.E.C.

905 Plum St. S.E.

Olympia, Wa. 98504-3122

Hello,

We been a resident of Skamania County, for 48 years. I watched the great environmental movement destroy our economy and the economy of our surrounding counties and states.

I understand, now the Boardman, Oregon coal fired plant, is about to become history! What is wrong with these people? They say it creates acid rain in the gorge, Dr. L. I say!

The only air quality problem we have is when the west winds blow, bringing all the airshed problems of Portland and Vancouver with it.

Global warming. Al Gore and all of his fellow believers, need to go somewhere and start their own country, someplace else!

Our weather and climate are changed forever, each time, a volcano erupts somewhere in our world, but they in their environmental movement, never talk of this!

I have no issues over, taking care of our environment. We should, it's our duty to do so as stewards of our world we live

ing.

The problem is, extremism!, in anything, is counter productive and really destructive, to our way of life and our country's economy.

So, my feeling on Wind Farms, lets get it done! Time is waisting. Lets take advantage of this great resource, the wind!

So, you can see them. So what! I don't like green colored cars. Should I start a movement, to prevent folks from having green cars, who like them? Why not!

I am 79 yrs. old, disabled and retired. I lived alot in these Tups, we seen alot and done alot and learned alot!

All this green madness, thats going on now, is going to destroy us in the end. You're got my vote for the Whistling Ridge project!

Sincerely,

Robert H. Riba

P.O. Box [REDACTED]

Carson, Wa. 98610-0643

RECEIVED

JUL 02 2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Washington EFSEC
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia,, WA 98504-3172
Fax:(503) 230- [REDACTED]

RE: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Dear Sir or Ms.

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Ben J. Daniel
P.O. BOX [REDACTED]
UNDERWOOD, WA 98651

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: alan [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, July 04, 2010 10:32 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: comments on Whistling Ridge energy project

Please accept the following comments regarding the Whistling Ridge wind energy development project.

I am a strong supporter of alternative energy sources, as long as they are properly sited and designed to minimally impact significant natural resources. Unfortunately, in the case of Whistling Ridge, I cannot support this particular development due to its potential negative impact on the Columbia River Gorge.

The Columbia River Gorge was designated as a National Scenic Area in order to protect and manage its scenic beauty and abundant recreation opportunities. Unfortunately, at the time of the original designation, the legislation did not address "view impacts" of adjoining buffer areas as seen from within the National Scenic Area. I would think that, if industrial wind farms would have been prevalent in the Northwest at the time, the legislation would have addressed siting restrictions for this type of use in those areas where it would negatively impact the National Scenic Area.

The Pacific Northwest does not have a shortage of available sites for wind energy developments. Please deny the application for the Whistling Ridge development, and help preserve the soul of our Columbia River Gorge.

Thank you,

alan wilcox
[REDACTED]@gmail.com
White Salmon, WA

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Mary Twombly [REDACTED]@gorge.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 9:39 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: comments on Whistling Ridge proposal

Hello my name is Steve Andruss. my address is 842 Little Rock creek Rd. Cook Wa 98605 phone is 509 538 2772.

Dear EFSEC committee, Please do not put the wind turbines on Whistling Ridge. White Salmon and Hood River are known for the famed double mt. views. All of our property values will drop when the area becomes known for its multi-turbine views. We need wind power but not in such a beautiful place. The turbine mess out east is bad enough. I am always thankful when I get west of all those blinking lights. It is enough to ruin the eastern gorge with these industrial giants. I don't know how many turbines are out there but adding another 50 turbines to that mess won't make much difference now. To put up 50 turbines on Whistling ridge would blight the whole area. This is a world class scenic area and should be preserved as that. The project west of the Dalles has been canceled and the middle mt. project south of Hood River has been stopped. If we would have known that Whistling Ridge was to become an industrial wind factory we never would have bought property in Mill A. Common sense tells us this is a bad idea and should never be put in. I have been to meetings and listened to the talk about how safe for birds these mills are. The native americans told us that they could not imagine how a bird could fly into these blades. About 2 weeks later, front page of the Oregonian, Golden eagle killed by wind turbines at Goodnoe Hills. How many Golden Eagles are there in the gorge ? At least one is dead. We were told that up to 7000 bats would be killed if the Whistling Ridge project goes in. How many hawks and eagles will die because of this? What are the long term health effects? I have been told that 750 gallons of oil a year will be atomized in each of the turbines. That does not sound like clean energy. Putting these turbines on mountain tops has not been studied thoroughly so we really don't know what the impact will be. Many people are affected by the vibration and sound of the turbines. Again to put them so close to people and towns seems short sighted at best. To conclude I would say don't put the proposed Whistling Ridge tubines in as it is the wrong place to put them. Install them out east where there is less scenic beauty and already lots of turbines and more wind to turn them. Sincerely, Steve Andruss Mill A, WA

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Daniel Dancer [REDACTED]@artforthesky.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 10:47 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ride Comments

Daniel Dancer
POB 693
Mosier, OR 97040

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Re: Proposed Whistling Ridge Wind Project

Dear Folks,

I steadfastly oppose the Whistling Ridge Project for a number of reasons. Primarily, it is a terrible site as it impacts the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area in a very big way. Industrial Wind Farms destroy all natural character of the places they are sited. I know. I drive through the eastern Gorge quiet frequently and healthy, wide open feel and wildness of the area is gone now dominated by twirling blades, roads, power lines and thousands of red lights at night. To some this may be an acceptable sacrifice way out in flat farm country, it is completely the opposite, however here on the edge of the Columbia Gorge!!!!

We do need to address increasing energy demands but NOT on the edge of a nationally recognized treasure like the Columbia Gorge.

Thank You,
Daniel Dancer

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: alan [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Sunday, July 04, 2010 10:32 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: comments on Whistling Ridge energy project

Please accept the following comments regarding the Whistling Ridge wind energy development project.

I am a strong supporter of alternative energy sources, as long as they are properly sited and designed to minimally impact significant natural resources. Unfortunately, in the case of Whistling Ridge, I cannot support this particular development due to its potential negative impact on the Columbia River Gorge.

The Columbia River Gorge was designated as a National Scenic Area in order to protect and manage its scenic beauty and abundant recreation opportunities. Unfortunately, at the time of the original designation, the legislation did not address "view impacts" of adjoining buffer areas as seen from within the National Scenic Area. I would think that, if industrial wind farms would have been prevalent in the Northwest at the time, the legislation would have addressed siting restrictions for this type of use in those areas where it would negatively impact the National Scenic Area.

The Pacific Northwest does not have a shortage of available sites for wind energy developments. Please deny the application for the Whistling Ridge development, and help preserve the soul of our Columbia River Gorge.

Thank you,

alan wilcox
[REDACTED]@gmail.com
White Salmon, WA



Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
COMMENT FORM
Whistling Ridge Draft Environmental Impact Statement
Public Hearing and Comment Opportunity

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Name: Linda Maddox
Address: [redacted] 10th Street Hood River OR 97031
(Please include your Zip!)
Email Address: [redacted]@gmail.com

Add me to the Mailing list/Email 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 Monday, July 19, 2010.

What is wrong with this project?? EVERYTHING
° 50 wind turbines 426 feet tall on the very edge of
a National Scenic Area is insane. They are too high,
too many and in the wrong place!! If California,
or Canada, need this power, they can build their own
turbines on their land and ruin their scenery, etc.
Let's not be their FOOLS!
° Right now, wind power seems to make sense only
because of the tax credits. It is only profitable
for the company building the wind farm. The long-
term economic effect here in the Gorge would be
Negative because tourism would be hurt: Scenery = \$;

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

For more information about EFSEC's review of these project changes, please contact:
Stephen Posner, Compliance Manager, PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,
call (360) 956-2063, or e-mail efsec@cted.wa.gov.

ruined scenery \neq \$ or tourists.

• The effect of a wind farm on bird and wildlife populations is negative. Turbines Kill!!
In addition, the roads and services necessary to build and service 50 turbines destroy the very rich, ^{abundant,} and diverse plant and animal life we have here in the Gorge. A wind Farm is an affront to the land and to living things!

For all of the above reasons please deny this application. The environmental impact is too great.

Thank you.

Linda Maddox

Please demonstrate wisdom for all living things.

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 06, 2010 10:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello EFSEC,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Sincerely,
john inglis
[REDACTED] 14th st
Hood River, OR 97031

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:30 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This wind farm will give the Skamania County economy the boost it needs. We are too dependent on timber harvests and federal timber payments. Too many residents are stuck in low-income brackets while unemployment ranks far above the state average. Fortunately, Skamania has another natural resource to develop: wind. Bringing another industry here is exactly what our county needs. It will stimulate local spending, create jobs, and provide new tax revenues. How can that be a bad thing? Skamania County needs to diversify its resources and revenue, and Whistling Ridge can make that happen. I hope the Council approves the SDS application and that the project advances quickly.

Sincerely,
Eric Hess

[REDACTED] NW 56th St, [REDACTED]
Seattle, WA 98107

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 3:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Sincerely,
Corey Smitke
[REDACTED] SW 26th Avenue, Apt 19
Portland, OR 97219

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 4:07 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This wind farm will give the Skamania County economy the boost it needs. We are too dependent on timber harvests and federal timber payments. Too many residents are stuck in low-income brackets while unemployment ranks far above the state average. Fortunately, Skamania has another natural resource to develop: wind. Bringing another industry here is exactly what our county needs. It will stimulate local spending, create jobs, and provide new tax revenues. How can that be a bad thing? Skamania County needs to diversify its resources and revenue, and Whistling Ridge can make that happen. I hope the Council approves the SDS application and that the project advances quickly.

Sincerely,
Nicole Bates
[REDACTED] NW 49th St
Seattle, WA 98107

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 4:26 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change.

As a Washington resident who often enjoys the recreational activities available in Skamania County and the Columbia River Gorge (and hence contributes to the local economy), I feel that windmills would enhance rather than detract from the natural beauty of the area. Those who oppose the responsible construction of windfarms are selfish and short-sighted. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Elinor Westfold

Sincerely,
Elinor Westfold
[REDACTED] NE 40th St. #202
Seattle, WA 98105

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@me.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 5:08 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I'm an tired of our country being held hostage to Big Oil with its many foreign sources. I am tired of the ecological disasters that accompany the exploration, refining and consumption of oil. It is imperative that safe, non-poluting forms of energy are encouraged. Wind River is such an alternative. Not to approve this wind farm would be both irresponsible and un-American!!

Sincerely,
Julian Mueller
[REDACTED] 47th. Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98136

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 5:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Sincerely,
Randy Kessler
[REDACTED] SE 40th St
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 6:20 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. I am a medical student at the University of Washington School of Medicine, and while my professional focus is not on the environment, I am well aware of the human impacts that environmental damage can cause. The recent tragedy in the Gulf Coast highlights the previously existing need for alternative energy, and opponents to its development are contributing to environmental damage while claiming to be fighting against it.

Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Thank you,
Dave Markel

Sincerely,
Dave Markel
[REDACTED] E Boston St #9
Seattle, WA 98102

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 07, 2010 7:26 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I strongly support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. We need renewable clean energy now! This project has it all. Great wind and low impact. It is time to move for energy independence now.

Sincerely,
Craig Keebler
[REDACTED] 92nd Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@juno.com
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2010 11:01 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Sincerely,
Edwin Mirsky
[REDACTED] University Street, Suite 1200,
Seattle, WA 98101

To Whom It Concerns,

Sorry I could not make it to the meeting 6-17. I was not feeling well.

I am all for the Whistling Ridge Energy project. We really need this project to help with energy costs. So many seniors are low income and have a hard time affording utilities - this would be a big help.

Sincerely

Clara M. Donat

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2011

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2010 12:31 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I want to leave my children with clean, reliable, inexpensive electricity to power their future. That means developing alternative sources of energy and having a whole mix of power options to serve our growing population. Wind energy is one of those choices and it makes sense to develop it at Whistling Ridge. Few places exist with the strong winds and transmission lines for such a project. Wind energy is clean, renewable, cost competitive, and is a product we can make right here and use or export to the rest of the country, just like timber. It creates no pollution and can coexist peacefully with the wonderful variety of wildlife we enjoy. Please allow this project to go ahead so that we can leave our children with alternatives for their energy future.

Sincerely,
Fibi Duke
[REDACTED] 83rd Ave SE
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: D Garner [redacted]@gorge.net
Sent: Thursday, July 08, 2010 12:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project
Attachments: 1Windmills.doc

I would like to submit the attached letter as public comment to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Thank you,

Debra Garner
[redacted] NW Country View Rd
White Salmon, WA 98672

Re: Whistling Ridge Wind Farm

The Whistling Ridge project would technically not be *within* the scenic area, but it would bring an unnatural and terribly imposing negative visual impact *to* the scenic area. It sets a horrible precedent for industrial-scale and visually imposing and discordant development that will be quite visible from an area prized for its wild areas and scenic beauty.

If find this project disturbing enough, but won't it also set a precedent for even more and possibly even higher windmills? I fear we will have opened pandora's box if we allow this project to move forward.

Are these super tall, stark white, three-winged towers the only or best technology? Do windmills have to be so terribly "in our faces?" Cell towers are sometimes disguised as trees. Can windmills be more of the "eggbeater" design, painted to disappear a bit more and possibly disguised?

Once these windmills are built, they will stand for decades – in use or not. What extra would it cost to locate the windmills (either in construction cost or less efficiency) outside the VIEW of the Gorge Scenic Area? Since this project, like all other windmill projects, is subsidized, shouldn't the tax payer dollars benefit the most people, not just the investors?

Please reconsider this project for the issues above. The country needs alternative energy sources, but we need to be smart about it as well. Once the visual impact is altered by a project like this, it is altered for all decades.

Sincerely,

Debra Garner
[REDACTED] NW Country View Rd
White Salmon, WA 98672

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Tom and Joanne Cochran ([REDACTED]@gorge.net)
Sent: Sunday, July 11, 2010 12:09 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: The Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Since I could not attend the hearing on the wind farm proposal, I want to now voice my opposition to this project. My husband and I live approximately 1 mile from the proposed site and are extremely fearful of the noise, vibration, killing of birds and wildlife, health hazard from the droning, and invasion of our beloved quiet and privacy we have enjoyed for over 20 years. We understand the value of "harnessing the wind" but, please, not SO close to an established community! Thank you for your consideration.

Joanne M. Cochran
[REDACTED] Hale Drive
Underwood WA 98651

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Mark King [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 4:47 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS Comment
Attachments: NW_LAKE_HOA-DEIS.pdf

To EFSEC & BPA:

Attached, in PDF format, are Comments from the Board of Directors of the Northwestern Lake Development Homeowners' Association regarding the Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS.

Thank you,

Mark King, President
NW Lake Dev. Homeowners' Association
(509) 493-[REDACTED]

NORTHWESTERN LAKE DEVELOPMENT HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
Upper Lakeview Road, White Salmon, WA 98672
email: <@gorge.net>

June 12, 2010

EFSEC

Via e-mail to efsec@commerce.wa.gov

BPA

Via internet at www.bpa.gov/comment

Re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project – Application No. 2009-01: Draft EIS Comments.

To EFSEC and BPA:

The Board of Directors of Northwestern Lake Development Homeowners' Association submits the following comments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Study (DEIS) conducted by EFSEC and BPA with respect to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project (the Project).

I. Introduction.

We represent the owners of 30 residential properties located near the mouth of Little Buck Creek where it empties into Northwestern Lake. There are currently 23 residences built, most of which are full-time residences (as distinct from most recreational cabins located along Northwestern Lake). Our community is approximately two miles east of the Project, and is near the bottom of the Little Buck Creek watershed. The Project would sit at the head of this watershed. Because of our proximity to the Project, we have major concerns about the possible adverse effects it might have on us and our environment.

We submitted Scoping comments, dated 5/15/2009, for this EIS. After reviewing the DEIS, we are of the opinion that, while the DEIS contains massive amounts of information on topics related to the issues we raised, the DEIS fails to directly address and respond to most of our concerns in a meaningful way. We have therefore resubmitted our previous comments in their entirety, and request that EFSEC and BPA revise the DEIS to respond directly and specifically to the concerns that our community has.

Our residents have invested significant amounts of time, energy, money, and especially emotion in building homes and lifestyles focused on our rural, sylvan environment. While we have always known we would be affected by various rural activities such as agriculture and timber operations, we never anticipated that a major industrial activity like a wind farm could be located so near to us. We have grave concerns about several possible adverse effects of the project, and consequent reservations about the location of the Project. We therefore request that EFSEC and BPA carefully study and analyze all possible adverse effects of the Project in its proposed location and evaluate whether other locations would be more appropriate for this type of project.

II. DEIS Issues.

A. Potential Adverse Effects.

1. Noise.

The dominant concern expressed by our Members has been fear that noise from the Project will be a constant nuisance whenever our windows are open, or when we are outside our

homes. Although we are located two miles from the Project, we are concerned that this distance will not protect us due to our geography and wind patterns. The Project will be located at the head of the Little Buck Creek watershed. We are concerned that sound from the Project will echo off valley walls and have an amplified effect on us. In addition, the prevailing winds in the summer (when we are outside most) blow from the Project straight to our homes. So we are also concerned that the wind will carry more noise from the Project to us.

SDS's application has a sound map suggesting that our area will receive 20+ dB of sound from the Project. It is not at all clear to us how this map was produced or whether it is reliable. Perhaps more important, based on reports we have read from residents located near active wind farms, specific decibel measurements might not be the best way to determine whether noise from wind turbines will have an adverse effect. Some of the strongest complaints about wind turbine noise are due to the low-frequency sounds - a constant "whumping" similar to the bass beat that can be heard (and felt) from certain car stereos even from a great distance, and even with the windows rolled up. We have heard that these low frequency sounds can sometimes have much greater impact at a distance than they do at the point of creation. We are therefore very worried about how such sounds might affect us.

It is our understanding that few if any wind projects have been built in terrain with valleys and ridges like ours. So it seems there is very little track record for predicting how noise from the Project might affect us. We therefore request that the EIS make very extensive studies of how sound from the Project will affect us and other residents. In particular, we think tests should be conducted that reproduce, at the Project site, the noise from a project of this size as accurately as technologically possible. Measurements of the noise should be taken not only with instruments, but more importantly, with surveys of the subjective impressions of all affected residents. Unless such surveys are taken, we do not believe an accurate prediction can be made regarding noise effects of the Project.

Lastly, in evaluating whether such noise effects (or any other effects to people) are considered "adverse", we request that EFSEC and BPA rely not on statutory definitions based on decibel levels. Rather, a conclusion that an effect will be "adverse" should be determined by whether the effect will unreasonably diminish the enjoyment of day-to-day life.

3. Lights.

Another complaint we have read about wind turbines regards aviation lights. We request that the EIS investigate what types of light (color, synchronization, quantity, etc.) would have the least impact to people and wildlife. We also request that the EIS evaluate what, if any visual effects aviation lights will have on the night sky in our community (for example, will we see reflections of the lights in the sky on cloudy nights, or even on clear nights?) Likewise, we have read of complaints about "shadow-flicker" from wind turbines. We request that the EIS evaluate whether late afternoon "shadow flicker" will affect our residences, or be visible on the ridges to the east of our community.

3. Environment.

There are many items that should be considered from an environmental and ecosystem perspective regarding a large project like this. All projects like this have an "environmental cost" and although it may not appear to affect our community directly, it does affect the earth; ultimately we are all reliant on the environmental resources of the earth to keep us and all other living creatures alive. In particular, we are concerned that, due to this Project's location in a forest ecosystem, far more wildlife will be negatively affected or harmed than if it were located

in a wheatfield or open plain environment. We are also concerned about whether there will be effects to groundwater and surface water. We request that the EIS carefully evaluate what effects the Project would have on wildlife and the ecosystem.

4. Economics.

While proponents of the Project have correctly emphasized that it could bring some welcome jobs and tax revenues to the area, our Members are quite concerned that if the Project adversely affects our homes, our property values will also be adversely affected. The EIS should evaluate all financial effects of the Project, including specific estimates of diminished property values (region wide) due to reasonably foreseeable adverse effects of the Project.

5. Views.

Our Members have mixed opinions as to whether they would necessarily object to views of the wind turbines, however, most believe that structures of this nature are not in keeping with the spirit or beauty of a National Scenic Area even though such structures are built on land that is just outside of the boundary.

B. Location of the Project.

It would appear that there are much better places to site a project of this magnitude. There are thousands of acres of farmland in Eastern Washington that can (and do) support this type of development. The land to the East is vast, it's close to transmission lines, it is many miles away from homes, has limited recreational value, limited wildlife (as compared to a forest), limited renewable resource (as compared to the timber resources here), there is limited damage to the ecosystem due to installation and it would not detract from views of a National Scenic area. We request that the EIS fully evaluate all of these considerations.

C. Precedent.

We believe it is critical that the EIS address the potential precedent that would be set by approval of this Project. Because it is the first wind farm in Washington to be located in a forest environment (we are told), adjacent to a National Scenic Area, and close to so many residences, a very detailed and thorough analysis of its potential impacts must be provided. Approval of the current application for this project will have precedential effect not only for projects in other regions, but also for expansion of this Project. SDS and DNR have acknowledged that they are investigating a major possible expansion of this Project onto DNR land. We do not know if SDS will seek to expand this Project even further on its own adjacent lands (which would be closer to our community.) However, we are worried that if this Project is approved now based on its smaller size, it will be very difficult to prevent expansions that might initially have been rejected based on an upfront perspective of the total impacts. Consequently, we request that the EIS take the broadest possible view when evaluating the impacts of this Project.

(continued)

III. Conclusion.

We fully support renewable energy and believe it is critical that we embrace it, however, like anything else there are many alternatives to reaching the goals of green power. Some locations are inherently better than others for meeting these goals without imposing undue burdens on the environment or people living near the projects. Given that there are abundant optional locations for this type of project, we cannot support this Project until there is conclusive documentation that it will not have "adverse effects" on our lives and our environment. We respectfully request that EFSEC and BPA rigorously investigate, document, and evaluate our concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Board of Directors: Mike Gundlach, Lynden Hollowell, Mark King, Nanci Sayler, Kit Silver.
Northwestern Lake Development Homeowners' Association

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: James Pytel [REDACTED]@cgcc.cc.or.us]
Sent: Monday, July 12, 2010 11:25 PM
To: COM EFSEC; info@whistlingridgeenergy.com
Subject: Letter of Support For the Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Whistling Ridge,

Wow! It could happen here. Our little community can be a part of a new clean energy economy. I salute Whistling Ridge Energy/SDS efforts to really make this happen. Power has to come from somewhere and what a better place than a locally produced renewable source right in our backyard. We have the wind resource, the transmission lines, and a local company and willing workforce that can make this happen. Let's do this one right.

Ultimately, the arguments against wind turbines boil down to detractors "don't like the way they look." They are entitled to this opinion. If educated about the dirty alternatives or presented with the very real possibility of their sons and daughters being involved in future conflicts to secure our nation's energy security I'm certain their opinions would change.

The new energy economy is not about a silver bullet that renders everything else obsolete. Wind energy is going to be just one part of an increasingly interlinked and interdependent network of distributed renewable energy generation facilities. Solar, hydro, biomass, waves, geothermal, and wind are the silver buckshot that will move our country towards energy independence. I would be proud to say that I'm from a forward community that is contributing towards this effort.

Oh, and, for the record ... I think wind turbines look amazingly cool.

Sincerely,
Jim Pytel
Columbia Gorge Community College
Renewable Energy Technology Program

Jim Pytel
CGCC RET Instructor

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Douglas Hanes [REDACTED]@earthlink.net]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 10:10 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Governor Gregoire must deny Whistling Ridge

I would like to urge you to deny permission for the wind energy project proposed by Whistling Ridge. Although wind energy may be appropriate in some areas, it is simply short-sighted and destructive to allow for-profit corporations to plant wind farms in sensitive areas, with major financial incentives, without the state and country first making a careful study of what locations are appropriate. This kind of marring of the landscape is virtually impossible to undo, and the benefits of the excess energy production are far-off and limited. The project could easily end up being a complete boondoggle, with citizens and the environment paying the price, not just financially, but in loss of our beloved natural areas.

So much more energy could be saved by some modest efforts at energy conservation, and the environment of our region would benefit too. I urge you to take on the vested interests and push for real conservation measures, calling on the people of Washington to each do their part, instead of opting for the easy political gains of hyping alternate energy while selling out the state to self-interested corporations.

Beyond all this, I fully support the following message from Friends of the Columbia Gorge:

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. EFSEC should recommend that Governor Gregoire deny this project.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because this project is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The project would permanently disturb large areas of forested habitat and result in direct and indirect impacts to multiple wildlife species through habitat loss and displacement, direct collisions with turbine blades, and other factors. The potentially affected listed and sensitive species include northern spotted owl, western gray squirrel, northern goshawk, several species of bats, multiple migratory bird species, mule deer, black-tailed deer, and elk.

In addition, locating 426-foot-tall turbines on the ridge line of the Columbia River Gorge would degrade the scenic value of the Gorge. The turbines and their blinking lights would be highly visible from several designated key viewing areas within the National Scenic Area, including Interstate 84, the Historic Columbia River Highway, Columbia River, Cook-Underwood Road, and Panorama Point. The project would introduce industrial development into the natural, forested landscape and indefinitely alter views in the National Scenic Area.

I support renewable energy, but I am opposed to industrial-scale wind energy development within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, a designated national scenic treasure.

Douglas Hanes

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 11:02 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This wind farm will give the Skamania County economy a necessary boost. Our county has struggled for too many years with high unemployment, which is far above the state average. Now Skamania County has an opportunity to take advantage of a natural resource, which is clean and economically viable. This industry is exactly what our county needs. It will stimulate local spending, create jobs, and provide new tax revenues. How can that be a bad thing? Skamania County needs to diversify its resources and revenue, and Whistling Ridge can make that happen. I urge the Council to approve the SDS application and advance this important project quickly.

Sincerely,
Theresa Lusty
[REDACTED] Vada St.
Carson, WA 98610

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Rusty Neff [REDACTED]@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 13, 2010 8:27 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS

RE: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS

To Whom It May Concern;

I'm writing to express my opposition to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project . As a third generation local of the greater White Salmon area, I am appalled at what SDS Lumber is proposing for this project.

We as a community and region have developed green energy here for nearly 100 years in the form of hydroelectric power on the Columbia and its tributaries. In doing so we have sacrificed Celilo Falls, the Cascade Rapids and much of the salmon and steelhead fisheries, as well as many amazing historical Native American sites. Nearby in Klickitat County, we have numerous wind energy projects already developed and more on the way.

How much is enough for one area? The Whistling Ridge project is proposed to be sited on timberland owned by SDS Lumber Company. While the company claims it is not productive, we have watched them harvest and utilize timber from this site. But timber prices are down a bit and the company thinks it can make more money by cutting the trees and placing wind turbines where the trees once stood. In what way is this green? The trees are necessary for cleaning our air and water, pulling CO2 out of the air, providing wildlife habitat and stabilizing the soils on relatively steep slopes. And by planning for wind turbines with blades that will reach as low as 100 feet off the ground, we know they won't be re-growing timber on the site.

What's more, while the proposed site is just outside the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, it is highly visible from many locations within the scenic area. The original legislation for the NSA called for extremely limited development within view from Interstate 84 and Highway 14. This project will be extremely visible from those locations. SDS has been running ads in the local paper showing how visible these towers will be from within the NSA. At some point we need to look to the congressional intent to protect the views of this area. I highly doubt the framers of the scenic area act ever envisioned allowing 400 foot towers (with bright red lights on each of them at night) where they are so visible.

The Columbia River Gorge is an area I consider to be sacred to me and my family. . This is the wrong project for the wrong area. Please say no to the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

Sonja Neff

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Mike and Joyce Eastwick [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 4:08 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge DEIS comment

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for Whistling Ridge. After reading though this document, I realized that there is a workable solution that could satisfy common ground that could satisfy many of the residents of Skamania County, and people Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The workable solution I recommend is to approve of the Whistling project with the exception of the A1-A7 turbine group.

1) Under "affected environment", "surface water", there is no mention of the unnamed stream east (and down slope) of the A1-A7 turbine group. This stream initiates as a spring and flows year round, and eventually empties into the Columbia River. In addition, it flows through World Stewardship Nature Preserve Land (soon to be purchased by Columbia Land Trust). Please add this consideration to your study. Under "groundwater", the same unnamed stream mentioned above has been overlooked since it does originate at groundwater. Eliminating the A1-A7 turbine would eliminate any effects on the following factors would eliminate the impact to these important water resources.

3) There was no discussion on the impact to the military flight route VR-1355. The A1-A7 turbines cut across the introduction of the route as the aircraft fly over the Hood River Bridge and make their turn onto this route. Also, helicopters transiting from Fort Lewis to the Yakima proving ground transit the Columbia Gorge, and this would eliminate any impact to their routing.

4) The noise would be tolerable as the turbines are now more than 1 mile away from the nearest home. Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines would bring the Whistling Ridge project in line compliance with current scientific studies indicate the need for larger setbacks to avoid these issues. It is interesting to note the sheer amount of documentation in the DEIS on noise, causing me to believe that this can be a problem and really needs to be addressed.

5) The study did not use the noise levels defined by the manufacturer of the proposed towers and the generating station, which are larger and noisier than those discussed. Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines puts the noise levels within EFSEC limits even when using the actual towers and the generator facility that will be used in the Whistling Ridge project are used for noise calculations. It also would make the noise within EFSEC limits when computing the maximum anticipated noise levels, cumulative effects of multiple towers coupled with power generation/transfer and their impact to the surrounding community.

6) Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines keeps the Whistling Ridge project in compliance with the basic intent of the National Scenic Act: to "Preserve our nation's natural scenic resources". This allows EFSEC to support the preservation of a scenic area while also supporting wind energy.

7) More recent studies on bat and raptor deaths caused by wind turbines indicate a significantly higher number than expected. Klickitat County has recently begun a new study because many more deaths were occurring than promised by the boiler plate information in their EIS. Please update your study to consider recent results. Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines would significantly reduce the risk of bat and raptor deaths as the turbines closest to the flyway are eliminated

8) The land immediately south of the A1-A7 turbines project is designated winter range preserve. Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines eliminates a major impact to elk and deer movement in their designated winter range.

9) Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines will virtually eliminate impacts to property values since no turbines are close to residences.

10) Regarding "future developments", the "Middle Mountain Wind Project" should be updated to indicate that the Hood River County Commissioners have determined the project to be not feasible due to local discontent. Please also consider adding the decision regarding the Seven Mile project; impacts to the local community and the scenic area also could not be justified. Eliminating the A1-A7 turbines would make this project much more acceptable to the local population because the impact to the National Scenic area would be much less.

I request that you review these comments each as if you lived here, please remember, this project is in everyone's back yard, it is a National Scenic Area and one of the most traveled tourist destinations in the Northwest..

Thank you

Joyce Eastwick
Peach Lane
Underwood, WA 98651

Hotmail is redefining busy with tools for the New Busy. Get more from your inbox. [See how.](#)

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 3:40 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This wind farm will give the Skamania County economy the boost it needs. We are too dependent on timber harvests and federal timber payments. Too many residents are stuck in low-income brackets while unemployment ranks far above the state average. Fortunately, Skamania has another natural resource to develop: wind. Bringing another industry here is exactly what our county needs. It will stimulate local spending, create jobs, and provide new tax revenues. How can that be a bad thing? Skamania County needs to diversify its resources and revenue, and Whistling Ridge can make that happen. I hope the Council approves the SDS application and that the project advances quickly.

Sincerely,
Doug Holliston
[REDACTED] LONE PINE LANE [REDACTED]
THE DALLES,, OR 97058

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Kelley Beamer [REDACTED]@gorgefriends.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:28 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Kelley Beamer
[REDACTED] N Gantenbein Ave
Portland, OR 97217

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Frances Hannah [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:33 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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Frances Hannah
[REDACTED] SE 33rd Way [REDACTED]
Vancouver, WA 98683

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Carolyn Eckel [REDACTED]@earthlink.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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Carolyn Eckel
PO Box [REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97292

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Bob Welsh [redacted@mind-over-media.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:37 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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Bob Welsh
[redacted] Juneau Ct. S
Salem, OR 97302-2221

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Susan Shawn [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:38 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Susan Shawn
[REDACTED] SE Fair Oaks Way
Oak Grove, OR 97267

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Bill Price [REDACTED]@billprice.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:09 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Bill Price
[REDACTED] SW 197th AVE
Beaverton, OR 97006

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Arran Thomson [REDACTED]@care2.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:11 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Arran Thomson
[REDACTED] N Kilpatrick
Portland, OR 97217

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Todd Sargent [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:22 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Todd Sargent
[REDACTED] SE Reedway St.
NO SNAIL MAIL
Portland, OR 97202

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Tim Wuest [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:22 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Tim Wuest
[REDACTED] Center St.
Oregon City, OR 97045

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@maui.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:31 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This wind farm will give the Skamania County economy the boost it needs. We are too dependent on timber harvests and federal timber payments. Too many residents are stuck in low-income brackets while unemployment ranks far above the state average. Fortunately, Skamania has another natural resource to develop: wind. Bringing another industry here is exactly what our county needs. It will stimulate local spending, create jobs, and provide new tax revenues. How can that be a bad thing? Skamania County needs to diversify its resources and revenue, and Whistling Ridge can make that happen. I hope the Council approves the SDS application and that the project advances quickly.

Sincerely,
lauri fritsch
[REDACTED] rock creek dr
stevenson, wa 98648

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: D. Deloff [REDACTED@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis.

This proposal is likely to cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

I request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period by 45 days, in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices.

D. Deloff
[REDACTED] SW 202nd Ave
Aloha, OR 97007

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Shauna Wirth [redacted@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:46 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Shauna Wirth
[redacted] se 175th pl
Portland, OR 97236

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Paul Torrence [REDACTED]@nau.edu]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:09 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Paul Torrence
[REDACTED] Water Gap Rd
Williams, OR 97544

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Sandra Sellevaag [redacted]@ccwebster.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:33 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption); other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridge line in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the Environmental Impact Statement to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Sandra Sellevaag
[redacted] S. North End Road
Oregon City, OR 97045

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Chris Edwardson [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:37 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Chris Edwardson
[REDACTED] SW Hillside Avenue
Portland, OR 97239-1546

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: J.G. Zettergren [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:43 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Judy Zettergren, Ph.D.
Gorge Supporter and land owner

J.G. Zettergren
[REDACTED] NW Pinot Noir Dr
McMinnville, OR 97128

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Richard Stellner [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 6:51 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I want to express my concerns on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

This proposal is likely to have different and greater wildlife impacts than any other wind energy facility proposed in the State of Washington, because it is proposed along a forested ridgeline in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The proposed project would cause significant negative impacts to sensitive wildlife and plant habitat and would degrade the outstanding scenic beauty of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Richard Stellner
[REDACTED] NW 18th Ave
Apt [REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97209

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Diane Morris [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 7:25 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Diane Morris
[REDACTED] W Landing Dr. [REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97239

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Robert Sullivan [redacted]@spiritone.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 7:25 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

While the Whistling Ridge Project may follow the letter of the law in regards the restrictions on development in the Gorge Scenic Area, it does not follow the spirit of the regulations. The Gorge was set aside as a national scenic treasure and siting of the energy project within the sight lines from within the Scenic Area violates the intent of the Act. Alternatives must be considered. The National Geographic has ranked the Columbia River Gorge as number 6 among the most scenic areas in the world.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Robert Sullivan
[redacted] N Willamette
Portland, OR 97217

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Roger Cole [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 7:53 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county line.

I am all in favor of wind projects such as this.

Roger Cole
[REDACTED] E Evergreen Blvd [REDACTED]
Vancouver, WA 98661

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Cyndi Ellis [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:24 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Cyndi Ellis
[REDACTED] NW 104th Loop
Vancouver, WA 98685

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Lorna Hewitt [redacted]@comcast.net
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:35 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lorna Hewitt
[redacted] N. E. Sacramento [redacted]
Unit [redacted]
portland, OR 97230

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Sandy Bushberg [REDACTED]@tching.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:36 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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It is becoming abundantly clear over the many years that wind turbines have been used in large scale farms, that there is a great deal more negative impacts than previously considered. The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is one of a few remaining geographic gems in the world. There are NO good reasons to alter this magnificent area for economic, energy or political purposes.

Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Sandy Bushberg
[REDACTED] Old Dalles Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Robert Henry [REDACTED]@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:39 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Robert Henry
[REDACTED] sw Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy
PMB [REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97225

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Robert Kelley [REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 8:39 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

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Robert Kelley
[REDACTED] S. Stone Avenue
LaGrange, IL 60525

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Frank Mele [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 9:03 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Frank Mele
[REDACTED] Oak Street
Silverton, OR 97381

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Trudy Maney [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 9:12 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Trudy Maney
[REDACTED] S Juniper Canyon Road
Helix, OR 97835

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Kathleen Fitzpatrick [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 9:49 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am concerned about the impacts of major industrial construction on the ridgeline boundary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area near White Salmon.

I live in the City of Mosier, where our businesses depend on the tourism created by the natural scenic beauty of the Columbia Gorge. In a recent survey (Mosier Community Survey, 2008) 99% of the Mosier Valley residents who responded rated "scenery and natural beauty" as Very Important to them.

For a wider view, read the final report of the Columbia Gorge Future Forum, in which many Gorge residents responded negatively to the industrialization of the Gorge by the wind turbine industry and in which one of the most commonly shared Gorge values was our scenic beauty.

And who hasn't read the National Geographic review of the Gorge as the 6th most highly rated destination in the world because of the "... incredible job of protecting the views..."

It greatly concerns me that we can so easily despoil forever what is so rare and so highly valued by the rest of the world. And for what? The sacrifice of long term vision for immediate profit? Profit for a very few at the expense of the other Gorge communities and counties whose economic development depends on the protection of the scenic Columbia Gorge?

I hope that greed does not lead us into making decisions that will negatively impact most of our current population and that our future generations will forever regret.

Kathy Fitzpatrick
City Council, City of Mosier
President, Main Street Mosier
[REDACTED] Rock Creek Road
Mosier, Oregon 97040

Kathleen Fitzpatrick
1500 Rock Creek Rd.
Mosier, OR 97040

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Nicole Jergovic [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 10:07 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Nicole Jergovic
[REDACTED] SW 13 Avenue
Portland, OR 97201

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Neal Keefer [redacted@msn.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 11:07 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Neal Keefer
[redacted] N.E. Couch St.
Portland, OR 97232

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Bruce Cantwell [REDACTED]@myenvoy.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 11:49 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Gorge May Not Be Best Site for Whistling Ridge Energy Project

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

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Bruce Cantwell
[REDACTED] NE 41st Ave
Portland, OR 97211

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Joan Carter [REDACTED]@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 12:03 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

The EFSEC and BPA must consider other alternatives to the siting of the Whistling Ridge wind turbines to avoid marring the viewscape of the Gorge NSA! I've been told also that wildlife will be greatly impacted in this location.

The public must also be kept informed about the environmental impacts of the project, so please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Joan Carter
[REDACTED] Nut Tree Lane
McMinnville, OR 97128

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: john knipe [redacted]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 4:32 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

john knipe
[redacted] s juniper
rockaway beach, OR 97136

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Ken Maddox [REDACTED]@pacifier.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 5:53 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Wind Project

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

The plan is in direct opposition to the Scenic Area, as it would impose unalterable impacts on major viewpoints, and any proposal or alternative that does not ban it outright is missing the main point. I, as ought to be anyone with sense, am opposed to the project and to any attempt to analyze it into creation, including the current DEIS.

Ken Maddox
[REDACTED] 9th St.
Hood River, OR 97031

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@email.wsu.edu
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 6:03 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I would like to voice my strong support for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Washington State utilities must reach the goals set by Initiative 937. Wind is the most feasible and most cost-effective option for bringing 15% new renewable energy on the grid by 2020, which means we need to build more wind farms. Skamania County has the wind, SDS Lumber has the land: it is a match made in heaven. Many studies have shown that the environmental impact of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project would be minimal. For the last century, the site has been used in commercial forest operations. The land has already been cleared, roads built, transmission lines already installed, and wildlife habitats already fragmented. The impacts on a few other species that might be affected are rated low-risk. The environmental benefits are numerous. Wind is clean, renewable, and does not consume water or produce waste. Whistling Ridge will generate 75 megawatts of electricity; enough to power 20,000 homes a year, without contributing to global climate change. The choice is clear: support Whistling Ridge and Skamania County by approving this project.

Sincerely,
Benjames Derrick
[REDACTED] Northwest Larry St. [REDACTED]
Pullman, WA 99163

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Linda Browning [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 6:39 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Linda Browning
[REDACTED] SW Matheny Dr
Beaverton, OR 97008

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Jenny Pompilio MD [REDACTED]@usa.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:10 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Jenny Pompilio MD
[REDACTED] NW Laidlaw Rd
Portland, OR 97229

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Evelyn Bishop [REDACTED]@ipns.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:20 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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Lastly, EFSEC and BPA need to fix the flaws in the DEIS and issue a revised or supplemental DEIS, and make substantial revisions to the EIS to fully inform the public about the true environmental impacts of the project.

I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Evelyn Bishop
[REDACTED] N.E. Beech St.
Portland, OR 97230

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: mary vranizan [redacted@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:30 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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mary vranizan
[redacted] s.w. canterbury lane
portland, OR 97205

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Heather Scott [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:56 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Sincerely,
Heather Scott

Heather Scott
[REDACTED] N Lombard St
Portland, OR 97203

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Judy West [REDACTED]@q.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:21 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

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Judy West
[REDACTED] NE 56th Street
Seattle, WA 98105

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Samuel Seskin [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:56 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Benefits outweigh costs

I am concerned about the opinions of others, but I don't share the Not in my Back Yard, elitist perspective of my friends who are opposing this project. As we build bigger and bigger houses (and second houses) in the Gorge, we should take on our fair share of the burden of powering them with electricity that is sustainable.

Gorge Friends are in the same class as those in Massachusetts who opposed a wind farm off Martha's Vineyard for twenty years.

I hope that all towers can be sited in a way that truly minimizes the visual impact on Gorge residents and visitors, but I support the project as a whole.

Samuel Seskin
[REDACTED] Cynthia Way
Mosier, OR 97040

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Leslie Underwood [REDACTED@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 10:38 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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I also request that EFSEC and BPA extend the comment period in order to allow the public sufficient time to review and comment on the 1,578 pages of material contained in the DEIS and appendices. Please extend the comment period by 45 days.

Leslie Underwood
[REDACTED] SE Nixon Ave
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Aaron Dukes [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 11:00 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

Is there perhaps a site better suited for this development than in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area?

I think it's vital that we protect the scenic beauty of this particular place. I already wince at every clear cut visible in the NSA. The last thing we need is to add industrial development to an area that has already been compromised by commercial interests.

Aaron Dukes
[REDACTED] Eastside
Hood River, OR 97031

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Julie Pittenger-Stanley [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 11:15 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Julie Pittenger-Stanley
[REDACTED] SE Fair Oaks Avenue
Oak Grove, OR 97267

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gorge.net
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 11:43 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge Wind Proposal Comment

----- Original Message -----

From : [REDACTED]@gorge.net[mailto:[REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent : 7/15/2010 11:24:04 AM
To : efec@commerce.wa.gov
Cc :
Subject : FW: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS

While the Whistling Ridge Wind Project proponents deserve credit for responding thoughtfully to some of the previous objections to their earlier proposals, the revised proposal remains of great concern. If allowed the proposed wind mills will still seriously impact the beauty of the Gorge Scenic Area. As presently proposed viewers from numerous locations including parts of the cities of White Salmon, Underwood, and Hood River, as well as the Columbia River itself will have their views of the Gorge defaced by 425 foot towers of steel, rotating blades and flashing strobe lights.

There are few areas in the world with as much natural beauty as we now have in this part of the Gorge. We could not sell it away. Granted our Nation needs alternative sources of energy and Skamania County needs new sources of revenue. But there are many less scenic areas of Washington, Oregon and the entire country which could also contain our windmills. Some things should not be traded for money.

Related Concerns:

1. A first Gorge Windmill project will set a precedent. Other proposals and very likely other windmill farms will follow. New companies (for example a conglomerate such as General Electric) will be much less concerned about the welfare of this area than our neighbors at SDS.
2. Wind farm derived tax revenues will not be the only economic consequence of a local wind farm. Probable negative consequences include decreased property values, reduced appeal to future tourists and prospective new residents because of diminished attractiveness of the area and likely increased infrastructure costs associated with building and maintaining a windfarm (including road maintenance and additional fire protection).
3. Huge steel towers with massive concrete bases would be with us a very long time. The costs of removing an obsolete windmill would be substantial. But how long would a wind tower be useful?

When I consider the dramatic and initially unforeseeable changes in energy demand and modes of production over the past 150 years (particularly the last 50 or so) I am astounded. Who can predict whether 100, 50 or even 30 years from now massive 425 ft steel windmills will make any contribution to our energy needs?

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Christine Yun [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 12:27 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

Please keep the Gorge looking as it did in the days of Lewis & Clark. We have so few areas in the U.S. where a historical landscape is unmarred.

Christine Yun
[REDACTED] SE Alder St.
Portland, OR 97214

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Charlotte Nuessle [redacted]@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 1:37 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Threatens Gorge

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, proposed in the Underwood area, along the Skamania and Klickitat county lines.

I am concerned that the DEIS is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a fair and balanced alternative analysis. EFSEC and BPA need to consider other alternatives, including other means of providing electricity (including increasing efficiency and reducing consumption), other sites for wind energy, other configurations, deleting turbines to reduce impacts, alternative routes for hauling turbines to avoid traffic impacts to the National Scenic Area, etc. Only two alternatives are meaningfully considered in the DEIS (the proposal and the no-action alternative). This is inadequate.

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Charlotte Nuessle
[redacted] Oregon St.
Ashland, OR 97520

RECEIVED

JUL 13 2010

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL



CITY OF BINGEN

July 7, 2010

Washington State Energy Facility Site
Evaluation Council
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Bonneville Power Administration
Public Affairs Office – DKE-7
PO Box 14428
Portland OR 97293-4428

Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project EFSEC Application 2009-001 and Draft EIS

The City of Bingen, located in Klickitat County adjacent to the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project, is supportive of alternative renewable energy including wind energy facilities. Wind energy projects are one way the State of Washington and the United States can help reduce the reliance on traditional, non-renewable energy sources.

The City of Bingen notes that the Whistling Ridge project is located outside of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and is therefore not subject to the National Scenic Area Act. The City of Bingen is also in an area that is not subject to the National Scenic Area Act. We would not be able to realize our community and economic development objectives if proximity to the Scenic Area begins to restrain that development. The city believes that restrictions on properties located outside of the Scenic Area or that are exempt from the Scenic Area Act are inconsistent with the letter and intent of the National Scenic Area Act.

Thank you for considering our comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Betty J. Barnes
Mayor

RECEIVED

JUL 16 2010



ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Chairman
Subcommittee on Energy and Environment

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Washington Office:
2350 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3536

Vancouver Office:
General O.O. Howard House
750 Anderson Street, Suite B
Vancouver, WA 98661
(360) 695-6292

Olympia Office:
120 Union Avenue SE, Suite 105
Olympia, WA 98501
(360) 352-9768

WEBSITE: <http://www.house.gov/baird>

BRIAN BAIRD
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
3RD DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

June 16, 2010

WR - DEIS
Public Comment #316

Allen Fiksdal
EFSEC Manager
Energy Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Mr. Fiksdal:

I write to offer my strong support to the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project in Skamania County. This is a viable project on privately held commercial timberland outside of the National Scenic Area. It will benefit the residents of Skamania County through increased property tax revenue. It will also benefit the region in creating renewable energy that is clean and self sustaining. This is an excellent example of how we can balance environmental protection and economic development.

It has come to my attention that there may be some opposition to the project because several of the turbines may be visible from within the National Scenic Area. I find the argument disingenuous and political in nature. I don't consider a few turbines to be an eyesore, rather they are a powerful symbol of our changing economy in the gorge and our national commitment to renewable energy.

I find the complaints hollow because those who complain of having to see a few turbines from inside the NSA have not complained of similar visual impairments from nearby communities. Stand inside the NSA and you can see signs of commerce, industry and development from nearby communities that are outside the boundaries of the NSA. It is as Congress intended: a balance of environmental protection and economic vitality.

As a member of Congress, I have been a strong supporter of the NSA. The legislation specifically states in the Saving Clause of the Act, that no protective measures or buffer zones should be established around the NSA. This project is outside the NSA. It is not subject to the rules of the NSA. It is an environmentally sound project that should be embraced and encouraged. I support it. It is the right project at the right time in the right place.

Sincerely,

Brian N. Baird
Member of Congress