

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 7:27 AM
To: Wright, Al (COM)
Cc: Michelle, Kayce (COM); Talburt, Tammy (COM)
Subject: FW: Query on July DEIS deadline

Al,

Another request to extend the public comment period. Please let me know how you wish to respond.

Thanks.

From: COM EFSEC
Sent: Wednesday, July 14, 2010 12:10 PM
To: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: FW: Query on July DEIS deadline

Stephen, I am forwarding this to you as the project manager.

From: repar [mailto:████████@saw.net]
Sent: Saturday, July 10, 2010 9:24 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Query on July DEIS deadline

Dear EFSEC,

At the last public hearing on Whistling Ridge, numerous public participants, including the Yakama Tribe asking for government to government contact, asked for more time to dissect the 1500+ DEIS for this proposed wind farm. Have you all made any decision to prolong the 30-day comment period? Frankly, 30 days is not enough time to dissect, digest, analyze, and make coherent comments upon, such a monster DEIS. I would like to see the public participation process extended to a more reasonable comment period. Thank you.

Mary J. Repar
████████ E. Loop Rd. #2
Stevenson, WA 98648
Tel: 509.427.████████
E-mail: ██████████@saw.net

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but by the moments that take our breath away."

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Wright, Al (COM)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 2:42 PM
To: Wallis, Robert (COM Contractor); Bob Wallis; Talburt, Tammy (COM);
[REDACTED]@comcast.net; Luce, Jim (COM)
Cc: Posner, Stephen (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM); Crews, Kyle (ATG)
Subject: FW: comment period for whistling ridge energy project

FYI - AI

From: Sally Newell [mailto:[REDACTED]@embarqmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 1:42 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM); ammontano@bpa.gov
Subject: comment period for whistling ridge energy project

Gentlemen,

I am writing to request that you extend the comment period on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. I recieved my hard copy of this 1500 page document on Monday, July 12, 2010. I requested it at the Underwood hearing on June 16th, after finding that looking at it online was not practical (hard to flip back and forth to cross-reference, etc.) and printing it on my printer impractical, too. When I tried to look at it at the library in White Salmon, I was only given the DEIS without the appendices.

To summarize, I have been given less than a week to review a complex, 1500 page document. I am probably not the only one. We were assured at the hearings by Jim Luce that hard copies would be available on request. I think he thought we would get them in a more timely manner. A week is not enough time to assimilate the information, let alone formulate constructive comments. I respectfully request that your agencies extend the comment period at least 60 days.

A cursory review of the document reveals much happy talk and shallow analysis of major issues associated with this project. I would like to provide detailed and meaningful input to this process, but will need more time. As I stated at the hearing, my community of Underwood, through which all construction traffic will be routed, feels like it is getting the bum's rush by your agencies and the applicant. As the first project of its kind in a forested, mountainous setting, on the doorstep of a internationally recognized scenic wonder, we hope that the process will be fair and thorough.

Sincerely,

Sally Newell

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Wright, Al (COM)
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:19 AM
To: Wallis, Robert (COM Contractor); Bob Wallis; [REDACTED]@comcast.net; Luce, Jim (COM)
Cc: Posner, Stephen (COM); Talburt, Tammy (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM); Crews, Kyle (ATG)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS (DOE/EIS-0419)

Correction to FYI - Al

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

From: Nathan Baker [mailto:[REDACTED]@gorgefriends.org]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:03 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM); Andrew M. Montaño; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: RE: Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS (DOE/EIS-0419)

Correction: it was actually June 18, the day after the hearings, when I requested by phone and email four paper copies of the DEIS from EFSEC. We received two copies on July 12.

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

From: Nathan Baker
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 2:50 PM
To: Al Wright; Andrew M. Montaño; Stephen Posner
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS (DOE/EIS-0419)

Dear Messrs. Wright, Montaño, and Posner:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of the Columbia Gorge to request that the agencies extend the deadline for written comments on the Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS. We request an extension of 45 days in order to have sufficient time to review the 1,500 pages of material in the DEIS and appendices and make meaningful, informed comments.

Until very recently, Friends' staff, consultants, and outside legal counsel have had a total of only two paper copies of the DEIS to use in our review. Essentially, nine different people in five different offices have had to share two paper copies. One of our consultants is often in the field and away from a computer; a paper copy has been essential for his review.

Friends' staff attended the June 16 and 17 public hearings in Underwood and Stevenson. At those meetings, EFSEC Chair Luce stated that paper copies would be provided to the public upon request. Friends' staff requested three additional copies of the DEIS by checking the appropriate box on the sign-in sheets. On June 21, I requested by phone and email four paper copies of the DEIS from EFSEC. On July 7, not having received the copies, I reiterated the request by email.

On July 12, Friends' staff finally received two additional paper copies. This was only one week before the comment deadline of July 19.

We certainly understand that the EFSEC and BPA staff are overwhelmed with the regular press of business, not to mention furlough days and special projects. We do not fault the agency staff for the delays in distributing paper copies.

However, we believe it is only fair for the agencies to extend the comment deadline, in order to give the public sufficient time to review and comment on the material in the DEIS.

We are also sympathetic to the impact on the citizens of the Gorge. I have spoken to other people who received their first and only paper copy this week, after requesting it almost a

month ago. Some citizens in rural areas of the Gorge are still using dial-up Internet access, or have no Internet access at all. For these citizens, obtaining electronic copies via the Internet was never an option. They are now left with an insufficient amount of time to digest 1,500 pages of material and write meaningful comments.

Friends respectfully requests an extension of the comment period on the DEIS. Thank you for considering this request.

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
[REDACTED]@gorgefriends.org
[REDACTED] 5th Ave., Suite 720
Portland, Oregon 97204-2100
(503) 241-[REDACTED]
Fax: (503) 241-[REDACTED]

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Wright, Al (COM)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 3:33 PM
To: Wallis, Robert (COM Contractor); Bob Wallis; Talburt, Tammy (COM);
lucefamilly@comcast.net; Luce, Jim (COM)
Cc: Posner, Stephen (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM); Crews, Kyle (ATG)
Subject: FW: Request for Whistling Ridge DEIS comment extension

Enough FYI Already! - Al

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

From: Paul Smith [mailto:████████@pacifier.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 3:25 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM); ammontano@bpa.gov; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Request for Whistling Ridge DEIS comment extension

Dear Messrs. Wright, Montano, Posner:

I would like to request an extension of 30-45 days for the deadline for written comments on the DEIS for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project in order to have sufficient time to review, digest and then make meaningful comments on this proposal since this will be the one and only opportunity as a concerned Gorge resident to do so.

This document along with its appendices is an enormous amount of material to try and make informed comments on since I only received my hard copy a matter of several weeks ago and I have dial-up internet at my home in the West end of Skamania county and simply can't download this material in any sort of realistic timeframe. I attended both the June 16th and 17th public hearings in Underwood and Stevenson where several other concerned citizens voiced their concerns that this is not an adequate amount of time for proper public review.

As a resident of the Columbia River Gorge living in Skamania county for the past 16 years, I respectfully request that you allow for an extension for the public comment period on this DEIS of the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Paul Smith
████████ Mabee Mines Road
Washougal, WA 98671

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 7:38 AM
To: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Cc: Talburt, Tammy (COM)
Subject: FW: Comment extension request for Whistling Ridge

Importance: High

Ditto.

From: Loreley Drach [mailto: [REDACTED]@gorge.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:57 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM); ammontano@bpa.gov; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Comment extension request for Whistling Ridge
Importance: High

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to request an extension to the comment period for the WRE DEIS. I was able to obtain a hard copy of the DEIS from EFSEC's kind staff at the Underwood DEIS public meeting in mid-June. Since that time, of slightly less than 30 days, I have read through and marked up my copy, but still have not finished compiling and commenting, due to the complexity and size of the DEIS. Please provide additional time for the public to offer meaningful comments.

Sincerely,
Loreley Drach
Underwood, WA

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 7:36 AM
To: Talburt, Tammy (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Comment extension request for Whistling Ridge

Importance: High

All requests to extend the public comment period for the DEIS should be logged in as comments on the DEIS. Thanks.

From: Loreley Drach [mailto:████████@gorge.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 5:57 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM); ammontano@bpa.gov; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Subject: Comment extension request for Whistling Ridge
Importance: High

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to request an extension to the comment period for the WRE DEIS. I was able to obtain a hard copy of the DEIS from EFSEC's kind staff at the Underwood DEIS public meeting in mid-June. Since that time, of slightly less than 30 days, I have read through and marked up my copy, but still have not finished compiling and commenting, due to the complexity and size of the DEIS. Please provide additional time for the public to offer meaningful comments.

Sincerely,
Loreley Drach
Underwood, WA

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 7:36 AM
To: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Cc: Talburt, Tammy (COM)
Subject: FW: Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS (DOE/EIS-0419)

Treat as comment on DEIS. Thanks.

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

From: Rick Aramburu [mailto:████████@aramburu-eustis.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 4:27 PM
To: Wright, Al (COM); Andrew M. Montaño; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Cc: Nathan Baker; Gary Kahn
Subject: Re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS (DOE/EIS-0419)

Dear Messrs. Wright, Montano and Posner.

This office represents Save Our Scenic an interested party to the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy project. Given the length of the DEIS and the detailed materials found therein, we join in the request of Friends of the Columbia Gorge (Friends) to extend the comment period for 45 days to allow full opportunity to comment on this DEIS as well as to provide additional notice to interested persons.

We also note that the recently issued (June 29, 2010) Pre Hearing Conference Order Number 4 (PHO 4) in the EFSEC proceeding on the Whistling Ridge matter addressed issues regarding the DEIS. In that order, it was acknowledge that at the June 16 public hearing public comments "identified potentially serious errors in the draft EIS." PHO 4 also indicates the EFSEC "expects that the Applicant will incorporate into its direct presentation any information needed to address asserted significant flaws in the DEIS." SOSA and Friends have objected to this procedure. Equally, PHO 4 indicated that EFSEC was not going to prepare the final EIS prior to the adjudicative hearings. SOSA and Friends have also objected to this procedure. EFSEC has entered PHO 5 (July 9, 2010) which allowed parties and intervenors to the EFSEC proceedings to have until July 19 to respond to the SOSA/Friends objections (the same day comments on the DEIS are due).

To our knowledge, neither EFSEC or BPA has communicated to any recipients or interested commenters on the DEIS, other than the parties to the EFSEC proceedings, that it has made the decisions found in PHO 4. This would include federal or state agencies. No general notice of these decisions, as far as we know, have been placed in the Federal Register nor to persons that spoke at the public hearing or requested copies of the DEIS. The actions taken in PHO 4 may well modify comments that might come from

agencies or members of the public. For example, additional detail may be included in DEIS comments from interested agencies or members of the public knowing that such matters would be taken up at the adjudicatory hearings. Further DEIS commenters may wish to address the validity and appropriateness of the procedures announced in PHO 4.

Based on the foregoing, SOSA requests the following. First, that the comment period for the DEIS be extended for at least 45 days. Second, and in the alternative, that EFSEC and BPA provide notice, consistent with the usual notice for the availability of DEIS, of the decisions made regarding the use of the DEIS in PHO 4, i.e. a) that the draft EIS will be used in the adjudicative hearings (instead of the final EIS in the hearings and b) that the applicant is expected to incorporate in its direct presentation evidence regarding

"significant flaws" in the DEIS. The detail in such notice will be dependent on the anticipated rulings by EFSEC on the SOSA and Friends objections. If that ruling is delayed, such notice should provide a minimum of 45 days for comments after the issuance of the notice.

Thank you for your attention to these requests.

J. RICHARD ARAMBURU
Aramburu & Eustis
Attorneys at Law
[REDACTED] Third Avenue, Suite [REDACTED]
Seattle WA 98104-1860
(voice) 206-625-[REDACTED]
(Fax) 206-682-[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@Aramburu-Eustis.com
[REDACTED]@nwlink.com

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

From: "Nathan Baker" <[REDACTED]@gorgefriends.org>
To: "Al Wright" <al.wright@commerce.wa.gov>; "Andrew M. Montaño" <ammontano@bpa.gov>; "Stephen Posner" <stephen.posner@commerce.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2010 2:49 PM
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS (DOE/EIS-0419)

Dear Messrs. Wright, Montaño, and Posner:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of the Columbia Gorge to request that the agencies extend the deadline for written comments on the Whistling Ridge Energy Project DEIS. We request an extension of 45 days in order to have sufficient time to review the 1,500 pages of material in the DEIS and appendices and make meaningful, informed comments.

Until very recently, Friends' staff, consultants, and outside legal counsel have had a total of only two paper copies of the DEIS to use in our review. Essentially, nine different people in five different offices have had to share two paper copies. One of our consultants is often in the field and away from a computer; a paper copy has been essential for his review.

Friends' staff attended the June 16 and 17 public hearings in Underwood and Stevenson. At those meetings, EFSEC Chair Luce stated that paper copies would be provided to the public upon request. Friends' staff requested three additional copies of the DEIS by checking the appropriate box on the sign-in sheets. On June 21, I requested by phone and email four paper copies of the DEIS from EFSEC. On July 7, not having received the copies, I reiterated the request by email.

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projects. We do not fault the agency staff for the delays in distributing paper copies.

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Friends respectfully requests an extension of the comment period on the DEIS. Thank you for considering this request.

Nathan Baker, Staff Attorney
Friends of the Columbia Gorge
[REDACTED]@gorgefriends.org
[REDACTED] 5th Ave., Suite 720
Portland, Oregon 97204-2100
(503) 241-[REDACTED]
Fax: (503) 241-[REDACTED]

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 8:05 AM
To: Talburt, Tammy (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Congressman Baird submits November 2009 Letter for public record
Attachments: Letter to Mr Rory Westberg.pdf

Please add as a comment letter on the DEIS. Thanks.

From: Parker (Love), Kelly [mailto:██████████@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 1:39 PM
To: ammontano@bpa.gov; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Cc: Hoss, Schuyler (GOV); Pincheira, Kimberly (Cantwell); Phillips, Page (Murray); Parker (Love), Kelly
Subject: Congressman Baird submits November 2009 Letter for public record

<<Letter to Mr Rory Westberg.pdf>>

Greetings:

The Congressman has asked I submit to the BPA and EFSEC his November 18th 2009 letter addressed to the NPS (National Park Service) to clearly state his objection to federal agencies asserting their authority in the matter of the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project.

If you have questions or need to clarify our request to have the letter included in the public record, please feel free to give me a call. I appreciate the time sensitivity as your deadline for public comments nears.

Thank you. Kelly

Kelly Love Parker

District Director

Congressman Brian Baird

██████████ Anderson #B Vancouver, WA 98661

(360) 695-██████████

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2009

Mr. Rory Westberg
Deputy Regional Director
National Park Service
Pacific West Region
909 First Avenue, Fifth Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mr. Westberg:

We are writing to express our disappointment in the letter submitted by the National Park Service (NPS) to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) regarding the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. This letter mentions the project's proximity to the Lewis and Clark National Historic trail and the Oregon Pioneer National Historic Trail as well as it being adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area as the basis for the Agency's objections.

However, as you know, the National Trails System Act (NTSA) does not give authority to regulate or restrict private land that is not part of the designated trail. In fact the only mention of scenic protection in the Act is in Section 7 (k) authorizing private parties to donate scenic, recreational or conservation easements that enhance the trail and have the donation considered as a public gift for tax purposes.

Although the letter was clearly outside any authority the NPS has under the NTSA, you went on to make specific demands, including "at minimum removing turbine corridor A1-A1 from further project consideration." The letter also asserts that "the visual quality of the region is specifically protected by designation of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area (CRGNSA) in 1986." However, the National Scenic Act does not provide any authority to regulate activities outside the National Scenic Area, which the letter acknowledges itself is the case with this project. The relevant section of the Act states:

Per Section 17. Savings provisions (Sec. 554o)

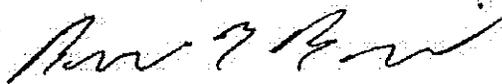
(a) Nothing in sections 544 to 544p of this title shall....

(10) establish protective perimeters or buffer zones around the scenic area or each special management area. The fact that activities or uses inconsistent with the management directives for the scenic area or special management areas can be seen or heard from these areas shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundaries of the scenic area or special management areas.

As supporters of the development of new sources of renewable energy, including wind power, we are concerned that the Agency would act outside of its jurisdiction to attempt to obstruct this specific project and our nation's broader goals for renewable energy development. We therefore recommend that the May 18, 2009 letter be retracted and in the future that the Agency confine its public comments to those matters that are within its jurisdiction and are consistent with the laws and policies adopted by the Administration and Congress.

Please feel free to contact either of our offices if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian Baird
Member of Congress



Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

cc: Andrew Montano, Bonneville Power Administration
Skamania County Board of Commissioners
Jason Spadaro, SDS Lumber

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Stuart Emmons [REDACTED]@comcast.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 3:21 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.

Stuart Emmons
[REDACTED] Park Place,
[REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97205

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Steve Hocker [REDACTED]@sanfordrose.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 3:37 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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Steve Hocker
Elliot Hocker
Noah Hocker
Nathan Hocker

Steve Hocker
[REDACTED] SW 158th Terr
Tigard, OR 97224-1265

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@GMAIL.COM
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 3:56 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: I support Whistling Ridge

Hello Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I have lived in the Columbia Gorge (White Salmon, WA.) since 1950 and just recently moved to The Dalles, OR. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project is ideally located, out of the Gorge Scenic area and would disturb very few people---if any.

I am 100% in favor of this project and hope you can see your way clear to approve this very worthy project without any further delay.

Doug Holliston

Sincerely,

DOUG HOLLISTON

[REDACTED] LONE PINE LANE # 5
THE DALLES,, OR. 97058

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Planet Glassberg [REDACTED]@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 4:02 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.

Planet Glassberg
P.O. Box [REDACTED]
Eugene, OR 97440

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@juno.com
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 5:06 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project Draft EIS

We live in Underwood, and fully support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project. We have heard no reasonable or convincing reasons why the project should not proceed to completion.

Richard and Beverly martin

[REDACTED] Orchard Lane

Underwood, WA 98651

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: sherri irish [REDACTED]@att.net
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 8:49 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.

The Columbia River Gorge is a National Treasure that people travel from around the world to see and experience. The draw is it's natural beauty; waterfalls, cliffs, rivers, mountain vistas. One can drive or hike countless areas in the gorge and be surrounded by exquisite beauty. However, these pristine views are in jeopardy of being lost forever if Wind Turbines are not kept from intruding onto these skylines.

There is plenty of land in this country to support wind turbines. We need to be responsible with our placement of these wind farms. Forests should be protected from destruction in order to erect turbines. After all, wind energy is supposed to be better for the environment. If we destroy forests for wind energy then we have defeated the point of alternative energy sources. This country has millions of wide open plains and grasslands with steady winds that are far more suitable for wind farms.

Please, protect the views in the Columbia River National Scenic Area. The natural landscape is why this Scenic Act was created. There is nothing natural about seeing turbines on the skyline. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to give my opinion. Sherri Irish
Gorge Resident

sherri irish
[REDACTED] se zitzelberger road
washougal, WA 98671

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Gregory Shepherd [REDACTED]@hrecn.net]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 9:59 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. Just because an area is windy doesn't mean it should be farmed for wind. This project could seriously impact the local tourist economy through its negative environmental and scenic impacts.

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.

Gregory Shepherd
[REDACTED] York Hill Dr
Hood River, OR 97031

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2010 6:56 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. SDS is a very reputable company with strong ties to the community. This wind farm will give the Skamania & Klickitat 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,
David Wasgatt
[REDACTED] BZ Glewood Hwy
Glenwood, WA 98619

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Bob Davis [redacted]@ecotope.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2010 9:58 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Comments on Whistling Ridge project
Attachments: whistleridge.docx

From: Bob Davis [mailto:[redacted]@ecotope.com]
Sent: 07/17/2010 9:50 AM
To: 'efsec@commerce.wa.govWashington'
Subject: Comments on Whistling Ridge project

Please see attached. Comments also sent today by mail.

Bob Davis
Director of M&V
Ecotope, Inc.

c. 206.786.[redacted]
ecotope.com
[\[redacted\]@ecotope.com](mailto:[redacted]@ecotope.com)

Should a large-scale wind turbine development be sited in Skamania County?

Bob Davis, Energy Efficiency Engineer, Ecotope, Inc.
(Hood River Valley High School Class of 1980)

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Whistling Ridge Project.

Normally I would just say: yes, do it, it's a renewable. But the Columbia Gorge is a one-of-a-kind place. I grew up in the gorge; I spent a lot of my youth exploring it, including the forest lands in Skamania County. I observed up close the movement to establish the National Scenic Area. A primary reason the NSA was established was the poor stewardship of some of the Gorge's extraction industries such as SDS Lumber. The prevailing approach of SDS and their cohorts was and is to cut/quarry as fast as possible. In the past years, SDS cut to within an inch of the NSA and in full view of its core scenic assets (clear cuts across from Viento Park and nearby areas)

SDS would argue they were/are playing by the rules. Perhaps they were, but I suspect they found some sort of barely legal ways to bend the rules. The death of the viewsheds in the NSA is death by a thousand cuts. Some would argue there are already an interstate freeway and a railroad and a whole dam but that is exactly WHY the preservation of what remains of the viewshed is so important to the value of the NSA.

Much of the Columbia Gorge is now a National SCENIC area. We need to preserve the scenic quality whenever possible; the rules of the NSA are clear on that point. SDS has always viewed the NSA and the NPS with disdain and has done their darndest to stick their finger in the eye of those who love the Scenic Area. I don't think they should be allowed to do it again. They own lots of land (70,000 acres, according to Wally Stevenson) and can find another way to make money on it.

There is another reason I question this project. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 6th Plan ranks conservation ahead of wind power in terms of cost-effectiveness. I work on verifying conservation technologies and, for the most part, they do work. The hardest part has been finding someone to do the work (thankfully that is now changing) but the results have been proven in a number of regional studies that extending back to the early 1980s. There is still a lot of conservation to procure, and the economics are considerably more favorable than the economics of wind, especially when real utilization factors are employed. (That is, turbines even in very windy places only generate usable electricity about 40% of the time; most turbines have much lower utilization rates.) I urge EFSEC to consider these issues seriously when ruling on the siting application.

17 July 2010
Bob Davis
[REDACTED] NE 70 Ave
Portland, OR 97213
503.572.[REDACTED]

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Glenn Johndohl [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2010 10:22 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.

Glenn Johndohl
[REDACTED] NE 38th Ave
Portland, OR 97211

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: rebecca schorzman [REDACTED]@juno.com]
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2010 12:29 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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rebecca schorzman
po box [REDACTED]
Portland, OR 97294

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Sally Bryant ([REDACTED]@katesvineyard.com)
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2010 1:23 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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Sally Bryant
[REDACTED] Big Ranch Road
Napa, CA 94558

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Steven Miesen [REDACTED]@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 10:09 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.

Steven Miesen
[REDACTED] Holmes st
West Linn, OR 97068

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Sylvia Groce [REDACTED]@providence.org]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 10:55 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.

Sylvia Groce
[REDACTED] ne 41st ave.
Portland, OR 97232

Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Mary Harper [REDACTED]@hoodriverelectric.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 11:48 AM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge project should be denied

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 adamantly opposed to this project as it would violate the spirit of the law of the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area Act and destroy the intended viewshed of the area.

I am a supporter of alternative energy in general. But, I firmly believe that industrial wind turbine development should be installed in areas that are very remote from people and vital natural resources.

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.

Mary Harper
PO Box [REDACTED]
Hood River, OR 97031

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Barbara Tombleson [REDACTED]@coho.net]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2010 5:32 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.

Barbara Tombleson
[REDACTED] SW Capitol Hill Rd.
Portland, OR 97219

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Carl Schnoor [REDACTED@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 7:44 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.

Carl Schnoor
[REDACTED] NE Sacramento St
Portland, OR 97213

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Susan Peterson [REDACTED]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 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.

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 Peterson
[REDACTED] SE Franklin St
Portland, OR 97206

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Mirra Meyer [REDACTED]@spiritone.com]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 9:19 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.

Mirra Meyer
[REDACTED] SW Second Ave
Portland, OR 97219

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: Jon Cole [REDACTED]@gmail.com}
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 12:58 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: whistling ridge comments
Attachments: Whistling_Ridge_DEIS_Comments_JON_COLE.pdf

Stephen,

Please find my attached comment letter in reference to the Draft EIS for the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Also, If you could add me to your email list for this project, I would greatly appreciate it.

Cordially,

JON COLE

July 19, 2010

EFSEC

Comments: Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

905 Plum Street SE

Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

efsec@commerce.wa.gov

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement prepared for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project proposed by Whistling Ridge Energy, LLC.

In order to complete a successful wind project, there are several hurdles a project must pass in order to be considered viable. If you look around locally, regionally, or nationally, there are very few sites that meet enough of these criteria to be considered viable. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project easily clears these hurdles:

Wind. The project proponents have studied wind on the project area extensively for several years. Along with the data collected, all of the trees in the project vicinity are "flagged" indicating strong westerly winds along the entire ridgeline of the project area.

Load. With Seattle and Portland populations nearby, there is plenty of electrical demand close to the project. Compared to some of the large scale projects in places like Eastern Wyoming where wind resources are superb, the Whistling Ridge Energy Project clearly has a leg up because not only does it have viable wind, but also nearby load.

Transmission. Whistling ridge Energy Project has a major BPA transmission line located right in the middle of the project area. The project's ability to efficiently tie into the grid without constructing miles of transmission lines greatly reduces the overall impact of the project. Many wind projects need to construct or upgrade miles of transmission lines in order to connect the projects to the transmission grid. Again this is a distinct plus for the Whistling Ridge Energy Project and greatly reduces the overall impact and necessary foot print of the project.

Ownership. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project is located entirely on lands owned by two private entities. There are no other private or public parcels intermingled. This may seem like a small detail. However, different ownerships have different management philosophies and perhaps different levels of commitment to a project and can jeopardize the project as a whole. Having essentially a single landowner ensures the commitment to the project and helps guarantee the success.

Regulatory restrictions: Whistling Ridge Energy Project is located entirely Outside the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. While close, the fact that the project is outside the boundary is significant. In addition, the draft EIS found no significant impacts to plants and wildlife in the area. The lands in the project area are currently managed for intensive silviculture and have been harvested using heavy

machinery multiple times. This area is neither natural nor a pristine environment. These are "working" lands and have been for a very long time.

Revenue. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project is located in Skamania County, which is very significant for the local and regional economy. Skamania County is largely owned by the Federal Government with over 80% of available lands managed by the USFS. In the decades where Federal timber harvests were high, Skamania County received considerable funding from harvest dollars. Harvest levels and associated receipts to the County have disappeared. The County has spent considerable time and energy trying to maintain and replace this vital source of revenue. The Whistling Ridge Energy Project will contribute significant dollars to the County during the construction phase in addition to providing a large, stable source of annual tax revenue to the County. For this revenue, the County has to provide very little service in return. The project uses existing county roads and infrastructure. The County will have little burden both initially and on an ongoing basis.

It takes a very unique site and set of circumstances to meet all of these thresholds. I would urge any of the council members to try and find a site that "fits" any better than this one.

Washington voters passed Initiative 937 in 2006 requiring large utilities to obtain 15% of their electricity from new renewable resources such as solar and wind by 2020. Whistling Ridge Energy LLC has proposed a project to help meet the requirements of this initiative. I strongly urge the Council to see the value of this project for the short and long term local, regional, and national benefits to society and our goal toward a clean energy future.

Thank you for taking the time to review my comments.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Cole", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jon Cole

White Salmon, WA 98672

Michelle, Kayce (COM)

From: [REDACTED]@mind.net
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 5:38 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.

It is very unfortunate that environmentalists and others have chosen to oppose this project when our global environment is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. What good is a scenic area if our global environment is polluted with carbon-emitting energy sources? It is indeed sad that wind turbines impact individual birds. As a birder and long time volunteer for a raptor rehabilitation center, I'm the last person who would want to see birds die. But they are dieing by the thousands---tens of thousands----across the globe because of climate change\'s impact on habitat. We simply cannot afford to pass up opportunities to create more renewable energy.

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,
Ashley Henry
[REDACTED] SE 30th Ave
Portland, OR 97214

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Jon Cole [redacted]@sdslumber.com]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 6:13 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: FW: whistling ridge comments
Attachments: Whistling_Ridge_DEIS_Comments_JON_COLE.pdf

Hello,

Sending again with delivery receipt....just wanted to make sure you received my comments.

JON

From: Jon Cole [mailto:[redacted]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 12:58 PM
To: efsec@commerce.wa.gov
Subject: whistling ridge comments

Stephen,

Please find my attached comment letter in reference to the Draft EIS for the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project. Also, If you could add me to your email list for this project, I would greatly appreciate it.

Cordially,

JON COLE

July 19, 2010

EFSEC

Comments: Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

905 Plum Street SE

Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

efsec@commerce.wa.gov

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Load. With Seattle and Portland populations nearby, there is plenty of electrical demand close to the project. Compared to some of the large scale projects in places like Eastern Wyoming where wind resources are superb, the Whistling Ridge Energy Project clearly has a leg up because not only does it have viable wind, but also nearby load.

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Thank you for taking the time to review my comments.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Cole", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jon Cole

White Salmon, WA 98672

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Laurel Lease [REDACTED]@live.com]
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2010 6:07 PM
To: COM EFSEC
Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

As a Skamania County resident who would be located near the area where the SDS' 75 megawatt wind farm would be sited, I am in full support of this project. It has no negative effects that will harm the environment, but will provide much needed energy and revenue for our area. I have lived near forest lands owned by SDS since 1983 and know that SDS has always been a responsible and considerate neighbor to us at the Northwestern Lake area. I give them my full endorsement without any reservations.

Laurel Lease
[REDACTED] Private Lake Rd
White Salmon, WA 98672

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Talbert, Tammy (COM)

From: Charlie Webster [redacted@stanfordalumni.org]
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2010 4:24 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.

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.

Thank you for extending the public comment period and allowing me to submit these comments into the record.

Charlie Webster
[redacted] Longwood Drive
Los Gatos, CA 95032

Talburt, Tammy (COM)

From: Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2010 12:01 PM
To: Talburt, Tammy (COM)
Subject: FW: Congressman Baird submits November 2009 Letter for public record
Attachments: Letter to Mr Rory Westberg.pdf

Tammy, did you already add this as a comment? If not, let me know and I will print it out.

From: Posner, Stephen (COM)
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2010 8:05 AM
To: Talburt, Tammy (COM); Michelle, Kayce (COM)
Subject: FW: Congressman Baird submits November 2009 Letter for public record

Please add as a comment letter on the DEIS. Thanks.

From: Parker (Love), Kelly [mailto:██████████@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, July 16, 2010 1:39 PM
To: ammontano@bpa.gov; Posner, Stephen (COM)
Cc: Hoss, Schuyler (GOV); Pincheira, Kimberly (Cantwell); Phillips, Page (Murray); Parker (Love), Kelly
Subject: Congressman Baird submits November 2009 Letter for public record

<<Letter to Mr Rory Westberg.pdf>>

Greetings:

The Congressman has asked I submit to the BPA and EFSEC his November 18th 2009 letter addressed to the NPS (National Park Service) to clearly state his objection to federal agencies asserting their authority in the matter of the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project.

If you have questions or need to clarify our request to have the letter included in the public record, please feel free to give me a call. I appreciate the time sensitivity as your deadline for public comments nears.

Thank you. Kelly

Kelly Love Parker

District Director

Congressman Brian Baird

██████████ Anderson #B Vancouver, WA 98661

(360) 695-██████████

**Should a large-scale wind turbine development be sited in
Skamania County?**

Bob Davis, Energy Efficiency Engineer, Ecotope, Inc.
(Hood River Valley High School Class of 1980)

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Whistling Ridge Project.

Normally I would just say: yes, do it, it's a renewable. But the Columbia Gorge is a one-of-a-kind place. I grew up in the gorge; I spent a lot of my youth exploring it, including the forest lands in Skamania County. I observed up close the movement to establish the National Scenic Area. A primary reason the NSA was established was the poor stewardship of some of the Gorge's extraction industries such as SDS Lumber. The prevailing approach of SDS and their cohorts was and is to cut/quarry as fast as possible. In the past years, SDS cut to within an inch of the NSA and in full view of its core scenic assets (clear cuts across from Viento Park and nearby areas)

SDS would argue they were/are playing by the rules. Perhaps they were, but I suspect they found some sort of barely legal ways to bend the rules. The death of the viewsheds in the NSA is death by a thousand cuts. Some would argue there are already an interstate freeway and a railroad and a whole dam but that is exactly WHY the preservation of what remains of the viewshed is so important to the value of the NSA.

Much of the Columbia Gorge is now a National SCENIC area. We need to preserve the scenic quality whenever possible; the rules of the NSA are clear on that point. SDS has always viewed the NSA and the NPS with disdain and has done their darndest to stick their finger in the eye of those who love the Scenic Area. I don't think they should be allowed to do it again. They own lots of land (70,000 acres, according to Wally Stevenson) and can find another way to make money on it.

There is another reason I question this project. The Northwest Power and Conservation Council's 6th Plan ranks conservation ahead of wind power in terms of cost-effectiveness. I work on verifying conservation technologies and, for the most part, they do work. The hardest part has been finding someone to do the work (thankfully that is now changing) but the results have been proven in a number of regional studies that extending back to the early 1980s. There is still a lot of conservation to procure, and the economics are considerably more favorable than the economics of wind, especially when real utilization factors are employed. (That is, turbines even in very windy places only generate usable electricity about 40% of the time; most turbines have much lower utilization rates.) I urge EFSEC to consider these issues seriously when ruling on the siting application.

17 July 2010
Bob Davis 
NE 70 Ave
Portland, OR 97213
503.572. 