

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

From: Lynn Bergeron
4491 Cook Underwood Rd.
Mill A, WA 98605

Date: May 6, 2009

RE: proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project – Comments on Land Use Consistency

From RCW 80.50.90: EFSEC holds a public hearing “to determine whether or not the proposed site is consistent and in compliance with city, county, or regional land use plans or zoning ordinances.”

Whistling Ridge is NOT consistent with the Skamania County 2007 Comprehensive Plan.

Five of the stated benefits of the Comprehensive Plan are:

- to provide for compatible land uses
- to protect environmental and historic resources
- to be an effective management tool for elected officials
- to provide greater predictability for private property owners, businesses and developers in making long-term decisions about the future use of their property
- to discourage development in unsuitable areas

The only place heavy industrial use is allowed is in Rural I lands. The Whistling Ridge Project site is not within Rural I.

The Whistling Ridge Project is contrary to several Land Use policies and especially LU.2.1, LU.3.3, LU.5.5

The County is required to use the Best Available Science (BAS) in developing policies. Hence I assume the policies in the Comprehensive Plan reflect the BAS. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS), in their document entitled

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

From: Lynn Bergeron
4491 Cook Underwood Rd.
Mill A, WA 98605

Date: May 6, 2009

RE: proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project – Comments on Land Use Consistency

“Environmental Impacts of Wind-Energy Projects” recognizes greater challenges to wildlife and the environment when wind energy projects are sited in mountainous areas, making them less than ideal sites. I further assume the NAS document is pretty good science. That the county commissioners have written a letter in support of the Whistling Ridge project is tantamount to saying they do not support the Comprehensive Plan, as well as violating land use policy LU.5.9

The Comprehensive Plan recognizes that the topography in Skamania County, and in particular east and north of Stevenson, is rugged and mountainous. It is also largely forested. Policy E.1.8 seeks to regulate development to avoid clearing of vegetation that maintains slope stability and causes erosion. Several other Environmental policies in the Plan state what amounts to regulating development to protect the health of watersheds. Allowing industrial development in forest lands on ridge tops is inconsistent with the Plan.