



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

**DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
SCOPING NOTICE
and
NOTICE OF INITIAL PUBLIC MEETING
NOTICE OF LAND USE CONSISTENCY HEARING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
MAY 6, 2009, 6:00 – 9:00 PM**

LOCATION
**Rock Creek Center
Skamania County Fairgrounds
710 SW Rock Creek Drive
Stevenson, WA 98648**
[Map](#)

Whistling Ridge Energy Project - Application No. 2009-01

Description of Proposal: Whistling Ridge Energy Project, Application No. 2009-01. Whistling Ridge Energy LLC (Applicant) is proposing to construct and operate the Whistling Ridge Energy Project (Project). The Project will consist of up to fifty 1.2- to 2.5-megawatt (MW) wind turbines with a maximum generating capacity of 75 MW. Each turbine would be up to 426 feet tall, measured from the ground to the vertical turbine blade tip. Turbines will be grouped in “strings” and located on the forested ridges of Saddleback Mountain in eastern Skamania County.

The proposed Project also includes a substation and associated transmission intertie lines to the Bonneville Power Administration’s (BPA’s) nearby Midway 230 kV transmission line. The proposed electrical interconnection to BPA would provide access to the regional transmission grid for sales to the wholesale electric market. The development of the proposed interconnection requires a federal action, limited exclusively to the interconnection with the BPA grid.

The Applicant also proposes construction of an operations and maintenance facility, underground collector lines and systems, and additional ancillary facilities. In addition, the Applicant plans to construct 2.4 miles of new roads and upgrade 7.2 miles of existing roads. The total temporary and permanent impacted area to be developed will be approximately 114.3 acres.

Proponent: Whistling Ridge Energy LLC, PO Box 266, Bingen, WA, 98605.

Location of Proposal: The Project will be constructed in south-central Washington on a 1,152 acre site located approximately 7 miles northwest of the City of White Salmon in Skamania County, Washington. The Project will be located on commercial forestland owned by S.D.S. Co., LLC and Broughton Lumber Company in an unincorporated area of Skamania County, outside of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Lead Agency: Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.

EIS Required: The lead agency has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. Because of the interconnection with the BPA transmission system a review under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is also required. EFSEC and BPA have agreed to conduct cooperative SEPA/NEPA review and will jointly issue the EIS.

An Application for Site Certification has been submitted by the proponent and is available for review at the EFSEC office. Copies have also been provided to the Washington State Library, Skamania County, and to local libraries. The Application and other materials indicating likely environmental impacts are also available at EFSEC's web site at www.efsec.wa.gov.

The lead agency has identified the following areas that will likely be discussed in the EIS: Earth; Plants and Animals/Fisheries; Water Resources; Hazardous Materials; Energy Use/Conservation; Population and Housing; Socioeconomic Conditions; Cultural Resources; Aesthetics/Design; Parks and Recreation; Transportation; Air Quality; Water Quality, Noise; Public Services; and Utilities.

Scoping and Scoping Meeting: The proposed Project triggers environmental review and public notice requirements of both the State Environmental Policy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. EFSEC and BPA intend to conduct a joint SEPA/NEPA Scoping meeting at the time and location detailed below.

Agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Interested persons or organizations may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Written comments should be mailed to the Responsible Official:

Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
905 Plum Street SE
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
Via facsimile to (360) 956-2158;
Via e-mail to efsec@cted.wa.gov.

Oral and written comments will be accepted at a **Public Scoping Meeting – See Below**

Please Note: All scoping comments must be received in the EFSEC office no later than 5 pm on May 11, 2009. Written comments may also be submitted at the May 6th meeting.

Open House: Prior to the meetings and hearing listed above EFSEC and BPA will hold an Open House from 6:00 – 6:30 PM, for informal public discussions with the applicant, EFSEC and BPA.

Notice of Initial Public meeting – May 6, 2009, 6:30 – 7:15 PM: As required by RCW 80.50.090(1) and WAC 463-25-025 EFSEC will hold a Public Informational Meeting where the applicant will make a presentation regarding the proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project, EFSEC will review its certification process, and the Counsel for the Environment will be introduced and will explain his statutory duties. The public will be afforded an opportunity to present oral or written comments regarding the project.

Notice of Land Use Consistency Hearing – May 6, 2009, 7:15-8:00 PM (approximate): Immediately following the Initial Public Informational Meeting, a public Land Use hearing will be held under RCW 80.50.090(2) and WAC 463-26-050 to determine if the project is consistent with county, city and regional land use plans and zoning ordinances. The public will be afforded an opportunity to present testimony relative to the project’s consistency and compliance with land use plans and zoning ordinances.

Notice of Public Scoping Meeting – May 6, 2009, 8:00 – 9:00 PM (approximate): Following the Public Informational Meeting and Land Use Hearing, the public will be invited to provide written and/or oral suggestions and comments regarding issues to be addressed in the environmental impact statement to be prepared under the State Environmental Policy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act. The issues identified in the scoping process will be taken into account during the preparation of the environmental impact statement for this project.

Responsible Official
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

_____/s/_____
Date: _____

Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
EFSEC, P.O. Box 43172, Olympia, WA, 98504-3172
(360) 956-2121