

Appendix C

Public Scoping Meetings – Transcripts

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of) Public Informational
Application No. 2009-01) and Scoping Meeting
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY, LLC.) Pages 1 - 132
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT)
_____)

A Public Informational and Scoping Meeting in the above matter was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2009, at the Skamania County Fairgrounds, 710 S.W. Rock Creek Drive in Stevenson, Washington at 6:30 p.m., before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council members.

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CHAIR LUCE: Good evening, everyone. Today is May 6, 2009 and the time is 6:30 p.m. My name is Jim Luce, and I'm the Chair of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and on behalf of the Council I thank you all for coming here tonight and participating in this meeting.

First, I would like to introduce the members of the Council, and we'll go from my right to the left and we'll start with Judy.

MS. WILSON: I'm Judy Wilson representing Skamania County.

MR. TAYER: I'm Jeff Tayer. I'm with the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

MR. BYERS: I'm Dick Byers with the Washington

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1 Utilities and Transportation Commission of Washington.
2 CHAIR LUCE: As I said, I'm Jim Luce Chair of the
3 Energy Siting Council.

4 MR. FRYHLING: I'm Dick Fryhling and I represent
5 the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development.

6 MS. McDONALD: I'm Mary McDonald and I represent
7 the Department of Natural Resources.

8 CHAIR LUCE: Now we'll pass the microphone back
9 the other way so members of the staff and our legal team can
10 introduce themselves.

11 MR. CREWS: I'm Kyle Crews, Assistant Attorney
12 General.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: My name is Bob Wallis and I am an
14 Administrative Law Judge working with the Council.

15 MR. LA SPINA: Jim La Spina, EFSEC staff.

16 MR. FIKSDAL: Allen Fiksdal. I'm the EFSEC
17 manager.

18 CHAIR LUCE: And Tammy Talburt.

19 MS. FIKSDAL: Tammy Talburt with EFSEC.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Tammy is the go to person if you want
21 to get on the mailing list or we do work by e-mail as well.
22 So if you want to get documents associated with this
23 particular case, you want to make sure that Tammy Talburt is
24 the person you see this evening.

25 The purpose of tonight's meeting is for the

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1 Council to provide you information about the Whistling Ridge
2 Energy Project, also about EFSEC's review process, introduce
3 the Counsel for the Environment, and most of all get your
4 comments on the project and the scope and the specific
5 issues to be addressed in the environmental impact statement
6 which will be prepared jointly by the Energy Siting Council
7 and the Bonneville Power Administration. So I would like at
8 this time if we could have the representatives of the
9 Bonneville Power Administration stand and introduce
10 themselves.

11 MR. MONTANO: I'm Andrew Montano. I'm the
12 environmental project manager with Bonneville Power, and
13 this is Rick Yarde also with Bonneville.

14 CHAIR LUCE: If people want to get a hold of you,
15 Andrew, how do they do that?

16 MR. MONTANO: I have business cards I can hand out
17 to anyone who would like to get a hold of me. We also have
18 a website address I can give you at the end of this meeting
19 if you'd like.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Maybe you could leave that website
21 address with Tammy Talburt so that people who come up to get
22 information from Tammy will also be able to get your e-mail
23 at that time.

24 MR. MONTANO: Sounds good.

25 CHAIR LUCE: We also have with us tonight the

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1 Counsel for the Environment, an Assistant Attorney General
2 for the State of Washington. Counsel for the Environment,
3 where are you?

4 MR. MARVIN: Hi, I'm Bruce Marvin. I'm an
5 Assistant Attorney General. I've been appointed as Counsel
6 for the Environment, the statutory position that's
7 established as part of the EFSEC process. As the title
8 suggests, I'm Counsel for the Environment. My client is the
9 environment. I am very interested in hearing what the
10 public has to say about this project and its potential
11 environmental impacts, and I would invite you if you have an
12 issue that you would like to raise or run by me, I don't
13 have a position yet, and I can't say that I'll be taking up
14 everybody's position that's presented to me, but I would
15 like to hear from you and what your concerns are at the
16 start of this project, or if you like the project let me
17 know that too.

18 My work number is 360-586-2438 and feel free to
19 leave voicemail there. The preferred method of the
20 communication is through my e-mail dress which is
21 bruce1m@atg.wa.gov, and I'll be available this evening after
22 the meeting if people would like to talk to me then as well.
23 I'll be here at tomorrow night's meeting as well.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Bruce, just to clarify, what I think
25 I heard you say was you're representing the interest of the

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1 environment not particular interests; is that correct?

2 MR. MARVIN: Yes, sir.

3 CHAIR LUCE: If you could do me the favor of
4 leaving with Ms. Talburt your e-mail address for the benefit
5 of those people who may not have had a chance to get it down
6 or maybe didn't hear you.

7 In just a minute we're going to hear from Jason
8 Spadaro, project applicant; and Katy Chaney who is
9 representing and consulting with Mr. Spadaro. They're going
10 to give you a brief overview of the project. Before we do
11 that, however, I would ask Council members whether there's
12 disclosures for the record that they wish to make in terms
13 of any interests or involvement in the Columbia River George
14 issues, not all of which may be coming before us, probably
15 none of which would be coming before us, but any past
16 involvement in this community that they would like people to
17 be aware of and I'll start with Dick. Do you have anything?

18 MR. BYERS: No, I do not.

19 MR. FRYHLING: Sure. Back about eight years ago I
20 spent some time here in Skamania County representing my
21 agency in regard to grant funds that were given to Skamania
22 County so I have some background here.

23 CHAIR LUCE: I was a member of the Columbia River
24 Gorge Commission appointed by Governor then Gary Locke from
25 July of 1999 until September of 2001, and in that capacity I

1 met several people who may be participating or speaking this
2 evening, but I don't believe that presents any conflicts.

3 MS. McDONALD: Hi, I was a forest practice
4 forester for the Department of Natural Resources in Skamania
5 County probably about eight years ago and I was a forest
6 practice forester here for two years.

7 CHAIR LUCE: I think that's it in terms of
8 disclosures. The last thing I would say is tonight we're
9 going to get comments hopefully from new members of the
10 public, either orally or in writing, and we'll talk about
11 that a little later, and we're going to hear from you on
12 issues that you believe should be included in the Draft
13 Environmental Impact Statement.

14 We're going to have a hearing tomorrow night on
15 land use issues. One of the responsibilities of the Energy
16 Siting Council is to make a determination on land use
17 consistency. So while people may want to talk about that
18 issue tonight, I would ask them to keep those comments very
19 brief because we will be having a hearing tomorrow evening
20 with respect to that.

21 Now, Ms. Chaney and Mr. Spadaro, do you have an
22 overview of the project you would like to provide to the
23 people who are here this evening?

24 MR. SPADARO: Yes, Chair Luce. Mr. Chairman,
25 would it be your preference if I stand up and address the

1 crowd as well as present this information to the audience
2 or?

3 CHAIR LUCE: Your choice, but I think that the
4 audience is probably the best choice. We can hear you and
5 they may not be able to hear as well as we can because your
6 back is toward them.

7 MR. SPADARO: The other thing is I will project
8 the some slide show up on the screen behind you.

9 CHAIR LUCE: Well, that's consistent and our
10 regulations provide that you are to give us a demonstration
11 of exhibits I believe as well.

12 MR. SPADARO: All right.

13 CHAIR LUCE: Go for it.

14 MR. SPADARO: I just want to prepare you as I turn
15 this on. It might blind you.

16 CHAIR LUCE: We promise not to make shadow people
17 from the projector.

18 MR. SPADARO: Okay. I'll stand to the side so the
19 audience can see. Again, Mr. Chairman, Members of the
20 Council, thank you for the opportunity.

21 Members of the public, we look forward to open
22 dialogue and a public involvement process and your scrutiny
23 of the project as we begin here.

24 First, I'll state that my name is Jason Spadaro,
25 President of the SDS Lumber Company. The project is called

1 Whistling Ridge Energy Project. It is on the lands owned by
2 Broughton Lumber Company, SDS Lumber Company. SDS Co., LLC,
3 to be more specific. Our objective is to combine wind
4 energy with renewable energy -- excuse me, wind energy with
5 renewable forest products and timber production. It will be
6 the first project in the Pacific Northwest on commercial
7 forest land, and we believe that timber and wind are fully
8 compatible and can occur on the same site. I'll show a
9 little bit about how we intend to do that.

10 SDS lumber is in the renewable resource business.
11 Wind is a renewable resource as is our forest. Our approach
12 to resource management is to practice sustainable forestry
13 and manage our trees on longer rotations than typical. We
14 produce high quality building products as a result of that.
15 We already are in the renewable energy business with our
16 biomass plant at our lumber plant in Bingen, and we have
17 conducted long-term exploration of our lands for this wind
18 energy potential. This site that we have found is the one
19 site on our lands that has that type of potential.

20 We first began studying the site in 2002 gathering
21 meteorological data and doing wildlife studies.

22 SDS Lumber has been in the Gorge for over
23 60 years. It is a locally owned company. We have remained
24 committed to the community throughout those 60 plus years.
25 At full capacity we have 325 employees. Right now with the

1 downturn in housing and the national economy we are at 250.
 2 At normal we are at over 14 million of annual payroll. This
 3 project is important to us because it adds value to our
 4 company owned lands, and it helps us to diversify and remain
 5 stable for the long term. The project location is in
 6 eastern Skamania County, White Salmon, community of
 7 Underwood, just this traces the Cook-Underwood Road, and the
 8 project site is here. This is the boundary line between
 9 Klickitat and Skamania County that line. So it borders the
 10 south edge of Klickitat County and it's outside of the
 11 National Scenic Area.

12 The project is named Whistling Ridge for a reason.
 13 There is a Ridge line called Whistling Ridge. We're at the
 14 lowest southern end of Whistling Ridge and extends to the
 15 north onto DNR property toward Nester Peak in that area. It
 16 is seven miles northwest of White Salmon, approximately
 17 2,100 feet elevation and in the western end of the Columbia
 18 Gorge Wind Regime. Because of the wind regime in the Gorge
 19 a number of wind energy have been built in the eastern parts
 20 of the gorge. We are in the western part of that wind
 21 regime.

22 The project is on commercial forest lands that
 23 have been managed for commercial forestry production for
 24 over 100 years. This is a view of standing on the project
 25 site. Looking to the west this is Augspurgen Mountain, and

1 this is one of the Bonneville transmission corridors that
 2 goes through the property. This little White Salmon River
 3 is down in this valley. This is a view on the site with
 4 here's one of the Bonneville towers, and this is the
 5 southern edge, southern end of the project site. The
 6 project overview is approximately 50 turbines. The estimate
 7 is we will use 1.5 megawatt machines. That would generate a
 8 75-megawatt project. That's enough power for 20,000 homes
 9 in the Northwest for a year with an estimated construction
 10 cost of 150 million. That's an estimated value of 150
 11 million that will come into county taxable base somewhere.
 12 It may be somewhere below that. It may be somewhere near
 13 that. It all depends on how all the valuation occurs.

14 The project helps Northwest utilities in meeting
 15 renewable energy standards that are mandated by voters in
 16 the state of Washington. The project has a Bonneville
 17 interconnection immediately available on the site, and we
 18 are planning with Bonneville or exploring with Bonneville
 19 how we can enhance local electrical service to Skamania and
 20 Klickitat PUD through this project.

21 The project layout is as such it's the National
 22 Scenic Area boundary here. What we call the project site is
 23 outlined in this blue line, and the turbine corridors are
 24 these mustard color areas. That's the area of study that we
 25 will evaluate the impact for turbine siting. The site is

1 already as some of those photos have shown it is already
 2 disturbed and been under commercial forestry management for
 3 over a hundred years. It has existing roads, rock pits, a
 4 cellular site up here on top of Underwood Mountain. This is
 5 the Williams Pipeline Company natural gas line, and these
 6 are the two Bonneville transmission corridors that go
 7 through to the site.

8 We intend to match forestry production with
 9 renewable energy reproduction depicted in this layout.
 10 Particularly on a ridge site what you want is to have wind
 11 flow through the zone where the turbine blades capture the
 12 wind energy. With a ridge site like this these trees that
 13 are out a distance away at a mature height do not disrupt
 14 that flow of wind through the power generating zone of the
 15 wind turbine. As you get closer to the turbine, the heights
 16 need to be limited. This tree height ceiling is a 50-foot
 17 ceiling from the base of the wind turbine. That extends
 18 from in a quadrant centered 90 degrees on the up-wind and
 19 down-wind direction. It extends out 500 feet that you have
 20 this 50-foot tree height ceiling. In a 150-foot radius we
 21 need a 15-foot maximum tree height ceiling so our intention
 22 is to grow an alternative forest crop, perhaps Christmas
 23 trees or biomass energy fuels, and then within a 50-foot
 24 radius around the turbine that would be the permanently
 25 cleared area.

1 So in this way we can still practice forestry
 2 around the wind turbines. Some areas will be modified
 3 forestry. Some will be alternative forest crops, but a
 4 minimal footprint of permanently disturbed and converted
 5 area.

6 The project benefits we believe we will provide an
 7 average of 143 full-time workers over 12 months construction
 8 period, 18 million of payroll, plus 13.2 million in local
 9 purchases. The multiplier effect is 107 new jobs created
 10 during the construction. And then ongoing economic benefits
 11 are estimated at eight to nine permanent jobs, wind turbine
 12 technicians and maintenance and operations personnel
 13 generating 3.75 million in payroll annually, employee local
 14 spending of 900,000 a year and 730,000 in new revenues to
 15 Skamania County out of taxes.

16 In conclusion, our statement is this is the right
 17 project, in the right place, at the right time. I'll
 18 editorialize here for a moment. I know a number of you are
 19 concerned about impacts of the project, but wind energy
 20 projects need to go where the wind is. We've got wind in
 21 this site, we've got transmission available on the site so
 22 it is the right place and the right project at a time when
 23 renewable energy has never been in greater demand. We're
 24 grateful for the county support and participation in this
 25 project. We're appreciative of EFSEC's open and rigorous

1 process. We look forward to that as I said in the outset,
2 and we'll work hard to earn the approval of EFSEC on this
3 project.

4 Would you like me to answer any questions,
5 Mr. Chair?

6 CHAIR LUCE: I don't have questions myself at this
7 point in time. I think the primary purpose this evening was
8 to allow you to explain the project to the public. We've
9 all received copies of your application. I think that maybe
10 if you are available later to answer questions from the
11 public that would be a good thing. Any Council members?

12 I thank you very much, Mr. Spadaro.

13 Katy Chaney has nothing to say at least at this
14 time. So what I think I would like to do now is to turn to
15 Allen Fiksdal. Allen is our manager. He is going to
16 explain to you the EFSEC process for those who are not
17 already familiar with it. Allen will be available as well
18 for questions. I would encourage you to go to the EFSEC
19 website which explains also the process very clearly, but
20 for now, Allen.

21 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

22 I don't have a power point. I have a chart that
23 Jim will hold for us. I know all of you can't see.

24 Oh, he's getting chairs for people.

25 The Council was created back in the 1970s to look

1 at the proposal for nuclear power plants back in that time
2 and was created by the legislature. Through time EFSEC has
3 been given more authority to site different types of
4 facilities. Right now the threshold for thermal power,
5 which is not what we're looking at here, but it's
6 350 megawatts which is a very large facility, and a few
7 years ago the legislature gave EFSEC the ability to review
8 alternative energy facilities. That's wind, solar, tidal
9 wave, biomass facilities. However, what the legislature
10 said was these proponents of these facilities can opt into
11 the EFSEC process or they can go through the local
12 government, and in Washington State some proponents of wind
13 facilities and other renewables have gone through local
14 governments and some have gone through the Council's siting
15 process.

16 The siting process basically has three elements to
17 it. One is a land use consistency as Chairman Luce noted.
18 We're going to have that hearing tomorrow evening. The
19 Council will make a determination whether the project is
20 consistent with local land use and zoning ordinances.

21 The second track basically the Council has to go
22 through is we are the lead SEPA agency, the State
23 Environmental Policy Act. So we are the lead environmental
24 reviewer of this project. The third track -- well, I should
25 back up a little bit. Environmental review means that we

1 will be developing an Environmental Impact Statement.
2 First, there will be a Draft Environmental Impact Statement
3 and everybody can comment on that Draft EIS. We will be
4 back here after it is issued to hear comments on that draft
5 EIS so you will see us again.

6 The third track that the Council has is an
7 adjudicative proceeding. This is an extra track in most
8 governmental processes where at the appropriate time the
9 Council will open their process to petitions for
10 intervention. That means that any person or group can
11 petition the Council to intervene in their adjudicated
12 hearings. The adjudicated hearings are very formal hearings
13 where the proponents or opponents will bring expert
14 witnesses in front of the Council to testify in front of the
15 Council. Those expert witnesses are cross-examined by the
16 other intervenors similar to what happens in the courtroom
17 where you have testimony and cross-examination during that
18 time.

19 Based on those three tracks all the evidence
20 that's presented to them through the land use consistency
21 hearings, the SEPA review, and the adjudicative proceeding
22 the Council will use the record, all the evidence that's
23 presented to them and make a determination and a
24 recommendation to the Governor of the State of Washington.
25 The recommendation could be, "Governor, we think you should

1 approve this and here are the conditions we think that the
2 project should be built and operated under," and they will
3 list the conditions that they think are appropriate. They
4 could recommend to the Governor that, no, we have heard the
5 testimony and the evidence and the evidence to us is that
6 the Governor should reject the project. And the Governor
7 will take that recommendation. The Governor has 60 days to
8 review that recommendation and either make a decision or
9 remand it back to the Council for reconsideration. The
10 Governor has done that. In fact, different governors have
11 done that several times to look at specific issues.

12 Now, the timing element for this is in our statute
13 one year. The Council is suppose to make a recommendation
14 to the Governor in a year of receipt of the application. We
15 received the application I think it was mid March of this
16 year, and so by mid March next year we're suppose to make a
17 recommendation to the Council. However, if the applicant
18 requests the Council to extend the review period, the
19 Council has the discretion to extend it or not. So we'll
20 see where we are at this time next year.

21 As through the process I think if you see this
22 chart there's a -- you will have to see that later -- couple
23 heads in here. That means that there's public meetings. So
24 this is the first meeting that we're having, SEPA scoping
25 and land use consistency is the very beginning of this whose

1 process. We will be back to hear comments, public comments
2 for the DEIS. Through the adjudicated hearings not only is
3 there expert witness testimony, but we will hear testimony
4 from the public in a venue similar to this. So you will
5 have another opportunity to express your views to the
6 Council. And based on all of that the Council again will
7 make a recommendation to the Governor.

8 I want to go back to this Environmental Impact
9 Statement process. As we noted already we are working
10 cooperatively with Bonneville Power Administration so that
11 you don't have two different EIS's you have to look at. We
12 will be working with our friends at BPA in producing one
13 Environmental Impact Statement. And I want to note if you
14 comment on the scope of the EIS and BPA has some comment
15 sheets and they have a website where you can comment, we
16 have comment sheets and you can also e-mail us, you don't
17 have to send the comments to each one. We share the
18 comments. So don't worry if it goes to one entity, the
19 other entity will see it. So you don't have to send one to
20 Andrew and you don't have to send one to me. Just send one
21 to me or one to Andrew. Your choice.

22 And I think that's all I have, Mr. Chairman.

23 CHAIR LUCE: All right. We had one question.

24 MR. FIKSDAL: Yes, sir.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The environmental counsel that's

1 something where people go to the environmental counsel is
2 there an attorney-client privilege there?

3 MR. MARVIN: Yes, the Counsel for the Environment
4 would be me is actually representing the environment and so
5 as strange as that may sound I don't represent people in
6 this proceeding. I represent the system so there is no
7 attorney-client privilege. If people approach me and want
8 to talk about these things, it would be as though you were
9 coming to an attorney and you're a witness to an event. And
10 I can certainly talk about things if you want to talk to me
11 and maintain your anonymity or if there's issues you want to
12 try out or present to me. If we discuss that up front and
13 you can make it clear to me that you don't want this
14 information disclosed, we can probably make arrangements for
15 that to happen. However, there won't be any formal
16 attorney-client privilege, attorney work product that would
17 attach to that.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you.

19 MR. FIKSDAL: Andrew, Rick, do you have anything
20 you want to say?

21 MR. MONTANO: No.

22 MR. FIKSDAL: He is here and you can talk to them.

23 I want to reiterate what the Council Chair
24 Mr. Luce said is that if you have questions or more interest
25 in our review process, the different projects, go to our

1 website which is efsec@wa.gov. We have the application on
2 the website. Once the Environmental Impact Statement is
3 developed and issued, we'll have it on our website. We try
4 to keep everything that is current. You know, we try to
5 keep the website current for all of our different projects
6 that we are reviewing and that we have under our
7 jurisdiction. So I highly encourage you to go to our
8 website and you can get lots of information. We will have
9 notices of meetings. And if you signed up tonight and
10 wanted to, you'll get on our mailing list and you'll receive
11 notices. But we will be posting notices on our website and
12 I think the same goes for BPA. They will be having notices
13 and information on their website for us.

14 And, Mr. Marvin, you have a website. The Attorney
15 General's Office also has a website that has your
16 information on it; is that correct?

17 MR. MARVIN: Right. If you enter the search words
18 Counsel C-o-u-n-s-e-l for the Environment and via the
19 Washington Attorney General's Office you should get a page
20 that has my name, contact information.

21 CHAIR LUCE: Great. Thank you very much.

22 Again, Council has decided that this particular project
23 does have a potentially significant adverse impact on the
24 environment and we are going to be receiving comments here
25 tonight in the scoping section and public comments. Any

1 written comments will be received must be postmarked by May
2 18. Now, I think you can e-mail those as well so it's not
3 necessary to go to the postal office if you don't want to as
4 long as they're in by close of business May 18.

5 We're going to start here in just a moment
6 receiving comments from members of the public who have
7 signed up. What I would ask is when people are speaking
8 please be quiet. If you have separate conversations, you
9 want to conduct it in the hallways for that. We do have a
10 court reporter to my immediate left, and court reporter
11 Shaun will be taking down everything you say and has taken
12 down everything we've said so far. So there will be and is
13 a record of these proceedings this evening.

14 I'm going to ask people to limit their comments to
15 four minutes and submit anything additional in writing. If
16 we end up having extra time, we will take additional
17 comments, but I want to make sure everyone that wants to
18 speak has a chance to speak. If by chance someone has just
19 spoken who you agree with, there is no need to repeat that
20 person's comments. You could simply tell Shaun and the
21 Council that you agree with Mr. Smith and Ms. Jones, and so
22 that would save you some time.

23 I will be calling three witnesses at a time. We
24 have two chairs. Do we have two chairs? We have two
25 chairs. We're going to get another chair. We're going to

1 have three chairs. One chair is for the speaker. The other
2 two chairs are the ready mode, the ready chairs, and I'm
3 going to ask when you come forward to state your name, spell
4 your last name, give us your mailing address and your title
5 if appropriate and please speak as clearly as you can.

6 So we're now going to begin, and the Chair has
7 exercised his prerogative. I'm going to start with Paul
8 Pearce, the Skamania Board of County Commissioners and then
9 we have Tribal Representatives here from the Yakama Nation
10 and then we will move into the rest of the testimony or
11 comments of the others.

12 Mr. Pearce.

13 COMMENTS BY PAUL PEARCE

14 Thank you very much, Chairman Luce. Paul Pearce,
15 P-e-a-r-c-e, Skamania County Commission District 1, P.O. Box
16 790, Stevenson 98648. Thank you very much for this
17 opportunity to speak on behalf of the commission. I have
18 just a couple of things that I would like to run over very
19 quickly and then I'll turn in written notes as well. Thank
20 you very much.

21 On the scenic area discussion we've heard and you
22 will as well that this application if permitted will be a
23 blight on the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area, visible from a
24 myriad of key viewing areas. What we believe is that
25 Congress clearly understood what they were doing when they

1 created the Scenic Area Act and drew a distinct border. In
2 the saving clause of the act they specifically said that
3 there were to be no protective measures or buffer zones
4 around the scenic area and went on to say I will quote: The
5 fact that activities or uses inconsistent with the
6 management directives for the scenic area or special
7 management areas can be seen or heard from these areas shall
8 not of itself preclude such activities or uses up to the
9 boundaries of the scenic area or special management area.

10 We often talk about the views in the Gorge as
11 either north or south but never east or west, and we mention
12 this because at the west end of the scenic area fully in
13 view from any number of key viewing areas sits the entire
14 town of Washougal and the smoke stacks of the Camas paper
15 mill. On the east end right on the boundary of the scenic
16 area is the Maryhill Winery & Amphitheatre and in the
17 distance a great many wind turbines.

18 We've found of late one of the new favorite
19 tactics of opponents is to take any piece of a project, no
20 matter how innocuous it may be, that lies within the scenic
21 area and push for a full project review both inside and
22 outside the area based on that innocuous piece. At this
23 very moment there's an attempt in Oregon to stop an
24 industrial development in an urban area where such
25 developments are clearly permitted because of an upgrade to

1 the water line which happens to run through the scenic area.

2 I want to take a moment to speak about the scenic
3 area permitting, although the Chair is fully aware of it. I
4 do so because for those who are not intimately involved it
5 can be a little deceiving. Most people believe that the
6 Gorge Commission manages permits in the scenic area. The
7 fact is that permitting is done by five of the six counties,
8 and those permits are based on adopted county ordinances.
9 And if a permit or decision is appealed, it is appealed
10 through our county hearing officer. Only when an appeal is
11 made of the hearing officer's decision does the Gorge
12 Commission sitting in an appellate role hear the case. What
13 is disturbing to most of us comes after the Gorge Commission
14 issues a ruling. Due to the bistate nature of the Gorge
15 Commission appellants are free to file further objections in
16 the court of either state. What this means practically is
17 that many of these have been filed in Oregon courts no
18 matter if they happen to be Washington decisions having to
19 do with Washington property decisions due to the Oregon land
20 use model which many believe is more restrictive for private
21 property rights.

22 The county supports this application, and we
23 support this process, all of this process, the entire
24 process of the EIS, the whole process. What we find
25 appalling is at some point an Oregon court could be making a

1 decision on this project. It causes the commission some
2 concern. So we simply say it is a permitting process that
3 the county has.

4 Finally on the economic discussion Skamania County
5 is about a million acres in size. The National Forest
6 covers 85 percent of that land mass. Additionally there are
7 80,000 acres within the scenic area. There are 60,000 acres
8 of State Forest Trust Land. All said the county has about
9 three percent of its lands available for development of any
10 kind from residential to industrial.

11 From 1970 through 1991, the National Forest
12 produced an average of 350 million board feet per year.
13 That resulted in about 10 million dollars revenue to the
14 county and schools in this county in today's dollars. The
15 State Forest Trust Land produced an average of 2 million
16 dollars for the county through the '80s and the early '90s.
17 Then the spotted owl was listed as an endangered species and
18 production shut down. During the '90s the federal
19 government gave us owl guarantee money on the basis that
20 once the owl recovered the logging and so on would continue.

21 By 2000 it was obvious that the country was taking
22 a different view of the National Forest production and
23 Congress passed Secure Rural Schools and Forest Counties Act
24 which paid us an amount equal to logging receipts and that
25 paid through 2006. Again, there was assumption that

1 receipts would increase, didn't occur. The act was
 2 reauthorized with a yearly declining payment until 2011, at
 3 which time the payment ends. Without this money the county
 4 would have laid off half of our workforce and the schools
 5 would have lost 40 percent of their funding within this
 6 county. On the state front our first quarter payment for
 7 our state timber trust receipts just received for the first
 8 quarter of 2009 was one thousand dollars.

9 We spent a great deal of time working on
 10 reauthorization efforts of Secure Rural Schools legislation.
 11 I mention that because at the moment it is the lifeblood of
 12 our county. Less than 17 percent of our total budget comes
 13 from property tax. During the reauthorization fight we were
 14 told repeatedly by senators, congressman, and the
 15 administration, in fact both administrations, that rural
 16 timber dependent counties need to transition their
 17 economies. This Board of Commissioners has heard that loud
 18 and clear, and we are working hard to make the transition
 19 happen. We believe that renewable energy in all its many
 20 forms is an extremely important part of that effort. Thank
 21 you very much for your time and very much for your efforts.

22 CHAIR LUCE: We appreciate you coming here this
 23 evening and making those remarks.

24 MR. PEARCE: Thank you.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

1 We have the next speaker here Mr. Sampson and then
 2 after that Wilbur -- I'm sorry. I'm bad on pronunciation.

3 MR. SLOCKISH: Slockish.

4 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. And Mr. Jackson after
 5 that. So come forward and offer your comments and we
 6 appreciate you being here this evening.

7 COMMENTS BY SIMON SAMPSON

8 Good evening, Members of the Washington Energy
 9 Council. It gives me great pleasure and honor to be here
 10 tonight and members of the Gorge community. My name is
 11 Simon Lee Sampson. I'm a member of the Yakama Nation, alias
 12 The Columbia River Warrior. I represent eight Columbia
 13 River chiefs that are on this river, and for your
 14 information my cell number is 509-901-1885.

15 The Columbia River or the Gorge has been the
 16 homeland of our people for many, many years, and as the
 17 original landowners not only the caretakers of the Columbia
 18 River and adjacent lands to the Columbia River has been our
 19 homeland. And it gives me great pleasure to give my
 20 testimony before you tonight as a positive testimony.

21 I have been fortunate to visit the project called
 22 Big Horn that's up in the Bickleton area and went up and the
 23 administration did an on-site visit with a couple friends
 24 that I have that have these wind machines on their property
 25 and visually taken a look at what damage they may do

1 to our eagles or birds, and I was very impressed with that
 2 project. The gentleman's house was no more than a hundred
 3 yards and there was a wind machine there. And the sound and
 4 everything there just wasn't, you couldn't hardly hear it.

5 Because, you know, it's that twirling of the wind
 6 towers saying it's causing a lot of damage, but looking at
 7 their project I didn't see that. It was very clean, sound
 8 wind energy and there was no -- we don't see any effect that
 9 would have on our people, our lands, and there's nothing
 10 significant on the environment or the culture that I
 11 witnessed there at this project site, and a greater distance
 12 there was another wind project called White Creek. We
 13 didn't get an opportunity to visit that one, but I've also
 14 had the opportunity to go up and visit Whistling Ridge
 15 Energy and do an on-site visit there to see if it had any
 16 affects on our culture and see where it was at. It didn't
 17 have any particular significance also.

18 So there's brief testimony, and I'm proud to say
 19 that I have two of my Columbia River Chiefs here tonight
 20 that live in that area Underwood and Klickitat. So without
 21 further adieu I would like to invite Mr. Wilbur Slockish up.
 22 Thank you for your time.

23 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much, and if you have
 24 additional comments that the Yakama Nation or members, bands
 25 of Yakama would like to submit for us to review you're more

1 than welcome to submit them.

2 Next speaker.

3 COMMENTS BY WILBUR SLOCKISH, JR.

4 Good evening, everyone. I'm grateful for this
 5 opportunity to speak to you because this is a first for our
 6 people to be able to address issues that affect our quality
 7 of life and our lands. When these dams went in we weren't
 8 informed of them until they were starting to be built. They
 9 affected our lifestyle. So I am grateful for that; that we
 10 do have a chance to voice our opinion on something. And I
 11 think it is very positive my opinion of this site because I
 12 hear a lot of things about nuclear power being developed and
 13 brought back by the Bush administration and talked about
 14 still now, but they don't realize the impacts of the nuclear
 15 industry. It's clean energy. Yeah, clean because you can't
 16 see it. You can't see the effects of the radiation.

17 And this one here has seen no harm, no
 18 contaminants, no noise pollution, no pollution of any in the
 19 air or any other things, and if anybody disputes this I
 20 would like them to go and take a look at the health effects
 21 from the nuclear industry that's done to our people through
 22 the cancers, through arthritis, and other things, diabetes
 23 that our people have suffered because of the industrial
 24 practices that have gone on unchecked here.

25 So when you hear clean energy, remember it's not

1 clean because it's invisible, whether it's military waste or
 2 commercial waste. It's still harmful for up to 240,000
 3 years. There's no place to dispose of it and I see very
 4 little contaminants within this area. I have been onto the
 5 site, and there is no cultural aspects of any disturbing of
 6 the area because of its very steep hillside. We would not
 7 utilize it for anything that would culturally affect our
 8 foods, our medicinal plants, or anything or our animals. So
 9 I urge to you remember these things. When you hear clean
 10 energy think of wind power. These dams aren't clean. They
 11 kill a lot of animals and we had no voice in their placement
 12 here.

13 This is my homeland. I haven't been here just for
 14 80 years or 100. I have been here, my family has been in
 15 this area long before there was anybody came to visit here
 16 on this trail or up the river. We would not allow our
 17 ancestry to be contaminated with any other waste any longer.
 18 So I urge you to remember this. Nothing is free. Our
 19 people's health has suffered for all of these things that
 20 have happened from this energy industry. Our salmon have
 21 suffered because of BPA, this dam.

22 So remember these things. I urge you to remember
 23 that especially about clean energy because there is no
 24 contaminants coming out of any of these wind turbines. I
 25 have also stood under them and listened and they don't spin

1 that fast where they said they're going to kill birds. They
 2 don't spin that fast to harm anything, and it's just very
 3 little noise that you hear from them. So I strongly support
 4 this project for those reasons and remember this is clean
 5 energy because it doesn't harm the air, it doesn't harm the
 6 land, it doesn't harm our health. Thank you.

7 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Spell your name
 8 and your address.

9 MR. SLOCKISH: Wilbur Slockish, Jr. I'm the
 10 Klickitat Chief. My grandfather is one of the consignments
 11 of this federal document which gave up this land in this
 12 area. My address is P.O. Box 84, Wishram, Washington 98673.

13 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.
 14 Mr. Jackson, if you could come forward and spell
 15 your full name and your mailing address and offer your
 16 comments. Thank you for coming this evening

17 COMMENTS BY JOHNNY JACKSON
 18 I'm here tonight to express my feelings about
 19 what's going on and what I'm seeing in front of me. I'm the
 20 chief in this area. I'm the Cascade Chief of the Columbia
 21 River Tribes and Bands. I've lived on the Columbia River
 22 all my life. I've been a fisherman all my life, and my
 23 people are from this area as well as where I live.
 24 Traditionally when something doesn't agree with
 25 me, I will object to it or I will bring it to my people and

1 discuss it with them. And going into this area where this
 2 project is going to be I made two trips up there and looked
 3 it all over and I couldn't see wrong with where those towers
 4 are going to be. I've heard a lot of talk about what
 5 happens with wind towers and wind projects. I've been to a
 6 lot of places in California at places where they've had
 7 towers that where they spin fast, but the towers that I
 8 visited in this area over in Dufur, around that area, Grass
 9 Valley, and I looked at the ones that were on Fort Bickleton
 10 and I went under them, and I stayed around there to see what
 11 effects they would have on anybody and I couldn't hear them
 12 wind towers. And I asked questions about them, and I didn't
 13 see anything to where they were harmful in any way because
 14 they explained to me how them wind towers are controlled;
 15 that anything that goes in their direction would easily see
 16 the blades turning because they don't turn that fast, but
 17 they're geared to where they generate a lot of electricity
 18 and they're controlled computerly.

19 I've been all around these mountains, and I know
 20 where a lot of our important cultural issues are, our foods
 21 and plants out there, our medicines, and I watched this area
 22 up there and looked at it, and I've also gone across the
 23 river and looked up there and I don't think you can hardly
 24 see it. And I can't see any possible way why these towers
 25 cannot be put in this area to benefit the people of this

1 county and the people along this river.

2 You know, I've watched my people suffer along this
 3 river for the past three years because what's happening to
 4 the river, and I've watched that how much my people are
 5 suffering over in Yakima Valley because there's a nuclear
 6 facility right over the hill from where they live and I've
 7 watched my people die from diseases and cancer and other
 8 effects that's very harmful to them.

9 And I'm one that watches the news all the time.
 10 I've gone into that because my dad used to do that, and I've
 11 made studies on what is going on in our country. And I know
 12 and I listen on what's being proposed for our country and
 13 what's proposed for our energy and power and hear they want
 14 to restart the nuclear plants over again for electricity is
 15 something that I don't want to see because I've traveled in
 16 countries where I've seen kids suffer, little babies that
 17 couldn't even grow to be not even 8 or 9 or 10 years old and
 18 they're gone from the effects of what nuclear power can do
 19 to people. I don't want to see that happen to my people
 20 here.

21 All this talk about what I would be looking at if
 22 I went along this river here and seen people in that
 23 condition. I've looked at our water and I studied at one
 24 time we used to drink out of that river. We don't do that
 25 no more because of what's happening. The things that

1 happen, the projects that go on up river has never helped
2 us, and then when I'm looking at these wind towers and the
3 way they're modified and done today now-a-days and I know
4 how they're controlled and they're silent, and I know that
5 they don't create no kind of a disturbance to the people and
6 that's what I would like to see, something clean that don't
7 bring no effects to our people or the animals or anything.

8 And that area up there that I looked at there's
9 nothing close to it where it's going to affect anything.
10 You look at it today on the news that's all you hear.
11 Everybody is going for wind power and if we have enough of
12 that I believe that there can be a clean up on some of these
13 here dams to where things could be controlled where we would
14 get a better environment and maybe we could do away with
15 these nuclear plants that they want to propose to be brought
16 back.

17 Some people can read and see on the news what
18 nuclear power does and what nuclear plants do and what waste
19 does, but they've never gone to a land like Arizona and
20 places down there that I have where I've witnessed and
21 looked at people and looked at their children and talked to
22 elders who can't move because they've been affected by
23 radiation and being around it and suffered from it. This is
24 what I don't want to see here.

25 I strongly support wind power, the way they build

1 them today and the way they're controlled. And how would I
2 know that they're built that they're sensitive? Well, I
3 watched the program. I've studied it and I've went out
4 there for myself. I didn't just go home and hear somebody
5 talk about it and assume that they're noisy and there are a
6 lot of problems and that they're, yeah, going to kill birds
7 and stuff because a bird would have to be pretty dumb to go
8 and fly through a slow turning turbine. I've known that,
9 I've traveled up there to all these turbines just to witness
10 myself before I go and make any sense of judgment against
11 anything, and I think what I'm saying tonight is I so
12 strongly support this project because I'd like to see
13 something to where we could benefit and not go back to where
14 we were before.

15 This is my area, my homeland. The chiefs that
16 were in this territory here were my great grandfathers, and
17 I have people buried down here in North Bonneville and
18 Stevenson area. My father was from here and I'm one of the
19 chiefs along the Columbia River and I go along with anything
20 that we as chiefs go along with and talk about and decide.
21 We look at things very carefully before we decide what we're
22 going to do or how we're going to go against it or go for it
23 or allow it, and this is why we are chiefs and I thank you
24 for listening to me.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much, Mr. Jackson. If

1 you have any other comments you would like to submit in
2 writing we will be appreciative of those, but your testimony
3 has been recorded and will be carefully considered by the
4 Council. Appreciate you coming this evening.

5 Mr. Dan Rawley, and after Mr. Rawley, Mr. Tom
6 Rousseau, and Peggy Bryan.

7 COMMENTS OF DAN RAWLEY

8 I guess I'll be the first to voice my concern over
9 the project. My name is Dan Rawley. I live at 621
10 Kollack-Knapp Road, and that's in Underwood, Washington.

11 I want to voice my concerns about the Whistling
12 Ridge Energy Project and the effect this does have on the
13 National Scenic Area, as well as the residents of Underwood.
14 As some may or may not have been able to travel throughout
15 the United States and the world, I did as a member of the
16 military, and I can say that there's very few areas that
17 rival the national beauty of the Gorge scenic area. And if
18 this project goes through, I feel like this is going to
19 forever change this area. Although this project is outside
20 the boundaries of the National Scenic Area, you would be
21 able to see these turbines from I-84, Hood River, and
22 throughout the National Scenic Area and that's going to
23 forever change the face of that.

24 And I really believe that this goes against the
25 spirit in which the NSA was created. I really hope that

1 this committee takes that into consideration because it's
2 going to affect your ability or you as well as your
3 children, as well as all the other individuals that come to
4 this area to view it. There's a reason why the National
5 Scenic Area was created because this area is absolutely
6 gorgeous. And I've lived all over and this is the area I
7 would like to spend the rest of my life, but I'm very
8 concerned about issues associated with the changes.

9 As far as from a personal standpoint, I know this
10 board does not really take into consideration the effects it
11 will have probably on the 20 families that live up there,
12 but I know this board is going to go up there and I believe
13 you're going to take a trip up to the area tomorrow; is that
14 correct?

15 And as you drive up there you will go up probably
16 Highway 14. You'll go up through Underwood Road and at
17 about three and a half miles you'll take a right on
18 Kollack-Knapp and go up to the junction of Kollack-Knapp and
19 Scoggins. And the reason why I tell you, outline this
20 because this is the area where the turbines will be brought
21 up. And as you do that, I want you to look over and you can
22 look back at the road project map back there, and there's
23 four areas or four intersections that have to be widened and
24 one of those has two round markers on that, and that's at
25 Kollack-Knapp and Scoggins.

1 Well, when you drive up there tomorrow, I want you
2 to take a look over to your right-hand side and there's a
3 house right there and that's mine. And I want you to think
4 about the effects or how you would feel because I know
5 that's going to have a huge impact on me probably more than
6 anybody, as well as the other individuals who would have to
7 live under those turbines.

8 So I appreciate you listening to my comments. I
9 hope you more from the standpoint of really look at what
10 effects this will have on the scenic gorge and the views
11 because I think it's going to also affect the amount of
12 people who come to this area as far as tourism. People do
13 not come to a scenic area to look at turbines.

14 Now, I want it on record that I am for alternative
15 energy and wind turbines is one of the things that I would
16 support, and I think it is probably a right type of project,
17 it's probably the right time, but it's in the wrong area.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Could you please if you didn't
19 already give us the spelling on your name.

20 MR. RAWLEY: R-a-w-l-e-y.

21 CHAIR LUCE: And your address?

22 MR. RAWLEY: 621 Kollack-Knapp Road, Underwood,
23 Washington.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Could you spell Kollack-Knapp.

25 MR. RAWLEY: K-o-l-l-a-c-k - K-n-a-p-p.

1 CHAIR LUCE: Your friend behind you says you
2 passed the test. Thank you very much.

3 Mr. Rousseau, spell your name and address, please.

4 COMMENTS BY TOM ROUSSEAU

5 My name is Tom Rousseau, R-o-u-s-s-e-a-u. I live
6 at 4179 Willow Flat Road, Hood River, Oregon 97031.

7 I have some prepared comments and some ad lib
8 comments based on comments that have been made, but they're
9 all adding up to three points that I want to make and that
10 is the visual impact that it will have on the National
11 Scenic Area. Energy storage has not been addressed. That's
12 a big issue with wind power. And this is the wrong place.

13 It is always difficult when one finds one's self
14 trapped between two passions as I currently am. I have a
15 long-term passion for protecting and enjoying the beautiful
16 Columbia Gorge. It's a unique and spectacular scenery,
17 geological formations of many rare species of flowers and
18 wildlife.

19 I'm also passionate about trading our dependence
20 on fossil fuel energy sources for more readily renewable
21 sources derived more directly from the sun such as wind
22 power, hydroelectric power, and solar panels. So that is my
23 conundrum, conflicting passions. In such situations one
24 must keep a balance to choose the least worse solution, and
25 I conclude that the best balance is not to place wind

1 generation facilities within visual range of the gorge.
2 Wind generators should not be visual either from the river
3 level or from the many trails along the ridges and peaks of
4 the Gorge.

5 This solution is certainly well within the intent
6 and the spirit of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Act.
7 Who could have predicted farms of 400-foot towers when the
8 NSA was created back in the '80s. The Northwest has plenty
9 of lower impact places in which to build wind generated farm
10 without adding further desecrate to the Gorge.

11 The photos back here don't adequately show the
12 impact of the proposed project. Many of the photos were
13 taken with very poor lighting conditions and don't show how
14 the wind generators would be impacting the visual. So one
15 of the recommendations is better visual that more accurately
16 show the impact. These pictures back here don't show the
17 impact from the important viewing points such as Mount
18 Defiance, Dog Mountain, the Wagon Trail, my front yard, and
19 many, many other places affected.

20 Wind generation energy is intermittent so the
21 project needs to effectively address the energy storage.
22 The generators are a good source of energy, but they're peak
23 loading. There are times when you don't need those peaks so
24 you need to have some way of storing that energy, and that
25 really needs to be addressed before we proliferate more and

1 more wind farms.

2 Regarding Mr. Pearce's comments about existing
3 blight already and he cited Washougal and other places this
4 is not justification to continue to add more blight and
5 desecration, especially with 50 more towers that are 400
6 feet.

7 We are living with poor decisions made over 50
8 years ago resulting in the Dalles Dam, the Bonneville Dam,
9 the loss of Celilo Falls, former spectacular salmon runs,
10 and sacred Indian fishing grounds. Let's not continue to
11 make those kinds of mistakes. This proposal is driven
12 primarily for official financial gains for a few individuals
13 and not for the balanced perspective of what is best for the
14 region. You would not build a wind generator farm at
15 Yosemite, Mount Rainier, or along the rim of Crater Lake,
16 and in my opinion you should not be able to let them in or
17 near the Gorge.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

19 Ms. Peggy Bryan, spell your name, give us your
20 address, who you represent, if you represent somebody.

21 COMMENTS BY PEGGY BRYAN

22 My name is Peggy Bryan. I am the Director of the
23 Skamania County Economic Development Council. P-e-g-g-y
24 B-r-y-a-n. I am located at Post Office Box 436 in
25 Stevenson. I am also a county resident.

1 The Skamania County Economic Development Council
 2 supports the Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project. Skamania
 3 County recognizes its responsibility in developing clean
 4 renewable energy projects such as wind to protect our
 5 environment and meet the state's mandate for renewable
 6 energy development standard. Geography and land use
 7 restrictions limits Skamania County's ability to grow its
 8 economy and develop renewable energy projects. The
 9 Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project is proposed for a site
 10 that is privately owned and consistent within land use
 11 requirements. It is located entirely outside of the
 12 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and there are no
 13 development restrictions imposed on this site by that
 14 legislation.

15 Since the Scenic Area was passed in 1986 the
 16 federal government has purchased over 20,000 acres of
 17 private land in Skamania County moving this land from the
 18 county tax rolls to be set aside for scenic protection.
 19 When the Scenic Area Act was passed in 1986 we were not
 20 facing catastrophic conditions such as global warming,
 21 little or no timber harvest, and a legal dependency on
 22 foreign oil. Let me hear briefly what percentage of
 23 Skamania County is land based and available for development,
 24 and I know that Mr. Pierce also went over this because we
 25 shared notes.

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1 There is about 1,070,000 acres in the county,
 2 80 percent of it which is 855,000 acres is given to the
 3 National Forest, eight percent or roughly 85,000 acres is in
 4 the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area with
 5 development restrictions. Six percent or roughly 60,000
 6 acres is in other states' forest lands, four percent or
 7 roughly 40,000 acres is in private forest commercial
 8 resources land. This leaves only three percent or roughly
 9 28,000 acres of the entire county's land base available for
 10 residential, business, or commercial development. This
 11 figure includes the land that has already been developed.
 12 Historically Skamania County has relied on revenue from
 13 timber harvest to provide necessary services to its
 14 residents. The Secure Rural Schools as the county is
 15 finding is declining annually and will end soon. Skamania
 16 County must take advantage of equal opportunity it has to
 17 grow its tax base and move toward fiscal sustainability.

18 This project would have a huge economic impact on
 19 Skamania County. During the 12 months of construction the
 20 project would provide an average 143 full-time workers with
 21 an 18 million dollar payroll, approximately 13.2 million in
 22 local purchases, another 107 new jobs in the area thanks to
 23 the multiplier effects. During the project's 20 years of
 24 operation, it will create nine new permanent jobs, employee
 25 spending of approximately \$900,000 per year, \$731,000 in

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1 property taxes, and included in that allocation would be
 2 \$185,000 to county schools, \$149,000 specifically to school
 3 District 405, and \$115,000 to the county road fund and
 4 \$111,000 to current expense fund and another \$200,000 per
 5 year in indirect tax revenues to the state and local
 6 governments would then be created.

7 Again, the Board of Directors of the Skamania
 8 County Economic Development Council supports Whistling Ridge
 9 Wind Energy Project not just because it is a sound economic
 10 development opportunity, but it is also a responsible and
 11 environmental protection opportunity using nature's
 12 renewable resource wind to provide clean energy to citizens
 13 which will lessen our dependency on fossil fuel and reduce
 14 our carbon footprint. Thank you.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

16 Next we'll hear from Bob Wittenberg, the Skamania
 17 County Utility District, and then after that Scott Pineo, a
 18 resident of Skamania County.

19 COMMENTS BY BOB WITTENBERG

20 Good evening. My name is Bob Wittenberg,
 21 W-i-t-t-e-n-b-e-r-g. I live at 442 Ashley Drive, Underwood,
 22 Washington 98651.

23 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

24 MR. WITTENBERG: I'm the manager for Skamania
 25 County PUD and I dropped off two documents. Attached on the

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1 cover is a resolution adopted by our Commissioners in full
 2 support of this project. The second page is an engineering
 3 one-line diagram of some of the BPA systems that serves our
 4 county. We are the only electric utility provider in
 5 Skamania County, although our utility service is in the
 6 southern end of the county where folks live. I'll stand up
 7 so that the audience can see some of this. I'll be
 8 referring to this diagram quite a bit. Can you all hear me
 9 if I talk a little louder?

10 CHAIR LUCE: We can hear you.

11 MR. WITTENBERG: Our concern is reliability. The
 12 back row here will see this. This is a one-line diagram of
 13 our system. Our source of power is Bonneville Dam, the old
 14 powerhouse on the Oregon side. There are 215,000 old lines
 15 across the river to the North Bonneville Substation, an
 16 annex area and go west. They're known as Bonneville Alcoa
 17 No. 1 and formally known as Alcoa Bonneville No. 2 now
 18 Bonneville Camas. From that junction point to North
 19 Bonneville is a single tap that goes east making up the
 20 Stevenson substation, the Carson substation, the Underwood
 21 substation, and terminating at a place called that Bald
 22 Mountain substation in Klickitat County.

23 Klickitat County Bald Mountain Substation is also
 24 located very close to a powerhouse with Condit Dam on the
 25 White Salmon River. The purpose of our concern for

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1 reliability to the county is tied to Condit Dam and
 2 Powerdale Dams on the Hood River. At the Bald Mountain
 3 substation is a step-down transformer from 115,000 volts to
 4 69 kV. Pacific Power and Light serves the Hood River area,
 5 takes delivery from Bonneville to 115,000, steps it down to
 6 69, and at 69 kV that serves the Hood River area down to the
 7 Powerdale Station over through Bingen and to the Condit
 8 Power Station and back to Bald Mountain. Powerdale ceased
 9 operation I believe November of 2006. The water intake was
 10 washed out by a big flood event on the Mount Hood Highway.
 11 It's gone. That six megawatts of generation no longer can
 12 support us. Condit Dam was scheduled to be removed
 13 originally at some earlier dates and then again October of
 14 this year. Now that's pushed back no sooner than October of
 15 2010. Our concern is I say it's reliability.

16 You've certainly heard of the Rock Creek slides
 17 where parts of Stevenson are slowly coming down into the
 18 creek and there's a great opportunity or likelihood of more
 19 land coming into Rock Creek causing some problems. The land
 20 is moving. Immediately to the west of that, on the west
 21 side of Rock Creek an area near Ryan Allen Road is some more
 22 land that is moving, and Bonneville towers, steel towers
 23 both 230 kV and 115 kV that serve us are in that area.
 24 Imagine what happens when a steel tower slides down the
 25 hill. It's black in Skamania County. It's black in Rock

1 Creek Center. So that is a very scary likelihood to us and
 2 now, well, we have this alternate feed from Hood River with
 3 Powerdale Generation and Condit Generation and whoops
 4 they're gone. We lost our back feed.

5 Then in February of I believe 2007, could have
 6 been 2008 over at Augspurger Mountain which was shown
 7 earlier, that's between Carson and Underwood, that again our
 8 lifeline the 115 kV line laid on the ground for 14 days.
 9 Bonneville couldn't even get to it for three days for ten
 10 feet of snow. Now imagine that happening again and Condit
 11 Dam is gone from generation, Powerdale is gone. We have no
 12 back feed. It's black. We don't have water service either
 13 in Underwood because that's dependent on electricity. We
 14 don't have water service on Carson if we lose that here. We
 15 see this as a matter of health and human safety,
 16 reliability.

17 Now why is it tied to this project? On the
 18 diagram that Mr. Spadaro produced they're proposing to build
 19 a substation attached to 230 kV which is in a common
 20 corridor to the 115 kV that supplies our county. So here's
 21 the place where a substation is going to be built. It's
 22 going to have a fence to ground mesh control house protected
 23 relay where you tap the 230 line, all of those facilities,
 24 all we need, and it will be a ring bus which is engineering
 25 terms for a four-sided square, and three squares for the

1 breakers and projects and the fourth square is blank. They
 2 don't have a use for it. We do. Put a breaker there, 230
 3 kV to 115 kV transformer, and the line is on the other side
 4 of the right of way, the same common corridor. It's a very
 5 inexpensive way to provide the reliability for electric
 6 service to the county and it's not just Skamania County.

7 I'll speak a little bit about Klickitat County.
 8 They also have a 64 kV line from that Bald Mountain sub that
 9 serves their Husum, B.Z. Corner, Trout Lake, and Glenwood
 10 areas. I think also it comes down into Bingen. So that's
 11 our whole issue. Customer service reliability, health and
 12 safety. Thank you.

13 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

14 Scott, can you spell your last name and give your
 15 address and your testimony.

16 TESTIMONY OF SCOTT PINEO

17 Scott Pineo. My address 5302 Wind River Road,
 18 Carson, Washington.

19 I'm speaking today as a resident, although I'm
 20 also a member of the Stevenson Carson School Board and the
 21 director of facilities for Skamania County.

22 I've lived in the county for 16 years, been on the
 23 school board for eight years. In my history in the 1970s, I
 24 was involved in an 8 kW wind generation project in a small
 25 park in Northern California at the north end of Sea Ranch

1 which was a very restrictive private 12 miles of pristine
 2 coastline, and I think that's when I learned that wind power
 3 and the environment fit together very nicely.

4 It wasn't until about ten years later that I moved
 5 to the San Francisco Bay area as a watershed manager for the
 6 East Bay Municipal Utility District, and part of my route
 7 was to travel over the Livermore area or Altamonte Pass, and
 8 I got to watch the wind generation facilities be installed
 9 along Altamonte Pass. And then most recently -- for the
 10 most part actually for the last five years I haven't driven
 11 to Spokane. I prefer to fly there whenever I go there. I
 12 had the opportunity to drive to Spokane, and I have to admit
 13 that I was excited to see the new scenery that cropped up
 14 there in the last five years. It's really exciting to me.

15 My point being that wind generation can be
 16 aesthetically pleasing, can be beautiful. It has symmetry.
 17 It has motion. It's truly an art form, and wind power
 18 exists in the environment just like other production means.
 19 You can't condition farm country without barns and
 20 irrigation equipment. River systems have responsible hydro
 21 dams and supply water and power to our cities, and you have
 22 to have harvesters when you're in wheat country. If you
 23 have production you have things that aren't entirely native
 24 to the landscape.

25 Our economy in Skamania County is dependent on

1 some kind of production. We had that with the timber
2 production we had. We've lost that. As was stated by other
3 speakers 90 percent of our county is tied up entirely and
4 can't be any kind of production. The other ten percent or
5 the other seven percent is tied up to primarily private
6 timber production leaving us three percent. We need an
7 industry. Wind is clean, safe, environmentally friendly,
8 and responsible. We can't have an economy without some kind
9 of production source of some sort.

10 I've been to Washington, D.C., six times for the
11 school district in an effort to pass the Secure Rural
12 Schools. That's a tough way to go without some kind of
13 production because as Paul Pearce mentioned earlier each
14 time you go to Congress they say basically when are you
15 going to get a job? When are you going to find some
16 production? I think that this project is that production.
17 It's welcomed, it's needed, and it's appropriate for this
18 county. Thank you.

19 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.
20 Peter Cornelison.

21 COMMENTS BY PETER CORNELISON

22 My name is Peter Cornelison, spelled
23 C-o-r-n-e-l-i-s-o-n. I live at 1003 5th Street, Hood River,
24 Oregon 97031, and I'm speaking tonight as an individual.
25 I would ask EFSEC to consider in their scoping

1 requirements to consider the impacts on the City of Hood
2 River with regards to in particular tourism, night sky
3 issues, real estate issues. There's quite a discrepancy
4 about the beauty or the ugliness of wind turbines. It's
5 hard to reconcile that, but to me some mechanistic rotating
6 turbine played with flashing lights is not a beautiful
7 thing.

8 I'm also concerned that the images that were shown
9 in the book in the back don't fairly represent the impacts
10 because there's cloud banks in a number of them and the
11 clouds match the color of the turbine towers. They also
12 don't fairly represent the motion which will catch your eye,
13 and finally I would say that an additional 30 turbines have
14 been proposed that are not included within this application
15 and to me it would make sense to consider all of them at
16 once. That's it. Thank you.

17 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. We appreciate
18 that.

19 Mr. Perkins, Raymond Perkins. After Mr. Perkins,
20 Ann Lueders, L-u-e-d-e-r-s and Mary Repar.

21 COMMENTS BY RAYMOND PERKINS

22 My name is Raymond Perkins, P-e-r-k-i-n-s. I live
23 at 171 Cloverdale Avenue, Carson.

24 Thank you for letting me speak tonight. My
25 feeling is wind energy is a domestic rival, an energy source

1 that provides more jobs per dollar invested into any other
2 technology, more than five times that from coal and nuclear
3 power. Renewable energy project estimates for every
4 megawatt of installed wind capacity creates 4.8 job years of
5 employment both direct and indirect; meaning that a
6 50-megawatt project produces 240 job years of employment.

7 Because of the environmental and political
8 restrictions logging would be our main source in Skamania
9 County. Again, we must open our minds to 21st century
10 technology. Global warming believe in it or not, pumping
11 millions of ton poisonous gases in our atmosphere every hour
12 is a bad idea. I think we all can agree on this that it
13 will affect the beauty of this area more than anything else.
14 In the current recession energy consumption is down but the
15 economy will rebound. We need to build for that and for the
16 future. Electric cars are coming. Much better batteries
17 will be available the next two years. The price of cars are
18 coming down. The performance will be going up. Charging
19 these cars with non-green energy does not make sense.

20 Energy is our biggest national security threat.
21 Diversifying our domestic forces is essential. Wind power
22 technology has evolved with newer designs, spin slower,
23 quieter. They're higher off the ground, therefore have less
24 impact on wildlife. Millions of tons of pollutants,
25 pollutants in the atmosphere have much more impact on

1 wildlife than the environment. And soon as soon as wind and
2 solar are affordable for homes we plan on installing them on
3 our property as well.

4 This is a 20-year project. It would not be
5 forever, and as well as these things once they outlive their
6 usefulness they can be dismantled and recycled and just
7 basically go away. And from 84, I would imagine driving 70
8 miles an hour down 84 it would be quite challenging to see
9 these windmills in operation. Half the time it's windy,
10 cold, cloudy, rainy up there as well. So that's how I feel.
11 Thank you.

12 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

13 Next, we're going to have Ann Lueders, please, and
14 after Ann has completed her testimony we're going to take
15 about a not to exceed and I do mean not to exceed ten-minute
16 rest break.

17 So Ann.

18 COMMENTS OF ANN LUEDERS

19 My name is Ann Lueders. I live at 11271 Wind
20 River Road in Carson, Washington. I'm a resident, a
21 lifelong resident in Skamania County. I wrote my comments
22 down because I sometimes get a little long winded.

23 An accomplished publisher once said an ounce of
24 hypocrisy is worth a pound of ambition. Unfortunate for
25 Skamania County one of the organizations that is most loudly

1 opposing the Whistling Ridge proposal is full of hypocrites
2 which leads to endless amounts of ambition. Meanwhile, the
3 residents who are in support of economic growth, sustainable
4 energy, and private property rights are unable to conquer
5 the mass lobbying and legal land mines that are thrown out
6 by SOSA, Friends of the Gorge, and other similar
7 organizations.

8 CHAIR LUCE: The only thing I would ask, we
9 appreciate your comments but let's try and keep it as a
10 personal as possible, but I understand your point of view
11 and please give it to the record.

12 MS. LUEDERS: I can do that. The majority of the
13 land in Skamania County is owned or controlled via Scenic
14 Area legislation by the federal and the state governments.
15 Of remaining property that is privately owned three percent
16 or less is available for development. Many of these
17 developable properties are owned by families generations
18 long who have strived to keep up with ever changing rules
19 and regulations that are imposed upon their private property
20 rights. They have gone from managing what was once solid
21 logging land to thinning, to now a push for more green or
22 tourist type use, all the while fighting the rules and
23 regulations that are imposed upon them.

24 Skamania County, the State of Washington, and the
25 federal government have a responsibility to pass the

1 lobbying of radical environmental groups whose sole intent
2 is to prohibit any type of development. They have a
3 responsibility to zone and allow use that protects private
4 property rights in the best interest of all their
5 constituents, not just the handful that are chanting not in
6 my back yard.

7 I encourage EFSEC, Skamania County, and the other
8 officials and agencies to support the efforts of SDS and
9 other private property owners who may wish in the future to
10 find a way to keep their land working for them. I look
11 forward to the day that this wind farm goes in.

12 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. We're going to
13 take a break now. When we come back we will start with Mary
14 Rebar, and I will just say this to the members who are here
15 tonight of the public. Don't talk to us. We'd love to talk
16 to you, but we're now acting as judges in this proceeding,
17 and so if you have questions staff is available. Allen just
18 raised his hand. Tammy is over there at the desk. But
19 Council members are prohibited from speaking to members of
20 the public and I'm sure you will understand. So thank you
21 very much. Ten minutes. That's ten after eight, and we'll
22 start on time. We will take a short recess.

23 (Recess taken from 8:00 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.)

24 CHAIR LUCE: We are back in session.

25 State your name and give us your address and put

1 your glasses on like the rest of us.

2 COMMENTS BY MARY REPAR

3 My name is Mary Repar, R-e-p-a-r, and I live at
4 6971 East Loop, No. 2, Stevenson, Washington.

5 Can you hear me now?

6 Thank you. Good evening. Thank you very much for
7 this opportunity to speak to you. You don't know how much
8 this means to me because from now on I won't have to listen
9 to our commissioners say that they're the best stewards of
10 the land and that we know what we're doing here in Skamania
11 County; that we don't need an outsider to tell us what to
12 do. So you as an outside group coming in to tell us how
13 we're going to do land use in Skamania County is something
14 new for us and I won't have to listen to it anymore.
15 Thanks.

16 CHAIR LUCE: Just for the record, we're not going
17 to tell anyone. We're listening to you tonight.

18 MS. REPAR: Yes.

19 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

20 MS. REPAR: There was some draft that they said
21 was an ordinance which is just a cover for mastering
22 industrialization in Skamania County and didn't pass here.
23 It couldn't pass the test of judicial review. We have a
24 hearing examiner's hearing on it. The draft ordinance it
25 went to the commissioners and they couldn't deal with it so

1 they passed the buck and Mr. Spadaro on to you.

2 And I'm sorry for you, but I don't wish you good
3 luck. They are supporting this end around the public
4 process and the common citizens, and I don't think that's
5 right. I think they need to take better care of our
6 environment.

7 Briefly as part of my comments I have this packet.
8 I would like to introduce it into the record. I have my
9 supporting documentation. I will be making other comments
10 also. But one of the things that I would like you all to
11 really, really consider is the cumulative impacts and effect
12 and that will determine the efficacy of the proposed wind
13 project. I don't wish to see long-term environmental
14 degradation in return for 20 to 30 years of short-term
15 energy production. We must use the precautionary principle
16 and first do no harm. Better to be safe now than sorry
17 later.

18 As Chief Slockish said nothing is free. Wind
19 energy isn't free and there is a cost, and the cost is
20 environmental and public health and welfare, especially to
21 the environment.

22 To that end a thorough and complete environmental
23 impact statement should be on the entire project area,
24 geographic area so that we can all see and analyze the data
25 and make good sound decisions. I would urge you all to

1 coordinate with the Vital Indicator Project for the Gorge
2 Commission, and if there's any studies to be done for the
3 EIS they're in the middle of doing the Vital Indicators
4 Project. They are always looking for money and agency help
5 in doing it and perhaps there we can get good data to figure
6 out cumulative impacts of wind turbines on the environment,
7 another cumulative impact. Vital Indicators Project is 53
8 indicators.

9 I am extremely concerned about this project mainly
10 because I don't think that we're in the right place, at the
11 right time, and I don't think it's being done properly.
12 We're being left out of the process, the citizens, and we
13 can't unselect you in the process. I would like you all to
14 really concentrate on the cumulative impacts. I believe
15 that cumulative impacts are extremely important and what I
16 didn't see in the federal register for BPA's portion of
17 this, and assuming that I can make comments on BPA portion
18 tonight, was cumulative impacts. It's not considered in
19 their -- they have visual issues, noise level impacts,
20 cultural sources, socioeconomic ramifications, affects on
21 rare plant and animal species, impact on wildlife, including
22 migratory birds, bat, but what's not included is no human
23 public or no human health and public welfare or cumulative
24 impacts. I think those do need to be included.

25 In my packet here I included the hearing

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1 examiner's findings of fact, and there was a lot of
2 testimony given from expert witnesses. I'm sure you will be
3 hearing from them in the future.

4 Secondly, when I talk about cumulative impacts and
5 geographic area this was the map that I was looking at. It
6 is a location of proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project,
7 and it straddles Klickitat County and Skamania County. It
8 comes from the Bonneville Power Administration April 17,
9 2009. So somebody's got to get their site map fixed, and
10 really to me it doesn't matter if this is Klickitat or
11 Skamania County. This project itself will have cumulative
12 impacts on the Gorge.

13 And one other I didn't say. When I talk about
14 cumulative impacts, I'm talking that I would like you all to
15 do a cumulative impact study of all the wind projects in the
16 Gorge and how they are impacted in our scenic, natural,
17 cultural, economic, and recreational resources. Thank you.
18 And those are then called the SNECRs in the National Scenic
19 Area Act

20 Yes, we have a tough time here economically, but
21 it doesn't mean that we have to subsume our health and our
22 environment to subsidizing a corporation so that it can make
23 money and use our environment while it's doing it.
24 Corporations are creatures of the economic wind. If the
25 winds go that way, they go that way. If they go this way,

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1 they go this way. Our commissioners would have done better
2 to propone for individual energy independence and we could
3 go on about that. But thank you very much. Again,
4 cumulative impacts and I'll be making more comments.

5 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. And you can submit those
6 documents if you want them included in the record to
7 Ms. Talburt. I think that would be the best way to do it.

8 Kate McCarthy, followed by Teresa Robbins, and
9 Keith Brown.

10 Kate, if you can spell your name, your last name,
11 your address, we'd appreciate it.

12 COMMENTS BY KATE MCCARTHY

13 My name is Kate McCarthy, and I live in the Hood
14 River Valley at 909 Cooper Spur Road. That is all you need
15 to hear, isn't it, about where I live?

16 CHAIR LUCE: Is that your address?

17 MS. MCCARTHY: What?

18 CHAIR LUCE: Your address.

19 MS. MCCARTHY: 9095 Cooper Spur Road.

20 CHAIR LUCE: You got it.

21 MS. MCCARTHY: Yeah, Parkdale, Oregon.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Tell us what's on your mind.

23 MS. MCCARTHY: I didn't prepare a speech tonight.

24 I came to learn more about this process and what was
25 expected, but I would like to say that I am very concerned

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1 about the project. I think the Gorge is a treasure that
2 belongs to everybody. I think it's priceless, and I have to
3 admit that I don't look forward to between 50 and 100 wind
4 turbines sticking up 400 feet along the ridges, especially
5 with their blinking red lights that you see day and night,
6 and we look at it. From Hood River we look towards this
7 great development. You look away from it over there where
8 you live there, and it's going to have a tremendous impact
9 on the visual quality of the Gorge for all time.

10 And I'm a believer in wind power. I think wind
11 power is part of our future, but it's location, location,
12 location, and I think this is not a responsible location to
13 ignore the Gorge which is a scenic treasure that belongs to
14 everybody. And I know there are acres, hundreds of acres,
15 thousands of acres in Eastern Oregon and Eastern Washington
16 where it's much more appropriate than in our treasure at the
17 Gorge. So I hope that you will consider this and I will be
18 following the process and may contribute more precise
19 testimony as time goes on. I understood that you are having
20 a tour of the area tomorrow; is that right?

21 CHAIR LUCE: We are having a tour. I believe it's
22 10:00 a.m.

23 MS. MCCARTHY: I would be very pleased to go on
24 such a tour.

25 CHAIR LUCE: I think Mr. Fiksdal is the person you

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1 should speak to afterwards. Thank you very much, appreciate
2 it.

3 Teresa Robbins, spell your name, please, and your
4 address and offer whatever remarks you care to offer.

5 COMMENTS BY TERESA ROBBINS

6 I'm Teresa Robbins, R-o-b-b-i-n-s, 211 Malfait
7 Tracts Road, Washougal 98671.

8 Thank you for this opportunity. We have three
9 issues we wish to make sure are directly addressed within
10 the scope of the EIS. First, we have a deep concern about
11 the inappropriate siting of industrial wind turbines in
12 rural residential areas. Specifically we hope you will
13 ensure that such siting not take away residents' rights to
14 enjoy the peace and tranquility of their home site nor more
15 importantly negatively impact their health and well being.

16 A number of us have been working diligently hoping
17 to educate and inspire local government officials to
18 consider adopting appropriate noise/vibration limitations
19 and setbacks in the interest of preventing what would surely
20 become a significant problem.

21 We've done a fair amount of research and have
22 found the How-to Guide to Siting Wind Turbines to Prevent
23 Health Risks From Sound, authors George W. Cammerman and
24 Richard R. James 2008 to be extremely useful. They provide
25 the ecological and scientific sound approach which will

1 minimize the likelihood detrimental impact when industrial
2 wind turbines are to be sited near people's homes. As you
3 are undoubtedly aware the proposed Title 21 zoning draft for
4 Skamania County was recently appealed, and the hearing
5 examiner issued a decision requiring the county to conduct
6 an EIS. Quoting from page 22 of the findings, conclusions,
7 and decision of the hearing examiner: Washington noise
8 standards are based upon land use classification of both the
9 noise and the noise receiver...

10 Mr. Richard James, an acoustical engineer,
11 provided critical testimony that wind turbines generate a
12 type of noise that is not adequately measured by the dBA
13 scale used in the Washington standards. The dBA scale is
14 designed to detect noise as audible to humans. Wind
15 turbines generate low-frequency noise, 20 hertz or lower,
16 that might cause the body to resonate even if it is not
17 audible. Such effects are measurable on
18 the C-weighted scale, end quote. Another quote, Mr. James
19 recommended a minimum distance of 1.2 miles between turbines
20 and residences based on health effects research conducted by
21 Dr. Nina Pierpont, end quote.

22 We strongly feel that half-mile setbacks is
23 insufficient, especially in areas with canyons, bowls, and
24 mountains as the terrain which contain, amplify, and
25 transmit the sounds from the wind turbines greater distances

1 than in typically used flatter terrain. The simplistic
2 sound modeling using but two variables, output and distance,
3 is insufficient in determining likely impact. We request
4 that potential noise dBA and low frequency dBC impacts be
5 thoroughly investigated through baseline measurements and
6 computer simulations of worst-case conditions for producing
7 sound emissions such as recommended by Cammerman and James.
8 This would include ambient sound monitoring all residential
9 properties within and up to a mile of the project property
10 boundary. A sophisticated laser technology --

11 CHAIR LUCE: Is this in the record?

12 MS. McCARTHY: Yes, we have all kinds of links and
13 information that I will put out.

14 CHAIR LUCE: Do you have a copy of the hearing
15 examiner's order that you're reading from?

16 MS. McCARTHY: The other witness had it. It's in
17 your record.

18 CHAIR LUCE: All right. We will carefully
19 consider all of the information we receive.

20 MS. McCARTHY: Okay. Where was I? A
21 sophisticated laser technology and highly reputable sound
22 propagation model should utilize computer simulations. An
23 independent qualified acoustical consultant that's an
24 unbiased third party with no financial or other connection
25 to SDS or related companies should perform all sound

1 monitoring simulation and projections. With great earnest
2 we encourage this be done prior to making decisions
3 regarding appropriate setbacks. Further, if industrial wind
4 turbines are as quiet as what's presented setting enhanced
5 noise standards should provide no difficulty for developers
6 to meet and yet would make a strong statement illustrating
7 the state's commitment to safeguarding the health of its
8 citizens. The how-to guide referenced above clearly
9 articulates how to go about setting such standards. Simple
10 reliance on the Washington State Environmental Noise Levels
11 Chapter 173-60 WAC is not enough. The acoustical expert's
12 approach is to locate a wind turbine so as to not increase
13 preconstruction/operation background sound levels by more
14 than 5 dBA along the property lines of receiving
15 nonparticipating property, and such that it would not exceed
16 30 dBA within a hundred feet of any occupied structure.

17 Additionally we refer you to a low frequency
18 sound, and this is also depicted on page 17. That's all
19 kept in here. We strongly represent that EFSEC become fully
20 informed of the growing documented potential health risks
21 from sound. There's an attached deputation by Dr. Robert
22 Labertry from April of 2009, as well as the approach
23 suggested in this how-to guide by inviting acoustical expert
24 Cammerman and James to present to EFSEC and this community
25 their approach to siting wind turbines in a manner of

1 proving health risks. This should be completed as part of
2 the EIS.

3 Also for your consideration we've attached a news
4 release dated March 4, 2009 from the medical staff at the
5 Northern Maine Medical Center regarding health concerns and
6 the need for careful siting of wind turbines. You've heard
7 me reference you to the book and work of New York Physician
8 Nina Pierpont, M.D., Ph.D., regarding wind turbine syndrome.
9 And I must be at four minutes.

10 CHAIR LUCE: That's a possibility.

11 MS. MCCARTHY: My husband will be happy to read
12 you the remainder.

13 CHAIR LUCE: You can keep going, but if you do
14 have something to submit for the record just remember we
15 will read everything you submit.

16 MS. MCCARTHY: Okay. Our secondary area of
17 concern relates to protecting the incredible scenic beauty
18 of the Columbia River Gorge. This area is a local and
19 national treasure and we feel that the Whistling Ridge as
20 proposed could have a profoundly detrimental effect on the
21 truly unique and exceptional scenic and recreational
22 resources wisely preserved and protected for the enjoyment
23 of all through Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Act.

24 426-foot tall wind turbines lining the scenic area
25 would surely denigrate the scenic experience and we feel

1 certain was not remotely foreseeing when determining the
2 scenic area boundaries; thus, it would undermine the intent
3 of the act. As clearly articulated in the above hearing
4 examiner's quote, Landscape aesthetics have measurable
5 objective standards, it is possible to map aesthetically
6 sensitive areas and use such information when making zoning
7 decisions. Quote: 415-tall wind turbines in the southeast
8 portion of Skamania County but outside the National Scenic
9 Area would be visible to a six-foot tall observer from
10 Cook-Underwood Road within the National Scenic Area and from
11 Interstate 84.

12 Again quote: A view shed analysis was prepared
13 specifically for the Saddleback Project. The turbines would
14 be visible for several miles and would be particularly
15 visible to areas to the west and north of the project and
16 from the south side of the Columbia River Gorge.

17 We ask that the scope of the EIS include a
18 thorough assessment of the aesthetic impact of the proposed
19 placement of wind turbines within the Whistling Ridge
20 Project so that appropriate mitigation measures in said
21 places can be required.

22 Thirdly, the scope of the EIS for the Whistling
23 Ridge Project must necessarily perceive the requirements
24 including considering SDS's proposed lease of four common
25 school trust parcels on adjacent DNR land in western

1 Klickitat County. This would be essentially an extension of
2 the company's proposed Whistling Ridge Project, formally
3 known as Saddleback. Therefore leasing of the school trust
4 parcels would essentially create one large project with 92
5 proposed turbines. The EFSEC EIS scope and analysis need to
6 consider the impact of the entire project fully built out
7 with wind turbines as opposed to considering individual
8 parts more favored separately. As DNR indicated on page 13
9 of the checklist of the trust lands, quote: The entire area
10 of this proposal is environmentally sensitive, unquote.

11 Portions of the proposed leased land are designated as one
12 of those spotted owl conservation areas. Additionally,
13 SDS's application indicates other sensitive species such as
14 western gray squirrel and Northern Goshawk both have a
15 potential to occur within the project site, unquote.

16 This proposed project is reportedly the first of
17 its kind in forested habitat in Washington. This begs to me
18 for intelligent planning, caution, and due consideration
19 given the potential and profound impact on watersheds,
20 wildfire risks, bats, and Indian species, mammals, and
21 humans.

22 Our dream is that Washington State can and will
23 become a leader for the nation in the development of wind
24 energy that is in harmony with the environment and the
25 health and quality of life of all its residents. Thank you

1 so much.

2 CHAIR LUCE: Do you have those comments to submit
3 for the record, please? The testimony you just read as
4 well. Thank you.

5 Keith Brown.

6 MR. BROWN: She covered me.

7 CHAIR LUCE: Oh, she got you. Okay. And I'm
8 going to really -- Sally? I'm sorry. Your handwriting
9 looks like mine.

10 MS. TUCKER JAMES: It's bad, isn't it?

11 CHAIR LUCE: Well, it's not bad. It just looks
12 like mine.

13 MS. TUCKER JONES: Sallie Tucker Jones.

14 CHAIR LUCE: If you could spell your name and give
15 us your address, please.

16 COMMENTS BY SALLIE TUCKER JAMES

17 S-a-l-l-i-e Tucker T-u-c-k-e-r Jones, and I live
18 at 882 Tuna Narrow, Washougal, Washington. I'm a resident
19 of Skamania County.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

21 MS. TUCKER JONES: I think just a short thing.
22 People have addressed a lot of my concerns already,
23 including the aesthetic issues. I'm really concerned that
24 the siting will affect residents. I know there is a growing
25 body of information that indicates that there may be harmful

1 effects from low frequency noise that's generated by the
2 wind turbines. I think the gentleman that brought up the
3 issues of widening the roads in order to accommodate
4 delivery of these materials that will be required is a very
5 legitimate one. It can be quite a difference to a few
6 people, and I think it doesn't matter if it's a few or a
7 lot. I think that's really a legitimate concern if people
8 are going to be impacted, that their property is going to be
9 impacted or loss of their yard or whatever that might be.

10 I don't know specifically, I may be wrong on this,
11 but the Columbia River flyway is a big area of bird
12 migration and bat migration as well, and I know that hawks
13 and other migrating birds use ridges and the wind generated
14 there to travel. And I think that's a concern for me and
15 the fact that SDS is collecting the data on the bird and bat
16 issue is in question. I don't think they should be the ones
17 to collect that data. You will analyze it, of course, but I
18 would think that the Fish and Wildlife Service or other
19 appropriate agencies that would be able to do studies in an
20 unbiased way would be more appropriate people to do those
21 kinds of studies.

22 I think the issue of reliability was mentioned
23 earlier and that bothers me a little bit. Even through wind
24 turbines can be or the generating capability can be put into
25 the power grid, it can't be stored and wind power is

1 certainly reliable on the presence of the wind. So in that
2 sense it's not as reliable as one might think. If the wind
3 isn't blowing you're not generating any power to do anything
4 with, and then there may be circumstances when the winds are
5 too heavy. I don't really know the specifics on that
6 particular area. I'm sure you have the data on that
7 already, but if there is too much wind the blades will have
8 to be feathered and they won't be generating anything
9 either. My understanding also on maintenance that I don't
10 know what arrangements have been made, but I think a
11 maintenance crew has to actually come to the site if there
12 aren't people available there all the time to actually
13 perform that maneuver. So people would have to come and do
14 that

15 Let's see. I guess the only other thing I had
16 that people haven't addressed was the fact that on the back
17 board it's mentioned that it will cost \$150,000,000 to
18 complete this project, and that seems like an awful lot of
19 money for a 20- to 30-year lifespan of particular projects.
20 So it's just something to think about in that respect, and I
21 think that covers it. Everybody else covered everything
22 else that I wanted to say. Thank you

23 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Appreciate you
24 coming here.

25 Paul Smith, followed by Dan Morby, followed by

1 Jill Barker.

2 COMMENTS BY PAUL SMITH

3 Hello, my name is Paul Smith, and I live at 1482
4 Mabee Mines Road in the west end of Skamania County.

5 Like Sallie had mentioned I have several items
6 that some of the people have touched on already. I
7 apologize for any redundancy, but I think I can whip through
8 this within my four minutes or less. So I'd like to think
9 that I'm not as young as I used to be so I'm going to take
10 my glasses off.

11 Thank you for the opportunity to express my
12 thoughts and concerns which I would like to have entered
13 into the public record and addressed directly within this
14 scope for this proposed Whistling Ridge Energy Project. I
15 have eight concerns here. I've added some text to this so
16 should I add that? Should I give this to you at a later
17 date since it's not exactly the same as the printouts that I
18 had?

19 CHAIR LUCE: If you give it to Tammy, everything
20 can go into the record. So you can either choose to give it
21 to us now with your text added or you can retype it and send
22 it into Tammy by May 18.

23 MR. SMITH: Okay.

24 CHAIR LUCE: So either way.

25 MR. SMITH: Okay. Fair enough. Thanks.

1 Number one is this large scale wind turbine
2 project located within Washington State designated spotted
3 owl species emphasis areas sandwiched between the National
4 Scenic Area (NSA) and National Forest Land. Given this
5 designation coupled with the NSA and NF being in conduit for
6 wildlife corridors a thorough EIS is warranted which should
7 include the cumulative impacts that was mentioned earlier.

8 Number two, there needs to be a low-frequency
9 noise analysis done. Teresa also mentioned that earlier.
10 This project will be probably evaluated using Washington
11 State noise standards which only measures in dBA audible by
12 humans, but there needs to be analysis done measuring at
13 minimum either simply just a presence or absence of LFN
14 which could be measured using a C-weighted scale dec not
15 audible to humans but can still have deleterious effects on
16 humans.

17 Number three, a half-mile setback is inadequate
18 when considering the topography of the Columbia River Gorge
19 where the drainage is canyons and mountains that can amplify
20 and transmit sound from wind turbines greater distances than
21 in typically used flatter landscapes. For instance, many of
22 the European nations having over 20 years of experience with
23 industrial wind facilities have implemented regulations
24 having setbacks at one to one and a half miles. The
25 location of the actual residence home itself on adjacent or

1 nearby properties to wind turbines must be taken into
2 account, not just the property line.

3 Number four, according to the Travis Nelson Wind
4 and Water Energy Section Manager for WDNW quote: This
5 project is the first of its kind in forested habitat
6 Washington State, unquote. The Columbia River Gorge
7 provides habitat for more than 300 bird species, and it's a
8 major stopover for many migratory bird species. Industrial
9 wind turbines can lead to a loss of habitat, fragmentation
10 of habitat, and increased fatalities due to contact with
11 wind turbines. Several Washington State listed bird species
12 could be affected: The spotted owl which is listed as an
13 endangered specie in Washington State, Northern Goshawk and
14 affiliated woodpecker both listed candidate species, and the
15 bald eagle in Washington State sensitive species, as well as
16 numerous migratory birds, bats, the gray squirrel which is a
17 state threatened species and many mammals.

18 Number five, EFSEC does the Environmental Impact
19 Statement. Why was this not required by the applicant as
20 most projects like this? Why is this not required by the
21 applicant of the project like most environmental impact
22 statements? This is a private development that Washington
23 State taxpayers which I'm one of should not have to pay for.
24 SDS's application to EFSEC runs over 900 pages. How much
25 money is that going to cost me?

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1 Number six, the Whistling Ridge southern boundary
2 abuts the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The
3 wind turbines will be over 420 feet high which is nearly the
4 same height as a 42-story building. These would be visible
5 from several key viewing areas throughout the Gorge to
6 include I-84, Hood River, Husom, White Salmon, not to
7 mention many trails throughout the Gorge.

8 Number seven, the SDS application states that the
9 Whistling Ridge site is managed for timber harvest. Wind
10 turbines need to be sited as far away from buildings or
11 trees as possible which can block the wind and cause
12 turbulence. How much timber production will now be taken
13 out of production due to the wind turbines? How much state
14 revenue for schools will be lost on the DNR section in
15 Klickitat County? Will SDS make up for that?

16 And finally, number eight, SDS originally named
17 the project Saddleback Wind Power and it was for
18 approximately 50 wind turbines. Now there has been an
19 additional 30 plus wind turbines added to that with the
20 change in name to Whistling Ridge.

21 They held a preapplication meeting with Skamania
22 County Planning Department to determine the zoning
23 requirements which would regulate the project. The county
24 did not have their ordinances updated though, Skamania
25 County and zoning. Skamania County planned to implement the

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1 zone changes required without an Environmental Impact
2 Statement first. Several concerned parties appealed and
3 even the hearing examiner ruled against the county. Two
4 weeks later SDS submitted an application to EFSEC for the
5 project now renamed Whistling Ridge. EFSEC's authority
6 supersedes all other state, county, and city agencies
7 including local land use regulations. The county makes
8 the -- the Council makes a recommendation to the Governor
9 who makes the final decision. This circumvents public
10 concerns to how our rural character of life will end up.
11 This take all aspects of the public process and tosses it to
12 the wind, no pun intended. No offense to your group. I
13 appreciate that, but the applicant basically didn't get what
14 he wanted going through the county and so he went an end
15 around local land use ordinances and zoning which once in
16 place could be restricted to his agenda.

17 I am not opposed to alternative energy development
18 at all, but to deface this unique beautiful area which is
19 the only National Scenic Area in the United States of
20 America is wrong. This is the right time but definitely the
21 wrong place. Thank you.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Our next
23 speaker will be Don Morby.

24 MR. FIKSDAL: Mr. Chairman?

25 CHAIR LUCE: Yes.

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1 MR. FIKSDAL: Council Member Wilson wanted me to
2 correct one misconception about the funding of the project.

3 CHAIR LUCE: The funding is not by taxpayers.
4 Project applicants pay all costs for the project, including
5 the cost of the Council, including all the environmental,
6 including all costs, and we bill accordingly. So there are
7 no taxpayer funds being used to process this application.
8 So just to be clear on the record. Thank you.

9 Mr. Morby.

10 COMMENTS BY DON MORBY

11 Don Morby. I currently live -- that's, M-o-r-b-y,
12 Don -- 715 Jessup Road, Mill-A, Washington, which is a
13 community below Willard, next to Underwood, and a lot people
14 ask us or me where is Mill-A and it's across the river from
15 Mill-B.

16 So I want to bring my perspective as a citizen
17 that lives up there. I grew up in Underwood, born and
18 raised there. My family homesteaded that whole area in the
19 late 1800s so we've been here a long time, not as long as
20 our neighbors the chiefs back there, but pretty long time.

21 I am in favor of this windmill project because our
22 small county desperately needs something to bring into this
23 county. Some of these special interest groups have
24 introduced the spotted owl and everything else and pretty
25 much devastated my family's way of life and income, and I

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1 think it needs to stop. We need to take a stand and say,
 2 look, bring something here that brings it to us. We have a
 3 small school. We have 52 kids in that school and four
 4 teachers and one part-time superintendent principal. The
 5 only fallback to this whole thing is some of this money is
 6 going to District 405 which is Klickitat County School
 7 District and not to my school. So that's sad and I'll work
 8 on it later. We need some more of the younger kids to come
 9 to the Skamania County schools.

10 But I'm in favor of this because I think it will
 11 bring some money into this community and will create some
 12 jobs, and I just want to go on record that I was an
 13 individual who's lived in this county all their life. I
 14 spent 30 years in the military and maintained a residence
 15 here because I wanted to come back here because it was my
 16 home. And there's times I can't come back to Mill-A because
 17 I can't afford to live in Underwood anymore. My military
 18 retirement wasn't that great. After two tours in Vietnam I
 19 know statistics can be maneuvered and worked around and come
 20 up with the numbers you need.

21 If they're worried about noise, then maybe you
 22 just should try listening to a low impact sound of a bullet
 23 that goes past your ear. I don't see the windmills doing
 24 this to me so I'm for them. Thank you for your time.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

1 Jill Barker.

2 COMMENTS BY JILL BARKER

3 Good evening. My name is Jill Barker. Can you
 4 hear me?

5 CHAIR LUCE: We can hear you.

6 MS. BARKER: I live at 3375 Vensel Benson Road,
 7 Mosier, Oregon, 97040.

8 I thank you for this opportunity to make comments.
 9 This evening I'm providing comments for the Columbia Gorge
 10 Audubon Society regarding the environmental impacts scoping
 11 for Whistling Ridge Wind Energy facility proposal.

12 The society is a Washington nonprofit with bistate
 13 membership founded in 1988. Our mission statement is: The
 14 Columbia Gorge Audubon Society seeks to promote and enhance
 15 the enjoyment, understanding, and protection of our natural
 16 world. Our interests are worldwide. Our focus is the
 17 scenic beauty and ecological health of the Columbia River
 18 Gorge and its tributaries.

19 Our organization has long been involved in the
 20 environmental issues in the Columbia Gorge Region. The
 21 society has challenged every wind power proposal that has
 22 threatened scenic and ecological integrity to the Gorge,
 23 beginning with Kenetech and CARES proposals in the east
 24 Gorge and most recently a proposal on Sevenmile Hill near
 25 the Dalles where the developers eventually thought better of

1 it and moved on. The Society coined the phrase "industrial
 2 wind power" in the early '90s that has become part of the
 3 popular vernaculars describing modern industrial wind power
 4 facilities.

5 Founding members of the Society were centrally
 6 involved in the establishment of the Columbia River Gorge
 7 National Scenic Area and the White Salmon National Scenic
 8 River as federally protected landscapes. We believe both of
 9 these protected areas would fundamentally and irreparably be
 10 damaged by this proposed project.

11 Industrial wind power development is land-use
 12 intensive creating a large disproportion of land required
 13 compared to power produced. Wind power facilities become
 14 the dominant feature of affected landscapes and, thus, have
 15 the potential for significant impacts to natural systems and
 16 human communities.

17 There's no regional or national coordinated
 18 planning; no regional or national siting standards even
 19 though wind power is the most heavily subsidized (with
 20 public funds) form of energy production. The U.S. Fish and
 21 Wildlife Service charged with protecting threatened and
 22 endangered species, migratory birds, and eagles, etc., has
 23 yet to adopt permanent development guidelines. Often as
 24 not, local governments afflicted by cozy politics and an
 25 insatiable desire for a larger tax base make monumental

1 decisions placement and density of projects.

2 We built dams on every suitable hydro head up the
 3 Columbia and the Snake Rivers, and politicians and economic
 4 boosters rejoiced, "it's green, it's renewable, and it's
 5 good for business." We now know the rest of the story. The
 6 world's greatest anadromous fishery has been driven to near
 7 extinction and Celilo Falls, great natural wonder and
 8 cultural epicenter of North America is no more. Are we
 9 making the same mistakes with wind energy?

10 With the advent of numerous projects in various
 11 geographic locations, important and useful data is now
 12 available as to their impacts on human health and the damage
 13 to property including valuations. Existing data strongly
 14 suggest that industrial wind power and human communities are
 15 incompatible. It is doubtful that industrial wind power
 16 will ever be erected in the Puget Sound area. We suspect
 17 that the residents and their elected representatives have a
 18 visceral feeling for this incompatibility. But as long as
 19 decision makers can foist this menace, as with toxic waste
 20 and garbage, on rural communities and Indian reservations,
 21 all is well for industrial wind power developers and
 22 speculators.

23 The tremendous scale of modern wind power
 24 facilities can have profound effects on natural flora and
 25 fauna and their physical environment. This proposed project

1 is the first industrial wind power project in the Western
 2 U.S. proposed in primary forestland where the impact is
 3 known to be much more severe. The Nature Conservancy
 4 considers industrial wind power to be the greatest threat to
 5 biodiversity in the American Great Plains. Habitat
 6 fragmentation, habitat avoidance, and bird/bat/blade
 7 interactions are well documented. Ridge top wind power
 8 facilities such as Whistling Ridge are tantamount to
 9 mountain top coal mining. Ridge tops are leveled and
 10 permanently stripped of vegetation sending sedimentation,
 11 lubricating fluids, tower cleaning fluids, as well as
 12 herbicides and pesticides used to control competing
 13 vegetation and unwanted wildlife into the down-slope water
 14 systems. These are very real and serious consequences of
 15 ridge top wind mining.

16 A surprising (to some) result of wind energy
 17 development is the increase in atmospheric CO2 (carbon
 18 dioxide) implicated in global warming and generated from the
 19 backup fossil fuel fired facility developments required to
 20 offset a destabilization of the energy grid caused by wind
 21 power's famous unreliability, inefficiency, and generation
 22 intermittency.

23 Specifically, the Audubon Society requests the
 24 project EIS analyze potential impacts on the following:

25 One, human health, both physically and

1 psychologically on reasonably affected parties.

2 Two, potential residential displacement.

3 Three, the potential loss of county tax revenue
 4 from property devaluations.

5 Four, the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area.

6 Five, the White Salmon National Scenic River.

7 Six, Buck Creek, a municipal weather source and
 8 recreation area.

9 Seven, the Little White Salmon River and its role
 10 in anadromous fish production.

11 Eight, and all other socioeconomic impacts.

12 Nine, wildlife, including threatened and
 13 endangered species such as the spotted owl and migratory and
 14 resident birds and bats and their migration routes.

15 Ten, cumulative impacts on physical, biological,
 16 and social elements of the environment from all past,
 17 present, and reasonably foreseeable wind energy facilities
 18 in the Northwest.

19 And the last one is 11, increased carbon dioxide
 20 emissions from the required backup fossil fuel fired
 21 facilities. Thank you for your attention.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Leave those
 23 comments if you wish with Ms. Talburt.

24 Moving onto the next page of presenters there was
 25 someone I think from the Skamania County Agri-Tourism

1 Association. Is there somebody? Would you be Mr. Collins?
 2 Come forward. Just wasn't a name next to it from the
 3 Skamania County Agri-Tourism Association.

4 MR. CRUMPACKER: It's John Crumpacker.

5 CHAIR LUCE: All right.

6 COMMENTS BY JOHN CRUMPACKER

7 C-r-u-m-p-a-c-k-e-r. My first name is John and
 8 I'm a member of the Board of Directors of the Skamania
 9 County Agri-Tourism Association, and I'm here to provide
 10 information.

11 CHAIR LUCE: And your address is?

12 MR. CRUMPACKER: Our address is, the Association
 13 is P.O. Box 100, Underwood, Washington, and that's my
 14 address as well.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

16 MR. CRUMPACKER: Before I move on if I could just
 17 direct everyone to the chart for a second and walk over
 18 there. It might be helpful because we have a focused issue
 19 here. Our interest is in talking about these seven towers.
 20 They're on the southern portion of the site, and I'm going
 21 to refer to them as the "A Towers" throughout our comments.
 22 So if you could just look at that, that would be great.
 23 There's been a lot of questions about and comments about
 24 what are the visual impacts. That's our primary concern and
 25 so we, the Association, hired a pilot and we flew the ridge

1 line from various angles and I have some photos that you
 2 will be able to see, and one of the things that we did is we
 3 flew directly over the "A Tower" ridge at exactly 300 feet
 4 elevation above the ridge surface and directly over it and
 5 we took some photos. So I've got those.

6 I think the answer to the questions about what is
 7 the visual impact we're particularly interested in that as
 8 it relates to the Agri-Tourism Association and the members'
 9 businesses that are affected. So I'm going to submit an
 10 appendix to our comments tonight, one copy, and then present
 11 my comments at some point here in the next couple days, and
 12 I'll have a couple loose pictures with that appendix right
 13 now that I will be referring if you could circulate and look
 14 at them and it will give you an idea.

15 CHAIR LUCE: All right. We're going to try to
 16 work the four or five minute rule so to the extent that
 17 that's possible I'd appreciate it. Go ahead.

18 MR. CRUMPACKER: Thank you. In the interest of
 19 time I will speed read.

20 CHAIR LUCE: The reporter is having trouble with
 21 speed reading. You can also submit anything for the record.
 22 Go ahead.

23 MR. CRUMPACKER: Thank you. I won't submit this.
 24 It's in rough form.

25 As I said, my name is John Crumpacker. I live in

1 Underwood, Washington. I am a member of the Board of
 2 Directors of the Skamania County Agri-Tourism Association.
 3 The Skamania Agri-Tourism Association is a Washington
 4 non-profit corporation dedicated to promotion and
 5 improvement of sustainable agri-tourism in Skamania County.
 6 Our mission is to create and maintain favorable business
 7 conditions for our association members. All members own and
 8 operate agriculture businesses in Underwood, Washington
 9 located in eastern Skamania County. Our unincorporated
 10 community sits directly across the Columbia from Hood River,
 11 Oregon. Members of the Skamania County Agri-Tourism
 12 Association include: Acadia Vineyards, a 75-acre vineyard
 13 and orchard; Crooked Acres Vineyard, a 20-acre vineyard; The
 14 Davis Family Farm, a 50-acre farm and orchard; Energeia
 15 Vineyards, a 64-acre vineyard; Gorge Crest Vineyards &
 16 Winery, a 41-acre vineyard, winery, and commercial event
 17 site; Gorge Estate Vineyards, a 95-acre vineyard and winery;
 18 Lamonti Vineyards, a 32-acre vineyard; Pearblossom
 19 Vineyards, an 18-acre vineyard and orchard; Sanctuary Herb
 20 Farm, an 18-acre herb farm and vineyard; Soluna Vineyards, a
 21 34-acre vineyard; Underwood Gardens, a 6-acre lavender farm;
 22 and Wine Spring, a 40-acre vineyard.

23 As a group these farms and vineyards; farms,
 24 vineyards, and wineries currently give thousands of people
 25 each year a reason to visit our community and share in the

1 awe inspiring beauty we call it bucolic charm. Some bring
 2 the entire family and 50 of their closest friends to say "I
 3 do." Some come to taste wine and touch grapes on the vine.
 4 Some come to buy an organic-free range pig for a
 5 celebration, and others simply come because the views of the
 6 river, the Gorge, and the Hood River Valley are unsurpassed.
 7 But more importantly for purposes of this hearing, each of
 8 these people bring with them a domino effect of economic
 9 activity that benefits our entire region.

10 The Agri-Tourism Association is here today to
 11 provide the Council with our comments on the proposed
 12 Whistling Ridge Project and the potential impact on our
 13 members and on agri-tourism in Underwood as a whole. We
 14 respectfully request that the negative impacts of
 15 agri-tourism in Underwood be addressed in the forthcoming
 16 EIS. Our comments focus on providing the Council with a
 17 clear understanding of the following five factors:

18 One, that tourism is the lifeblood of Skamania
 19 County and all communities throughout the Columbia River
 20 Gorge.

21 Two, that agri-tourism is the present day driver
 22 of tourism in the famous Hood River Valley and that
 23 Underwood is well on its way to duplicating that economic
 24 success in eastern Skamania County.

25 Three, that Underwood's historic transformation

1 from pear orchards to agri-tourism and to one of the premier
 2 wine producing regions in the world has enormous present-day
 3 socioeconomic value.

4 Four, that the very real present-day economic
 5 value of Underwood agri-tourism as well as its future
 6 potential would be severely impacted by the seven "A Towers"
 7 as currently sited.

8 And, finally, five, that this Council has the
 9 authority and responsibility to put the reins on this
 10 project by requiring a responsible re-siting of the seven "A
 11 Towers", towers that will otherwise dominate the skyline and
 12 become Underwood's new calling card.

13 In order to give responsible mitigation of the "A
 14 Towers" a clear voice in these proceedings and thereby
 15 safeguard the tremendous socioeconomic value of Underwood,
 16 the Skamania County Agri-Tourism Association will petition
 17 this Council pursuant to WAC 463-30-091 for permission to
 18 intervene in these proceedings.

19 However, the Association has already taken a vote
 20 and the result is unanimous. If the Council or this
 21 applicant of its own accord makes a responsible mitigation
 22 decision and re-sites the seven "A Towers" to eliminate the
 23 negative impacts, the association intends to withdraw as a
 24 party to support the project.

25 As we detail in our written comments, failure to

1 re-site the seven "A Towers" would improperly force the
 2 blossoming Underwood agri-tourism industry to bear a
 3 disproportionate share of negative environmental and
 4 socioeconomic impacts of this project in violation of WAC
 5 463-60-085. Such a result is prohibited by WAC, which is
 6 Washington Administrative Code I think, sorry, to 463-47-110
 7 which states that the overriding policy of the Council is to
 8 avoid or mitigate adverse environmental impacts which may
 9 result from the Council decisions. So here are the facts on
 10 our five points.

11 First, tourism is the lifeblood of the Gorge.
 12 Skamania County is more dependent on tourism than any county
 13 in the state of Washington. You can see Appendix 1 of our
 14 supporting data. In 2007, 47 percent of all retail and
 15 lodging tax collection in the county came from visitors, the
 16 highest percentage in the state. Almost 11 percent of all
 17 Skamania County was travel related, over 58 million dollars,
 18 the highest percentage in the state. Where do these figures
 19 come from?

20 In December 2008, the State of Washington through
 21 the Department of Community Trade and Economic Development
 22 (CTED), which also employs a staff of this Council, released
 23 these findings in a report on the importance of travel
 24 impact of the economy in the state. The state concluded
 25 that the travel industry generates tax benefits for

1 Washington residents, generates job opportunities for
 2 Washington residents, and benefits all regions of the state.
 3 The study found that in particular rural counties, including
 4 Skamania County, have a greater number of travel-generated
 5 jobs in relation to total employment, and that we are more
 6 dependent on the travel industry. They determined that over
 7 ten percent of Skamania County's jobs are generated by
 8 tourism. Maybe this is no great surprise since we live in
 9 one of the most beautiful places on earth.

10 The State of Washington also released a report in
 11 2002 titled Travel Industry Employment. It's Appendix 1.
 12 It was released by the Washington Department of Business and
 13 Tourism Development. They reached the same conclusions and
 14 found specifically that this is because some rural areas are
 15 recreation destinations and/or have little employment in
 16 manufacturing other industries. Once again topping the list
 17 of counties were those in the Columbia River Gorge.

18 The two key conclusions of this study: The travel
 19 industry develops and thrives to the extent it has
 20 comparative advantages in the Northwest relative to other
 21 locations in the U.S. High-quality natural and outdoor
 22 recreation resources are an example of such an advantage.
 23 Why does this matter, this hearing? Because any development
 24 proposal could have a potential to cut off the lifeblood of
 25 our economy. It needs to be closely monitored, carefully

1 studied, and mitigated in a manner that eliminates damaging
 2 impacts.

3 Number two, the facts about agri-tourism and the
 4 fact it drives Hood River County and eastern Skamania
 5 County. Hood River is a tourist mecca just like Skamania
 6 County. The Hood River Valley is famous worldwide for its
 7 breathtaking beauty in its farms, orchards, and vineyards.
 8 In fact, Hood River is a case study in the economic power
 9 and sustainability of agri-tourism. You need to look no
 10 further than the front page of the Hood River County Chamber
 11 of Commerce website which is in Appendix 2. The image of
 12 Hood River is agri-tourism. It's plastered everywhere:
 13 pictures, events, festivals and links to other sites
 14 dedicated to agri-tourism in its many forms.

15 The other marketing push in Hood River?
 16 Recreation and scenery, of course. Just as the State of
 17 Washington has concluded in its studies that high quality,
 18 natural, and outdoor recreation resources are our primary
 19 asset and must be leveraged. They must also be carefully
 20 guarded to assure our economic health and well being.

21 Why is Hood River important in this area? Because
 22 Underwood which is in eastern Skamania County and which is
 23 the site of this proposal sits directly across from Hood
 24 River and is inextricably tied to Hood River
 25 topographically, economically, and even evolutionarily.

1 Although our county seat is 30 miles here in
 2 Stevenson, we have a uniquely different set of issues and
 3 opportunities, issues and opportunities that county
 4 government has failed to understand. This is evident in
 5 light of the county's decision to publicly endorse this
 6 project without consideration of the impacts to Underwood
 7 agri-tourism. Agri-tourism holds the key to Underwood's
 8 economic future if it is responsibly cared for.

9 Fact relating to number three, Underwood
 10 agri-tourism is growing quickly. The primary driver of
 11 agri-tourism in Underwood is its far reaching reputation as
 12 one of the premier wine producing regions in the world. The
 13 information is in Appendix 3. Amazing as it may sound, the
 14 new Columbia Gorge Wine Appellation was recently recognized
 15 as one of the best emerging regions in the world along with
 16 Paso Robles, California and Maule Valley, Chile. The same
 17 accolades were earned in Seattle Magazine.

18 In fact, the Washington Wine Industry is now
 19 ranked as the second largest premium wine producer in the
 20 U.S. Washington Winery of the Year in 2009 was Maryhill
 21 Winery, a Columbia Gorge operation located here in the
 22 Gorge. Winery of the Year in 2007 in the State of
 23 Washington was Cathedral Ridge Winery in Hood River, also
 24 located directly across the river from Underwood and often
 25 touting Underwood wines which you'll see in the image of

1 their front page in Appendix 3.

2 Even more directly to the point, Celilo Vineyards
 3 in Underwood is consistently ranked as one of the top ten
 4 vineyards in Washington which as mentioned is ranked second
 5 actually in the production of premium wines. The entire
 6 south slope of Underwood Mountain is considered the cream of
 7 the crop. If any question remains regarding the value of
 8 the wineries in Underwood, we need look no further than the
 9 seal of approval of SDS Lumber who recently informed the
 10 community that it had purchased potential vineyard land in
 11 Underwood.

12 Facts related to number four, socioeconomic value
 13 of the Underwood agri-tourism. Agri-tourism is of the
 14 reality in Underwood as we sit here today. There are over
 15 30 large-scale agricultural operations within the community.
 16 Some of these enterprises were started generations ago and
 17 others have broken ground within the last year. In many
 18 ways the Skamania County Agri-Tourism Association owes its
 19 new found status to the proposal before you. We have
 20 formally come together for the first time out of necessity,
 21 a necessity born from the threat that this project poses to
 22 our very existence.

23 Although our members have each made extraordinary
 24 commitments of time and capital to the common vision of
 25 making Underwood the premier agri-tourism destination in the

1 Gorge, until recently we were working in parallel rather
2 than in concert. The threat that this project poses to that
3 vision, however, immediately galvanized farm, winery, and
4 vineyard owners across the community. We now stand here
5 with consensus of opinion, not just on this project but on
6 the future lobbying goals, marketing strategies, and product
7 offerings.

8 The Association has two primary marketing
9 strategies; one, to promote the agri-tourism movement in a
10 manner similar to the Hood River fruit loop. You'll find
11 all the information in the supporting data and maps.

12 The Hood River Fruit Loop is considered a national
13 model of successful agri-tourism. In Appendix 2 you'll see
14 all the information about the fruit loop and in Appendix 4
15 all the information about the Underwood Agri-Tourism Loop.

16 Number two, establish the Underwood Vineyard Trek
17 as a "can't be missed" one-of-a-kind opportunity to hike
18 through 12 of the county or the country's premier vineyards
19 while sampling world class wines and views. Nowhere else in
20 the U.S. has 12 contiguous vineyards collectively developed
21 a private trek situated in the heart of the National Scenic
22 Area. See Appendix 4 for maps of the trek and where we're
23 situated.

24 Underwood agri-tourism is not just about wine
25 though. Other members offer produce, free-range organic

1 livestock, lavender viewing, and organic herbs. One of the
2 original visionaries in Underwood is Hank Patton who founded
3 World Steward which is located in the upper Underwood
4 agri-tourism loop and is committed to environmental
5 stewardship, sustainable farming, and research and
6 education. All the information about that is in Appendix 4.

7 In addition, three wineries are already in
8 operation in Underwood. One of those wineries is now
9 considered by many to be the premier commercial event site
10 in the Columbia Gorge. A number of other vineyards located
11 in the upper loop have future winery plans which have been
12 put on hold as a result of the potential negative impacts of
13 this project.

14 As set forth in Appendix 4 to our comments the
15 economic and socioeconomic value of the existing Underwood
16 agri-tourism industry is significant and quantifiable. It
17 is diverse and sustainable and benefits citizens and
18 governments throughout the region. The tremendous future
19 potential is also quantifiable and dwarfs the tax benefits
20 of the seven "A Towers" as projected by SDS Lumber. It's
21 all in Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4, hard facts including the
22 economics of wine in Underwood, both winery development,
23 infusions to the economy and vineyard development, facts
24 related to agri-tourism and the fact that agri-tourism and
25 40-story turbines don't mix.

1 SDS once told the Underwood community that wind
2 turbines are beautiful and we've heard that from others
3 tonight. We are all welcome to our personal opinions, but
4 in these proceedings facts should rule, and the fact is that
5 tourists and especially tourists in the gorge don't want to
6 see industrial development. The facts are set forth clearly
7 in studies conducted by the U.S. government and the State of
8 Oregon which are attached to your comments as Appendix 5 and
9 6. These facts are undisputed and really need no further
10 discussion.

11 Moving the "A Towers" mitigates tourism impacts,
12 and our comments are focused specifically on the seven "A
13 Towers". The facts: The seven "A Towers" sit alone on a
14 clearcut ridge at the very most southern portion of the
15 proposed project. If installed they would dominant views
16 day and night from farm or locations that are depicted in
17 application submitted to Council. To remove any uncertainty
18 of that visual impact of the seven "A Towers", the
19 Agri-Tourism Association hired a pilot to fly a photographer
20 along the ridge where the towers are proposed. In Appendix
21 7 to our comments you will find the results. Take note of
22 the photograph that was taken directly over the ridge at an
23 elevation of 300 feet above the ridge. This photograph
24 tells the story of who will see the seven "A Towers". Also
25 note that the paragraph or the photograph was taken 120 feet

1 below the top of the proposed towers. Then take note at the
2 next photograph that shows the locations of the existing
3 businesses along the Underwood agri-tourism loop. The
4 impacts are clear. The solution is also clear. The
5 re-siting of the seven "A Towers" eliminates all visual
6 impacts to the Underwood agri-tourism industry in upper
7 Underwood as well as the visual impacts to the vast area
8 throughout the Gorge.

9 When you consider our fate please keep in mind the
10 following statement of SDS Lumber Company which was made in
11 reference to the decision to expand this project to 80
12 turbines by leasing adjacent DNR lands: "Expansion also
13 gives more flexibility. If we have more flexibility, we
14 could use that to optimize the site and minimize impacts."
15 That was in the Hood River News on February 25, 2009. We're
16 glad to see that SDS is realizing that the impacts of this
17 project must be mitigated, but the seven "A Towers" should
18 be mitigated whether or not this project is expanded, and
19 that mitigation decision should be based on balancing of the
20 negative impacts of "A Towers" alone.

21 In conclusion we're thankful that the Council
22 brings to this process a broad perspective of the benefits
23 and impacts of wind development, a perspective that is
24 understandably missing from the county government in
25 financial crisis. We are also confident that this Council

1 will use its broad mitigation powers, its depth of
2 experience, and basic common sense to draw a line in the
3 sand, a line that will make it clear to people throughout
4 the country that in the Northwest turbines don't have the
5 right to dominate every ridge line just because the wind
6 blows.

7 We feel fortunate, fortunate that each of you is
8 here in the Gorge and fortunate that during your site visit
9 you will have the chance to experience the extraordinary
10 beauty of our agricultural community and understand why it
11 is a priceless resource in and of itself, not just for those
12 of us that live on the Gorge, but to people throughout the
13 Gorge who benefit economically from the snowballing
14 reputation as one of the premier wine producing destinations
15 in the United States.

16 We ask you to take a moment, a moment to make sure
17 you visit the southern most portion of the site where you
18 will decide whether the "A towers" should be a boundary or
19 should have bought the boundary for the National Scenic
20 Area. Taking a sweeping view of the vineyards below, of the
21 Columbia River Gorge, and of the vast panoramas of the Hood
22 River Valley in the background and then take a moment to
23 transport yourselves from the prominent ridge line where you
24 stand to any one of the places you see below you. Now, from
25 that spot imagine looking back to the Underwood skyline.

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1 What will catch your eye first? Would it be the 40-story "A
2 Towers" spinning of each tower from the clearcut ridge?
3 That image will be Underwood's new calling card. Will
4 turbines beckon the million of tourists who come to the
5 Gorge every year for the "beautiful national parks" and
6 "protected environmental areas"? Will tourists be inspired
7 to drive the agri-tourism loop at Underwood and walk from
8 vineyard to vineyard and winery to winery on the vineyard
9 trek below a complex of 40-story towers?

10 We feel that it's this Council's responsibility to
11 make sure that we never know the answers to these questions.
12 With the stroke of a pen the "A Towers" should simply be
13 moved elsewhere in the matrix of this project.

14 The information presented at this hearing and our
15 comments will be posted on the news page of the Skamania
16 County Agri-Tourism Association website which is located at
17 www.scaassn.org. Thank you for this opportunity to comment
18 and welcome to the Gorge.

19 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. We will hear
20 next from Mr. Gary Collins, then Tom Linde, and Walt
21 Loehrke. I want to say early on we asked the County
22 Commissioner and Tribal representatives to hold it to four
23 minutes, and I really appreciate that people want to give us
24 the full benefit of their views. But if you have something
25 in writing, we will read it so it's not necessary to be all

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1 of your testimony. If you can summarize it and then again
2 if someone else has already made your points, agree with
3 them and then we'll move ahead. So thank you very much.

4 Mr. Collins.

5 COMMENTS BY GARY COLLINS

6 Yes. My name is Gary Collins. My address is 381
7 Erickson Road, Stevenson, Washington. Thank you for letting
8 us speak here.

9 I'd just like to say -- I'll make it short. I'm
10 in support of the project, and I think it's very good for
11 the community. I'm a third generation in this community.
12 I'm a lot like Don Morby. My grandfather homesteaded a
13 property up on the Underwood Road on the west end, and I've
14 just got to say he'd be pretty proud of it, a windmill,
15 because he didn't have electricity.

16 But the economic part of it I think it's great. I
17 think it's good. This county needs it. I've been here all
18 my life, and I've watched how its went and we definitely
19 need this. Anything would be good in the county here.
20 Personally I don't think -- in fact, I think it's an asset
21 to have the windmills up on the hill. I like them.

22 I've been by them. I stopped like going to Walla
23 Walla. There is no noise. I couldn't hear no noise. And
24 everyone's worried about the color of them or you can see
25 them. To me why don't you paint them an earth tone so, you

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1 know, they won't be as visual if that's the problem. And I
2 just think there's a workable deal here and I hope that the
3 Council will understand that. Thank you

4 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Appreciate
5 that. Anything else you would like to submit for the record
6 by May 18 we will be glad to read and we will read.

7 Mr. Linde.

8 MR. LINDE: To speed things up, I will present my
9 comments in writing.

10 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

11 Mr. Loehrke.

12 COMMENTS OF WALT LOEHRKE

13 My name is Walt Loehrke and I live at Hemlock Road
14 in Carson, Washington, and I'm speaking today as a Skamania
15 County resident.

16 CHAIR LUCE: Please spell your name, Mr. Loehrke.
17 If you can for the benefit of the court reporter.

18 MR. LOEHRKE: That was the first question that the
19 teacher asked me. L-o-e-h-r-k-e.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

21 MR. LOEHRKE: I'm sitting here and I figure I must
22 suffer from I don't know what: the classic education. I
23 remember back in 1965 while I was still attending high
24 school being able to attend hearings held in Coos Bay,
25 Oregon on a wind farm that was proposed down there that

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1 actually failed due to lack of transmission lines. There
2 was no place they could sell the power to at the time, and
3 it hasn't been reintroduced. I've always thought that as a
4 conundrum because on the state wind maps that still locates
5 that area as a high potential.

6 I see this development as a positive thing for
7 Skamania County. It's private land and it's disturbed soil.
8 It adds a boom to our PUD's ability to have a back feed into
9 the county which is since we are losing Condit Dam puts our
10 power situation here in a very precarious situation, makes
11 it a very precarious situation, and also provides a
12 guaranteed revenue stream for the county. It's unfortunate
13 for the tourist people. I love to hear them talk and I love
14 to go on their wine tours, but we're still waiting for them
15 to guarantee revenue stream from tourism. That was promised
16 to us 22 years ago with the National Scenic Area.

17 With that said, I don't personally and my wife and
18 I have tried to make windmills ugly. We have taken trips by
19 ourselves anecdotally to go get those things to be noisy and
20 cause vibration. I personally am very familiar with
21 subsonic vibration and what it does to heavy construction
22 workers and have seen it on the job site and I am quite
23 concerned with that. I feel that this commission does have
24 the expertise available to them to make these kinds of
25 decisions and I welcome your guys' involvement in this

1 proposal. With that, good success and thank you for letting
2 me comment.

3 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

4 Mr. Jim Hutchison followed by Mike Rockwell and
5 Leanne Haight.

6 COMMENTS BY JIM HUTCHISON

7 Good evening, my name is Jim Hutchison,
8 H-u-t-c-h-i-s-o-n. I'm a retired biologist. Mailing
9 address is Post Office Box 749, Washougal, and today is my
10 birthday. Until the last speaker we pretty much lacked any
11 levity so I would like to demonstrate this card that my wife
12 gave me this morning for my birthday. On the cover it says
13 you're not old until the fat lady sings, and then you open
14 it up and --

15 (The fat lady is singing.)

16 CHAIR LUCE: That's fantastic. And just for the
17 record I'll look forward to that date. I'll let you know
18 that earlier this week I got my Medicare Card.

19 MR. HUTCHISON: I do have some serious comments
20 that I want to make.

21 CHAIR LUCE: All right.

22 MR. HUTCHISON: The SDS proposed wind turbine
23 field you are now studying is unique in several respects.
24 It would be the first such project located directly adjacent
25 to the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area and would introduce

1 turbine towers visible from various locations within the
2 Scenic Area. The Gorge Act, though it did not visualize
3 tall towers that would impact views from the Gorge, is very
4 specific about aesthetics. Since the Act's implementation
5 even single nonconforming houses have generated extensive
6 debate.

7 Impacts on timber production and wildlife are
8 major concerns related to the proposal. SDS intends to
9 reduce all vegetation to no more than 15 feet high within
10 150 feet of each turbine. Within the next 350 feet,
11 vegetation would be kept less than 50 feet high. Nearly all
12 timber harvest would thus be permanently eliminated for
13 approximately 18 acres around each turbine. For a 100
14 turbine field, including the other 50 on DNR land that's
15 been proposed, this would total 1,800 acres or nearly three
16 square miles of lost timber production. Turbine access
17 roads and appurtenant facilities would multiply this loss
18 several fold.

19 Numerous wildlife species, not just those
20 threatened or endangered, rely on forest habitats. Bird
21 mortality from wind turbines is fairly well documented, but
22 most such studies focused on turbines located outside of
23 forest areas. Other wildlife concerns are associated with
24 the SDS proposal. These concerns include seasonal use
25 patterns: travel corridors, habitat alteration or removal,

1 soil loss and associated stream sedimentation, and area
2 abandonment by wildlife due to turbine noise. Many animals
3 with hearing more acute than ours can be detrimentally
4 affected by noise. Considering these and related concerns,
5 the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's
6 recommendation for a comprehensive cumulative effects
7 analysis should be required for this or any wind turbine
8 application, especially when proposed in a forest setting.

9 Various kinds of EIS studies are typically
10 prepared and funded by the projects' proponents. However,
11 for this and other wind power projects in Washington, your
12 agency, the Energy Siting Council, prepares the EIS. That
13 approach appears a most questionable use of public funds --
14 I stand corrected but I still have questions about this
15 subject -- for this highly contentious proposed Gorge
16 project which the Governor may well not approve in the long
17 run.

18 A Skamania County representative will apparently
19 join the Siting Council to consider the Whistling Ridge
20 turbine proposal. That person should logically be as
21 open-minded and nonbiased as possible. Yet, it should be
22 stressed that Skamania County's Board of Commissioners is
23 already on record as favoring this proposal, plus another
24 controversial proposal by SDS for a large rural resort
25 within the Gorge Scenic Area, plus a big Gorge gambling

1 casino at Cascade Locks. Perhaps a bit of bias is involved
2 there.

3 This wind power application involves several
4 precedents: No large wind power installations are in or
5 next to the Gorge Scenic Area and none in the Pacific
6 Northwest are located on forest lands. Impacts on wildlife
7 and timber harvest in such locations are essentially little
8 studied and unknown. Wind is a legitimate source of power
9 production, but only if it does not conflict overly with
10 other values. In this case, placing multiple wind turbines
11 which would remove hundreds of acres of sustainable tree
12 harvest on forest land favored by many forms of wildlife
13 immediately adjacent to the Gorge Scenic Area appears
14 substantially unwise. Thank you.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much for your
16 comments. You can provide those to Ms. Talburt and we'll
17 get those in the record as well.

18 The next speaker will be Mike Rockwell.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He took off.

20 CHAIR LUCE: He took off. All right. Mike, if
21 someone knows Mike ask him to submit his comments in
22 writing.

23 Leanne Haight.

24 COMMENTS BY LEANNE HAIGHT

25 My name is Leanne Haight, H-a-i-g-h-t, P.O.

1 Box 1207 in Carson 98610. My comments are going to be
2 fairly simplistic and short at this point.

3 I am a strong supporter of developing renewable
4 energy in Skamania County. As a county we chose to help
5 create and be part of a bistate renewable zone, and as such
6 we have a responsibility to not just talk the talk but to
7 make use of and develop those renewable energy sources
8 available to us. Wind is one.

9 The site of the proposed wind farm is the
10 appropriate one, as there are very few if any other places
11 in the county where a wind project of any size and substance
12 can be located, and that's considering wind flow patterns
13 and the boundaries of the National Scenic Area.

14 This project would also put us one step closer to
15 reaching the state mandate that requires that 15 percent of
16 our energy come from renewable sources by the year 2020, and
17 it will be us walking our talk.

18 Additionally and as importantly it will provide a
19 boost to our county economy. Not only do we need to wean
20 ourselves from nonrenewable and foreign energy sources, we
21 need to wean ourselves from the subsidies of our forest as
22 those federal timber payments will be gone in short order.
23 This wind project would be one piece of a matrix we need to
24 construct to responsibly grow our economy and sustain a
25 healthy community in the future. I support the development

1 of the Whistling Ridge Project.

2 CHAIR LUCE: That you. Thank you very much.
3 Kevin Herman.

4 MR. HERMAN: I'm leaving you. I'll come back
5 tomorrow.

6 CHAIR LUCE: Great.

7 MR. HERMAN: Thank you.

8 CHAIR LUCE: Steve Andruss.

9 COMMENTS BY STEVE ANDRUSS

10 Good evening. My name is Steve Andruss and I live
11 at 842 Little Rock Creek Road in Bingen, which is on the
12 east end of the county here, and I think there's a lot of
13 experts here that talked tonight.

14 CHAIR LUCE: The spelling of your last name is?

15 MR. ANDRUSS: A-n-d-r-u-s-s.

16 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

17 MR. ANDRUSS: I guess it's just more of sort or a
18 gut feeling I have. I remember -- well, I grew up on the
19 river and my grandfather and great grandfather and everybody
20 said they'd live here forever, and our family has too. But
21 our view of this beautiful place is to preserve it and don't
22 alter it too much because it's a recreational paradise, and
23 I'm really pretty opposed to the wind turbine project as it
24 will affect me every time I go for a walk I'm going to be
25 looking at wind turbines and they're going to be hanging

1 over the valley. And it seems a little bit unfair to me
2 because we just bought this piece of property a couple years
3 with the intent of getting out of town and I have a few
4 friends that come and visit me and when they came they went
5 out around Bickleton and did stuff we always used to do when
6 we were kids. And they came up to me and said, "Well, we
7 live in the city, we come here to appreciate the outdoors,
8 and what's happened to this country out here? It's totally
9 altered."

10 I mean there's these giant towers everywhere and
11 these blinking lights all night, and you see them all day
12 long. And I don't know if you drive down the Gorge at night
13 or not but out east it's like a slurry of lights in the sky
14 at night, and it's aesthetically really not very nice. And
15 so I just think it's kind of a bad idea. I know everybody
16 needs the money and SDS they're nice guys and all that, but
17 I just don't think it's a great idea to put it out in that
18 beautiful part of the country. I guess that's about all.

19 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. I appreciate
20 that.

21 Steve Curley followed by Sally Newell.

22 COMMENTS BY STEVE CURLEY

23 Hi, there.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Hi, there.

25 MR. CURLEY: Thanks for being here. Steve Curly,

1 C-u-r-l-e-y. I live at 10381 Cook-Underwood. When you go
2 to do your tour tomorrow, you go right past my house and
3 take a left on Kollack-Knapp Road and go up the hill. I
4 live less than two miles from this proposed project.

5 It sounds like we're suppose to be afraid because
6 we're going to run out of energy if we don't get this wind
7 turbine project, which to me seems quite ridiculous because
8 we live on the second largest river in the country with a
9 hydroelectric project every 40 to 60 miles as far as they
10 go. There's a coal-fired plant in Boardman. There's a
11 nuclear project up there in Hanford that's been there since
12 the forties. I think we have energy coming out our wazzus.
13 It all goes somewhere else is what happens. I'm all for
14 alternative energy and green energy, and things like that
15 and for teaching people how to conserve energy, which at my
16 house there is not one light on because I shut my lights
17 off. I'm very diligent about shutting everything off when
18 I'm gone.

19 It's interesting how SDS Lumber Company can do
20 pretty much whatever they want to do. Our County
21 Commissioner said something about buffers zones with the
22 Gorge National Scenic Area. Well, you know what? If you
23 drive across the Hood River toll bridge, you look up on
24 Underwood Mountain and there's a big old clearcut up there.
25 You know, if I want to cut one limb off a branch in my yard

1 or if I want to paint my house technically I'm suppose to go
2 jump through some hoops with the Gorge Commission. Now,
3 that's what I'm suppose to do; that's what we're all suppose
4 to do in the Gorge Scenic Area.

5 I'm less than two miles, one to two miles from
6 this project, and the windmills are clearly going to be
7 visible from the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.
8 I didn't make up the rules. I think Mark Hatfield and
9 everybody else who was in power at the time did that stuff
10 and I'm quite happy they did. You know, it's an
11 unbelievable beautiful place where we do live here.

12 It's the wrong place for a wind farm within a few
13 miles of the Columbia National Scenic Area. You can put
14 this farm in Eastern Washington, Bickleton, Maryhill.
15 There's tons of wind farms out there, and it's not bothering
16 anybody out there. This is only good for the SDS Lumber
17 Company. It's a win-win for those guys and it's not good
18 for local residents. I have no idea what's going to happen
19 with my property value, you know. They're going to collect
20 extra taxes from these windmills, yeah, but what happens to
21 my property value if it goes down? I have no idea what's
22 going to happen. I mean that's obviously one of the
23 variables here.

24 If this project wasn't so close to the Columbia
25 Gorge National Scenic Area and it's like a mile or two away,

1 it's right there, I wouldn't have such a problem with it.
2 But you know what? I can't put the wind turbine at my house
3 one or two miles away so why should they be able to? I
4 think they should put it in Eastern Washington. Thank you
5 very much.

6 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.
7 Sally.

8 MS. NEWELL: Well, I'll try to scale my comments
9 quite a bit. Others have covered it.

10 CHAIR LUCE: That's okay. You can just say you
11 agree with them. Sally, spell your last name and give us
12 your address.

13 COMMENTS BY SALLY NEWELL

14 I'm Sally Newell, N-e-w-e-l-l for the record. I
15 want to thank you all for travelling down here and I want to
16 particularly thank you for having the hearing in Underwood,
17 Washington tomorrow. I've been asking for that from the
18 git-go, and I'm pleased as punch that you're going to come
19 and actually see the site. And I would encourage you please
20 to be sure and drive the stretch from the mill all the way
21 up to the site because one of my major concerns is the
22 transportation of these things over those roads.

23 We were promised actually at a county commission
24 meeting in Underwood on the record by Jason Spadaro that
25 nothing would have to be condemned in order to accomplish

1 this project and I look at those pictures and I wonder, I
2 really wonder if they're going to have to condemn some
3 property in order to get some of those big trucks of theirs
4 around some of the corners.

5 I guess I was planning to give you some background
6 on myself. I have lived my whole life in the Columbia River
7 Gorge. I was born in the Dalles, Oregon. In my lifetime
8 Celilo Falls was still around. My dad every time company
9 came to town my dad would take us all out to the dam and
10 you'd think he built the thing himself. He was so proud of
11 it. You know, he would talk about all the power that it
12 sent to California and everything. And, you know, at this
13 point I look at all that the people of the Gorge have given
14 and given and given for energy in this country and it's all
15 gone somewhere else. And now we're going to be asked to
16 give some more, just a little bit more.

17 And I love this place passionately and I love the
18 democratic process and I so appreciate that you folks are
19 here and are listening because our county commissioners did
20 not listen. They did not listen to the people of Underwood
21 and they forced the zoning project on the county that the
22 hearing examiner even though they were signing her paycheck
23 she couldn't swallow it. So they're having to go back and
24 do some work on that.

25 I am so ready to roll the dice with EFSEC over

1 Skamania County you cannot believe. I would support what
2 others have said about independent studies. I don't want
3 studies that are being financed by the proponent. I want
4 truly neutral studies of the wildlife and human impacts.
5 But that transportation piece has me very worried. Also I
6 know your chair formally served on the Columbia River Gorge
7 Commission. That's a real small club and I actually belong
8 to that club too.

9 The National Scenic Area is a major concern to me
10 because I think there's a potential for a precedent here.
11 This whole Gorge is windy, and it's windy on both sides of
12 the river, and it wouldn't take a whole lot of the blinking
13 red lights to really trash it. I have to confess I'm very
14 ambivalent about wind energy in general. I like the idea of
15 it and even this project I thought, well, you know, I've
16 seen those things. The first time I heard about it I ran
17 out to Klondike in Wasco and looked at the turbines there
18 and listened to them, and I decided, you know, that wasn't
19 all that bad. And then last summer I had occasion to be in
20 Goldendale all day, a really long day with kids and horses,
21 and I came home at night and that was an eye opener for me.
22 I had never seen those wind farms at night, and it really
23 changed the way I felt about them.

24 So I'm glad you're here and thank you so much for
25 listening and I'll have more to tell you tomorrow in

1 Underwood. I also look forward to seeing you at 10:00 in
2 the morning.
3 CHAIR LUCE: All right. Those who have testified
4 tonight I'm not encouraging people to show up tomorrow and
5 testify unless there's new material that you haven't covered
6 tonight. So we are having two hearings and the purpose of
7 that was to make time available for those who couldn't
8 travel from Underwood and that was what we were told and
9 that's what we believe so I just want to get that on the
10 record that that is something we're going to look at
11 tomorrow.

12 Willemina.

13 MS. NEWELL: For the record, I was told that if I
14 come back that I could testify.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Well, the Chair will rule on that
16 tomorrow, but we don't want repetitive testimony, Sally, and
17 I know you'll appreciate that having been a former member of
18 the Gorge Commission.

19 MR. SLOCKISH: You said the land use issues.

20 CHAIR LUCE: We're going to have a second public
21 meeting comment session like tonight, scoping.

22 MR. SLOCKISH: That was for land. I never
23 addressed the land use.

24 CHAIR LUCE: That's correct, and you'll have a
25 chance to do that tomorrow. The public comment session

1 tomorrow begins at, Allen, 2:30?

2 MR. FIKSDAL: 2:30.

3 CHAIR LUCE: 2:30 and it is intended for those
4 people who could not travel from Underwood or east of
5 Stevenson. If people have already made comments for the
6 record tonight, we are not encouraging people to show up
7 tomorrow and repeat those comments. We will consider
8 everything that everybody said and you can write anything
9 additional that you want to and submit it to us.

10 Willemina.

11 MS. NIOSI: I was the fat lady and I've already
12 sang.

13 CHAIR LUCE: Well, you sang very beautifully. I'm
14 glad my wife didn't get me that card.

15 Scott Hulbert.

16 AUDIENCE MEMBER: But we will be able to speak to
17 it on the land use issues.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Yes, absolutely.

19 AUDIENCE MEMBER: 6:00 or 6:30?

20 CHAIR LUCE: 6:30. So there's two different
21 hearings. One is the public comment which you attended
22 tonight and the second one is land use hearing.

23 Scott Hulbert, welcome.

24 COMMENTS BY SCOTT HULBERT

25 Yes, my name is Scott Hulbert. I live at 742

1 Northwest Lincoln in White Salmon, and in the spirit of full
2 disclosure I don't own property that will be majorly
3 impacted but minorly impact, I mean personally property that
4 will be impacted. I'm mainly here just sort of in the
5 defense of the National Scenic Area.

6 CHAIR LUCE: Just one question, Scott. Is that
7 H-u-l-b-e-r-t?

8 MR. HULBERT: Correct.

9 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

10 MR. HULBERT: So the purpose of I feel like I'm
11 here to sort of help represent some of those other people in
12 the U.S. who are not able to come here and probably have no
13 idea maybe even that a National Scenic Area exists here.

14 I think what really drove me to come here is one
15 evening I was coming down from Goldendale late at night and
16 I was just completely blown away once we approached the
17 Maryhill area and saw the impact that those red lights had
18 on just visually it was amazing the way that they were all
19 synchronized. It wasn't just a random flashing of lights.
20 It was a line of strobe of just flashing in one continuous
21 line, and, you know, I guess I can after learning more about
22 wind power I can accept that out in that area where there's
23 not a lot of people and, you know, there's a need for some
24 green energy. But the thoughts of this occurring occur in
25 our area this National Scenic Area is what drove me here

1 tonight.

2 So I have two main concerns and one comment and I
3 think I'll be finished. I'm going to reiterate this. I
4 think from Hood River and from coming from the Dalles and
5 coming from driving up from Portland at night this is going
6 to be a major distraction, and I drive this road everyday to
7 Portland and back and I know exactly where they're going to
8 be and it's a huge concern for me.

9 My second concern is that key provision of the
10 National Scenic Act is the idea of manmade objects being
11 visually subordinate to the natural resources, especially in
12 these key viewing areas. I don't feel this project would
13 fit that definition.

14 And referring to Section 4 of the application, I
15 really was seeking more information and I didn't feel that
16 the photos were an accurate representation of what impact
17 this will have visually from key viewing areas. The
18 problems I have with the application were that they seemed
19 less than accurate in regards to ratios of height. You
20 know, some of the trees looked like they were not much
21 shorter than these towers. I know they're 400 plus feet
22 tall.

23 The problem I have with the photos again is that
24 it really doesn't show the visual contrast that these
25 windmills will have. They were all, I mean most of the

1 photos were taken in the late to mid afternoon, some of them
2 almost directly into the sun, and there's no visual contrast
3 there. So I really can't get a good grasp on what impact
4 visually this is going to have. So I would ask the Council
5 to take the time to go to these areas that are in these
6 photos.

7 I don't think this requires a major computer
8 analysis. I would love for you to go to these places,
9 either go over out to Rowena Crest and on an afternoon if
10 you look out 30 miles east you'll see the wind farms out
11 there, and, you know, so the bottom line for me here is to
12 ask you to not approve this application. We don't need this
13 type of thing in the National Scenic Area. Thank you.

14 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

15 Stephen Bronsveld. Welcome.

16 COMMENTS BY STEPHEN BRONSVELD

17 Thank you very much. My name is Steven Bronsveld.
18 That's B-r-o-n-s-v-e-l-d.

19 CHAIR LUCE: And Stephen's with a p-h.

20 MR. BRONSVELD: P-h, yes. Thank you very much. I
21 live at 1111 Scoggins Road in Underwood, Washington. My
22 house is about probably two miles from the site because I'm
23 a little further east and you get into Scoggins. And I
24 won't be seeing any of the towers from my house because I
25 look primarily southeast on the south side of Underwood

1 Mountain.

2 I really am grateful that you came here tonight to
3 check this all out and listen to us talk. We've had several
4 meetings about this kind of stuff before, and one thing I
5 wanted to point out to you is that any community -- by the
6 way, I've been here 23 years and I've lived in the area for
7 30 years, and we have a longstanding existing plan for
8 long-term economic stability. It's been in effect for
9 approximately a hundred years. It's been worked on by
10 countless generations of people and it is a longstanding
11 benefit to our community. It's provided jobs, resources,
12 income, and stability for our community for like I said
13 about a hundred years.

14 There has been no mention of this plan in any of
15 these presentations, and there's been no rationale given for
16 abandoning that plan for a new plan. It's very risky. It
17 might have some merit to it, but it is contrary to the
18 existing plan we have now which is based on resources in the
19 higher elevations being collected and transported downhill,
20 how convenient, to processing centers further down by the
21 river where transportation is available. Like I said, it's
22 been working for a long time, and we have a good thing
23 going. Now things are changing and we have need for more
24 income in the county because the diminishing income from
25 other sources, and that's understandable and those are

1 changing circumstances.

2 I have not seen any presentation in all of these
3 things about this that has demonstrated conclusively that
4 the county will make one thin dime net off of this project.
5 In fact, I propose that this project will actually be a
6 money losing proposition for the county when all of the
7 expenses and the diminishing of revenue generated by this
8 thing are calculated completely and looked at thoroughly
9 which haven't been done yet.

10 And we just lived through a time in this country
11 where a lot of math wasn't done very well so I suggest you
12 do the math and we look at these things. The proposal says
13 we'll get 700 and some odd thousand dollars in property tax
14 revenues, but we need to look at the expenses as well. Our
15 local fire call down in Underwood is looking at what kind of
16 facilities and manpower and equipment is going to be
17 necessary for dealing with these new structures that have
18 never been part of our plan before. There is no evolution
19 of any infrastructure or sources that deal with 400-foot
20 tall anything in our community, let alone these huge
21 buildings that they are going to build.

22 The other thing I wanted to mention we have no
23 guarantees about how long these things will be in place, how
24 long they will generate property tax revenues for the
25 county. This is the crux of PSE up in Seattle that's

1 funding the thing, but it's now been purchased by a Canadian
 2 concern. So where's the crux of the international monetary
 3 exchange rates and tax incentives for these kinds of things
 4 which are subject to change with political pressures and
 5 fluctuations in markets which may lead to this income stream
 6 not being guaranteed in the future? What happens when it's
 7 more convenient to take the towers down and move them
 8 someplace else for tax benefits elsewhere? We have no
 9 guarantees about that, and that's a concern of mine.

10 Like other people mentioned we might have loss of
 11 other potential development, commercial event sites. We
 12 have a big ordinance, you know, a zoning thing that allows
 13 for these commercial event centers, and who's going to build
 14 one if they get a bad write-up in a magazine about the area,
 15 the scenic impacts? So there are commercial influences like
 16 that that could affect the income stream also. And I'm
 17 concerned about that because the county needs a project that
 18 will make the country money. That's what we need. If it's
 19 a money losing operation, we don't need the project. That's
 20 digging the hole deeper we're already in. We don't want to
 21 do that as a community. That's not good for us
 22 economically.

23 I've mentioned some other things in here that I've
 24 taken note. I'm concerned where we're going to get the
 25 birds. They cover in here it said 1.9 birds killed per

1 tower. So I'm just saying if that's true where do we get
 2 the birds? We've only got so many of them in Underwood and
 3 I'm concerned. We might have to import from someplace else
 4 and my concern is how many. So I'm concerned about that.

5 The county makes money. I'm just looking at my
 6 notes here. The noise center. Someone mentioned that. It
 7 was very interesting.

8 The other thing that I wanted to talk about was
 9 the road access. The map over here shows widening necessary
 10 at the intersection of Scoggins and Kollack-Knapp Road. You
 11 will go through there on your tour tomorrow. The applicant
 12 came to a meeting at Underwood Community Center which was a
 13 hearing of the Skamania County Commission and the Underwood
 14 Community. That applicant assured us -- I asked about it
 15 three separate times, three separate questions -- that this
 16 project could be accomplished within the existing rights of
 17 way of the existing public roads and thoroughfares that
 18 connect the major thoroughfares with this project, and the
 19 County Commissioner Jamie Tolfree told us that no
 20 transportation plan would be approved that did not meet that
 21 standard.

22 Now I'm concerned that the applicant is requesting
 23 that this project would require the condemnation of private
 24 land to widen this intersection. And if that's the case,
 25 that would be contrary to what's been promised and presented

1 to the community, and actually that would be important. The
 2 idea that some commercial concern being able to trespass on
 3 private property or even take it was assured that it
 4 wouldn't happen, and I would think that that would be a deal
 5 breaker right there. So they would have to get small towers
 6 or something, figure out some way to make the turn and they
 7 can do that.

8 So that was the -- oh, one last thing was that,
 9 you know, I knew some people that were country club owners
 10 in Hood River and the Meredith Motel used to be right there
 11 on 84. It's now I think the Intertribal Horse Agency. But
 12 their office there is at the Meredith Club. Now the people
 13 over there don't talk about that finally when that 20-foot,
 14 25-foot tall red neon light up there was shut down for the
 15 last time and removed. They talk about when the city passed
 16 an ordinance 30 years ago that got it to stop blinking.
 17 That's what they talked about. That's when they got their
 18 lives back, when the sky, the underside of the clouds quit
 19 throbbing with that incessant alarm, that warning signal,
 20 that tremulous cadence bringing in the internal mood of
 21 sadness as we all grow upset. That's what it is. It's a
 22 warning signal to aircraft. So what is that going to do to
 23 us who to live in that warning signal? I think that that's
 24 something we ought to think about, and we don't need that.
 25 And I will be able to see that at my place unfortunately.

1 So I hope you consider all of those things. I'm
 2 looking forward to your visit in our little community over
 3 there. I hope you have a good time. Thank you very much.

4 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you and we will look forward to
 5 being in Underwood tomorrow.

6 Is there anyone else present tonight who has not
 7 signed who would like to offer testimony tonight?

8 Up all right. Second time. Is there anyone else
 9 who wants to offer testimony tonight?

10 MR. SLOCKISH: I would like to make one additional
 11 comment.

12 CHAIR LUCE: Yes, sir.

13 MR. SLOCKISH: For the record, the Columbia Gorge
 14 Audubon Society has no authorization to speak on any of our
 15 own tribal issues. That is our own internal affairs.
 16 Celilo Falls died. It's under deep water. We don't like to
 17 talk about it. It's dead. We want it to rest in peace. So
 18 all of these issues are not authorized by our people to
 19 speak on our behalf. That has been done too many times in
 20 the past. We speak for ourselves. No one else.

21 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

22 Now --

23 MR. BARKER: I would like to comment.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Is it a response to another comment?

25 MR. BARKER: No.

1 CHAIR LUCE: Oh, sure. Come forward and give us
2 your name, spelling, address. Try to observe the
3 four-minute rule.

COMMENTS BY CHARLES BARKER

5 My name is Charles Barker, B-a-r-k-e-r. I live in
6 Mosier, 3375 Vensel Road, and I'd like the EFSEC to consider
7 that renewable energy is only capable in this region up to
8 6,000 megawatts. In other words, we have enough hydro and
9 hydropower in place right now to effectively carry
10 6,000 megawatts of power renewable. After that point we
11 will be saturated and we have to start building more
12 gas-fired turbines. That's by the renewable impacts
13 statement by Bonneville, and I'd like to know what you're
14 going to do now that we are at almost 6,000 just here in the
15 Columbia Basin. The region is Northern California, Oregon,
16 Washington, Idaho, and Montana. That is the region,
17 6,000 megawatts for that region. We are approaching
18 6,000 megawatts in the Columbia Basin.

19 When you get to 6,000 megawatts then we're
20 saturated and we're going to be penetrated with more wind
21 power up to 30,000 megawatts. Every 1,200, every megawatt
22 of renewable energy is required to have a megawatt of backup
23 power provided by gas-fired turbines in this region. So for
24 6,000 megawatts we will be building -- well, let's see.
25 6,000, 1,200, that's five new gas-fired plants right there,

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1 and you'll be asked to okay or not okay sometime here very
2 shortly in the future. Then when we go to 30 megawatts
3 renewable, 30,000 megawatts of renewable energy that's going
4 to another 25 more gas-fired power plants to back up the
5 renewables. Have you thought about this? We've asked this
6 question to the EFSEC in Oregon before and they said, "Well,
7 when we get to that threshold, we'll worry about it then."
8 We are at that threshold. You're the same region, you have
9 the same responsibility as the EFSEC in Oregon, Idaho,
10 Montana. It's all one big region.

11 You've got you're approaching the 6,000 megawatts
12 here. I hate to be redundant, but you're going to be in big
13 trouble because you have to build these gas plants. Where
14 are you going to put all these, people, when it comes time
15 to start building all the gas plants and to plug in these
16 units that are already out here and putting them into a new
17 grid? We're going to have to build a whole new grid. It's
18 going to run through the taxpayer, that will be run through
19 the taxpayer. Rates are going to increase astronomically,
20 and on top of all this when we get to the saturation or the
21 penetration point, which is after saturation at 6,000
22 megawatts, up 30,000 at penetration, then all of a sudden
23 natural gas is going to go through the roof. So we're going
24 to be screwed, hard. Thank you.

25 CHAIR LUCE: All right. I appreciate your

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1 comments. I think Bonneville probably has a spot in its
2 environmental impact statement or elsewhere, other
3 Bonneville documents that looks at this wind integration
4 issue that you're referring to.

5 MR. BARKER: There is a document that was put out
6 in the beginning and it says that -- actually it says in the
7 very first paragraph that wind energy is totally
8 unsustainable.

9 CHAIR LUCE: I think that's a good issue for
10 Bonneville to wrestle with.

11 MR. BARKER: That was in the very first paragraph.

12 CHAIR LUCE: Okay. That's a good Bonneville
13 issue.

14 So I want to talk briefly about tomorrow. We have
15 a tour commencing at 10:00 a.m., Allen. That would be in
16 Underwood at 10:00 a.m. Where are we going to be in
17 Underwood?

18 MR. FIKSDAL: Underwood Community Center.

19 CHAIR LUCE: So those of you who want to come
20 along on the tour it's tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. at the
21 Underwood Community Center. You're welcome to come. We
22 can't talk to you. We're going to be observers, and you
23 shouldn't as you know talk to us and we'll try to make it
24 possible for everyone who wants to come.

25 Then tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 we're going to

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1 have -- I want to be clear about this -- another public
2 comment session for the benefit of those people who could
3 not travel from Underwood down here tonight.

4 MR. FIKSDAL: About the tour tomorrow?

5 CHAIR LUCE: Yes.

6 MR. FIKSDAL: I want to remind people that we are
7 not providing transportation for anybody that would come on
8 the tour, and we've been warned that you probably need a
9 four-wheel drive vehicle because of the wet weather and the
10 dirt roads. So be aware that the roads aren't in great
11 condition I've been informed so you have to take that into
12 consideration if you want to go along on the tour.

13 CHAIR LUCE: So 2:30 the public comment session
14 for people who were not able to come here tonight. 6:30 we
15 will have a land use hearing. I'm just going to say
16 something very briefly about the land use hearing. It's
17 required as part of our process, and I'll just read from the
18 WAC.

19 At the commencement of the public land use hearing
20 the Council shall explain the purpose of the hearing to
21 determine whether at the time of the application the
22 proposed facility was consistent and in compliance with land
23 use and zoning ordinances. So that's the issue. There is
24 also a procedure to be followed where certificates affirming
25 consistency with land use are offered and the WAC provides

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1 that the rule -- I'm just reading the rule -- contemplates
2 that applicants will enter as exhibits at the land use
3 hearing certificates from local authorities attesting to the
4 fact that the proposal is consistent and in compliance with
5 zoning plans and zoning ordinances. If that's done, then
6 such certificates are prima facie evidence on their face
7 proof of consistency and compliance.

8 So what we're going to be looking for tomorrow is
9 to find out if there's anything from the county that offers
10 consistency with land use, and other people who want to
11 comment on the land use will have an opportunity to do so.
12 And we will not make a decision tomorrow on land use, but we
13 will consider all of the comments, hopefully anything that
14 local authorities want to offer, and we will take the matter
15 under advisement.

16 So don't expect a land use consistency decision
17 tomorrow, but you should expect the right to comment on that
18 issue.

19 So thank you very much. Is there anything else
20 now?

21 All right. We're adjourned.

22 * * * * *

23 (Public comment meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.)
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25

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1 In re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project
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7 A F F I D A V I T
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9 I, Shaun Linse, CCR, do hereby certify that the
10 foregoing transcript prepared under my direction is a
11 full and complete transcript of proceedings held on
12 May 6, 2009, in Stevenson, Washington.
13
14

15 _____
16 Shaun Linse, CCR 2029
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BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of) Public Informational
Application No. 2009-01) and Scoping Meeting
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY, LLC.) Pages 1 - 108
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT)
_____)

A Public Informational and Scoping Meeting in the above matter was held on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at the Underwood Community Center, 951 Schoolhouse Road in Underwood, Washington at 2:30 p.m., before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council members.

* * * * *

CHAIR LUCE: Good afternoon. Today is May 7, the time is 2:30 p.m. My name is Jim Luce and I'm the Chair of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. That's a long name. EFSEC is the acronym. On behalf of the Council I want to thank you for coming this afternoon and participating in this meeting. I want to begin by introducing the members of the Council, and I will ask them to identify their agency that they're associated. We will begin down on my left.

MS. McDONALD: Mary McDonald, Department of Natural Resources.

MR. FRYHLING: Dick Fryhling. I'm with Department of Community Trade and Economic Development.

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1 MR. BYERS: Dick Byers, Washington Utilities and
2 Transportation Commission.

3 MR. TAYER: I'm Jeff Tayer. I'm with the
4 Department of Fish and Wildlife.

5 MS. WILSON: I'm Judy Wilson. I've been appointed
6 by Skamania County to represent Skamania County.

7 CHAIR LUCE: Now we will have staff identify
8 themselves.

9 MR. FIKSDAL: Allen Fiksdal, I'm the Manager of
10 the Energy Siting Council.

11 MR. LA SPINA: Jim La Spina, EFSEC staff.

12 MR. CREWS: Kyle Crews, Assistant Attorney
13 General.

14 JUDGE WALLIS: My name is Robert Wallis and I've
15 been appointed by the Council as an Administrative Law Judge
16 to assist the Council.

17 CHAIR LUCE: Shaun is our court reporter. We are
18 on the record. Everything that's said here and has been
19 said here so far will be transcribed. I will ask you to
20 speak slowly so that -- not real slowly but maybe in a
21 manner that will allow Shaun to do the very best job
22 recording these comments.

23 So with that, I will just say that the purpose of
24 today's meeting is to give you information about the
25 Whistling Ridge Energy Project, our review process,

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1 introduce the Counsel for the Environment, and most of all
2 get comments from all of you relative to the scoping of the
3 Environmental Impact Statement. That's one purpose of this
4 meeting. The second purpose is to get specific comments
5 that you wish to offer on the application that has been
6 prepared, and for those of you who don't have a copy of the
7 application it is on our website.

8 This meeting is being held jointly by the Energy
9 Siting Council and the Bonneville Power Administration. I
10 would ask at this point in time for the Counsel for the
11 Environment to stand up and introduce himself if he is here.
12 There's the Counsel for the Environment.

13 MR. MARVIN: Good afternoon. My name is Bruce
14 Marvin. I am the Counsel For the Environment which is a
15 statutory designation. It's part of the EFSEC process. I'm
16 an Assistant Attorney General. I'm working out of Olympia,
17 and I have contact information that will be available at the
18 back desk there. I encourage you to pick it up.

19 If you have materials that you would like me to
20 consider or if you have comments that you would like to
21 make, I invite you to either give me a call or better yet
22 send me an e-mail. In my position I in fact represent the
23 environment and I don't represent the individual or groups.
24 I am, however, interested right now in gathering facts and
25 data information about the project and its impacts, and if

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1 you're pro or con or just have a concern that you'd like to
2 raise, I'd be glad to take a look at it and I appreciate the
3 input.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can you give me your name and
5 how we contact you.

6 MR. MARVIN: My name is Bruce Marvin, and my
7 e-mail address will be available at the back desk here, but
8 it is for the record bruce1m@atg.wa.gov, and that's probably
9 the best way to contact me. My work number is 360-586-2438.
10 I can't guarantee that I will be responding back to a
11 voicemail, but if you provide me with an e-mail, I would be
12 happy to enter a dialogue that way. And I will be around
13 today and tonight if there are individuals who would like to
14 talk to me about the project. Thank you.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you, Bruce. Bruce's e-mail and
16 other contact information will be at the back with Tammy
17 Talburt. Tammy just raised her hand. She's the lady in the
18 green. She is the person who will be able to provide you
19 the best information. Mr. Fiksdal can answer questions, but
20 Tammy is the staff person who will be handling the point of
21 contact. And if you want to get on the mailing list for
22 EFSEC, she is definitely the person to see.

23 Now, do we have a representative of Bonneville
24 Power Administration present today?

25 MR. MONTANO: Yes.

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1 CHAIR LUCE: If you could come forward and
2 identify yourself, spell your name for the record, and let
3 people know about Bonneville's role and how they can work
4 with Bonneville on this project.

5 MR. MONTANO: My name is Andrew Montano, Andrew
6 M-o-n-t-a-n-o. I'm with Bonneville Power. I'll be serving
7 as the Environmental Project Manager for this
8 interconnection request. SDS Lumber has requested to
9 interconnect 17 megawatts of energy from its wind farm, and
10 it is the role of BPA to study this request and see if it is
11 feasible. If you want to make comments as you heard
12 earlier, we are doing this jointly with EFSEC. You can make
13 comments either on the BPA website or at EFSEC's website.
14 BPA is www.bpa.gov/comment. You can also reach me directly
15 by e-mail if you need. It's ammontano@epa.gov, and my phone
16 number in Portland is 503-230-4145. My information is also
17 in back. We also have a project specific website that Tammy
18 could give you, and if you have any questions please feel
19 free to call me or e-mail me.

20 CHAIR LUCE: And you'll leave that information
21 with Tammy in the back so people can get it?

22 MR. MONTANO: Yes.

23 CHAIR LUCE: So before we proceed any further, I
24 would ask Council members who are involved in this
25 particular proceeding whether they have any disclosures they

1 would like to make for the record as to past involvement in
2 Columbia Gorge issues of any kind. I guess I'll start with
3 the left.

4 MS. McDONALD: I was a forest practice forester
5 for Skamania County probably ten years ago for two to four
6 years.

7 MR. FRYHLING: Around 2000 I was the
8 representative working with Skamania County with some grant
9 funds that we provided from the Department of Community
10 Trade and Economic so I do have some contacts because I
11 worked here in the past.

12 CHAIR LUCE: My name is Jim Luce. I'm the Chair.
13 From June 1999 until September of 2001, I was a member of
14 the Columbia River Gorge Commission serving under the
15 appointment of Governor Locke.

16 MR. BYERS: I have nothing further to say.

17 MR. TAYER: Nothing here.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

19 MS. WILSON: Nothing to report.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Before we begin to receive public
21 comments, I would ask Mr. Jason Spadaro to come forward and
22 make some presentation on behalf of the applicant. That's
23 part of the EFSEC process.

24 Mr. Spadaro, the floor is all yours.

25 MR. SPADARO: Chairman Luce, Members of the

1 Commission and Members of the public, I'm going to stand to
2 the side. This is an informational presentation about the
3 project. I'd like to address the audience just as I would
4 the Council. Again, my name is Jason Spadaro, spelled
5 S-p-a-d-a-r-o, President of the SDS Lumber Company. The
6 name of this project is the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

7 SDS Lumber is in the renewable energy business,
8 the renewable resource business. Part of that is renewable
9 energy and part of it is forest production. We would like
10 to combine renewable resources, our forestry with the
11 renewable resource wind to create energy. This will be the
12 first project in the Pacific Northwest on commercial forest
13 land. We believe that forestry and wind energy are fully
14 compatible and we'll show you how they are compatible.

15 Our approach to resource management has been to
16 practice sustainable forestry. Our trees are grown on
17 longer rotations than most commercial industrial
18 forestlands. As a result we produce high quality lumber,
19 plywood, and other building products. We also generate
20 steam and electricity from the byproducts of our forest
21 operations and the renewable energy at the mill in Bingen
22 which is biomass energy. And we have been exploring the
23 potential of our commercial forestland or renewable energy
24 by wind production since the year 2002. SDS has been in the
25 Columbia Gorge for a long time. We have been locally owned

1 for over 60 years. Many of you know -- I see many familiar
2 faces in this community -- we have been committed to this
3 community for a long time and will continue to be. When
4 we're running at normal operation we have 325 employees with
5 a payroll of slightly over 14 million. Our current
6 operations with the downturn in the economy and housing
7 nationwide we're now at 250 employees.

8 This project is important to us because it has
9 value to our commercial forestlands. It also strengthens
10 and diversifies the company so that we can continue to be
11 here for another 60 years.

12 The project location -- this map may be a little
13 difficult to see from the back. This is White Salmon, the
14 community of Underwood here. This line outlines the travel
15 route of the Cook-Underwood Road. So from the project site
16 is here to the northwest of White Salmon in the east part of
17 Skamania County. This line is the border between
18 Klickitat County and Skamania County so it's abutting the
19 southern southwest corner of Skamania County or Klickitat
20 County within Skamania County.

21 I said the name is Whistling Ridge. It is named
22 that for a couple of reasons. The first is that wind does
23 actually create a whistling sound on the ridge. The DNR
24 property to the north of us and extending down onto our
25 property the geographic name of that ridge is called

1 Whistling Ridge. It's set seven miles to the northwest of
2 White Salmon. The ridge line is approximately 2,100 feet in
3 elevation. It is north and west of the Underwood Mountain,
4 and it's in the western end of the Columbia Gorge wind
5 regime.

6 A couple pictures for those of you on the site
7 tour today. Some of these will look familiar. This photo
8 in the lower right corner is the southern end of the project
9 area. We stopped on the site tour right about there. This
10 picture depicts up in this corner some of the Bonneville
11 transmission, Bonneville towers. The transmission lines are
12 through this picture. This is the view looking to the west
13 of the Little White Salmon Valley and this is the Bonneville
14 transmission line which traverses the valley and goes up and
15 over Augspuriger Ridge to the west.

16 The project will deliver with 50, approximately 50
17 turbines the number, the final number of turbines will
18 depend upon the turbine size, but assuming 50 which is
19 likely, that will be a 51.5 megawatt machine, it would be a
20 75-megawatt project. That is enough power for 20,000 homes
21 per year in the Northwest with an estimated construction
22 cost of 150 million dollars. That would add close to that
23 number in taxable value to the Skamania County taxable base,
24 property taxable value base.

25 The project will help Northwest utilities to meet

1 the renewable portfolio standard requirements. Those are
2 the renewable energy standards passed by voter initiative in
3 the state of Washington. It would interconnect to
4 Bonneville Power's regional transmission systems on the
5 site, and we are working with Bonneville and Skamania County
6 and Klickitat PUDs to enhance local electrical service and
7 reliability as a result of the project.

8 A project overview of the project area this blue
9 outline defines what we are calling the project area. This
10 dash line defines the exterior boundary of the Columbia
11 Gorge National Scenic Area. The turbine strings would be
12 located here in this mustard color region. Those are the
13 areas of our study. Crossing the site are a pair of
14 Bonneville's regional transmission system lines here and the
15 second pair to the south here and to the north is the
16 Williams Pipeline Company's natural gas line. The project
17 area is commercial forestland. It is roaded and currently
18 developed for commercial forestry purposes.

19 How we intend to match forest production and wind
20 energy is depicted in this diagram. The key with wind
21 turbines at an elevated point and the blades and the
22 generator up at the elevation is to have an undisrupted flow
23 of wind through the blade zone of the turbine. With
24 forestry trees growing, the trees need to be limited at
25 heights so they do not interfere with that flow of wind

1 through the generating zone of the turbine. On a ridge
2 line -- and let me back up. The maximum tree height within
3 a near distance of the turbines is 50 feet tree height in
4 order to not interfere with that wind flow. The topography
5 that is trailing away on the leading edge or the trailing
6 edge of the turbine trees could grow to their maximum
7 potential tree height as is the case on part of our site
8 without any kind of interference or alteration of our forest
9 or management practices. Closer into the turbine there will
10 be alterations of our forestry management practices. We
11 will have to manage shorter rotations; perhaps they're grown
12 for biomass production or alternative forest crop that is
13 grown that stays within that 50-foot tree height limit. And
14 then within a zone from 50 feet out to 150 feet the maximum
15 feet height would be 15 feet. From 50 feet to the turbine
16 base that would be the cleared area that is gravelled and
17 used for maintenance operations. That is a 50-foot radius
18 by the way.

19 So three zones: 50-foot radius of cleared area,
20 150-foot radius of 15-foot tree heights, and then out to
21 500 feet in a quadrant centered on the prevailing wind
22 direction and in the upwind direction and the trailing wind
23 direction out to 500 feet with a maximum tree height of
24 50 feet. But in most cases we calculated the acreage in
25 most cases trees are allowed to grow given the topography

1 and siting of the turbine will be allowed to continue to
2 grow our trees without alteration of forest or management
3 practices out to that distance.

4 The project provides economic stimulus during
5 construction with an average of 143 full-time workers over
6 the 12-month period of construction, 18 million in payroll,
7 plus 13.2 million in local purchases by those construction
8 workers using a multiplier effect that is the equivalent of
9 107 new jobs created for the local area during construction.
10 The ongoing economic benefits we estimate eight to nine new
11 permanent jobs with a 3.75 million annual payroll. Those
12 employees are expected to spend local, could be expected to
13 spend 900,000 a year in local benefits and 730,000 per year
14 in new tax revenues to Skamania County as a result of this
15 new value brought into the tax base.

16 In conclusion, we feel strongly that this is the
17 right project, in the right place, at the right time. By
18 that we mean there is wind, there's abundant wind on the
19 site. We have the potential for practicing forestry and
20 wind energy. It has interconnection to the Bonneville
21 transmission system. It is outside the National Scenic
22 Area. All of those things we believe make it the right
23 project, at the right place, and certainly at the right time
24 as we are through voter initiative and other requirements
25 meeting renewable energy.

1 We're grateful for the County's support of the
2 project, we're appreciative of EFSEC's process, and we look
3 for public scrutiny and the process that will result and
4 we'll work hard to earn the endorsement and approval by
5 EFSEC and the public.

6 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Appreciate
7 that.

8 Mr. Spadaro will be available I think later to
9 speak with you individually.

10 Mr. Fiksdal, do you want to explain the Council's
11 process, give us an overview of what it is that we do?

12 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Again, my name is Allen Fiksdal. I'm the EFSEC
14 manager. Just a little background on the Energy Facility
15 Site Evaluation Council. It was created by the legislature
16 in about 1970. At that time in the state of Washington
17 there were several nuclear power plants that were being
18 proposed to be built in different portions of the state and
19 the legislature created this body to review those
20 applications and determine whether they should be
21 constructed or not through the course of the years. The
22 Council has gained authority over different types of energy
23 facilities. It has authority over thermal energy
24 facilities, anything that generates heat and usually boils
25 water to create steam to generate electricity. They would

1 have to be 350 megawatts or greater and then they would come
2 under the Council jurisdiction. A few years ago the
3 legislature changed our law and allowed alternative energy
4 facilities -- those like wind, solar, tidal wave, biomass --
5 to be able to opt into the Council's process. So the wind
6 facilities if they want to the developer could choose to
7 come to the state or they could choose to go through the
8 local county and/or city or whatever is the allocated
9 process.

10 Our process is quite rigorous. We essentially
11 have a three track process. We have a sign over there in
12 the corner that has a whole bunch of arrows and timelines
13 down the side and some pictures. That's Jason holding it
14 up. I can't read from here. I'm sure you can't read it
15 unless you go up and look at it.

16 But essentially we are at the very beginning of
17 the Council's process. The Whistling Ridge application was
18 submitted to the Council in mid March of this year. We are
19 at the very beginning. We are required to hold these public
20 information and scoping meetings and we will be holding
21 other meetings throughout the process.

22 One track that we're on is -- I've mentioned there
23 are three -- is the land use consistency. The Council is
24 required to determine if the project is consistent in
25 applying the local land use plans and zoning. Tonight at

1 6:30 in this room we will be holding a land use consistency
2 hearing and ultimately the Council will have to make a
3 decision whether it's consistent or not.

4 The second track that we go down is we are
5 required by the State Environmental Policy Act to review the
6 potential environmental impacts of this project, and we will
7 be producing an Environmental Impact Statement and we are
8 working with Bonneville Power Administration because under
9 their laws they have to look at the environmental impacts
10 and so we are going to do that together, issue one
11 Environmental Impact Statement. It will be BPA/EFSEC
12 NEPA/SEPA are the letters. That's EFSEC/BPA NEPA/SEPA EIS.
13 It took me 20 years of government to be able to speak in
14 just letters.

15 But that process we're taking your comments today.
16 We took them last night. We're asking what you think the
17 Environmental Impact Statement should have in it. You can
18 give oral statements today. We have comment forms in the
19 back. BPA has comment forms, we have comment forms. BPA
20 has a website. You can e-mail it to us. They all will go
21 into one pot basically. We share everything, and so you
22 don't have to make two comments about the same thing, one to
23 BPA and one to EFSEC. You make it to EFSEC or you make it
24 to BPA. We will both see that same comment. So it's all in
25 one group.

1 Eventually we will develop a Draft Environmental
2 Impact Statement. We will issue that for public comment.
3 We will be back in this area to get your oral comments and
4 receive your written comments. We don't think that's going
5 to happen until maybe this winter. Their company still has
6 some biological studies to do this spring and fall so we
7 aren't probably going to get to that for a while.

8 The third track that EFSEC has is a little
9 different than most permitting processes, and that's an
10 adjudicative proceeding. This is a trial-like hearing that
11 the Council holds. At the appropriate time the Council will
12 ask any person, entities, groups, or government agencies if
13 they want to intervene, formally intervene in the hearing,
14 the adjudicative hearing. They the Council will review
15 those petitions for intervention and determine whether to
16 grant intervention or not. Those that are granted
17 intervention are able to bring expert witnesses to testify
18 before the Council. Those expert witnesses are then
19 cross-examined as in court by the other parties to the
20 proceeding. Those cross-examinations and that testimony is
21 done before the Council and Council uses that testimony as
22 part of that record for making a recommendation to the
23 Governor.

24 After we're through with those three tracks -- the
25 land use consistency, the environmental review, and the

1 adjudicative proceedings -- the Council takes all of that
 2 information and will look at all of that information, read
 3 all of the transcripts, read all of the comments, read the
 4 EISs, and listen to all the testimony, and they will make a
 5 determination whether to recommend to the Governor of the
 6 State of Washington to approve or deny this project.
 7 Ultimately the Governor makes that decision.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Can she override an EFSEC
 9 recommendation?

10 MR. FIKSDAL: The Governor it basically says in
 11 the law if the Council recommends approval they will
 12 recommend the conditions for construction and the operation
 13 of the facility. If they were to recommend approval, the
 14 Governor could say so or the Governor could say yes.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: And impose different conditions?

16 MR. FIKSDAL: The history has been if the Governor
 17 has had questions about the project our governor has
 18 remanded the recommendation back to the Council for
 19 reconsideration of the specific topics that she or he were
 20 concerned with. It's happened both under Governor Locke and
 21 under Governor Gregoire. So the Governor can remand it back
 22 to the Council.

23 I think that's it, Mr. Chairman.

24 CHAIR LUCE: I think that's it as well. The only
 25 thing I was going to add is one of the reasons that the

1 Energy Facility Siting Council was established was to look
 2 at energy projects on a statewide basis, particular energy
 3 structures throughout the state. So when we look at a
 4 project we look at what's consistent with our policy
 5 directives, the benefits to the entire State of Washington.

6 Now, I would like to get started here in just a
 7 second, and I would just notice that Representative Bruce
 8 Chandler is with us. I guess I didn't see your name, but I
 9 don't know if you have any comments to offer, Representative
 10 Chandler. We would be glad to begin with you if you wish to
 11 offer comments and everyone is going to be treated equally.

12 Limit your oral comments to four minutes, please
 13 and I do means four minutes. Last night we had some
 14 extensive comments. Those are always appreciated and we
 15 would respectfully request that you submit comments in
 16 excess of four minutes in writing. If it turns out that you
 17 agree with someone just say so. That's all you need to say
 18 is you affirm what the previous speaker or other speaker
 19 said.

20 We will be calling three individuals at a time.
 21 We have two chairs behind the podium or we will have
 22 shortly, and we want to make sure everyone has a chance to
 23 speak. So after Representative Chandler I would ask Mr.
 24 Truitt for Skamania County, John Sherry I believe the Board
 25 of Skamania County. All speakers are requested to identify

1 themselves, spell their name for the court reporter, and
 2 give us your address.

3 Representative Chandler.

4 REPRESENTATIVE CHANDLER: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I
 5 just want to welcome you folks to the Columbia Gorge. It's
 6 the 15th Legislative District. I appreciate you being down
 7 here and I especially appreciate the commission being
 8 willing to hold multiple hearings and to really take the
 9 time to take all the input. There is a lot at stake, not
 10 just in this project but in the long-term future regarding
 11 wind generation, and the 15th District is at the heart of
 12 all that. I would like to have you welcome my new seat mate
 13 for the last four weeks. His name is David Taylor. He's
 14 succeeded Dan Newhouse when Dan went to the Department of
 15 Agriculture, and he's here toward the back.

16 CHAIR LUCE: Dave, raise your hand and wave it.

17 REPRESENTATIVE CHANDLER: So you're going to be
 18 seeing a lot of him for a long time so I wanted to make sure
 19 you guys met him.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Well, thank you very much. We
 21 appreciate your time here showing interest in this project.

22 REPRESENTATIVE CHANDLER: Thank you.

23 CHAIR LUCE: Dave, did you want to say anything?

24 Dave says that he'll remain silent. That's
 25 interesting. I'm not sure that's an auspicious start for a

1 new politician but, Dave, whatever works.

2 So right before we begin to get comments everybody
 3 check your cell phone and make sure it's turned off. You
 4 won't agree necessarily with everything everybody says, but
 5 I would ask you to be respectful of their views, and I would
 6 now call Mr. Truitt, W.D. Truitt from Skamania County to
 7 come forward to offer whatever comments you wish to offer.

8 COMMENTS BY W.D. TRUITT

9 My name is W.D. Truitt. I'm District 2 Board
 10 Commissioner. I am also on the Skamania County Planning
 11 Commission, and we thank you guys for being here. We, the
 12 Planning Commission, went through a whole bunch of these for
 13 a long time in trying to shake all this out.

14 Speaking from the Port's point of view, we are pro
 15 wind power. It's for the tax base for the county, for the
 16 job providing. What we do is we try to provide an
 17 infrastructure so businesses do move into the county and so
 18 they can provide jobs for the workforce in the county.

19 The Planning Commission looked at this a lot and
 20 where its at and, you know, we listened to a lot of public
 21 input and we decided it should be taken on a case-by-case
 22 basis with the process for review as it is tough, and there
 23 is a lot of input towards that.

24 I just, we're just in support of the thing, of the
 25 project. When I walked in the door a gentleman gave me a

1 folder about agricultural tourism and how this would impact
2 that. I've seen the people who own the property here change
3 it from orchards. I grew up in Willard. My father worked
4 for a garage door company. Grew up here, lived here all my
5 life. And they've changed from orchards to vineyards, and
6 they own property. They did what they wanted to stay with
7 the economy and the market. That's all SDS is trying to do,
8 and I am in support of the project.

9 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. Mr. Truitt, your name and
10 spell it.

11 MR. TRUITT: T-r-u-i-t-t.

12 CHAIR LUCE: And your address is?

13 MR. TRUITT: P.O. Box 215, Carson, Washington
14 98610.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

16 MR. TRUITT: Thank you.

17 CHAIR LUCE: As I said, I believe additional
18 comments are certainly possible, and we've asked that you
19 provide those May 18, any additional comments in writing by
20 May 18 close of business. They can be e-mailed. They do
21 not have to be posted with the post office.

22 Next speaker will be John Sherry, Port of Skamania
23 County. Mr. Sherry, going once, twice. We'll move ahead to
24 the next speaker. Mr. Bronsveld, Stephen Bronsveld.

25 Those of you who spoke last night, and I believe

1 Mr. Bronsveld is one of those people, I would ask you not to
2 repeat the comments that you made last night. If you have
3 additional comments that you want the Council to consider
4 within the four-minute rule, I appreciate hearing those.

5 COMMENTS BY STEPHEN BRONSVELD

6 Yes, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to you
7 again. I've reviewed the applicant's submission to you and
8 I did have a few comments about that that I wish to put
9 forward. It's nice to meet the Counsel for the Environment.
10 I would encourage the Counsel for the Environment to
11 consider the local community and its normal mode of industry
12 as a cultural resource.

13 In the application it's in Section 4422, and on
14 this diagram over here the applicant states that the
15 increase in property tax revenue to the county would be
16 \$731,500 and would represent a permanent annual increase of
17 7.6 percent to the current 2007 year. I don't see anything
18 in the application that supports the claim that it will be a
19 permanent revenue stream so I would like to point that out.
20 If there is, I'd like to know what it was.

21 Also in the application you drove up there today
22 and you went by the intersection of Kollack-Knapp and
23 Scoggins roads. There's a bunch of photographs in this
24 application, and none of them show the Rawley's house that's
25 on that corner that you drove right around. That road makes

1 a 150-degree turnaround. You were there. You saw it. You
2 stopped and you took a look at it, and I'm curious as to why
3 that house was not depicted in all of those photos when that
4 house could be severely impacted by the haul route and road
5 use procedure that takes place in Skamania County here.

6 And that's the next thing I want to talk about
7 because in the application the applicant states that all of
8 the road use access and haul route issues would be handled
9 under Title 21 of Skamania County, and therefore go through
10 a county approval process for determining if there is in
11 fact a legal route for delivering these items to the
12 proposed site, and I suggest that process be completed
13 before we proceed with this application because it's
14 fundamental. It's a threshold issue whether or not there's
15 a legal route for those items to get up there. So I would
16 request that that issue go before Skamania County as it
17 should and states in the applicant's submission and that
18 those determinations about those routes and as it says in
19 here in the application the applicant says right of way and
20 ownership, right of way ownership and easement determination
21 would be required at those three intersections:
22 Kollack-Knapp Road, Scoggins Road, and the intersection with
23 the private roads as listed in their thing. So why don't we
24 settle those right-of-way and ownership easement
25 determinations before we proceed with this siting. So

1 that's what I would like to see happen there.

2 There's one other thing on page 4339 of the
3 application states that the traffic southbound on
4 Cook-Underwood Road would increase from 20 vehicles an hour
5 during peak time during construction up to 285 vehicles per
6 hour at 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on Cook-Underwood Road. And I can
7 tell you that would represent an unacceptable increase in
8 traffic and therefore danger to the community. That impact
9 is not being addressed in this application.

10 It also mentions in Section 4416 that fire
11 protection from Underwood. Underwood would respond to
12 incidents at this site and the cost incurred by Underwood
13 Fire Department has not been addressed. In fact, none of
14 the costs associated that's for the county have been
15 identified and those are significant impacts on us. The
16 county's in trouble for money. We don't get a project that
17 make us lose any money. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Mr. Bronsveld,
19 we have your name and spelling and address from last time,
20 but let's have it one more time.

21 MR. BRONSVELD: My name is Stephen S-t-e-p-h-e-n
22 Bronsveld, B-r-o-n-s-v-e-l-d. My address is 1111 Scoggins
23 Road, Underwood, Washington.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

25 Mr. Steve Curley.

COMMENTS BY STEVE CURLEY

1 Nice to be back. Steve Curley, 10381
 2 Cook-Underwood Road, right up hill here in Underwood.
 3 I was not going to speak again today because I
 4 know I don't want to take up too much time, but I had some
 5 business in the Dalles today and I drove to the Dalles, and
 6 I was coming back through Mosier. And once you're in Mosier
 7 you're driving down the Gorge, and why don't you just look
 8 right now and you can see Underwood Mountain. And I'm not
 9 sure when you took your tour today did you get a view
 10 looking east down the Gorge? Okay. So you saw that view
 11 where the Hood River Toll Bridge is located right here in
 12 our lap. So obviously when you're -- most of you folks are
 13 from Olympia or anybody here local? Yeah, I mean you're in
 14 the Gorge driving across the bridge you look up and see what
 15 is about to happen right here in the Columbia Gorge National
 16 Scenic Area.

17 But do you know what the real cost of this
 18 development? Does anybody really understand what these
 19 costs are going to be? The impact on degrading the beauty
 20 of the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area is reduction of
 21 visitors, the reduction in room tax, the reduction of
 22 receipts to potential tourism is something that should be
 23 addressed and probably looked at. The reduction of property
 24 values. People unwilling to invest here which impacts tax
 25

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1 values, of course, which I think most people are looking at
 2 the tax impacts when you put this thing up coming into the
 3 county. But what if my property values go down? And who's
 4 going to tell me what the costs are or will be?

5 And when you drive right back through Bickleton --
 6 I mean have you ever been through Bickleton and seen the
 7 wind farms out there? Do you know where Bickleton is? It's
 8 east of here about an hour. You know, you're driving
 9 through and you see these wind farms all over the place.
 10 You know, it's kind of cool, but, you know, you drive
 11 through the Columbia Gorge and you see these wind farms
 12 right here in the National Scenic Area it's a different
 13 view. I recommend there needs to be an economic impact
 14 study to understand what these costs are, not just an
 15 environmental but an economic. And Eric Popey of Popey
 16 Associates in Vancouver can help you out with that, Eco
 17 Northwest in Salem, and the beauty of the Gorge is what
 18 attracts world class businesses here because of the
 19 livability and it will be a large impact on all of us now.

20 Now, Jason says that it's the right project, the
 21 right place, and the right time. You know this is the wrong
 22 place. This project should be out east not here in the
 23 Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. Thank you for being
 24 here.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

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1 Mr. Stevenson followed by Chris Lloyd and James
 2 Buckland.

3 Mr. Stevenson, I think you have an announcement to
 4 make about your vehicle before we get started.

5 MR. STEVENSON: Yes, I do. I loaned my car for
 6 the tour and came back and got in a different car, both the
 7 same cars, and I was hoping somebody would show up and have
 8 my car, and I guess I have theirs.

9 CHAIR LUCE: We'll send out someone to scout the
 10 parking lot. Mr. Stevenson, the floor is yours.

11 MR. STEVENSON: Is this here okay?

12 CHAIR LUCE: I think we can hear you well.

COMMENTS BY WALLY STEVENSON

13 I haven't got to much to say, but I thought
 14 probably since I'm the one that maybe started this whole
 15 problem by starting the mill here 63 years ago, and we've
 16 continued to work on that mill to make it an excellent mill
 17 that stays and runs efficiently. We've hired many, many
 18 people and have enjoyed the whole deal. We've kept at it
 19 continuously and we have Jason. As you might tell I'm a
 20 little long in tooth, and I'm going to be 91 years old
 21 pretty quick. So we have people to take over and we hope
 22 this thing goes. We hope that we continue to help all the
 23 people in the country and help ourselves as well.

24 Now, I'm going to give you a little rundown of my
 25

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1 life which it's pretty simple, but I was five years old when
 2 my dad became a partner in Broughton Lumber Company and we
 3 were raised at the logging camp and in Portland because we
 4 went to school in Portland. And then after school, after
 5 the local schools in Portland, went to University of
 6 Washington, joined the Navy; was in the Navy ROTC program,
 7 ended up getting out of the Navy, graduated, and went
 8 directly into World War II. Spent five years in World War
 9 II, was involved in the D-day in France, and was a captain
 10 of the 65-crew subchaser and also spent a year and a half in
 11 Alaska there.

12 So I've done quite a few things before I got
 13 started here. I couldn't wait to get out of the Navy to get
 14 started with the sawmill, having been raised in a sawmill
 15 which I did with my brother and my dad's foreman of
 16 Broughton Lumber Company. The three of us took off on our
 17 own and we've enjoyed it. We fought from day one that we
 18 wanted to have forestland, and we immediately started buying
 19 forestland and that was my specialty. And we started out
 20 the first piece I bought in about 1947 was a ten-acre piece
 21 and we've been going at it ever since. We're now able to
 22 about halfway sustain our own operation and we buy logs in
 23 the outside, and we think it's a pretty good way to go.

24 I will look at a couple notes here. Now, we
 25 started SDS in 1946. On reforestation I planted my first

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1 trees when I was ten years old. In fact, they've been
2 harvested since that time. And it has been our main thing
3 is the reforestation. We've done that long before it was
4 required, and we have just completed a ten-acre seed farm
5 that's to raise our own seeds. It's sitting right up in the
6 middle of this area, and it's about two years old now so it
7 will be another few years and we will be able to furnish our
8 own seeds.

9 But we're here to stay and anyways we think that
10 this is a very good way to get into the business that will
11 help keep White Salmon and Underwood and everything alive
12 around here. So I just want to say that we appreciate you
13 people coming here and we're very serious about this and we
14 intend to do our best to do it right. Thank you.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. Mr. Stevenson, is Wally
16 with a Y?

17 MR. STEVENSON: Yes.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Is Stevenson with a --

19 MR. STEVENSON: S-t-e-v-e-n-s-o-n.

20 CHAIR LUCE: And your address?

21 MR. STEVENSON: 705 Oak Street, White Salmon,
22 Washington.

23 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much for coming.

24 Mr. Chris Lloyd.

25 ///

COMMENTS BY CHRIS LLOYD

1 My name is Chris Lloyd, spelled L-l-o-o-y-d. I live
2 at 81 Scenic Heights Road in Underwood which is right up the
3 road. It's actually a road that's kitty corner to
4 Kollack-Knapp Road where they're going to make the turn with
5 the equipment.

6 First of all, thank you Mr. Chairman and other
7 Council members, Council persons, for letting me speak. I
8 also think it's very good that you had a meeting here rather
9 than just keeping all the meetings in Stevenson since
10 Stevenson is 30 minutes away on highway. It's quite far
11 from really the zone that's being impacted. I did have to
12 take a vacation day to be here. The times are not great for
13 a lot of people so I hope that will be addressed in the
14 future.

15 So green energy is good or else that is what it
16 says in the marketing brochure. There is a place for
17 everything. Yes, I'm saying not in my backyard, but really
18 I'm saying not in this part of the Gorge, a place where
19 there is a new economic engine that is thriving, and that is
20 tourism, recreation, and the draw of a better lifestyle.

21 The application makes it sound like this is one
22 sad and destitute place with no future, and for sure plenty
23 of people are hurting from the current economic slowdown,
24 but this is no reason to trade our long-term economic future
25

1 and the future that could be for one that has a short influx
2 in capital and minimal jobs, the most lucrative of which do
3 not come from the local community. The long-term tax
4 revenue from property taxes on depreciating windmill
5 equipment is dubious at best as a significant revenue source
6 for our future. (\$150 million to construct) but (87.5 tax
7 base). Basically even if you are for the windmills, our
8 county government is getting hung out to dry on the
9 long-term revenue stream being collected while the huge
10 profits and taxpayer funded subsidies are going directly
11 into the developer's pockets.

12 Look at the communities here: Underwood, Mill A,
13 White Salmon, Bingen, Hood River as examples, the real
14 economic driver is this new economy. Economic engines that
15 truly benefit a community are all inclusive and long
16 lasting. This is a short jolt of money that doesn't even
17 trickle down in a meaningful way to local people here. Then
18 the benefit degrades rapidly over time while we are left
19 with this legacy forever impacting future possibilities.

20 There are many people here in Underwood and Mill A
21 who commute down the hill everyday to work in Hood River or
22 White Salmon or Bingen so it's impossible to look at the
23 total picture without taking into account all the
24 communities surrounding this site not just Skamania County.
25 This is worth noting since the movement of heavy wide-load

1 equipment up Cook-Underwood will impact people's ability to
2 get to their jobs and go about their daily business, as well
3 as block escape routes in a wildfire like the one that raced
4 up the bluff only a few short years ago. I actually
5 personally witnessed all the people being evacuated from
6 their houses at that time.

7 As far as the environmental impacts, I truly hope
8 that this project is not a series of rubber stamps for wind
9 energy expansion without looking at which places are
10 unsuitable for such expansion based on factors such as
11 proximity to local communities and residences and the fact
12 that these windmills are being placed in forestland. This
13 should give everyone pause for thought. This is not a
14 farmer's field or an arid desert. This is a forest that has
15 supposedly been sustainably logged to help protect the
16 ecosystem it supports. It directly borders a community and
17 residences as well as the protected National Scenic Area
18 itself. It was interesting to find in the application that
19 some of the protective species preferred forest habitats
20 characterized by multilayered canopy and a high incidence of
21 large trees.

22 It also goes on to say that no late-serial forests
23 are present within the project site. Well, they were
24 present a few short years ago until SDS decided to remove
25 the last of them. There are still many species of large

1 predator and prey that call it home or migrate past it and
 2 birds such as Eagles, Owls, Osprey. The application also
 3 says the project has been planned and designed to eliminate
 4 or fully mitigate all environmental impacts. If the
 5 committee does end up recommending approval of this
 6 installation,

7 I hope they will make every attempt to truly
 8 mitigate the effects of such a development on the
 9 surrounding communities and environment. Getting close.

10 Any regard to zoning should take into account
 11 appropriate areas large of scale industrial installations
 12 and expansion. Remember that 450-foot windmills are half
 13 the height of the bluff at its highest point. They pierce
 14 the skyline and have bright red flashing lights at night.
 15 If you have not done so yet, try driving out east at night
 16 and see the sea of blinding red.

17 The windmills made a mockery of the restrictions
 18 most landowners in this community face who are not excluded
 19 from the scenic area and its rules. The impact to the
 20 scenic area and its zoning is horrendous. Everyone in this
 21 community pays a high price for the protection of the scenic
 22 area. To not include this as a significant factor in the
 23 approval process is to turn a blind eye. It weakens the
 24 foundation for protection of the entire area, including its
 25 burgeoning economy, and this effect should be considered

1 regardless of whether the windmills themselves are placed
 2 within it. Remember that SDS land was excluded from scenic
 3 area rules in order to protect timber jobs and timber
 4 resources.

5 In conclusion, I would plead the committee to
 6 fairly assess all sides of the argument and validate any and
 7 all claims, Then provide a fair and unbalanced assessment to
 8 the Governor.

9 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. It looks like you've
 10 gotten your comments written out. If you want to provide
 11 those in writing that would also be helpful.

12 Next speaker.

13 COMMENTS BY JAMES BUCKLAND

14 My name is James Buckland. I live up in Mill A
 15 and I don't have much to say about this. Just that everyone
 16 talks about the impact and it's going to impact my view
 17 everyday. I come down the end of Jessup Road which comes
 18 into Cook-Underwood and boom it's right there. I've looked
 19 at that mountain for lots of years. It's beautiful watching
 20 the sun come up over it now when you're looking up there.
 21 It's not going to be the same. The issue of the beacon
 22 lights on top of that at night, my sons and I used to lay
 23 out in the yard in the evenings, nice dark sky, and watch
 24 the meteor showers and stars. It looks like now from what
 25 we're hearing there's a chance that we're not going to be

1 able to see those stars as well just because of the light
 2 function. I don't know. I haven't seen that yet, but
 3 that's just what we've been told.

4 The other aspect is I'm going to have this in my
 5 backyard. It's going to impact my life and I feel that, you
 6 know, SDS has been the background of this county around here
 7 for a long time, and they've closed the woods down now. I
 8 raised my boys hunting and fishing in those woods and
 9 horseback riding and now that's closed down to us. So it's
 10 like I don't know. There's been rumors around that they've
 11 done that because of the vandalism and other people are
 12 saying they're just kind of upset that they're being opposed
 13 for this windmill project so they shut it down. So now
 14 anyone who walks out there -- I mean I can't even walk my
 15 dog out in the woods anymore. It's a \$250 fine for
 16 trespassing, and recently someone just got stopped in the
 17 forest and warned. Hey, we'll let you go this time which is
 18 good, but it's a \$300 fine.

19 So if we're going to have to live with these
 20 things here, I hope they can see to opening the woods at
 21 least so we can enjoy what we used to enjoy. I mean we are
 22 going to be impacted by these things. I don't want to see
 23 them there. I'm not going to fib to you. I don't want to
 24 see them at all, but I just hope they will open the land
 25 back up so we can use it. That's all I have to say.

1 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. I appreciate
 2 that.

3 Mike Eastwick. Then after Mike, Rick Aramburu,
 4 and after Rick it will be Rebecca Stonestreet.

5 Good afternoon, sir. If you could state your name
 6 and spell it and give your address as well it'd be much
 7 appreciated.

8 COMMENTS BY MIKE EASTWICK

9 My name is Mike Eastwick, E-a-s-t-w-i-c-k. I live
 10 at 62 Beach Lane, Underwood, Washington, just up the hill
 11 here.

12 Some of this you heard last time. I'm going to
 13 try and repeat it because I think it's important. Given the
 14 uniqueness of this project, including its forest-based
 15 setting closest to the National Scenic Area, closest to
 16 residential areas, and there are several aspects that I hope
 17 that you will consider carefully because of those reasons.

18 Regarding the environment a lot of people are
 19 talking about the visual impact of the Gorge. As it's
 20 currently defined the project will be visible from all
 21 nationally designated key viewing sites in the mid Columbia
 22 region. This would be a horrible inexcusable degradation of
 23 our National Scenic Treasure. In addition, as a member of
 24 the Skamania County Agri-Tourism Association, I also believe
 25 that the turbines sited in the scenic area will have a

1 negative financial impact to our tourism business. Site the
2 turbines so they cannot be seen from key viewing areas.

3 Also there is a potential for elk and other large
4 animal movement to be modified due to this wall of turbines
5 that is going to span the current corridor for animal
6 movement. Along with the large animals will come predators.
7 We have Cougars in this area. They will be redirected. The
8 question is where will they go? Most likely to the south of
9 the wall of turbines. That means they're going to be now
10 going through residential and agricultural areas. Let me
11 tell you elk and deer cause major damage to agricultural
12 products, not to mention the predators in the residential
13 areas will not be safe for our community. I would suggest
14 that you delete the "A Towers" to allow the corridor for the
15 animals to continue to cross without pushing them into the
16 residential areas.

17 Regarding land use, as you know Skamania County
18 tried to update the zoning to support industrial facilities
19 in the county. It's called Title 21, and as you know that
20 has been stopped temporarily. It's interesting. It's well
21 documented what the public thought about this zoning draft
22 that they had come up with. If you look at the statistics
23 80 percent of all comments, all the oral comments made about
24 the zoning said they wanted setbacks for industrial
25 facilities, all kinds of industrial facilities to be greater

1 than one mile; yet, the county did not listen to this.

2 CHAIR LUCE: We're going to have a land use
3 hearing this evening. I think those comments will be very
4 helpful, but would be more helpful this evening. Do you
5 have them in writing that you can submit them now?

6 MR. EASTWICK: Sure. The application mentions no
7 load limits for the transportation route; that there are no
8 load limits on the transportation route. I would suggest
9 that that is a positive spin. I would say there's load
10 limits that have never been determined or at least set into
11 the law. I can still remember when Cook-Underwood collapsed
12 just above Broughton Mill, and it had to be rebuilt to the
13 north. This is a slide area so I just would suggest that
14 you have someone take a look at actual load testing of the
15 route.

16 The planned route goes through Underwood and its
17 on residential streets and, in fact, the Cook-Underwood is
18 the main arterial residential street. Figuring seven extra
19 wide trucks per turbine that means that we're going to have
20 approximately 700 trips up and down of these huge trucks
21 through the residential site. If this thing has to happen,
22 I would like to see that there are some controls to we'll
23 call to the traffic window or the trucking window. Right
24 now the application says they're going to be doing this from
25 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. That's ridiculous in a residential

1 area. You should limit this to times when there is no
2 school bus traffic. You should limit it to times there is
3 no commuting to and from work and you should also limit it
4 to just weekdays. That way the tourism and the scenic area
5 will be less impacted because we do have most of our
6 visitors on the weekends.

7 In addition, I think that there needs to be some
8 special logistic considerations if this project goes through
9 regarding emergency vehicles, and they should be targeted at
10 these transportation windows as well. These roads are not
11 wide. These are not four-lane highways like they are out
12 east here where all the traffic for the turbines goes. This
13 is a two-lane country road and a fire truck will not be able
14 to get by one of these wide loads. So anyway there's a
15 logistic challenge. We need to have emergency vehicles be
16 able to access all Underwood during these traffic windows.

17 And in addition, we would need to have enhanced or
18 supplemental police enforcement of the traffic windows and
19 suppress breaking laws. These huge trucks down the hill are
20 going to have trouble, and the other roads' safety laws
21 should be further enforced.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. We'd appreciate
23 you submitting those comments in writing.

24 Mr. Aramburu, four minutes. Also we don't want to
25 see a lawyer with a poster board. It reminds me of my days

1 before the court so we will enforce the four-minute rule.

2 TESTIMONY OF RICHARD ARAMBURU

3 I'm Richard Aramburu. My office is 720 Third
4 Avenue, Suite 2112, Seattle, 98104 and I'm here today
5 speaking on behalf of Save our Scenic Area or SOSA. We're
6 going to be providing some detailed scoping comments to you
7 by the deadline of the 18th, but I want to address four
8 points with you today concerning the project and the scoping
9 for the EIS.

10 Point No. 1, the Council has apparently authorized
11 the applicant to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement
12 for this proposal. It is done so without any record of why
13 that was done in that manner when other choices exist such
14 as it being done by a contractor for the Council. It's
15 absolutely illegal for BPA to allow an applicant generate an
16 EIS. This is a big mistake. You should reverse that and do
17 your own EIS, point one.

18 Point 2, the project that is being announced today
19 is not in fact the entire project that's being proposed by
20 the applicant. We learned from the applicant's website and
21 from information provided on that website that in fact the
22 applicant is intending and has filed an application with DNR
23 to extend this proposal to the north of the project area on
24 approximately 2,500 acres of DNR property to add an
25 additional 30 turbines to this proposal. That's a proposal

1 that's been made formally to DNR. We're going to address
 2 this in our comments with you, but we think it's important
 3 that the scope of the EIS be extended to the additional
 4 turbines that are being developed in this area mainly
 5 because the applicant has said that's what they're going to
 6 do and also because the turbines that would be generated in
 7 this location would rely upon the substation which you all
 8 saw this morning for the connection to the BPA transmission
 9 grid. So if this is being developed in this area, it must
 10 attach to the grid at the substation on the 230, 115 kV
 11 lines. That makes this project very much dependent on this
 12 location and would generate additional momentum for this
 13 project. So the EIS needs to include the environmental
 14 aspects of the proposal already made by the applicant to
 15 proceed and develop on the DNR property, Point No. 2.

16 Point No. 3, the involvement of DNR in this
 17 project and the fact that this project will facilitate
 18 development on DNR property raises questions as to whether
 19 or not this Council passes on the Whistling Ridge proposal
 20 should include the representative of DNR when DNR has a
 21 vested interest in this development because the development
 22 will provide a connection to the grid for possible uses on
 23 DNR property.

24 The fourth point -- I'm going to keep to my four
 25 minutes -- is to ask the commission for the period of time

1 from January 13th to January 22nd of this year when it was
 2 so bloody cold all over the Northwest how many megawatts of
 3 power came from wind energy? Does anybody know? None. For
 4 nine days not withstanding all this business about installed
 5 capacity there wasn't a single megawatt of power that came
 6 from wind energy to the Northwest grid when the Northwest
 7 grid was running from 9,500 to 11,000 megawatts. That's
 8 because all of this depends on the wind blowing. If it
 9 doesn't blow, there is no energy. So when you look at this
 10 capacity, it's not like capacity from other sources of
 11 energy.

12 I'll be back tonight to address land use
 13 consistency issues.

14 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much for the time. We
 15 look forward to hearing from you tonight.

16 Rebecca Stonestreet.

17 Look, I'm cognizant of the fact you appreciate
 18 some of the comments. Your spontaneous applause or
 19 otherwise is something that's not necessary at this point in
 20 time or at any point in time for that matter. We will all
 21 listen carefully and we'll not be swayed one way or the
 22 other.

23 So, Rebecca, you're up.

24 COMMENTS BY REBECCA STONESTREET

25 Thank you. Thank you all for being here. My name

1 is Rebecca Stonestreet and that's R-e-b-e-c-c-a
 2 S-t-o-n-e-s-t-r-e-e-t. I live at 4491 Cook-Underwood Road,
 3 Mill A, Washington. I've lived in Mill A since 1996. I'm
 4 against the proposed Whistling Ridge Project for several
 5 reasons, and I feel like my head is just cocked, and I'm
 6 going to get more straight here. I am at the same time a
 7 proponent for solar and wind energy, but more importantly I
 8 am a supporter of conservation which I never hear about.

9 I live in Mill A, a great community. I moved for
 10 the creeks, the community, the visual stimulation, the
 11 Gifford Pinchot is not very far away, and I have a five-acre
 12 farm that I live on and I'm a property owner there with two
 13 other people, and we are developing a permaculture farm.

14 I oppose this wind project for several reasons;
 15 first, the visual impact to this area. The towers proposed
 16 are 400 plus feet. That's like over a 42-story building,
 17 which I can't even imagine 42-story buildings along those
 18 ridges. These towers would become visually dominant in this
 19 area. That's what people would see. They would see those
 20 towers instead of everything else that is so beautiful.
 21 Wind farms are -- as I said, I'm for wind projects in
 22 flatter, more agricultural areas. This is not one of those
 23 areas obviously. The wind towers would be huge additions to
 24 the industrialization of our quiet and beautiful landscape.

25 Where I live in Mill A, there's a ridge where

1 they're proposed. That's where the sun comes up.
 2 Mr. Buckland was saying the same thing in Mill A. That's
 3 where the sun rises and where the moon rises, and I would
 4 see red flashing tower lights the rest of the time I live in
 5 Mill A from where I live, and that would just be the turbine
 6 red flashing lights would interfere with the stunning views
 7 in Mill A for everyone living there.

8 The other thing is impact on wildlife. I believe
 9 that wind generators kill birds and bats, and bats are very
 10 important to our permaculture farm. They help with pest
 11 control, insect pest control.

12 And another reason that I'm opposed to this
 13 project is the energy generated would leave this community.
 14 We would be faced with living with these towers, but yet we
 15 wouldn't benefit from the towers because that electricity is
 16 going to go to the general grid and we're not going to see
 17 any benefit from that. The destruction of the earth that
 18 will occur building these wind farms with the roads being
 19 built could wreak havoc of the Little White Salmon and the
 20 White Salmon River. The proposed wind farm is just too
 21 close to the National Columbia Gorge Scenic Area. It's just
 22 too close. It just needs to be put into another place.

23 I want to thank SDS for being committed to the
 24 local as Jason put on his slides, but I would ask SDS to
 25 reconsider its proposal to be open to our money making

1 projects that are more of a project win-win situation for
 2 everyone, and I have one in mind and I would love to meet
 3 with you and the county commissioner of your choice so we
 4 can go over any plans to make your land viable and
 5 economically viable and environmentally viable for everyone.
 6 And there's other things out there that could be done out of
 7 the box, and that's what we need right now is projects out
 8 of the box because we're going down the tubes. Okay. And I
 9 think that that's it.

10 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Appreciate your
 11 comments.

12 MS. STONESTREET: Thank you.

13 CHAIR LUCE: Lynn Bergeron. Did I pronounce that
 14 correctly?

15 MS. BERGERON: You did.

16 CHAIR LUCE: Lynn, can you spell it for the court
 17 reporter and give the court reporter your address.

18 COMMENTS BY LYNN BERGERON

19 Lynn Bergeron, 4491 Cook Underwood Road, Mill A,
 20 B-e-r-g-e-r-o-n. I am another co-owner of the farm you just
 21 heard about, and I did a lot of soul searching before
 22 deciding whether to even get involved in opposing this
 23 project because of the not in my backyard thing. And what I
 24 decided was that it was a lot of opposition to the visual
 25 impact and the aesthetic impact.

1 So I don't want to look at the towers. I'll tell
 2 you that right now. But I think whether or not I want to
 3 look at the towers doesn't matter. I live here. I don't
 4 like looking at clear cuts. I don't like looking at housing
 5 developments and I've gotten used to all of this so I just
 6 don't think whether or not I have to look at it matters.

7 But this is a scoping meeting, and part of your
 8 job as a state agency and part of your job is to look at the
 9 bigger picture. So I talked to a power grid interconnect
 10 engineer who used to work for Pacific Corps to try and get
 11 an understanding of some of the bigger picture. Obviously
 12 there's a demand for more power or none of these power
 13 projects would even come to be. But my question is, is it a
 14 short-term demand or a long-term demand? And is the demand
 15 that we're trying to meet in power something that's going to
 16 put a lot of money and a lot of benefits in a few pockets
 17 and, you know, 25 years from now the picture is entirely
 18 changed and we're left with the towers, the roads, the
 19 environmental degradation? Also, you know, it's been an
 20 issue with me that a lot of the power demands are not met
 21 without a whole lot of talk about conserving power. So as
 22 part of your scope of what you're looking at I would like
 23 you to tap into people who have a long-range vision of power
 24 generation in the state because a lot of things that we do
 25 just end up to be short-term impacts.

1 There was one more. Also in talking to this
 2 engineer I came to recognize that the proximity of the
 3 Bonneville Power Lines and the proximity to where the power
 4 is going to be used do make this a good site to consider for
 5 wind power. Then there's the big but. Hopefully you will
 6 be applying best available science and national science.
 7 Organizations that have looked at the impacts of wind
 8 projects have said that, you know, sticking them on mountain
 9 tops has a lot more challenges and therefore to the
 10 environment and therefore they're not a prime choice. So
 11 you know that already.

12 As far as the economic benefits to Skamania
 13 County, Skamania County definitely needs economic benefits
 14 and people here need them. I've been impacted by the
 15 economy. I lost my job Christmas Eve and haven't found
 16 another one yet, but I don't want the county or the people
 17 that live here or the state to focus on money. When we do
 18 something for money it's called whoring, and there's other
 19 things of value that need to be taken into consideration.

20 And, finally, I've been really bothered by the
 21 tight coupling of this energy project and the economic
 22 development organizations in our county in the Gorge and the
 23 process with the company who is planning zoning ordinances
 24 in this county. It just smells fishy. I don't like it.
 25 And so I don't know if there's anything here that should be

1 included in your scoping, but, yeah, for what it's worth.

2 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. It's about ten to 4:00.
 3 We're going to take a ten-minute break so the court reporter
 4 can recover some feeling to her fingers which are probably
 5 numb by now and then the rest of us might want the rest
 6 break as well. We will resume at four o'clock sharp and we
 7 will resume with the next witness. Thank you. We will be
 8 in recess until four o'clock.

9 (Recess taken from 3:50 to 4:00 p.m.)

10 CHAIR LUCE: For those of us who are here we will
 11 stay until all of your comments have been heard. I would
 12 like to encourage those of you who have comments that are
 13 similar to what others have offered to limit yourselves to
 14 agreeing or disagreeing to what has been previously said.
 15 We have the four-minute rule in place. We will try to keep
 16 that. We have 20 people left to speak, and I guess that's
 17 enough to be said.

18 So we will begin now with Wirt Maxey. If you
 19 could spell your name and give us your address for the court
 20 reporter.

21 COMMENTS BY WIRT MAXEY

22 Yes. My name is Wirt. That's W-i-r-t Maxey,
 23 M-a-x-e-y. I live at 8992 Cook-Underwood Road, Underwood.
 24 I have a couple of comments about scoping.
 25 Something that I haven't heard anybody mention either last

1 night or today is my understanding is there's a month's
 2 stage of band up there, particularly on the south where the
 3 slope slopes steep. I don't believe that that's been
 4 documented as part of DNR making connections with some of
 5 SDS logging permits and so forth. I intend to make written
 6 comments to supply you with that, but I'm mentioning it now.
 7 As well you're perfectly aware that there's some springs
 8 again at the south end very, very close by where they're
 9 talking about doing all those turbine strings. Those
 10 springs serve a lot of the agriculture there down below.
 11 Again, I believe at least one or two households so I think
 12 in terms of your scoping you need to take a close look at
 13 those two things.

14 The other thing that concerns me and it's a theme
 15 that you've heard many times and you're going to hear it
 16 again is the scenic impacts. You know, the proponents of
 17 this project make much about Initiative 937. You all know
 18 what that is. It established the renewable energy
 19 requirements and proponents are constantly bringing that up.
 20 They say we need this project because of 937. Let me just
 21 read to you very briefly two lines out of Initiative 937
 22 codified by the RCW 19.285. This is a declaration of
 23 policy. Increasing energy conservation and the use of
 24 appropriately sited renewable energy facilities,
 25 appropriately sited renewable energy facilities. Now, look,

1 it's pretty windy on Mount Rushmore. I don't think any of
 2 us would say that it would be appropriate to site a windmill
 3 farm on the next ridge behind Mount Rushmore. It wouldn't
 4 be appropriate to site a windmill farm along say the rim of
 5 the Grand Canyon or just outside the borders of Yellowstone
 6 National Park or for that matter just outside the borders of
 7 Mount Rainier National Park. Why? Because these are
 8 national scenic treasures specifically set aside by our
 9 Congress, and I stress these are national treasures. These
 10 are not State of Washington or State of Oregon treasures or
 11 in the case of Mount Rushmore the State of South Dakota.
 12 They're national treasures, and that's why it's not
 13 appropriate to site these here and the same reasoning
 14 applies to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

15 This is a totally unique national scenic treasure,
 16 and to allow this project to go through will destroy that.
 17 The Scenic Area Act talks a lot about the visual
 18 subordination. I'm telling you these towers they're taller
 19 than the highest building in Seattle are not going to be
 20 visually supportive from anywhere in the scenic area.
 21 They're going to be visually dominant.

22 I would like to take just a brief moment and rebut
 23 something that Commissioner Pearce made much to do about in
 24 his speech last night. He spoke at some length about
 25 Section 17 of the Scenic Area Act so-called no buffers

1 provision. Let me read you what it says. It says, I'll
 2 paraphrase needless to say.
 3 CHAIR LUCE: That would be helpful.
 4 MR. MAXEY: Nothing in Section 544 and so forth of
 5 this type shall establish protective perimeter buffer zones
 6 and so forth. Nothing of this type. So with this
 7 legislation it is merely a limitation on the jurisdiction of
 8 the Scenic Area Act. It has no bearing whatsoever.
 9 Contrary to what was suggested by Commissioner Pearce this
 10 has no bearing whatsoever on the duty and obligation of this
 11 Council under SEPA and of the BPA for NEPA to consider the
 12 scenic impacts as part of your environmental review. So
 13 don't be led down the primrose path on that.

14 Finally, almost finally, I would like to say
 15 there's been a lot of talk about how this project will take
 16 care of the economic woes of Skamania County. I submit to
 17 this Board plundering the National Scenic Area is not an
 18 appropriate way to cure the economic woes of Skamania
 19 County, whatever they may be.

20 In closing, let me leave you with this thought.
 21 There are lots and lots of alternative sites for wind farms.
 22 In Washington to the east there's hundreds of thousands of
 23 acres, and they're a much more appropriate site. So there's
 24 lots of alternative sites. There is only one National
 25 Scenic Area. You can't pick it up and move it someplace

1 else. Thank you.

2 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

3 Mr. Tyler, John Tyler followed by Tom Quinn.

4 State your name and address for the record and
 5 four minutes and please don't repeat what others have said.

6 MR. TYLER: I will try to make it brief.

7 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

8 COMMENTS BY JOHN TYLER

9 My name is John Tyler. I live at 421 Highland
 10 Orchards Road. It's T-y-l-e-r.

11 I have three points that I would like to make.
 12 One is I'd simply like to amplify some of the concerns that
 13 have been raised already about the visual impact of huge 400
 14 plus foot concrete towers. I think it's going to be very
 15 devastating to the beauty of this area.

16 My concern is my wife and I retired here three
 17 years ago having lived in North Dakota for the preceding
 18 35 years and know what it's like not to live in a scenic
 19 area. We were drawn to this place because of the national
 20 beauty. I'm afraid this is going to be severely affected by
 21 all the wind towers and the wind farm that it contains.

22 Second point, I am concerned about the
 23 irreversibility of this project. Three million dollar or
 24 thereabouts massive concrete towers are not going to be
 25 willingly moved when they become obsolete. They aren't

1 going to rot and deteriorate. They're going to be here for
 2 the duration. What happens if our needs change? A lot of
 3 technological advances in the last 25, 50 years as far as
 4 power, our alternative sources of power and so forth. I
 5 think we can expect it to continue into the future. What if
 6 further into the future a few years from now we no longer
 7 need wind power, where are they going to go? That's one
 8 thing I would like to ask this group. Are there perhaps for
 9 removing the towers, a precedent for moving towers of this
 10 sort? Who would bear the costs and what can be the impact
 11 environmentally of removing towers no longer needed?

12 Final concern is the precedency of the thing for
 13 this. Jason mentioned earlier that this hasn't been tried
 14 before in reforested areas. I think that's a bad thing
 15 because if it is done here, I think we can expect other
 16 people who have an interest in wind energy to also seek
 17 outward a place to move and relocate and start an industry
 18 up here, plenty of wind. More people will follow, and the
 19 people who follow this may not have the roots in the
 20 community that SDS does and may not have the confidence of
 21 many community members that would look out for the interest
 22 of this. They may be mega companies like G.E., you name
 23 them, that could care less about local concerns. We open
 24 the door for one project it's going to be much harder to
 25 close the door to others. The rule is it's much harder put

1 the Jeannie back in the bottle if we decide we don't like it
 2 when we get into it. Thank you very much.

3 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. Appreciate your comments.

4 Mr. Quinn followed by Cam Thomas.

5 COMMENTS BY TOM QUINN

6 My name is Tom Quinn, Q-u-i-n-n, and my house is
 7 2085 Martin Road in the Dalles, and, you know, the reason I
 8 wanted to come here tonight or today is that my neighbors
 9 and I recently finished a two-year saga similar to what you
 10 people here are just beginning. Two years ago a
 11 Massachusetts company named UPC proposed a wind farm for a
 12 hill between Mosier and the Dalles and that would have
 13 affected my house and obviously the neighbors around me.
 14 And I think that set off on a path to decide to really look
 15 at this issue of wind power, and I guess I felt like I'd
 16 been a supporter of wind power and I guess to a certain
 17 extent I still am. But after looking at this issue in the
 18 Gorge, I'm not any longer a supporter of wind power in the
 19 Gorge in this scenic area.

20 First of all, I talked to everyone I could talk
 21 to. I talked to people in the wind industry, I talked to
 22 city planners, I talked to my neighbors, and what we decided
 23 was just the visual impacts was just too great. And one
 24 thing I think the tour allows is to give you a chance to
 25 make your assessment of the visual impact of this project.

1 There's something called the Sinclair Thomas Matrix. It's
 2 just an easy way to common sense decide what the impacts of
 3 wind power would be. Essentially it boils down to anything
 4 up this five miles is capable of dominating the landscape.
 5 So take one of these proposed towers and draw a radius up
 6 from that and then see how it will impact the Gorge up to
 7 ten miles this same matrix that these towers are clearly
 8 visible and intrusive. So now take those same radius drawn
 9 out to ten miles and see the impacts. I think my neighbors
 10 and I decided after seeing this is that our area of the
 11 Gorge was just not acceptable and I don't think this is area
 12 acceptable either.

13 Any time Mr. Spadaro gave his speech the one thing
 14 he didn't say he didn't mention anything about the impact on
 15 the scenic area. That's crucial.

16 The other thing I would like to talk to you about
 17 is I'm not sure of these particular distances, but in our
 18 case a lot of towers were proposed for a half mile from
 19 people's houses, and if you did the research the wind
 20 industry will say that there's no peer reviewed study of
 21 wind towers that close to people will have any adverse
 22 effect. And I still think there's enough anecdotal evidence
 23 to say this is not a good idea to put a wind tower that
 24 close to someone.

25 I think I'll finish up by telling you that two

1 years ago you could stand outside my home and look out to
 2 Wasco where the Klondike Wind Farm was. It was 35 miles
 3 away and when the sun shines right I can see each individual
 4 tower, you know, 35 miles away. In two years there's
 5 obviously a huge boom going on. Every time you drive out to
 6 Pendleton you can't believe how many wind farms there are.
 7 I mean and they're coming this way. I was just at the mouth
 8 of the Deschutes the other day. They're right up from the
 9 Deschutes. That's the eastern channel of the scenic area.
 10 They're coming up on Maryhill. That's a good place. At
 11 least Maryhill is getting its money to put them up there,
 12 but somehow it has to stop. You have to make them draw the
 13 line somewhere and say this can't happen and on our coast in
 14 Oregon ironically the impact would have been on Washington.
 15 The people of Lyle these things would have been coming right
 16 down on them.

17 Now, here in your proposal in Underwood the impact
 18 is going to be greater for people in Oregon, and I'm not
 19 sure if they know what's coming. I would just encourage you
 20 to draw the line somewhere and say anything five miles from
 21 the scenic area is just a no-go zone for a wind turbine and
 22 two miles from a house. I mean those are just common sense
 23 setbacks. Thank you.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

25 Cam Thomas, followed Sally Newell, followed by

1 Glenda Ryan.

2 COMMENTS BY CAM THOMAS

3 Good afternoon. My name is Cam, that's C-a-m,
4 Thomas at 52 Thomas Road, Underwood, Washington. As a
5 61-year resident of Underwood, I think Wally Stevenson is
6 probably the only person that's been around here longer than
7 I have. This project will be in my backyard as a local
8 Underwood resident as much as anybody else's, but I'm here
9 to say that I'm in favor of the 75 megawatts of renewable
10 power, and \$731,000 of tax base and income that it will
11 bring to Skamania County. And it's my understanding that
12 all of the wind turbines that were proposed in this project
13 are outside of the scenic area, and there are areas even
14 closer to the scenic area that are farmland on which these
15 type of turbines would be permitted outright. So I think
16 the forestry and wind generation is compatible in this area.

17 One thing that I haven't heard mentioned here
18 today is that Skamania County PUD will get a huge benefit as
19 will all of Skamania County PUD's customers because the
20 interchange and interconnect to the Bonneville line will
21 provide Skamania County with a circular loop that is not
22 available right now. Approximately two years ago there was
23 an outage that lasted for like three days. The whole PUD
24 supply was out. There wasn't anything the PUD could do to
25 help us at all, and that problem will be prevented in the

1 future. I was just fortunate enough to be a tourist on the
2 mountain in the last two weeks, and from where I was which
3 was the big tourist area there are wind turbines visible on
4 the ridge about a mile and a half away from the tourist area
5 that I was visiting. They are visible. They are certainly
6 not intrusive. I did not hear any comments at all about the
7 wind turbines in the area. Thank you.

8 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

9 Sally, good to see you again today. Four minutes
10 would be appropriate I think.

11 COMMENTS BY SALLY NEWELL

12 That's fine. Thank you for the opportunity to
13 comment and thank you so much for coming to Underwood.

14 CHAIR LUCE: State and spell your name and give us
15 your address again for the record.

16 MS. NEWELL: Sally Newell. I live at 142 Donna
17 Road. If you want to mail me something mail to Post Office
18 Box 186, Underwood, Washington 98651.

19 For the record, my name is Sally Newell. I'm the
20 president of the Underwood Community Council, Chair of the
21 Skamania County Noxious Weed Board, board member, Friends of
22 the White Salmon River --

23 CHAIR LUCE: Sally, can you read a little slower.

24 MS. NEWELL: Okay.

25 CHAIR LUCE: The court reporter is fast but you're

1 faster.

2 MS. NEWELL: I'm a librarian for the Mill A school
3 and a former Columbia River Gorge Commissioner appointed
4 1994 through '98 by Governor Lowry.

5 Today I speak as none of these but only offer the
6 following comments as my own input on the application filed
7 by SDS Lumber. A lot of people have already talked about a
8 lot of the things that I would be concerned with. I would
9 concur with the SOSA attorney, Richard Aramburu,
10 particularly regarding the need for independent studies. I
11 for one am not willing to accept any studies that have been
12 already commissioned by SDS Lumber. I'd like to see a
13 neutral third party conducting studies.

14 Oh, let's see. Natural resource concerns,
15 wildlife particularly, the affect of turbines on human
16 health, noise from the turbines. And speaking of noise
17 echoing through the mountains, we get jets from Whidbey
18 Island Naval Air Station flying low through here from time
19 to time. The affect the turbines will have on their
20 exercises should be assessed in your scoping.

21 I am troubled the proposed project will be visible
22 from so many places in the Columbia River Gorge National
23 Scenic Area as well as other beauty spots nearby like the
24 Hood River Valley, White Salmon River Wild, and Scenic River
25 Corridor. The aesthetic impact for me is much less about

1 how these turbines look during the day turning in their lazy
2 circles, but if I had to look at those dudes at night with
3 their strobing red lights, I'd buy drapes. I was shocked
4 the first time I drove home from Goldendale at night and saw
5 the wind farms in Oregon blinking in unison, unbelievable.
6 Up until then I thought a soft summer night was a birthright
7 in the Gorge.

8 People here used to say it's a beautiful place but
9 you can't eat the scenery. They meant that the natural
10 beauty of the place doesn't feed the family or pay the bills
11 and that was before folks from other places discovered that
12 this is a nice place to visit and you might even want a
13 second home here. You should study the effect of the
14 project on local real estate values both during construction
15 and after completion.

16 The folks in the Gorge, especially this part of
17 it, have begun to eat off the scenery. We have tourism and
18 a budding agri-tourism business. We grew a world class
19 aircraft manufacturing business right here in Underwood.
20 That captain that was rescued by the little drone that drone
21 was built in Bingen, Washington but it was invented in a
22 house in Underwood. Pear orchards are coming out and
23 vineyards are going in. We have wineries and wedding bells.
24 My husband's grandpa's old strawberry farm up on Wess Road
25 has grown a final crop of million dollar homes.

1 One of the reasons those homes can command such
2 prices is the National Scenic Area. You can't just buy a
3 couple acres here and drive your trailer onto it. Right or
4 wrong it does restrict the supply, and demand drives up the
5 price. We have only just begun to eat the scenery here.
6 Please don't yank it out of our mouths.

7 People here have sacrificed, often unwillingly and
8 sometimes at great unanticipated personal expense to
9 preserve the beauty of this place for the larger public
10 interest. The State of Washington signed a compact with the
11 State of Oregon because this place is special.

12 CHAIR LUCE: Sally, I think we're at four minutes.
13 Do you have comments -- you're reading from the comments.
14 Could you submit them for the record and summarize for the
15 rest of them, please.

16 MS. NEWELL: Well, I think with Mr. Eastwick I am
17 very concerned about the transportation. I want to know how
18 many tons of exhaust will be going into our air shed here
19 because the Columbia River Gorge Air Shed is already in
20 trouble as you know.

21 Finally, I understand that the State of Oregon has
22 a law requiring their Energy Siting Board to consider lands
23 bearing special state or federal designations very carefully
24 when siting facilities like wind turbines. I know you have
25 no state law compelling you to give special consideration to

1 a national treasure, but I hope your good sense and moral
2 compass will lead you in that direction. Thank you.

3 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

4 Glenda Ryan, followed by Nathan Baker, followed by
5 Rebecca Maxey.

6 COMMENTS BY GLENDA RYAN

7 My name is Glenda Ryan. I live at 9372
8 Cook-Underwood Road. My mailing address is P.O. Box 146,
9 Underwood.

10 CHAIR LUCE: The spelling of your name.

11 MS. RYAN: G-l-e-n-d-a Ryan R-y-a-n. I have been a
12 resident of Underwood for over 20 years and I love living
13 here, but my main concern which I am not sure has been
14 addressed and I haven't heard anyone speak about it is the
15 amount of water that's going to be necessary to the footings
16 for these towers, spraying the roads to eliminate the dust.
17 And when I first came here, we had water holding tanks and
18 frequently we would run out of water. And my question about
19 our water quality is something I would like to see addressed
20 and how it's going to impact our water supplies and future
21 water supplies as far as the aquifer and that sort of thing.
22 I'm not sure if it has been affected. I didn't hear
23 anything about it, but that's all I have to say.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Well, thank you very much. If you
25 want to submit something in writing, please do so by May 18

1 close of business.

2 MS. RYAN: I will do that. Thank you for your
3 time.

4 CHAIR LUCE: Much appreciated.
5 Mr. Baker.

6 COMMENTS BY NATHAN BAKER

7 Thank you, Mr. Chair and Members of the Council.
8 For the record, my name is Nathan Baker. I'm the staff
9 attorney with Friends of the Columbia Gorge. My address is
10 522 S.E. Fifth Avenue, Suite 720, Portland, Oregon 97204.

11 First, I just want to thank you for your time, for
12 your public service, and for your patience in hearing
13 everybody's testimony. These proceedings actually kicked
14 off yesterday afternoon at three o'clock. There was an
15 agency scoping meeting where the staff of EFSEC took
16 comments from agencies and it just so turned out that only
17 one agency showed up. That was the U.S. Forest Service.
18 That's one of the two agencies that administers the Federal
19 Scenic Area Act; the other one being the Gorge Commission
20 which was created by an interstate compact between the
21 states of Oregon and Washington.

22 I wanted to read briefly some key excerpts from
23 the Forest Service's letter that they presented yesterday.
24 It is part of the record, but given that was the
25 spokesperson for the Forest Service it was literally the

1 only person who you haven't heard directly from, and I
2 wanted to emphasize those points.

3 This is a letter from Daniel Harkenrider who is
4 the area manager of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic
5 Area of the Forest Service, and in general the letter is
6 very critical of the applicant's analysis of the scenic
7 impacts, and the letter makes some recommendations.

8 So page 1, the Forest Service is submitting the
9 following comment with respect to the Columbia River Gorge
10 National Scenic Area, one of America's natural wonders
11 worldwide known for its scenic beauty. It has a variety of
12 quality and recreational opportunities. Since the scenic
13 area was created by Congress in 1986 new developments occur
14 within a controlled framework that protects the resources
15 that make the scenic area special. I understand that only a
16 small portion of the proposal is located within the
17 boundaries of the scenic area. This letter concerns impacts
18 of all the wind turbines visible from within the scenic
19 area.

20 Page two, there is several questions concerning
21 the benefit of use to, one, choose viewpoints; two, define
22 visual quality and viewer sensitivity; and, three, represent
23 conclusions about the impacts.

24 Point 1, choosing viewpoints in the scenic area
25 should be based on key viewing areas. Several of these were

1 missing from the discussion; therefore, it is unclear
2 whether they are national scenic areas and resources were
3 adequately captured.

4 Point 2, the National Scenic Area is a nationally
5 known and protected landscape of high quality and high
6 sensitivity. All key viewing areas and analysis should
7 reflect this. The results of the applicant's analysis are
8 heavily weighed on the assignment of existing scenic quality
9 and viewer sensitivity. These methods were not traveled and
10 do not represent the reality of the scenic area.

11 Point 3, the conclusions made on the summary chart
12 were more accurately conveyed using degree of contrast with
13 the natural landscape both during the day and at night and
14 distance of the viewer from the project area. This assumes
15 that the most visually impacted viewpoints have been found
16 and that the simulations accurately depict the degree of
17 contrast. The impact summaries discuss these contrasts, but
18 the rates do not reflect the discussion. For example, the
19 text for Viewpoint No. 1 states that the presence of the
20 turbines would reduce the scenic degree of impactness by
21 introducing a large number of highly visible engineered
22 vertical elements, but the impact rate is only low to
23 moderate.

24 Page three, the visualizations are important for
25 finding the number and location of the visible turbines but

1 have limited utility for assessing scenic impacts.

2 Finally page 4, the recommendations of the Forest
3 Service. Recommendations: In order to assure that the
4 scenic resource impact is adequately analyzed I recommend
5 the following improvements to the scenic resource and BACT
6 assessment: A fluid discussion or summary of the most
7 visible turbines; include photographs of existing energy
8 projects visible in the National Scenic Area; do not use
9 visual simulations of a small scale with clouds in the
10 picture to depict the visual impacts of visible turbines;
11 make certain that the most visible viewpoints have been
12 covered, especially with respect to linear viewpoints, and
13 make certain to include the nighttime effects in your
14 analysis.

15 In order to prevent the scenic impact of the
16 turbines visible from the scenic area key viewing areas, I
17 also recommend that the applicant eliminate turbine
18 locations found to be visible from the scenic area key
19 viewing areas. I am hopeful that close attention to these
20 impacts will result in a solution which will fit the unique
21 area the project will potentially benefit.

22 So I encourage the Council to look at this letter
23 and follow the advice of the Forest Service which is the one
24 of two agencies charged with protecting the resources of the
25 National Scenic Area. Thank you.

1 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. We'll look closely at
2 that letter.

3 Rebecca Maxey.

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She left.

5 CHAIR LUCE: All right. Matt Ryan and after Matt
6 Ryan we will have Dan Bradford I believe and Frank Backus.

7 COMMENTS OF MATT RYAN

8 My name is Matt Ryan, M-a-t-t R-y-a-n. I live at
9 9372 Cook-Underwood Road, and thank you again for taking
10 time to listen to all our comments.

11 I just want to say that I fairly strongly oppose
12 this project for many reasons. I think most of them have
13 been well stated by others today already. I just wanted to
14 reemphasize my concerns both primarily with the scenic
15 impacts. I believe, you know, technically all these towers
16 are going to be sited outside the scenic area. I understand
17 that. But I think that the dotted line of the boundary was
18 drawn before this foreseeable intrusion could even be
19 imagined. I think that boundary was placed so that 60- or
20 80-foot agricultural buildings, barns and such would still
21 be hidden behind the forest and behind the ridge. I don't
22 think anybody anticipated 400 some foot structures, not just
23 one but up to 50 or even more I think.

24 That may be the letter of the law, but I think it
25 certainly breaks the spirit of the law and the whole intent

1 of the Gorge Scenic Area. So, again, I think the scenic
2 impacts are going to far outweigh the benefits that others
3 have already stated.

4 My other concern also recently brought up concerns
5 of water use and water need. I think Underwood is a unique
6 geographic, proper place in that it has three major drainage
7 systems on three of the four sides. I'm concerned where all
8 the water is going to come from to create all the cement
9 that's going to be needed for this project, again for dust
10 control, all the water needs.

11 Those that went on the site planned visit earlier
12 today went up the road and passed an area where we lost five
13 or six homes in the last year to a wild fire and anyone in
14 the community knows that we were on water rationing. We
15 couldn't use our water trough because we had completely
16 drained the Underwood water system just fighting that
17 wildlife. Wildfires are a very real threat in this area.
18 If they were to have other wildfires while this project is
19 going on, I'm concerned how much water we would have to
20 fight wildfires. I think that's a very real concern that
21 hasn't really been addressed. I just kind of want to
22 reiterate that. Thank you very much for your time.

23 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you for coming here.

24 Mr. Bradford.

25 ///

COMMENTS BY DON BRADFORD

My name is Don Bradford. I live at 52 Sunrise Road in Underwood. It's B-r-a-d-f-o-r-d.

I've lived and worked in the area of the Columbia River Gorge since 1964 and have lived in Underwood for 17 years. I am in favor of this project. I believe that there's a campaign of misinformation by opponents that obscure the objective evaluation of the project. We've had statements of the towers are concrete, but they're not. They're steel. We've had statements about water. We've had statements about visual impacts.

And this project is outside the scenic area of the National Columbia River Gorge. Hood River is outside of the scenic area of the Gorge. From my residence I watched them build a yellow building three stories tall with a red roof right on the bluff next to a waterfall without any objections because it's outside the Gorge area. SDS owns this property. It's outside the Gorge area. They have a right to the beneficial use of their property.

I intend to submit a written document that addresses many of the objections that I have heard and identified, and some objections are valid and they should be looked at objectively, but there's a lot of these comments that are false, misinformation. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR LUCE: Appreciate it very much.

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Frank Backus.

COMMENTS BY FRANK BACKUS

Good afternoon. I'm Frank Backus. I live at 551 Highway 141, White Salmon, and so the scoping hearing this afternoon my comments are my things that I would like you --

CHAIR LUCE: Spell the last name.

MR. BACKUS: B-a-c-k-u-s.

CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. The things that I think the group should look at as they go through their evaluation of this is you need to understand Skamania County. Most of Skamania County is owned by the U.S. Forest Service. What private land they do have a lot of it is impacted inside the National Scenic Area Boundary; therefore, Skamania County has very, very little land that they can look to for economic development. So you need to look at that and be aware of that because that's the realities of the county.

You need to analyze the importance of the small privately owned companies like SDS Lumber Company, and their need to be able to diversify to stay in business. The economic ties of the wind today are no secret to anybody on how difficult it is for a company like SDS to stay open. They've had to shut down for a month, laid off their people, and the payroll of that company in this area is vital. So you need to really look at that and understand those needs of a small private company.

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It's been mentioned today you all understand that the State of Washington did pass a referendum requiring utilities to have renewable energy. Fifty-four percent of the people of Skamania County voted for that.

Columbia River Gorge Area you need to understand the processes that went in and, Mr. Luce, is I'm sure understanding that better than most. When it started out it was a proposed park. They soon realized that the park didn't work in this setting so they'd come up with some unique process of the National Scenic Area. It's got three distinct areas in it. It's got an urban area that's totally exempt which that was just pointed out, totally exempt from the scenic area regulations. It has a general management area where there was envisioned some regulation and special management areas that was considered for heavy regulation and heavy protection. The founders of this, the creators of this never envisioned that there would not be change. Look at the urban areas. They specifically exempted that so that there could be change in that area and change in the landscape within that.

The final thing you need to take away from here are wind turbines are wind turbines and they affect the scenery but the boundary of the National Scenic Area is the boundary of the National Scenic Area. Thank you very much. I'll be here this evening for the other hearing.

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CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. I appreciate that.

Mr. Herman.

COMMENTS BY KEVIN HERMAN

Hello, my name is Kevin Herman, K-e-v-i-n H-e-r-m-a-n. I live in White Salmon, Washington, 1001 N.W. Cherry Hill Road. I'm a graduate from Columbia High School, and, first of all, I want to thank Wally Stevenson and SDS Lumber Company for giving me plenty of opportunities growing up. They've been very beneficial to the community. They've offered, they donated lumber and stuff to my high school growing up to do add-ons and such. I was an employee at SDS Lumber Company. They worked with my schedule and allowed me to get my GED, and so I want to thank them publicly for that.

For one reason because I think they have been a little bit bullied in their attempt to diversify, and I find that ironic, and I'm stereotyping, but that a certain group of people by opposing the logging have created this atmosphere where they need to diversify, and in doing so when they need to diversify they're also going against that and so I find it very ironic that we're even really having this discussion.

I think that this is an opportunity to show that as a community that we can do it right by putting this wind farm up there, showing that they can be compatible.

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1 There's a wind farm in Scotland that I don't have
 2 my papers with me right now, but there's a wind farm in
 3 Scotland where people actually do go and take tour buses to
 4 see because it's on the ridge line right next to their
 5 community. Okay? And that first for two years in the
 6 process of trying to get this wind farm in there the people
 7 there in that community were actually opposed to it. They
 8 thought it would just ruin their economy and it hasn't. In
 9 these times of greater need for energy, we need to weigh the
 10 pros and cons. We need to talk about sacrifices. Okay?
 11 And in doing that we need to see if there's going to be a
 12 short-term sacrifice that we can make in getting this wind
 13 farm up to benefit everyone for the long term or because
 14 there are going to be heavy trucks coming up from a year or
 15 maybe year and a half do we just kill the project altogether
 16 despite the fact that this provides for energy needs?

17 Because one gentleman spoke about, you know, the
 18 possibility that we might not need wind energy, you know,
 19 ever again. Well, I think as human beings we keep
 20 procreating. We're going to need energy. It's not going to
 21 stop unless people want to go into their house, pull the
 22 copper out of their homes, and stop driving. We are going
 23 to need energy, and wind energy is a viable, viable way of
 24 getting energy to the homes. They use it.

25 Also I want to talk a little bit about the

1 environmental impact, and I read some of the 900 pages that
 2 SDS supplied for the website for the Whistling Ridge
 3 Project. One of those things that they talked about in
 4 there was the fact that there are no spotted owls in the
 5 vicinity, in that area where Whistling Ridge Energy is
 6 proposed, but they did find two adult gray squirrels. So
 7 that coupled with the aesthetics that everyone is talking
 8 about and then the residents some of which are here tonight,
 9 most of which are probably here tonight, and their
 10 inconvenience should we just not do it all now? Now,
 11 there's a lot time and effort that goes into studying that
 12 or that goes into placing these wind turbines, like is the
 13 wind viable. And I think that this is a marriage made in
 14 heaven because of the fact that we have BPA's transmission
 15 lines. I mean I've been up four wheeling around this area,
 16 and I mean not recently, but, you know, I grew up here.
 17 And, yeah, not recently, right.

18 But and so what I know that this is a fairly I
 19 wouldn't say desolate, but it's not being used for anything
 20 right now and maybe that's because SDS intended not to use
 21 it and they wanted to use it for this. I don't know. But I
 22 don't think that this small area is going to impact this,
 23 you know, agri-tourism is what it's called I guess. I don't
 24 think that it's going to collapse the economy of the
 25 Columbia River Gorge just because of this wind farm, but it

1 does supply power for 20,000 homes is the estimate.

2 You know, I know that wind and energy is variable.
 3 Okay? And there are ways around that. I know that water
 4 sometimes is hard to come by, but SDS has the equipment and
 5 the means to get water to these places. They have the roads
 6 already in place. Okay? Two and a half miles of extra, you
 7 know, widening of roads or excavating roads those things are
 8 not a big deal in my book, you know.

9 So I would hope that you guys would go ahead and
 10 recommend this project to the Governor of Washington because
 11 I think it's a good idea. It allows me because I'm a
 12 student at Columbia Gorge Community College in the renewable
 13 energy resources program to not have to move out of the
 14 area, and that I would very much appreciate. Thank you.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

16 Mr. Browne, Mr. James Browne.

17 COMMENTS BY JAMES BROWNE

18 Hi, my name is James Browne. That's J-a-m-e-s
 19 B-r-o-w-n-e. I would like to start by saying my family has
 20 lived here in Oregon for over a hundred years.

21 CHAIR LUCE: Your address?

22 MR. BROWNE: Oh, 106 Pear Street, the Dalles,
 23 Oregon, 97058.

24 I would like to start by saying that my family has
 25 lived here for over a hundred years. I was born in Portland

1 and lived in Astoria and Le Grande growing up. I'm
 2 currently going to school beginning work on a master's
 3 degree in electrical and mechanical engineering. I came
 4 here about a year half ago. I walked away from a very high
 5 paying job on the north slope of Alaska. I came here and it
 6 totally changed my lifestyle. I gave up a way of life that
 7 I was very happy with because I believe that we are at the
 8 crossroads now in terms of power generation, and that the
 9 oil reserves of the world are going to some day run out, and
 10 the sacrifices that we make now will mitigate that effect in
 11 the future. There are communities in Alaska right now that
 12 are collapsing the face of \$400 a month electrical bills
 13 because the price of diesel fuel. You may not think that
 14 that would be in our near future and it's not. It may be
 15 30, 40 years down the road, but at some point in time we
 16 will move away from the petroleum dependency whether by
 17 force or by foresight.

18 I really feel awkward coming in here and telling
 19 people that they need to make sacrifices not being from a
 20 part of this community, but I am prepared to sacrifice six
 21 years of my life to education and 80,000 plus loans, in
 22 student loans to make a difference. And I sincerely hope
 23 nobody in America has to see the day where they say I wish I
 24 could have done more. I know I won't.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you so much.

1 Loreley Brack followed by Jeannie Rawley, followed
2 by Rob Bell.

COMMENTS BY LORELEY BRACH

4 My name is Loreley Brach. It's spelled
5 L-o-r-e-l-e-y, and the last name is Brach, B-r-a-c-h. I
6 live at you can send it to P.O. Box 31, Underwood,
7 Washington. Thank you for allowing the public to come to
8 speak tonight.

9 CHAIR LUCE: Fine. I'm just going to remind you
10 you have four minutes. So if you have anything written
11 specifically to submit in writing and summarize it if you
12 could within the four-minute time frame.

13 MS. BRACH: I could do that, but I'd like the
14 public to hear also what I have to say so thank you.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. You made the record.
16 Please don't read two or three pages to us.

17 MS. BRACH: Okay. Other people have.

18 CHAIR LUCE: We can make that an exhibit.

19 MS. BRACH: I want to introduce we reside at the
20 property nearest the project, about 1,500 feet from the
21 project, and we're surrounded on all three sides by forest
22 that's controlled by SDS Broughton. I'm very concerned
23 about the potential conclusions from the EIS with the
24 fundamental data that's derived and prepared by the
25 applicant. A few examples cause concern for me and I'd like

1 to go over those briefly and that is the bats. That bats
2 are active as early as March in our area. We see them
3 frequently flying along the riparian slope up in perennial
4 stream that goes through our property. Bat surveys right
5 now are only between July and September and so I think
6 they're missing a significant portion of their active
7 season.

8 The other thing is an owl survey, and I would like
9 to read this because I don't want to mess it up and I want
10 people to hear. The applicant claims to have performed owl
11 surveys in 2008 to protect the presence and species of owls.
12 This work may have been compromised from the beginning. In
13 late May, early June owl calls -- this is last season in
14 2008 -- owl calls either they were heard or recorded sounds
15 were heard emanating from Broughton forest immediately south
16 of us, from our property an owl's calling a response.
17 Voices were heard one of which stated get as close as you
18 can. These apparently were people trying to locate the owl
19 not knowing who or for what purposes people were
20 trespassing. We went, searched, and intercepted. As we
21 quietly approached the area where the owl hooter interchange
22 was it quit responding and we were not able to make visual
23 contact with the hooters. But hoots from Broughton
24 continued shortly after that. Then to see information
25 reflecting this encounter does not show up on the data

1 sheets.

2 Additionally we have a photo of a gray horn owl
3 coming into our perennial stream. We frequently hear barn
4 owls and the owls are prevalent and often move back and
5 forth at each other. We have recorded owls from our
6 property in 2008, the nearest neighbor to the project. And
7 we continue to document the presence of owls within audible
8 range, within audible range of our property using
9 specialized distance recording equipment. The design of the
10 applicant's owl survey appears to be void of any calling
11 points within the perennial stream but does not show up on
12 their maps that are adjacent to this project that they want
13 to develop.

14 As of fall of 2008 the area bounded by this
15 perennial stream was permitted by SDS through DNR to be
16 logged with disregard to the stream bottom trees under
17 specially selected rule specially allowed by DNR.

18 Our suggestion is that all further EIS work needs
19 to include extensive independently conducted owl surveys in
20 the area beginning immediately. Coordination of the project
21 applicant will be needed to ensure these studies are carried
22 out prior to removal of the entire habitat area under the
23 terms of the DNR program. Geologically unstable areas you
24 try to visit the top of the slope as you look down to the
25 west you'll notice there is a portion there that still has

1 some trees intact. Well, there's an issue of geologically
2 unstable slopes there. From the DNR permit they weren't
3 allowed to log that for that reason we presume. And water
4 resources of that perennial stream again interestingly is
5 the case there are streams, other streams there that is
6 perennial. It's all year round and that slope in that area
7 goes right down into that drainage. We'd like to see it
8 appear on the maps and be represented.

9 And also I just want to comment on this is kind of
10 emotional for me because this is the National Scenic Area.
11 We need to as a society we need to step back and take a
12 look. What are we getting from this project: some
13 intermittent power? In the long term what does that mean or
14 the scenic area means to our society of increasing
15 population that needs to be able to escape city and
16 industrialized areas, get out and enjoy our resources? This
17 area is spectacular. We need to preserve it. I want my
18 kids to enjoy it wherever they live. I would also like to
19 see other important areas in this nation and this state
20 preserved for future generations. This place is special.
21 Let's keep it that way, please. Thank you.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you so much. Could you give
23 Tammy your written comments and we'll get it into the
24 record.

25 MS. BRACH: Thank you very much. I'm going to be

1 sending in a lot of material.

2 CHAIR LUCE: Okay. That would be great. We will
3 look forward to reviewing it.

4 Jeannie Rawley followed by Rob Bell.

5 COMMENTS BY JEANNIE RAWLEY

6 Hello. Once again, thank you for listening to our
7 concerns. My name is Jeannie Rawley. It's J-e-a-n-n-i-e
8 R-a-w-l-e-y. I live a 621 Kollack-Knapp.

9 I'm on the corner of Kollack-Knapp and Scoggins
10 Road where they are proposing to do pretty intensive road
11 widening to get the pieces of this project up to the
12 mountain. I have similar concerns to a lot of the other
13 people about the impact, the environmental impact, but I
14 also empathize with the county and SDS on the whole economic
15 blight of this area. But I have to look at this more right
16 now from a personal perspective as well. I do look at it
17 for everybody but right now I'm focusing on the personal
18 perspective.

19 According to the map you have over there and the
20 documents I've seen circles where they are having to
21 severely change the roads and how the trucks will get up
22 basically cuts through our property and possibly through our
23 home. My concern is if it has such a severe impact on our
24 personal property why we have not been notified by SDS, by
25 the county, by anybody that this could have an impact.

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1 We've seen documentation that says it could take out part of
2 our landscaping or it could take out part of our home or
3 complete home. We have found out this week from Skamania
4 County that we are not able to build another home on our
5 property because it is zoned agriculture which means that
6 our current home was grandfathered in because it's 25 years
7 old. So I have some research to do this week which I wasn't
8 able to do prior to coming today to see what that truly
9 means if we lose our home or part of our property. What is
10 that future for us with what we had hoped to be on
11 retirement?

12 As far as the wildlife, I have the same concerns.
13 As far as the owl study I haven't read the complete study,
14 but I would verify we hear owls every single night and
15 sometimes every morning. They are there. They're on the
16 property. They are on the property around us. We can hear
17 them calling all the time so there are owls.

18 I'm concerned for us about the noise and there are
19 studies out there but nothing -- there aren't enough studies
20 to do with how it affects people's homes, and I do have a
21 concern about that long-range piece.

22 I have a really strong concern about the impact of
23 the traffic and the trucks coming around that corner in
24 Underwood at Kollack-Knapp. I don't think it will end with
25 the project when we talk 18 months of huge amounts of truck

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1 and traffic coming up. That will not end with the project
2 because there will always be maintenance. There will always
3 be things to take care of up there so that would be
4 something that is given for the rest of time. As long as
5 this project is up and running there will be traffic, there
6 will be impacts back on that corner.

7 We bought that property several years ago for the
8 natural scenic beauty out there and the scenic area. We
9 bought it for the serenity and the peace up here coming out
10 of Portland, and we had hoped to spend the rest of our years
11 with our grandchildren out here and share some of this
12 beauty with family, and I'm feeling right now that it's
13 being taken away from us because of the impact of putting
14 this project in.

15 What I would like you to do is to consider, of
16 course, what everybody has said on both sides, but also I
17 would like some support from you about communication and
18 letting those that are truly physically impacted that we are
19 kept in the loop and communicated to about the impact that
20 it will have on our personal property. Thank you for your
21 time.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

23 Rob Bell.

24 COMMENTS BY ROB BELL

25 Rob Bell, R-o-b B-e-l-l, 4211 Post Canyon Drive,

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1 Hood River.

2 This is hard for me today. I have great respect
3 for this Stevenson's. Jan and I are seeking to live in
4 Underwood, and I own property that is Flag No. 15 on that
5 map. Most of the environmental bickering over the years are
6 sort of consecutive disputes. This one strikes me as having
7 a radical discontinuity. I invested over three million
8 dollars and six years of my life on the promise that the
9 Columbia Gorge Scenic Management Area view shed would remain
10 intact. I don't think any reasonable person can dispute
11 that 50 wind turbines sitting 300 feet above that ridge is
12 going to be an absolute visual abomination. It's
13 irretrievable. We won't be able to go back.

14 What has propped up the community on both sides of
15 this river for the last 20 years was a shock for everyone to
16 learn four years ago that weddings and events was the second
17 largest cash prop in the Gorge. The aggregate investment in
18 wineries and vineyards when I bought Pierchinger there were
19 three wineries. There are over 40 now within 25 minutes of
20 me. The aggregate investment in wineries and vineyards is
21 somewhere in excess of 50 million dollars. Talk to any
22 restaurant, any hotel, they'll tell you what's kept them
23 alive.

24 I've been doing this survey for the last four
25 weeks from my wine bar. I've spoken with one hundred

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1 people. I've shown them my little cartoon drawing on would
2 you like to see 50 of these over there, and I can report
3 it's 100 to zero so far. I've asked every one of them if
4 they support renewable energy and 85 percent of people do.
5 They just saw that this was an application that is flawed in
6 as much as once again it is visually irretrievable.

7 And the last thing I've hunted for 25 years where
8 the Deschutes River breaks over Rufus, and one of these
9 farms went up there last year. Okay? And I'll tell you
10 what? When you walk around the ridge and you're used to
11 seeing something for as long as I've been lucky to see it
12 nice here like the rest of these people in this room, and
13 those things are sitting there just flickering around in the
14 twilight.

15 And here's the last point I'd ask you to address.
16 This is economically grotesquely flawed. There is no
17 mention made of the 45 to 50 percent government, state, and
18 federal subsidies. That is the only reason that makes this
19 project of any interest to anyone interested in making a
20 profit.

21 Let's talk about wind in the Gorge because when I
22 moved here 35 years ago I built a path over the mountain. I
23 went to the University of Minnesota Wind School for six
24 weeks and let me give you a couple of factoids. I also
25 owned the first wind sailing shop on the Gorge, and you know

1 when the wind blows here? It blows six months of the year.
2 Okay? There's four months of the year that are dead calm,
3 and when it blows the six months of the year we have many
4 days that are called nuclear, and I don't think they found
5 the brake yet to stop one of these things from blowing up
6 once the wind gets over 25 miles an hour which is typical of
7 40 percent of the wind days during the year. You can check
8 it out. Okay? Now, Whistling Ridge it whistles like crazy
9 about 40 percent of the time. The rest of the time it's
10 going too fast for them and the other time there is not
11 enough wind to move them.

12 So to summarize, I would urge you to look at the
13 economic underpinnings of this make to sure that the real
14 deal is equal to the obvious unbelievable irretrievable step
15 which is I counted 150 blinking red lights sparkling away
16 and it's not something that I want to spend the rest of my
17 days looking at. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

19 Mary Trombly, followed by Jessica Walz, and Jane
20 Nichols.

21 COMMENTS BY MARY TWOMBLY

22 Hello, my name is Mary Trombly and I live at 842
23 Little Rock Creek Road in Mill A. I've been in this area
24 for about close to 20 years.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Spell your name, please.

1 MS. TWOMBLY: Oh, sorry, T-w-o-m-b-l-y.

2 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

3 MS. TWOMBLY: I recently moved to Mill A about a
4 year and a half ago mostly for the quiet serene place that
5 it was and is, and the day we signed the papers I heard
6 about the proposed wind turbine facility and really did
7 consider not signing the papers that day. After doing about
8 two hours of research on line and talking to some other
9 folks I decided that it was pretty scary moving into this
10 area, but we decided to do it anyway and really hoping that
11 this project won't go forward.

12 The thing that really stood out -- well, I agree
13 with all the other people that have talked about their
14 reasons for not wanting this project here, the scenery, the
15 economic impacts, wildlife, and birds, water. I really, you
16 know, if you look around you just don't see any 42-story
17 buildings around here or even in the big city to the west.
18 And it's just not consistent with what we're used to seeing
19 here and what we want to see.

20 I think if we're going to make sacrifices everyone
21 in the nation should make sacrifices and start conserving
22 energy. We're not talking about that very much. We're all
23 talking about consuming and money and all these things that
24 really personally I like money too, but I'd much prefer
25 preserving the national treasure that we have here which is

1 the Gorge and that's why I brought my family here in the
2 first place.

3 The other thing is I'm a nurse and a massage
4 therapist and use sound healing and I know a little bit
5 about sound. And I've read a lot about anecdotal studies
6 and there's also a book out by a doctor who's been seeing a
7 lot of people with wind turbine syndrome. It's a very real
8 medical illness that they're really just learning more and
9 more about everyday which affects the inner ear and it's due
10 to the low frequency vibration that the turbines put out and
11 have so far not been able to mitigate. So I really don't
12 think it's fair to place these within a half mile of
13 someone's home and then expect them to just live with the
14 possible consequences which make them unable to even live in
15 their own home.

16 A lot of people have had to just walk away from
17 their investment and move away just to get healthy. And
18 some people haven't even been able to regain their health,
19 and it's really unclear where all this is going, but I much
20 prefer to believe people who are truly suffering than to
21 believe a slick wind farm industry spokesperson talk about
22 how great it is to get. And I really urge you to consider
23 what some of us may have to endure if these are placed
24 hanging over our homes and I just don't think it's fair.

25 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you.

1 Jessica Walz.

2 COMMENTS BY JESSICA WALZ

3 Hello, I'm Jessica Walz. I'm the conservation
4 director for Gifford Pinchot Task Force. My name is spelled
5 J-e-s-s-i-c-a, last name is Walz, W-a-l-z. My organization
6 is located in Portland, 917 S.W. Oak Street, Suite 410,
7 Portland, Oregon. We are a nonprofit organization with over
8 3,600 people in Washington and Oregon. We support the
9 biological diversities at Gifford Pinchot National Forest
10 and in the Pacific Northwest through protection and
11 conservation of our forest, fish, rivers, and wildlife.

12 Our primary concern is the location of this wind
13 project located near the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.
14 As you know most of these turbines are actually located
15 within the boundary but on private land, SDS land near the
16 Gifford Pinchot National Forest. I know many of you have
17 heard about the consequence of this wind farm on the Gorge.
18 We are primarily concerned with the consequence of this wind
19 farm on the national forest, a publicly owned forest.

20 I have reviewed a lot of your studies here for the
21 wildlife consequences. We feel that further NEPA documents
22 need to be done by independent biologists looking at EIS
23 studies here for both the northern spotted owl, the western
24 gray squirrel, and the goshawk. We have done independent
25 research on the locations of the northern spotted owl in the

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1 northern GP. Unfortunately we have not had the opportunity
2 to go out and independently research the locations of those
3 spotted owls in southern GP. We do feel that there is a
4 primary habitat in the southern GP that can be affected by
5 this wind farm location. Habitat for the northern spotted
6 owl employ a large habitat. They will go into a -- they
7 stay within a public forest. They will go into private
8 forestland.

9 I do recognize that a lot of this land here has
10 already been cut over, but there is habitat located in these
11 SDS timber lands that can be used by a northern spotted owl.
12 I hope that a preliminary NEPA document will include both
13 the cumulative effects of future projects that are going to
14 be occurring in this area and the cumulative effects that
15 occur on other parts of the area, including some of your
16 timber projects. Some of the timber sales on DNR land are
17 located here. Some of the wind farm projects are going to
18 be going in on DNR land located near this project and some
19 of the other timber cuts will occur on the BPA itself.

20 This is important because we do need to conserve
21 habitat species. When a project like this goes in they do
22 require a lot of land disturbance that can force wildlife
23 out of certain areas. I know you've heard that in previous
24 comments. Habitat loss and fragmentation is the leading
25 cause for the long-term decline in wildlife population and

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1 forest health. Putting in roads, putting in turbines, and
2 adding to the overall industrialization of our forest is the
3 primary cause of decline in our forest health. We're
4 extremely concerned about that. I want to make one quick
5 point too about the scientific studies have shown that the
6 edge effect is a lot wider than what's been put into here.
7 We are concerned about that so we'd like to see more
8 information on how the edge effect of this project will move
9 into our public forestlands, also to make sure that the
10 scope of the EIS that is going to be done in the future
11 includes all cumulative impacts. I did mention that before
12 on both wildlife, water, and on the fish habitat down here
13 in the Gorge and up in some of these rivers that are located
14 near this wind farm.

15 Please remember that our public forest is located
16 near this farm and it's not just about the Gorge. It's also
17 about our Gifford Pinchot National Forest that is in total
18 view. Thank you.

19 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

20 Jane Nichols.

21 MS. NICHOLS: I'm right here.

22 CHAIR LUCE: All right. Jane, come on up. Your
23 name and spell it and your mailing address, and after Jane
24 will be Ray Johnston.

25 ///

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1 COMMENTS BY JANE NICHOLS.

2 Jane Nichols, J-a-n-e N-i-c-h-o-l-s, and my
3 address is 930 Oak Street in beautiful downtown Hood River,
4 Oregon.

5 Thank you everyone here for doing this. This is a
6 substantial project, and I think it's going to have a
7 tremendous affect upon visual effects on Hood river. From
8 looking at the drawings, A Tower ridge is going to be
9 visible from Hood River, and if there were any way to turn
10 that into solar, it would be awesome because solar is not
11 going to jump 420 feet up in the air. The spirit of the
12 Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area a gentleman
13 earlier said that the wind farm has every right to do that
14 and that's true. But I think the spirit of the National
15 Scenic Act is really trod upon, and again I agree with Mike
16 Eastwick, Mr. Quinn, the first speaker after the break, the
17 U.S. Forest Service letter, Matt Ryan.

18 You guys have a heck of job. Do it wisely and
19 thank you.

20 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you so much.

21 Ray Johnston.

22 MR. JOHNSTON: Rex Johnston?

23 CHAIR LUCE: It looks like Ray Johnston.

24 MR. JOHNSTON: It's probably my spelling.

25 CHAIR LUCE: It is Rex. Okay. It could show as a

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1 Y instead of X. I shouldn't have guessed.

2 MR. JOHNSTON: I should have been thoughtful
3 thought when I wrote it so you could read it.

4 CHAIR LUCE: Yes.

5 COMMENTS BY REX JOHNSTON

6 My name is Rex Johnston, I live at 516 Northwest
7 Country View Road, White Salmon, Washington.

8 I am a Klickitat County Commissioner, I'm on the
9 Renewable Energy Board, and also on the Columbia Economic
10 Development Board. I'd just like to say that in Klickitat
11 County we not only support wind energy development, but we
12 went to the trouble of creating an energy overlay zone to
13 facilitate its development, not only because of the obvious
14 tax advantages to the county and to the sub taxing districts
15 in the county but also because of the jobs created in the
16 county which Skamania County obviously needs both the tax
17 and the jobs. That's all I want to say. Thank you very
18 much.

19 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you. I appreciate you coming.
20 Brian Short, S-h-o-r-t-t.

21 MR. SHORTT: That's correct.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thanks. Come on up followed by Scott
23 Cook, then Laszlo Regos.

24 COMMENTS BY BRIAN SHORTT

25 There is one advantage to coming toward the end.

1 You get to hear everything. My name is Brian Shortt, 2791
2 Hood, Prospect River. One of the reasons I came over here
3 was to learn and listen to what was being discussed and what
4 the regional impacts would or would not be. For the last
5 20, 25 years I've evolved the Urban Rule, linking language
6 programs for developing jobs in rural areas. I can state
7 fairly factually that directly or indirectly I've created
8 about four or five hundred jobs in rural areas. Obviously
9 it's not an easy thing and I have watched SDS off and on for
10 the last 20 years and applaud their commitment to constantly
11 press the fold and looking for diversity and opportunities.

12 However, being a Northwest resident for most of my
13 life and I'm looking at the names of the locations that
14 everybody comes from, I'm sure many of you have driven down
15 I-5 late in the afternoon as the sun is going down and look
16 at Mount Rainier near Olympia and said, "Wow, look at that
17 mountain with that glow going on. That is why I live in the
18 Northwest."

19 And in the last year I have taken trips out to
20 Colfax. I have been involved in alternative energy programs
21 since 1982, and I wanted to know more about this wind energy
22 activity, What was taking place. And the thing that
23 concerns me the most, and I understand the biological or the
24 wildlife issues, is the western landscape aspect that we are
25 sacrificing. It's as simple as that. The western landscape

1 that's what we enjoy the most. That is what brought us
2 here. That is what's allowed our economies to continue to
3 survive the way they have. It's what brings hundreds of
4 millions of dollars of tourism trade and helps sustain not
5 only the Gorge but the Northwest economy. It gives us
6 diversity and I feel like we are looking at the sixties and
7 the seventies when Plumb Creek a subsidiary of Burlington
8 Northern finally broke over the ridge lines into a
9 harvesting practice, general harvesting practices on I-90
10 along Snoqualmie Pass area and said, "Guess What? We don't
11 care. We're from the East Coast and we're going to harvest
12 your timber and sell it and that's the way it's going to
13 be."

14 So now today I'm coming out today and I'm coming
15 out to say, "You know what? I'm going to fight back a
16 little bit." I've watched this growth of wind turbines from
17 the Idaho border come back this way like a virus. It's not
18 a lot of thought. It's just going with rapid pace by large
19 utility companies that are saying here's this clean energy
20 program, but, folks, you are giving up your western
21 landscape. Thank you.

22 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Appreciate you
23 coming.

24 The next speaker will be Scott Cook.

25 ///

1 COMMENTS BY SCOTT COOK

2 Thank you for having us. My name is Scott Cook.
3 That's S-c-o-o-t C-o-o-k. I live at 1403 Cross Creek, Hood
4 River.

5 I'm the author of the local guide book. I make
6 pretty much a hundred percent of my income on guide books
7 and the scenic beauty of this land, and so I'm here to talk
8 a little bit about the visual spots and the visual
9 subordination of these things. I'm an avid photographer,
10 and I do a lot of night photography so I have studied the
11 way our eyes work, our eyes perceive the world, and that's
12 what I wanted to speak about a little is the nature of how
13 our eyes see things and about peripheral vision.

14 And so I believe a windmill even if it's 450 feet
15 tall it's the nature of the spinning, the movement of it
16 will make us look at it. Our eyes are programmed out of the
17 corner of our eyes to notice movement and blinking. We
18 can't help but look at it, and such that a windmill even if
19 it's small on the ridge is going to draw our eyes. The
20 movement just naturally pulls our eyes over there.

21 And so I think it makes a much bigger impact on
22 the visual landscape than just its simple height against the
23 measure of trees or say a cell tower or a power line.
24 Things that are static and still like a clear cut, a power
25 line, a cell tower our brains can sort of not look at them.

1 We can choose not to look at them, but something that blinks
2 and something that moves we to tend see it very clearly and
3 we'll have to look over.

4 So I think it adds to the pollution of the scene
5 and will degrade it in a much bigger scope than just simply
6 how big it is sitting there on the ridge. And as an example
7 like if you're looking at a dark night sky and you see a
8 satellite going or a blinking plane your eye immediately
9 sees those things. Even though there's a whole sky of
10 stars, you'll see that little blinking thing go across. You
11 can't help but look at it. Another example is when you turn
12 on the web and you turn on Yahoo or something and they put
13 those little progressive ads over there where they show the
14 women dancing crazy and you're just, oh, stop that. You
15 can't help but look at it, but they know your eye is drawn
16 to that movement. And sadly that's what we're going to get
17 with the windmill.

18 And I remember standing with Rob Bell in his
19 winery Fierchinger which is now Cathedral Ridge and he told
20 me at the very hillside of Underwood tells me about five
21 years ago and he explained to me about the grapes growing
22 over there and the view and the weather pattern, but that's
23 when he goes and he made that investment so he could be
24 there with his customers and explain, you know, how the
25 grapes are growing over there and what the weather pattern

1 is and between rain. And those windmills are going to sit
2 there and they're going to be spinning right next to that
3 and all of his customers are going to ask about those
4 instead. And so are my four minutes up yet?

5 CHAIR LUCE: Pretty much. If you want to
6 summarize, that would be great.

7 MR. COOK: The nature of this increase in power
8 back in the thirties, in the late thirties we had hydropower
9 come to the west, and we had the Army Corps of Engineers and
10 the Bureau of Reclamation battle for who could site all the
11 dams on the river and they battled each other for this new
12 source of power. It was very, oh, there was a lot of pork
13 barrel involved. Everybody wanted a dam near them to employ
14 people.

15 Now, we've got wind power coming the same way. We
16 have landowners saying, well, here's the new power. It's
17 clean green energy. Let's put them here and here. So how
18 many of these dams are we trying to remove right now? How
19 many do we worry that they've had other impacts on fisheries
20 or water purity or what have you? And in this new green
21 rush of wind power I think we're going to have problems just
22 like we had when we were building dams back in the thirties,
23 forties, and fifties.

24 CHAIR LUCE: Laszlo Regos, followed by Glen
25 Holmberg, and David Neikirk.

1 COMMENTS BY LASZLO REGOS

2 Yes. My name is Laszlo Regos spelled L-a-s-z-l-o
3 R-e-g-o-s. I live at 9292 Cook-Underwood Road, and I wasn't
4 even planning to talk today, but I thought I would add my
5 voice to what's being said here. And I think maybe the most
6 important point is remember where we are sitting right now.
7 We are sitting in the National Scenic Area, and scenic is a
8 key word. Those of us who live here have certain
9 obligations and certain rules that you have to live by. For
10 instance, in my house I was told by the Scenic Area Gorge
11 Commission that I could not even have a porch light on my
12 porch that don't go pointing down and has no visible light
13 because the possibility that someone on I-84 driving across
14 the river at night might look up and see my porch light
15 somewhere on the ridge, and that is part of what living here
16 means. And we gladly live with these rules because we enjoy
17 the scenery and we love the beauty that living here affords.
18 So to subvert the scenic area in such a way and to disregard
19 the prime reason it is a scenic area I think is perhaps
20 short sited.

21 I'm not against renewable power. I think most
22 people here are in favor of responsibly sited renewable
23 power projects. I think this project could be mitigated to
24 avoid the largest number of objections by moving probably
25 only seven of these windmills, the A towers, and that would

1 probably eliminate about 95 percent of the scenic impact
2 that we're dealing with, that we're talking about here.

3 So my views are that if this project was mitigated
4 and taken into consideration the scenic impact then it would
5 be much more beneficial to everyone involved. Thank you.

6 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you so much.

7 Glenn Holmberg.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He left.

9 CHAIR LUCE: He left.

10 All right. David.

11 COMMENTS BY DAVID NEIKIRK

12 My name is David Neikirk. I live on Wasco View
13 outside of Mosier. My address is Post Office Box 142,
14 Mosier, Oregon.

15 CHAIR LUCE: Could you spell your last name.

16 MR. NEIKIRK: N-e-i-k-i-r-k.

17 CHAIR LUCE: Thanks. Continue, please.

18 MR. NEIKIRK: I would like to speak to some things
19 I haven't heard mentioned today. One is that the grid is
20 full. It seems to me 6,000 megawatts is the number these
21 days. The proposed projects on both sides of the state on
22 the river have far exceeded the number of megawatts which
23 fill the grid. Until the infrastructure is redone getting
24 the power to people is a real problem. I know I attended
25 almost three years of EFSEC meetings in Oregon. I have

1 listened to all of the wind farms and I have listened to
2 contractors and what have you. They all keep pushing it
3 forward. Well, when we have enough members of farms we'll
4 get the infrastructure. Now they're talking about taking
5 people's lands for the power lines. All of these things are
6 in progress of being discussed and still the grid is full.

7 This gentleman with this project said this is a
8 project that's timely for its time. It's just not true.
9 First, you need an infrastructure to deliver the
10 electricity.

11 Second, you need to consider what one gentleman
12 said the wind does not always blow. The timing factors
13 using the dams to backup the electricity that's not being
14 able to be supplied by the wind farms. At times the wind
15 does not blow puts an extra load on the dam system. The
16 dams have to call around and computerize around in order to
17 dig up power from other places to replace that commitment
18 because simply the wind did not blow. I think a lot of this
19 has not been well thought out. I think they're jumping the
20 gun. I think that money drives a great deal of this, all of
21 these incentives, what have you.

22 Moving on talking about the scenic problems.
23 Where I live in Wasco Butte I drive down into the Dalles, I
24 look out over the face and down the river. I can see a line
25 of windmills from the Washington side across the river all

1 the way up to the big projects up by Wasco. This is almost
2 40 to 60 miles away from the surface, and it stands out as
3 clear as a bell. In sunny days you can even see the props
4 spin. That's at 45 to 60 surface miles away.

5 We're talking about putting this next to the
6 scenic area. It seems ridiculous. When we were fighting
7 the UPC in the Dalles I read their whatever you call it the
8 brochure, the application thoroughly. It got so ridiculous
9 at one point that they said that they might be overlooked.
10 The towers will be right behind you obviously but no one
11 would notice them because they would be so taken by the
12 river they would only look at the river, and yet you had a
13 500-foot tower proposed to be standing right behind the Hood
14 River. That's like the Statue of Liberty waving her arms.
15 It's nuts.

16 And I've seen these things. I've gone to these
17 meetings. I think it's poor planning. I think a lot of the
18 newer projects need to be held down until you get a system
19 of delivery in place where you can actually use the power
20 we're making. Because at this point they just sit out there
21 and spin on their electricity. In my case it's the Wasco
22 County Co-Op they sell power to the wind farms to keep the
23 props running during this time when there's no wind. They
24 said, the lawyer in the back said the wind companies up by
25 Wasco is one of their largest customers for electricity

1 because they simply need to keep running.

2 Anyway I oppose this project. I think that it's
3 poorly thought out and I think the scenic area is really a
4 poor place to have these. I know the law says the line runs
5 here. You can't build within the line in the scenic area,
6 but the towers are almost five hundred feet tall. If you
7 drive out by our Arlington all up 84 at night it's very
8 distracting. You got these things standing everywhere
9 spinning blinking red lights going on all over. I won't be
10 surprised if someday they don't have a major traffic
11 accident out there. But anyway that's all I have to say,
12 and thank you very much.

13 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much.

14 Mr. Neikirk is the last speaker who signed up. Is
15 there anyone else who wishes to testify today?

16 Yes, sir, come forward. Give us your name, spell
17 your name, give us your post office mailing address, and
18 four minutes is the rule.

19 COMMENT BY GARY WEST

20 My name is Gary West, West like the direction.
21 I've lived on Underwood Mountain for 30 years. I came here
22 actually in 1980 and SDS Lumber has been my neighbor that
23 whole time, and I want to cite one specific instance.

24 My property is directly adjacent to theirs. I
25 received a letter one day that they were going to be cutting

1 some trees and they had a surveyor come up and shot a line,
2 and they felt some of those trees were on my property
3 because the fence had long deteriorated. And as far as I
4 was concerned all those trees belonged to SDS Lumber, and
5 they informed me that when they shot that line that some of
6 those trees were mine and that they would cut those trees
7 and harvest them and pay me for them. Because if they just
8 left my trees standing they were a danger. They were going
9 to blow over on the building and stuff because the wind
10 would be there. As a matter of the fact, I'm right on the
11 east side of the Whistling Ridge up there, and so I said,
12 yeah, by all means go ahead and cut those trees and so
13 forth.

14 I guess I would like to say that I think it's
15 important to note that SDS is a company with good integrity
16 and that's hard to find nowadays. And Mr. Stevenson sat
17 here and said if we're going to do this job, we'll do it
18 right. And I think that's important to note because this is
19 a man of integrity and a company of integrity and people who
20 can be trusted to follow through with the way things are
21 suppose to be done.

22 Another point I would like to make is I sympathize
23 with the people as far as well from my backyard and my
24 business and there seems to be a lot of my personal
25 interests in this and I think we all need to look at what's

1 good for the whole in the long run. I remember living in
2 this Gorge and there was a petition that people wanted to
3 get signed to force the State of Oregon to plant trees along
4 the Columbia river so that residents in the state of
5 Washington would not have to see Interstate 84 in the scenic
6 area. I mean where do you draw the line? Where do you draw
7 the line? And I think the line has already been drawn, and
8 SDS is on the right side of the line.

9 And I'd like to say one other thing. One person
10 mentioned Mount Rushmore, and they said just picture wind
11 turbines in the background of Mount Rushmore. I'd like to
12 point out that if today they came up with an idea that they
13 wanted to carve heads in the side of a mountain they'd never
14 get it done. And that's all I have to say. Thank you very
15 much.

16 CHAIR LUCE: Thank you very much. Is there anyone
17 else who wishes to testify, offer comments on scoping or
18 otherwise? Going once, going twice?

19 We will have a land use hearing later in about an
20 hour. This particular hearing is adjourned.

21 * * * * *

22 (Whereupon the public meeting was adjourned at
23 5:32 p.m.)
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2 In re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project
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8 A F F I D A V I T
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10 I, Shaun Linse, CCR, do hereby certify that the
11 foregoing transcript prepared under my direction is a
12 full and complete transcript of proceedings held on
13 May 7, 2009, in Underwood, Washington.
14
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16 _____
17 Shaun Linse, CCR 2029
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