BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the matter of
Application No. 2002-01

BP WEST COAST PRODUCTS, LLC

BP CHERRY POINT
COGENERATION PROJECT

WHATCOM COUNTY’S PREFILED TESTIMONY
WITNESS # 40 : Bill Elfo

Q: Please introduce yourself to the Council.
A: I am Bill Elfo, Whatcom County Sheriff.

Q: What are the subjects of your testimony?
A: As Sheriff I am familiar with the manpower and budgetary resources of the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office. I am also aware of the British Petroleum (BP) application to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) seeking permission to construct and operate the Cherry Point Cogeneration Facility. I wish to address manpower and funding impacts, and security issues which the project may raise if permitted.

Q: What fiscal and/or manpower issues might the project pose for your office?
A: According to the application, if permitted, the construction phase of the project will being, at its peak, an estimated 706 new temporary workers, perhaps their families, into the community for about 23 months. In addition, based on my experience, the construction of the facility itself will, from time to time, likely require law enforcement services such as for providing traffic regulation during the movement of large equipment and vehicles on public roadways. The facility’s construction will no doubt result, either directly or indirectly, in increased demands upon the services of the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office.

The increased demands may or may not stress the limits of my Office’s service limits. In the past, construction activities at the Cherry Point industrial site have not imposed service demands for which the Sheriff’s Office could not meet within its existing manpower and budgetary levels; therefore, I would anticipate the Sheriff’s Office will be fully capable of meeting the manpower needs during the construction phase of the project. However, our existing service levels and budget do not include the potential...
which a project of this nature can place upon law enforcement. Should the construction phase of the project result in unanticipated or extraordinary costs, either directly or indirectly, due to increased calls for service, such additional costs may strain my very limited operating budget. Given the transitory nature of such additional fiscal demands upon a local governmental budget, should such unanticipated or extraordinary costs be incurred, they should be borne by the applicant. Provisions for such transitory costs should be made a part of the Site Certification Agreement.

Q: Does the construction of the cogeneration facility raise any security concerns for you?

A: Yes it does. It should go without saying that the terrorist attacks our country experienced on September 11, 2001, has resulted in a very new and different set of issues for our national security. Unfortunately, essential facilities such those presently sited at the Cherry Point industrial area and the proposed cogeneration facility constitute primary targets for terrorism. Given our present circumstances, such facilities now present new and greater security issues for local law enforcement. Granted those concerns will exist for the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office with or without the addition of the proposed facility, but EFSEC should not lose sight of the fact that there are cumulative impacts which the development of this project will have for the area. As more and more critical industrial facilities are located within the Cherry Point industrial area, unfortunately that area becomes more attractive as a target for terrorism. As a result the need for a more localized law enforcement presence increases as well. Should the facility be permitted, EFSEC should recommend that measures be undertaken, either individually by the facility itself or jointly with neighboring facilities, to furnish an appropriate space within the industrial complex for the Whatcom County Sheriff’s Office to locate and operate a departmental substation until such date that our homeland security needs dictate otherwise.

END OF TESTIMONY

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed at Bellingham, Washington, on this ______ day of November, 2003.

By: ______________________
Bill Elfo