BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the matter of:                  )
Application No. 2003-01            )
SAGEBRUSH POWER PARTNERS, LLC,     )  Public Comment Meeting
KITTITAS VALLEY WIND POWER PROJECT )    Pages 1 - 79

A public meeting in the above matter was held in
the presence of a court reporter on September 12, 2006, at
7:00 p.m., at South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th
Avenue S.W., Olympic Hall, in Seattle, Washington before
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Councilmembers.

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JUDGE TOREM: Good evening. We're going to
come to order here. It's a little after seven o'clock in
the evening. My name is Adam Torem. I'm an
Administrative Law Judge. I work for the Office of
Administrative Hearings. That's a state agency and my
office is typically in Olympia.

This is a public comment meeting. It is
Tuesday night, September 12, 2006. We're at South Seattle
Community College. This is a public comment meeting
before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,
otherwise known as EFSEC. Tonight's topic is Application
No. 2003-01 for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

As you've read on the handout which is orange
tonight, there are adjudicative hearings scheduled for
next week in Ellensburg, Washington. They will begin on
Monday, September 18 at 8:30 in the morning.

Tonight is the first of three public comment
hearings on a proposed wind power generating facility that
its proponents wish to construct approximately 12 miles
northwest of Ellensburg, Washington. It will run
approximately along portions of Highway 97 and surrounding
lands.

I understand that the currently proposed
version of the project is asking EFSEC to permit up to a
total of 65 wind turbines. These will vary in size. For
simplification I call them small, medium, or
large—there's no supersize in this one—and they will
generate between 1.3 megawatts and 1.5 or 3 megawatts of
electricity each. The details on the actual project those
are not available tonight from the Council. This is a
comment session not an information meeting, but you can go
to our website for the Energy Facility Site Evaluation
Council and find out information from us on the website as
opposed to or on the Applicant's website. You can contact
members for the Applicant tonight, and with the lights I
have no idea where they are.

If the people associated with the Applicant
will raise their hand now. I see Mr. Peeples who's the
Applicant's attorney. Those folks can provide you with
the information you might need about the project if you have direct questions for the people that want to build this.

The purpose of tonight's meeting is to collect public comment. As you see, there's a microphone to my left, to the Council's left, and Mr. Allen Fiksdal is the EFSEC staff person and Council manager. He's got cards that will tell you how much time you have left, and at this point I have at least 30 people signed up to give comments. So with that in mind, I'm going to assign people three minutes per person. If we get done and there are still people that want to speak again, we will see if that will work out tonight. But this is the first of three public comment hearings.

At this point before we go through all the procedures for making your comments, I'm going to ask that Chairman Jim Luce introduce himself and go down the table and have the other Councilmembers introduce themselves so you know who you're speaking to. We'll then get started taking the public comments.

CHAIR LUCE: Good evening. My name is Jim Luce. I'm Chair of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and to my immediate right is--

MS. ADELSMAN: I'm Hedia Adelsman. I represent the Department of Ecology.
MR. FRYHLING: I'm Dick Fryhling. I represent the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development.

MS. JOHNSON: I'm Patti Johnson. I represent Kittitas County.

CHAIR LUCE: And to the left of Judge Torem is--

MS. WILSON: I'm Judy Wilson. I represent the Department of Natural Resources.

MR. SWEENEY: My name is Tim Sweeney. I work for and represent the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

MS. TOWNE: I'm Chris Towne representing the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

JUDGE TOREM: This is the Council that's charged with making a decision or the recommendation that will ultimately go to Governor Gregoire as to whether to approve this project or not to approve this project as it's proposed. If they do recommend approval, they will be forwarding a site certification agreement that will have a variety of environmental conditions and mitigation measures. If they recommend disapproval, they will set out their reasons and explain those to the Governor. Governor Gregoire makes the ultimate decision, and your comments become part of the public record from which the
Council will make and forward its recommendation probably before the end of this year.

Now, the procedure tonight, as I said, this is an informational meeting. So if you ask questions to the Council, they're not going to answer them. Any questions you have should probably go to representatives for the Applicant. They're actually in the capacity that they can talk to you tonight. The Council is now in deliberative mode, and next week when it has its hearings will hear all sorts of information from official witnesses and members of the public in Ellensburg where we have two other comment meetings like this.

If you speak at tonight's public comment meeting, you will not be allowed to speak at another comment meeting in Ellensburg. Hopefully, this meeting on the west side will make it easier for folks that are here to get their comments on the project. If you know of folks who can't be here tonight and can't travel to Ellensburg to give their oral comments, there are these written comment sheets available from other EFSEC staff which you may have met when you came. Irina Makarow, she can give you one of these. If you submit them no later than September 29, the date the record closes in this matter, they will be considered by the Council in making their decision so they deliberate probably sometime in
November.

Again, tonight, I've got a list and I'm going to ask people to come up when I call their name. I'll call the first three or four in a row and then call you as a group so there won't be so much shuffling around and wait time. But just come down and have a seat in the front. When it's your turn to speak, come to the microphone. Please state your name and spell your last name. We do have a court reporter, Shaun Linse, taking things down. So I'm probably speaking about the fastest rate of speed you can get things down comfortably. If you see her frantically waving at you or Mr. Fiksdal, slow down and just start over. We'll get your comments.

Now, for folks that want to be issued transcripts of this I believe we are going to arrange an expedited transcript available for folks in Ellensburg to know what was said tonight and they may be posted on our website. You can check with Mr. Fiksdal after tonight's meeting or with Ms. Makarow or make a telephone call to the office sometime later this week if that's a concern, and you can get a copy of that transcript.

Again, the Council's role tonight is simply to listen, and I want you to draw your attention back to that orange sheet you have tonight. I have a blue one. It has the information about submitting your written
comments. It has the address in which you send it. It has e-mail and it also has all the addresses for next week's hearings and where the public comment hearings will be. On the back side you will find all the information about the adjudication itself when the expert witnesses will be informing the Council as to what their positions are on various mitigation measures for this proposed wind power project.

Chairman Luce, I think that's all I needed to explain. Is there anything else I left out?

CHAIR LUCE: No, I think we're ready to proceed.

JUDGE TOREM: Let me turn to the speaker sign-in sheet. I'm going to ask again to try to stick a three-minute comment, would you please. Mr. Fiksdal has those cards and he'll be playing the role again and he really will be right there in your face. It's hard to miss him.

Tonight's first three speakers are Randall Thomas, the next speaker will be Frances Posel, and then Linda Maw. If the three of you will come down to the front, and I'll have Mr. Thomas to go to the microphone, and, again, if you'll state your full name, spell the last name, and give us your address and I'll hear your comments.
COMMENTS BY RANDALL THOMAS

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is Randall Thomas. Last name T-h-o-m-a-s. I live in Seattle, also have a place in Ellensburg at 1710 West Sun East Road. My comments are that it's beautiful property over there and a lot of people live over there, a lot of recreational land, and I think this is just going to destroy that whole area. I have a bald eagle on my property. I'm about a half mile to a mile from where these windmills are going to be, and the noise and the site is just going to be totally destructive to the area. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Ms. Posel.

COMMENTS BY FRANCES POSEL

My name is Frances Posel, P-o-s-e-l.

JUDGE TOREM: Pardon me.

MS. POSEL: And I live at 7517 14th Avenue N.E., in Seattle. Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you. I expect you will hear a lot of testimony this evening about the virtues of wind power. I want to remind you and everyone present that the issue here is not the benefits of wind power rather the issue before you is much simpler: Is the site proposed by Horizon for its KVVPP project an appropriate one for a 6,000-acre wind farm?
I expect that some people testifying tonight will not have visited this proposed site and some may not even know where it is. These people may feel that wind power is so important that wind farms should be permitted wherever developers want to build them regardless of the local impacts.

I have visited Horizon's proposed site. I know the area quite well. As a glance of the map will tell you, there are over 1,000 homes and properties close to the edges of this project. All these owners would suffer significant adverse impacts. There would be noise, shadow flicker, and a very significant visual intrusion from over 65 400-foot tall spinning turbines topped with strobe lights, and for comparison each of these turbines would be two-thirds the height of the space needle.

There has been much testimony before you from Kittitas County realtors that these neighboring owners would experience a substantial drop in the value of their properties. That's obvious. Few people want to live so close to such a huge industrial project.

This processed site is also a particularly beautiful part of Kittitas County in Washington State, an area teaming with wildlife, an area that should be protected from industrial development on such a massive scale.
I share the concern of everyone here about the damage that fossil fuels are doing to our environment, but it makes no sense to destroy our most beautiful landscapes in order to save them. There are many far more appropriate locations than this one for wind farms.

As proof of the fact that other locations are available close by, another wind farm developer, EnXco, proposed a similar wind farm for construction only two miles from this site. Horizon itself proposed a wind farm a dozen miles from this location and that project, the wind farm on Whiskey Dick Mountain, is already being constructed.

Last week we learned that yet another developer, EnvEnergy, is proposing a large new wind farm in the rye grass area of Kittitas County. So obviously there's no shortage of viable locations in Eastern Washington. Why shoehorn a wind farm like Horizon's KVWPP into a highly populated and scenic area only nine miles from the center of Ellensburg?

The final issue here is the right of the citizens of Kittitas County and their elected officials to make decisions about local land use. Horizon does not respect the decisions that the local officials made but EFSEC must. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am. Our next
speaker is Linda Maw and Kevin McCabe and Jeff Howard.

COMMENTS BY LINDA MAW

Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Linda Maw, M-a-w, and I speak for myself as well as my husband Michael Maw. We live in Auburn but we are property owners in the Kittitas Valley. We are against the proposed site of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project; however, we feel it's important to note that we are not against wind power in the Kittitas Valley. We feel the site of the project conflicts with ongoing rural residential development and will impact property value. We know this is true because we purchased our property at a lesser cost because of the proposed Desert Claim Wind Power Project later denied by the County for the same reasons we are concerned about this project.

It is important to note that around the county some of these proposed projects are on hold because of noise and shadow flicker concerns and how they will impact neighboring residents. It's also important to note that in some areas such as West Virginia these turbines have been sited in pristine areas and residents there now regret supporting the project. In California one large wind farm operates at half capacity at any given time because it's in the flyway of the condor and the kill rate of these birds was excessive. The local Audubon Society
experts have concerns that this project is in the migratory bird flyway.

We feel that the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project and the Desert Claim Project negatively impact some of the more pristine views of the mountains to the north and west. We wonder how Kittitas Valley residents will feel having structures that are as tall as Seattle skyscrapers as backdrops to their views of the mountains. Projects such as these certainly would not be sited in such areas as Seattle or King County.

We feel that in Kittitas County there are areas northeast and east of Ellensburg that are better suited for wind power projects. The Wild Horse Project in the Whiskey Dick area is in an area with no development pressure and has little aesthetic, noise, or flicker impact. We recently learned that a Colorado company is studying a site 25 miles east of Ellensburg between I-90 and Vantage. These areas make more sense for the aforementioned reasons. We support being environmentally conscious but with environmental responsibility.

It is also important to note that the Kittitas County Commissioners did not deny this project outright. They listened to public testimony for and against the project and heard the concerns about noise and shadow flicker from impacted residents. They visited an
operating wind farm near Dayton, Washington. After this visit they came back and proposed larger setbacks from affected property owners. Horizon basically stonewalled them, leading to the denial of the project as a whole.

We urge the EFSEC Committee to continue the practice of upholding County decisions in these matters. We suspect that the people from EnXco that were denied the Desert Claim Project are waiting in the wings hoping that EFSEC will break precedence and override the County denial of the Kittitas County Wind Power Project so they can file for preemption on their project. We ask that you please do not override the County on this matter. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Kevin McCabe.

MR. McCABE: Your Honor, Kevin McCabe. I'm from the Sierra Club's Cascade Chapter. I was wondering if I could concede my time to another member of the chapter.

JUDGE TOREM: Certainly.

MR. McCABE: Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Who would that member be?

MR. McCABE: I'm sorry. That would be Andy Silber will be giving an integrated presentation for our chapter.

JUDGE TOREM: You're asking if I give your three minutes to make his six?
MR. McCABE: Exactly. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Jeff Howard.

COMMENTS BY JEFF HOWARD

My name is Jeff Howard, 21 Fawn Road, Cle Elum. For the past four years the Applicant has been trying to get permission to install their project in the western Kittitas Valley. In the beginning their main point of argument was that this location was the only place in the entire county where the wind was suitable for their purposes. When they encountered citizen resistance during the county process, they dropped their application and requested EFSEC preemption hoping that the state would step in and grant their wishes. EFSEC sent them back to the county with a request that they try to comply with the county requirements first. Back in Kittitas County the Applicant made a half-hearted effort to meet the county requirements and was finally turned down.

The rejection of the application at the county level was ruled on after a protracted series of public hearings, lawsuits, newspaper articles, and volumes of written and oral testimony. In the end the planning commission voted unanimously to recommend denial.

After even more hearings and testimony the Board of County Commissioners also voted also unanimously to deny the application. Meanwhile, the same applicant
planned another wind project east of the city of Kittitas, but it was quickly approved by the same planning commission, by the same Board of County Commissioners with almost no opposition. It is now nearly complete and ready to go on line.

Recently another wind project was announced to be built in the eastern end of the county, and it too should glide through approval at the county level because there’s two very important things. First, the applicant has proven by its own actions that wind farms are feasible in sparsely populated areas of the county. The Highway 97 area is not after all the only place where the wind is adequate.

Second, citizens and officials of Kittitas County are not averse to having wind projects built at all. We are just making the point that this is a very wrong place to site this installation. This proposed project in this location will adversely affect the environment, way of life, property values, and pristine landscape and mountain views which are valued and coveted by all of us who work, live, and recreate in the western valley.

The applicant is asking you, EFSEC, to trample on the four-year county public process along with the will, rights, and well being of we the actual property owners.
owners in the valley. This project may be basically a good idea, but the location is totally wrong. I respectfully request that you would deny this application. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. The next speakers are David Lee, Erin Piegari, and Heather Rhoads-Weaver.

Mr. Lee.

COMMENTS BY DAVID LEE

Good evening. I'm David Lee. I live at 5821 Robbins Road, Ellensburg. Last name is spelled L-e-e.

I own a couple hundred acres between my wife and myself right probably a quarter mile from where these turbines may land, and I couldn't do this to my neighbors, to put something 42 stories tall so that they would have to look at them. And you as the board members are going to make this decision. When you go home tonight, I want you to look at your back yard and see if you want them in your patch of grass behind you.

And yet I'm not against wind turbines. I'm not against conserving energy. I'm not against making energy. But the same people in this great state a few years ago turned down a place called Satsop that was 98 percent ready to go on line, and I'll bet you if somebody does some research that nuclear plant would generate more than all these monstrous turbines.
And there's also another turbine that's being built internal. It doesn't have the blades. That's internally run; that doesn't have these great big things. I know of it. I can research and find it, but I would think somebody should be able to present something on those.

As far as eastern Kittitas County from our humble little ranch that we enjoy watching the moon come up, the sun come up, the start at night, just as recently as Saturday night I sat there and watched blinking red turbines that are at least 20 miles away from me, and I saw them and it's like, "Why people?" Maybe some people don't care if they have them in their back yard but we do.

So please consider this from somebody that has invested in land, and I'm sure that at the end of all this if the decision is to go forward with it, I would tell you that you're probably going to look at lawsuits forever. And the state has been hammered by enough bad decisions. I don't think we need more of them.

And I've been a property owner over there for 15 years plus. I've been president of the Sun East Property Owners Association. I don't speak for those people, but I can tell you that I know of no one out of 165 members that ever wanted turbines in their back yard. But if there's so many viable spots in Eastern Washington,
put these turbines that won't affect any of us. Let's choose those sites instead of your back yard or ours. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

Erin Piegari.

I'm sure I'm butchering names. So I'm trying to get a C+ on name pronunciation. I think I'm four out of six so far.

COMMENTS BY ERIN PIEGARI

Actually you did really good with that. It's spelled P-i-e-g-a-r-i. I'm a resident here in West Seattle. I think I'm probably the first pro voice, and mine's actually just a general comment; that, you know, I'm pro renewable energy and mostly because of my family. When I became pregnant and found out that I couldn't eat certain kinds of fish because of the levels of mercury or because of the levels of mercury that are in fish, and that's because of the amount of carbon dioxide we put into the environment. I would support any project that would look to any sort of renewable energy, and that's all I have to say.

JUDGE TOREM: All right. Thank you, ma'am.

Heather Rhoads-Weaver.

COMMENTS BY HEATHER RHOADS-WEAVER

Heather Rhoads-Weaver,
R-h-o-a-d-s-W-e-a-v-e-r, and I live at 11824 Vashon Highway S.W., Vashon, Washington.

I'm with a company called eFormative Options. We are a market research and public affairs consulting firm specializing in both residential and community scale wind development, as well as the formation and growth of sustainable ventures to enhance local economies.

Previously I was also the founder of the Northwest SEED, Sustainable Energy for Economic Development, which has been an active supporter of this project since it was first proposed. We worked with many of the local residents on a watch organization. You've probably heard of Kittitas CARES, Citizens Alliance for Renewable Energy Solutions, and I personally testified at several of the county hearings out in Ellensburg. So what you're hearing tonight is definitely nothing new.

But one important reason that I feel it's really important to advocate this particular site is it's a very unique wind resource. I conducted a study along with several other wind experts for the U.S. Department of Energy a few years ago looking at all the wind in the Northwest that would have adequate wind energy to power irrigation in the summertime. And we found that this area, particularly Ellensburg, is one of the few sites
that actually has good wind in the summertime during those months when irrigation load is high. It's also becoming an important time of year as the summertime peak is getting as high as the winter in this region. Air conditioning loads go up and such. And it's also very critical in times of drought to ease the strain of the hydro system. So it's just a really important spot. It's good access to transmission lines, fairly close to our load centers here in the state.

So approving this project will set a critical precedent to establish clean renewable energy generation in the state relatively close to the state's population load centers. I appreciate your consideration.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

The next speaker is Rick Forster, and Angie LaVigne will follow him, followed by Michael Gossler.

COMMENTS BY RICK FORSTER

My name is Rick Forster, F-o-r-s-t-e-r. I live in Redmond. I have 40 acres up on top of the hill in Ellensburg that looks down in this area. We've been through all the meetings with Horizon Ph.D. specialists. It's kind of like listening to an old time snake oil sale show. It wouldn't hurt the view, it won't hurt the value of property, and you will only have to change your lifestyle a little bit by having your drapes closed for
all day for the light flicker and earmuffs for the noise.

I'm a little confused about real estate values. They are now going up like crazy over there. With all the money these people have and insight so they say they have, why don't they buy all of this property and resell it later with a huge profit. For I'm sure it will continue going up at least 15 to 20 percent a year like it's been going up, and after structures are up, they could turn around and sell it for a nice profit if their information is really right. Okay?

Would any of these people buy property next to these structures? No. I'll tell you about industrial property. I own heavy industrial property where my business is in King County. I could not put these structures on my heavy industrial zone property. You couldn't put them in Thurston County, Snohomish County, Pierce County. Heavy industrial property it wouldn't be allowed. The height is so high it wouldn't be allowed. But we can go to Eastern Washington and put them over there where poor hill folk won't know any better and they won't fight it.

My home isn't next to my shop for I didn't want to live in an industrial area. When I wanted recreation property, I bought it in the hills above Ellensburg because I didn't want it next to an industrial
area. I have views of Rainier, Mount St. Helens, Stuart, and the Valley.

These people trying to sell this to you again are like the old time snake oil salesmen. Comes into town, stuffs his pockets full of money, and leaves town. The mess is left. We have to live with it. The County has spoke and said, no, they don't want this industrial site built there. Please respect the County's decision and wishes of the people who live there, pay taxes, and vote, none of these things are done by the New York owners golden sacks. I'm not against wind power. It's just the wrong place.

And by the way, for all you eco-friendly people, how many thousands of gallons does each one these turbines have that they have to change out all the time? Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Ms. LaVigne.

COMMENTS BY ANGIE LaVIGNE

Angie LaVigne. Last name is spelled L-a-V-as in Victor-i-g-n-e, 8549 Latona Avenue N.E., in Seattle, Washington 98115. I am an energy management engineer, retired, and as such I would like to speak to the big picture.

If we are going to continue the economic vitality of this fair nation and Washington State in
particular starting in the near future, we are going to
need to invest in any acceptable source of energy
generation we can get our mitts on. Wind certainly and I
think there seems to be consensus in the room is near the
top priority. I'll make a short aside about nuclear. It
is way too expensive, and we have not yet found a way to
dispose of the spent fuel rods.

Returning to wind, hearing the positions of
the people at the table, I realize you are totally
acquainted with the low emissions, the low pollution, and
so on off it.

I'll mention an occurrence that happened
yesterday. I was bringing a wedding present over to a
friend's home. On the mantelpiece is an American flag
folded into a triangular display case. If there are
families in Ellensburg and Enron's that have lost a son or
daughter in the conflict in the Middle East, they know
that the price of oil is far higher than what we see at
the pump or read at the meter, and wind is a very viable,
positive, possible alternative. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. I recognize that
many of you are going to agree strongly or disagree
strongly with speakers and maybe technically give them
applause or fortunately we haven't had cat calls or boos
or hissing. Let's refrain from that. If you want to
cheer or maybe make a piggish boo, the Mariner's team is up the road. Let's hope that we'll offer dignity to all of our speakers tonight, and to the Council this isn't a popularity contest. It's simply somebody may need to hear these items, and I don't want to turn them into a cheering session one way or the other. So thanks. I appreciate the feelings but let's hold them. We did good for the first nine. Let's get back on track.

Michael Gossler is next and Helen Gribble and Sara Patton will follow.

COMMENTS BY MICHAEL GOSSLER

Thank you, Your Honor. My name is Michael Gossler. I reside at 3212 74th Place S.E., Mercer Island, Washington. I also own 40 acres of recreation property up out of Ellensburg that will be impacted by this project.

I'm here tonight for the same reason that I left my office, drove over the pass to Ellensburg, and participated at the multiple hearings before the local processes over there.

It would be a mistake for this commission to recommend that the Governor preempt the local process. It was extensive. It was thorough. It was well considered, and it was fair in all respects. The local government I think is entitled in particular to be given a lot of credence for its decision making in this process because
it listened to a lot of testimony and considered all the arguments and considered them very carefully.

I'm here basically to speak to two issues. One is that the impact on the environment and the pristine nature of the valley over there would be devastating and permanent by allowing what is nothing short of a huge industrial project in a rural area.

When you put into context the size of this project compared to the local structures in Kittitas County, it's amazing. If you go and drive over and visit Ellensburg, the largest buildings are two or three stories tall. We're talking about something here that's two-thirds the size of the Columbia Center where I spend my days, and it's not something you want to have in that Kittitas Valley. The impact would be permanent I would suggest. Because once you allow this to happen, there's no coming back and these facilities will be here for generations.

When you look at the impact environmentally, we're talking about again 40-story structures that will have white and red lights flashing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I bought property over there to get away from the city and to enjoy the beautiful views that others have described tonight. It's not something that this commission should take lightly and I know it will not.
Secondly, and again people have alluded to this, but I submit it would have a devastating impact on property values if you were to allow this kind of a project to go forward.

And finally, again, as most of the people who have spoken against this project tonight, I have nothing inherently against wind power. In the right place it might very well be appropriate. An earlier speaker suggested, well, this might be the absolute best place because it's got good wind in the summertime. Well, it isn't the only place that has good wind in the summertime, and that's not the criteria. The criteria is balancing the interests of the local population, the environment against what I submit is a relatively minimal amount of power that you would garnish from this particular project.

So for all those reasons this commission should reject the petition and recommend to the Governor not to preempt the project. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

Helen Gribble.

COMMENTS BY HELEN GRIBBLE

Hello, my name is Helen Gribble. That's with a G but like scribble or dribble, G-r-i-b-b-l-e. I live in a small apartment at 2400 Boyer Avenue East. I do have between two and three hundred dollars in my bank
account. If anyone would like to sell me property in Kittitas where I can put a wind turbine, please, I'm sure we can work out some kind of financing deal. I only have student loans to pay off for, you know, the next 15 years or so. I'm sure we can work something out.

I'm here today to say that change happens and it's not something you can plan for. Sometimes it's good; sometimes it's bad. Sometimes it's in the name of progress. And that's the kind of change that I hope for in my life; that I hope for the kids that I would like to have.

And to tell people who want to do something good and put wind turbines on their land and do something for the future, this is inevitably going to happen I believe. There will be wind turbines all across Kittitas County. They're going to be there. If not now, it's going to be in 50 years. They will be tearing down houses to put wind turbines up when we run out of oil. You know, when the nuclear power plant explodes, and we've got to figure out what to do to make power because we are certainly going to continue to need power.

So if progress is going to be made, I would rather have it be made for wind turbines than for a strip mall or a diesel power plant or coal or any of those kinds of things. And I know and I understand and I empathize
with the people who are going to lose property value, if that's what they think, and the people who are going to be exposed to light and shadow and noise. You know, that happens when highways get put in. That happens when airports get put in it. That happens when strip malls get put in. And I don't think it's any less sad to the people who saved up and invested their money in that kind of property.

But sometimes we have to think about what's good for everybody, not what's good for one person or ten people who own land who would like to make a profit. If change is going to happen in Kittitas, which I would bet my whole life savings on which is between two to three hundred dollars, I would put that down that change is going to happen in Kittitas County. And all we can do is try to direct that change in the best possible direction for the county, the state, the nation, and the world. That's what I would like to say. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Gribble. There will be a small collection taken in the back.

The next few speakers are Sara Patton, LeeAnne Beres, and Mick Steinman.

COMMENTS BY SARA PATTON

Good evening. I'm Sara Patton. I'm the executive director of the Northwest Energy Coalition. My
last name is spelled P-a-t-t-o-n. I live at 2629 East Valley Street in Seattle. That you very much, Mr. Chair and Members of the Council, for having this hearing. The coalition asked for this hearing among others, and we're very glad to have one on the west side for this very important issue.

We think this project can be a win win for Washington. It will provide economic development for Kittitas County, and it will provide power for Washington and for the region. The economic development benefits include local job and extended tax revenues. The ratepayers are going to benefit from a diversified mix of new clean renewables. Obviously there are no fuel costs for wind. Puget Sound Energy you may have heard has already estimated that the two wind farms that it has bought have saved its ratepayers 170 million dollars so they are happy. That's in their most recent annual report.

I want to talk a little bit about the specifics of this project; one issue being that it is consistent I understand with the Department of Fish and Wildlife Wind Siting Guidelines. It's also consistent with the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. The developer has done a number of things to improve it from the issues that have been raised to it; the other concerns
including reducing the overall number of turbines, removing or actually moving portions of those strings, and increasing setbacks from homes and property lines as well as reducing the impacts of lights on the turbines while still meeting FAA kinds of guidelines. This is the kind of project that makes good sense for Washington, and we do urge the Council to approve it.

I want to just step back a moment and say that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council has looked at the opportunities for meeting the region's load growth, and we can meet the region's load growth over the next 20 years and the power council's plan shows it with energy conservation and renewables with an extremely minimal reliance on new coal. We believe that the coalition doesn't need the new coal either, but we have to do that or we will not be able to in fact--was that one minute?

MR. FIKSDAL: One minute. Sorry.

MS. PATTON: We have to develop the wind or we will not be able to do that and we will have coal development. I just came from a meeting which I met with a colleague from Montana who's fighting eight conventional coal plants, big conventional coal plants which are proposed to meet load on the west side. Montana doesn't need them. They're planning to sell it to Washington.
The devastation of the coal mining, of the poisons in the atmosphere, the poisons in the water, the contribution to an unstable climate are the things that we have to avoid by developing wind power whenever and wherever we can responsibly as with this project.

Also I understand that the agency firmly knows WPPSS Energy Northwest has now actually submitted its proposal for a 600-megawatt coal plant in Kalama, Washington. There's also a proposal for it's formally yet in Oregon but a proposal for another 600-megawatt coal plant across the river in Clatskanie. So those are very real, very real alternatives to this wind plant. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Next is LeeAnne Beres.

COMMENTS BY LeeANNE BERES

Hi, my name is LeeAnne Beres, spelled B-e-r-e-s, and I live here in West Seattle at 4511 45th Avenue S.W. I'm here representing Earth Ministry which is an ecumenical Christian organization that brings the faith perspective to issues concerning people and the environment. We represent over 150 congregations around Washington State, and I'm here to speak in favor of the Kittitas Wind Project.

Some speakers have already mentioned wind power in general is something that all of us given the
rush to coal in this region and also the ever emerging
need for more energy in this state and this country all
support, but I want to talk specifically about the
elements of this project.

Our members support this project because we
believe this brings good balance to both what people and
the environment need in this region. It is consistent
with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's wind
siting guidelines which means that there are going to be
adverse impacts to the environment and to the animals in
the surrounding area, and especially for our members it's
important to acknowledge that many changes have been
already made to this project in response to community
concerns. The number of turbines has been nearly halved.
Other speakers have mentioned that there will be fewer
lights than originally intended, and we believe that this
compromise brings forward a good balance to meeting both
our energy needs in a clean and affordable manner but
addressing some very real community concerns.

Personally I want to speak to my experience
with wind power plants. I was lucky enough to tour the
State Line Wind Plant over near Walla Walla that straddles
the border of Oregon and Washington, and these are not
industrial properties. They are turbines sited out in the
middle of farms along ridge lines and between the fields
where farmers are actually paid and receive money per wind turbine put on land that is normally not farmable in the first place. So it's actually an economic benefit to the community because farmers have the opportunity to bring additional income for a land that would not be farmed anyway.

Also the State Line Project is now the largest contributor to the tax income for the county out there. It's become one of the largest revenue sources and actually is bringing economic boom to the area. So I encourage people who are concerned about the local impacts to think of it as a bigger picture and residents out there who actually were against the proposed in the first place now are happy to have them as neighbors, and I just encourage us to always remember that there needs to be balance and compromise when we are looking at environmental and neighborhood issues and we definitely support this project. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: All right. Thank you, Ms. Beres.

The next three speakers are Mick Steinman, Greg Nevil, and Emilia Burdyshaw.

COMMENTS BY MICK STEINMAN

Okay. My name is Mick Steinman, S-t-e-i-n-m-a-n. I've been an owner of property over
there in Ellensburg on the project for about 20 years.
When I first purchased the land, I was thinking of
building a cabin out there. I started doing a little bit
of road building and stuff and boy that wind just blew my
hat right off and it was just so hard to get anything
done. I mean I was driving CATs and things. I mean it
was cold and I mean that wind just was hard all the time.
You know, I found out how much the wind really blew, and
it just takes all the topsoil right off the land. It's
all scab rock. Anyway, the stuff I have up there.

And, you know, at that time I was thinking
that, you know, this would be ideal for a wind farm, and I
even went as far as to go over to Stewart Anderson's farm
which was up on I-90 near Elk Heights which is kind of
across the Yakima River to the south and I talked to him a
little bit and it wasn't anything I could put together.
But, you know, it was kind of a thought I had way back in
the '80s.

And in 1999 I went down to Arizona, traveled
through Palm Springs and things, and I saw all those wind
farms down there, and I said, "Man, this is the thing to
do for Ellensburg. It's something where you can have the
farming underneath, and you get your wind generation.
It's something that we need for the future."

A few years ago, I was approached about
having a wind farm on the property, and I thought it was the best idea there ever was. I mean that was something that that land is made for it. The land is right on the power transmission lines. You don't have any other infrastructure you have to put in for those power lines. It's just the local lines because you've got two high power transmission lines right on that property. These guys talk about looking down over the project and, you know, how it's going to ruin their view. Well, these things are much better looking than the power lines that are currently there, these things.

I've just visited the Wild Horse site. I was able to get up and actually touch the turbines, go underneath. We could hear the crickets going underneath the turbines more than we could hear the wind turbines. There wasn't hardly any noise at all, very quiet. I looked into the shadow flicker and in the afternoon sun I looked up there, and I mean I wasn't very far away on some of them, some of them were a little bit farther, and, you know, I didn't notice the shadow flicker. I mean what really is it? I mean it just wasn't something that really bothered me. I mean I'm standing in the shadow as the turbines were going, and it just it wouldn't bother me at all. So I think he's got the end for me. So anyway I'm for the project. Thank you.
JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

The next speaker is Craig Nevil.

COMMENTS BY CRAIG NEVIL

My name is Craig Nevil, N-e-v-i-l. For 30 years I've been a stockbroker in Seattle. I live at 707 West 2nd in Cle Elum. I would love to get into a debate about some of the issues. Tax credits for wind farms versus hydrocarbons or some of the utility costs pass through that we run in over the years, the stranded cost for WPPSS, 18 percent pack power bonds, the green issue from California picking up some of these things. The issue tonight is this site now.

I happen to be on the board for the county Economic Development Council, but tonight I'm just talking about me as a taxpayer. You may be aware that in the area west from Ellensburg is becoming a bedroom community for this area. There's a 6,000 acre planning of new development going in. There's a lot of residential growth going in. You're probably aware that the property tax consequences of residential development are you pay a buck you use more than a buck in services. You have to have some industry in your normal community because an industry pays a buck and uses 50 cents worth of services; so you have to have some kind of a balance.

There isn't a lot of industry in Cle Elum or
Ellensburg right now, west of Ellensburg I guess. This project is roughly $200,000,000 and will pay a significant amount of property taxes predominantly into the Thorp School District. When you get to Ellensburg, you will hear most likely from the school district from Kittitas and the tremendous impact the taxes have there on the fire districts and police districts. I would urge you to consider that strongly because Cle Elum and the outline areas are going to have some significant shortages of property taxes and we're not going to be able to provide the services because there just isn't the ground for industry that we will need to go with this tremendous residential development.

The witness that talked about the big picture as I was sitting there listening to her I couldn't help wonder how 50 years ago how they ran all those power lines across this state. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Ms. Burdyshaw and the next speakers will be Rosemary Monaghan, Cager Clabaugh, and Mike Robertson.

COMMENTS BY EMILIA BURDYSHAW

My name is Emilia Burdyshaw. My last name is B-u-r-d-y-s-h-a-w, and I live at 2806 S.W. Adams Street in Seattle; however, I own property right next to the project area and my property is spaced surrounding the project...
Anyway in my opinion Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project is a poor one. The issue is not about the merits of wind power. It concerns the location of this project. Since EFSEC their purpose is to evaluate the site for energy facilities this site is a poor choice for this facility. It's proposed in a peaceful, scenic, recreational area of rural residences and vacation properties. The project will drastically alter the area making it undesirable for its current use.

It introduces 410-foot turbines topped with flashing lights. Spinning blades will emit noise, create shadow flicker, cause bird and bat mortalities. It will jeopardize the safety of property owners since towers collapse, blade throws, ice throws, and fire instances have been known to occur at such facilities. Monetary rewards are being given only to the 13 landowners who have lease property and will receive thousands of dollars per year for each turbine on their land. No compensation or mitigation is being offered to the hundreds of other affected property owners who are not participating in this project.

My property will be surrounded on three sides while other adjacent landowners will have turbines only 541 feet from their property line. Industrial wind farm
facilities have no place among residential development. Since nonpopulated regions are appropriate sites this project could be located elsewhere.

Klickitat County has set aside thousands of acres for wind development. The State Line Project in Walla Walla is located on remote farm land. The Wild Horse project which Puget Sound Energy plans to expand is in an isolated area with the closest residence over one and a half miles away.

The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project has no buyer for their project. Puget Sound Energy is not interested in purchasing power from this controversial project; therefore, there is no way of knowing where the power will be transmitted. It could be sold to a company that would send the power to another state. Such an arrangement could be similar to Bonneville Power Administration's current practice of selling its surplus power outside of Washington State. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Next speaker is Rosemary Monaghan.

COMMENTS BY ROSEMARY MONAGHAN

I am Rosemary Monaghan. That's spelled M-o-n-a-g-h-a-n. I reside at 19205 67th Avenue S.E., in Snohomish, Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment
before you today. I own property directly bordering this proposed huge project. My plans of building have now been on hold for four years. Would you continue with your future plans based on this uncertainty?

In Seattle people complain about the 65-foot cell towers near their house. How would you like 65 410-foot towers with strobe lights in front of your house? Horizon has continued to ignore me and my neighbors who collectively own 320 acres on the border of this proposed project. We're being told that our country needs more wind power, but that's not the real issue. The issue is oversiting. Kittitas County has already permitted another Horizon project. The County has no objection to these projects if they're properly sited. But Kittitas County has determined that this particular project is not properly sited and the County has disapproved of it. There are other areas in our county as well as in the state that can support wind power. This is simply the wrong place, and it's just too populated.

I suggest to you that EFSEC's criteria for siting wind farms should include these: The project be built on one or two contiguous parcels of land, no residences or other landowners for at least a mile from the project; that there be a buyer already in place for the power that would be produced, and that the project
meets little opposition or has local support.

The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project has met none of these criteria. Horizon has repeatedly claimed this is the only place in Kittitas County for a viable wind farm. We now know that this is false. Why else would the Wild Horse and Desert Claim projects have been proposed in Kittitas County? Why do we now have a fourth project being proposed by EnvEnergy out my Vantage?

This project is proposed in an inappropriate location. It's not supported by the local community, and I feel it should be denied. Please think thoroughly and vote wisely. The future of Kittitas County and its residents are riding on your recommendations. Thank you very much.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Monaghan.

Cager Clabaugh and Mike Robertson and Jess Nelson.

COMMENTS BY CAGER CLABAUGH

My name is Cager Clabaugh, C-l-a-b-a-u-g-h. I live at 34163 N.E. Lewisville Highway, Yucolt, Washington. I'm a rank and file member of the International Longshore Warehouse Union Local 4, President of the Clark, Skamania, and West Klickitat Labor Council, Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council from the third district.
Again, my name is Cager Clabaugh, and I'm a longshoreman at the Port of Vancouver. That's America's Vancouver on the Columbia River. I am here this evening to speak in favor of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project. Longshore workers at the Port of Vancouver such as myself have benefited a great deal from the popularity and efficiency of wind generation. The last five years our longshore local has grown from around 118 members to 184 members mainly due to the increase of windmill projects in Eastern Washington and Oregon.

Many of these projects bring their wind generators through our ports to be off-loaded by our skilled and qualified work force. Afterward they are trucked or barged to their final destination where they are assembled, wired, and maintained by skilled employees, most of which live in the State of Washington. The Hopkins Ridge Project last year created over 13,000 labor hours for our longshore local alone. The Wild Horse Canyon Project is expected to produce 15,000 labor hours for our local by the completion at the end of this year. To put it simply, these projects not only create clean, reliable energy in Washington State, they create much needed family-wage jobs.

On behalf of the 184 longshore workers at the Port of Vancouver and their families I urge the Energy
Facility Site Evaluation Council to approve the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project. That means a lot to working families across Washington State. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Mike Robertson.

COMMENTS BY MIKE ROBERTSON

My name is Mike Robertson, R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n. My wife and I live at 4101 Bettas Road in Cle Elum. Our home is 1,300 feet from the proposed Turbine A-1. We've been testifying before various land use authorities for four years as to the impacts this project would cause to us and our neighbors, and during this time the Applicant has maintained that we should cover our windows with blinds to mitigate the effects of shadow flicker which their own analysis shows would happen to our home 149 days in every year. The Applicant also thinks that it's perfectly acceptable that we should look at 385- to 410-foot turbines moving mechanical structures instead of the wide-open shrub-steppe vista that was one of the original reasons we purchased our property.

When I submitted documented evidence that wind farms caused low frequency noises for distances up to a mile, the response has been silence or the usual wind industry response that it's not measurable within currently legal standards. Their own studies admit to the probability of high raptor mortality, including bald
eagles, during the life of this project.

Our locally elected Kittitas County Board of Commissioners has spent the last four years studying and listening to three different wind farm applications. They are very competent at this point in determining proper siting for these large industrial complexes. They have even visited a wind farm to get first-hand experience of the visual impacts of their size and the shadow flicker effect. They have experienced the low rhythmic sound these machines make when operating. They determined the only way to mitigate these impacts is to require sufficient distance between nonparticipating property owners and the turbines.

The Applicant maintains the setbacks our County suggested would make their project economically unviable. Economic viability is not a criterion for proper siting of energy facilities. It has been demonstrated that there are many places within Kittitas Valley where wind farms can be responsibly sited. Wild Horse Wind Power Project was analyzed and permitted by the same Board of Commissioners that has denied this project using the exact same evaluation process. There is even another wind company wanting to build a 350-megawatt facility near Wild Horse.

In closing, the denial of this project is
not a referendum against renewable energy. Renewable energy use in Washington will happen. Permitting this project as proposed would be a referendum for poor siting standards. I urge this Council to not preempt the very thorough comprehensive local land use decision for the siting of this project and recommend to the Governor to deny this application. Thanks.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Robertson.

The next speaker is Jess Nelson who will be followed by Jack Arends and Les White and then Mike Ruby.

COMMENTS BY JESS NELSON

Hi, I'm Jess Nelson. I live in Woodinville, Washington. My business is in Kirkland. I own a piece of property in Ellensburg. Funny Nick never told me about the windmills when he sold it so me, my brother, or my other neighbors. I live in a valley in places I've built over the last six years with my three sons, and I would have turbines on six sides. If one of them lost a blade, it could conceivably hit my property. I would be in constant shadow flicker, constant lights. The towers they have now just for testing the wind the noise is unbearable. You can't hear a cricket. My place would be useless. I would have a loss of about $200,000. My brother has graded his piece of property. They have been waiting for five years to build. Bud Schwab up on the
hill his retirement property he's been waiting five years to build. He's been retired for four waiting to see what happens. The unfortunate thing is it's pitted neighbor against neighbor here. People don't look at each other. It's become horrible. I've avoided these the whole time just to try to stay neutral but you can't. Finally I had to come here and speak up.

The area I'm in about 750 acres of it is cattle grazing. You can't take a horse near a windmill. So even that use isn't going to be any good anymore. The place is going to be ruined. I think if you approve this, you're going to open pandora's box that's going to be really hard to close. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

Jack Arends

COMMENTS BY JACK ARENDS

Thank you. I'm Councilmember Arends. I live at 234 S.W. 200th Street in Normandy Park, Washington. My last name is spelled A-r-e-n-d-s.

Listening to the debate tonight, I'm kind of reminded of the days when I lived in the Kings Gate Ridge neighborhood in Kirkland. I had a view of the Olympic Mountains from there, and the only thing obstructing it was a big power line transmission line that City Light had run down the east side of Lake Washington from up north,
and one weekend my cousin, an electrical engineer, came over to visit me from his home in Benton County, and he looked out the window and he says, "Oh, those are lovely, lovely towers. It's really too bad you've got those mountains there distracting us from the view."

So as I listen tonight I think there are some points on which it will be impossible for everybody in the room to agree. One person's visual pollution might be another's visual inspiration. I do know this: Our country faces a future that will require us to make some choices and some hard ones about our quality of life and how we go about doing our business. If we deny a wind project in one location, we may find ourselves having to approval a coal project or a nuclear project in another location. I know that if we look to hydro for our solution in this state, there's probably only one or two locations left where a dam could be sited and then we have to ask do we want to sacrifice the last free flowing streams to that sort of a project.

So I don't know that I have any easy ten word answer for you, but I do know that I have decided to install vinyl windows this year. The cost to me is considerable. I sympathize with you earlier on your remarks about your limited savings, but I feel this on an individual level is what I had to do to do what I could to
mitigate what we face.

So reluctantly I would have to say I support the effort to build more wind power in Kittitas County and approving this project, although I'm sympathetic to what people have said tonight. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Les White and Mike Ruby and then Andy Silber, and I'll go to our timekeeper to give Mr. Silber a six-minute block using Kevin McCabe's time.

COMMENTS BY LES WHITE

Mr. Chairman, Council, my name is Les White, W-h-i-t-e. Mr. Chairman, you pronounced my name very well. My address is 15021 28th Avenue S.E. I'm in Burien, Washington. I own property in Eastern Washington northwest of Ellensburg. It's considered recreational property. We're about 4,000 feet which makes us remote, and being remote we don't have any power. Our power is solar generated so I certainly believe in renewable resources and I consider myself a greeny.

I supported the project at Wild Horse because I felt the location was appropriate siting. I now understand there's a proposed project down by Vantage and all things being equal chances are I'll support that as well because again I think the site is appropriate.

This project does not directly affect me. The Desert Claim would have affected me, but this one does
not affect me directly. But having seen the impact it could have had on my property and my neighbor's property, I'm here to testify for other neighbors that I don't know just because I feel this could have an impact on them. I think the siting is a problem.

Again, I feel the resources we need to take advantage of, but this is the wrong site. I understand, I'm certainly not an expert in it, but I understand some of the decibel levels as far as noise can be over a hundred, and my understanding it's like a Harley Davidson with straight pipes, and I don't think you'd want to have that as your neighbor or multiple Harley Davidsons as neighbors. So I'd like to support the Kittitas County Commissioners' recommendations to deny this project and I encourage you to do so also. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Mike Ruby.

COMMENTS BY MIKE RUBY

My name is Mike Ruby. I'm a resident of Seattle. I guess I want to start by thanking the EFSEC board for undertaking this responsibility for the rest of us. This kind of thing is a very, very difficult decision, and we've got some people that I know are pretty dedicated to make it for us. You do have to face up to the problem of is this industrial use and is it an inappropriate industrial use in a residential neighborhood
or is this an agricultural zone, and it's an appropriate use of the agricultural zone, and a lot of things that are difficult. I'm glad you're going to do it.

I want to give you two pieces of information, perhaps may be somewhat contradictory in a sense based on professional expertise. I am in addition to other things a meteorological modeler, and I just completed a model for a rather large section of Oregon and Washington looking for wind power sites, and in this area we found approximately four wind power sites. Wind power sites are not a dime a dozen. They don't come just at hand everywhere in this state. There were four. Of those four, two were marginal, one was really good--it's going to be pursued--and one was you've got to be kidding me sort of site. So this is not something that we should overlook, the opportunity for wind power at any particular point. This is something you've got to look at very seriously. There aren't a lot of them.

The second thing I want to talk about is the noise issue. You heard just a moment ago the suggestion on that. I feel some personal responsibility on this because the noise limit that is being sited in this particular application of 50 decibels is one that came out of a committee that I staffed back in 1971, and I know exactly how that number came about. That number really
came about through a compromise with folks who live in
urban area. That was not an appropriate number for a very
rural area, and that number also is not really appropriate
for a continuous sound level of a particular low level.
That's a dBA number that assumes random noise of a variety
of things. It does not look at the kind of noise that's
appropriate here.

So I started digging into this and looked
very closely are there people really who are going to be
impacted by that 49 which is just underneath the 50 limit
that's cited for the Department of Ecology regulations.
There is one. It's a participated property owner. I
think we can set that one aside. The second one down, the
next one down is also a participated property owner so we
can set that aside. They made a conscious decision they
want to live with it.

JUDGE TOREM: That's that noise.

MR. RUBY: Okay. Well, could I have just
one second to finish here?

JUDGE TOREM: If you will wrap up, please.

MR. RUBY: There are three other properties
that are really pretty much at risk with this. One of
them in talking to folks I found out one is actually
occupied. The other two are sort of summer cabin, hunting
lodge type structures. I believe if you start to look at
it, you will find there are some properties that really do have some noise issues but there aren't a lot of them. So I would suggest that you do look into this. Look carefully at it. Recognize the number that the 50 limit is probably too high for the situation, and then on the other hand recognize we haven't got a lot of choices. We've got to make the choices. We've got to move forward. Thank you very much.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. If there is additional comments and folks feel a little bit pressed for time tonight, I'll just remind you that there is the opportunity to submit things in writing. If you feel that your issues haven't been addressed at the end of the night, perhaps you forgot to say something, that written comment is due by September 29. Again, those forms are available in the back.

We're going to hear from Mr. Silber, and I know we've been going for about an hour and a quarter at this point. There are 15 speakers that I have left signed up. I don't know if we have anybody else. We have 15 more speakers to go after Mr. Silber so that's a good 45 minutes. If our court reporter needs a break, we'll take one. Other than that, I'll suggest that we just press on and you can come and go from the room; just do so quietly.

Mr. Silber, you have six minutes.
COMMENTS BY ANDY SILBER

Thanks very much. My name is Andy Silber. That's S-i-l-b-as in boy-e-r. I live at 6552 37th Avenue S.E. here in West Seattle. I'm the founding chairman of the Energy Committee for the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club and I actually got involved with this wind project very early on by being invited to get engaged by opponents of the wind farm, several of whom were here tonight and have spoken. From the very first moment I actually thought, wow, what a great place for a wind farm.

So the first thing I would like to do though is to read a statement from the Cascade Chapter of Sierra Club:

Whereas Washington will need new sources of electricity to meet growing demand and whereas the increased efficiency measures alone cannot meet this load growth and whereas the climate impact of all fossil fuels without sequestration is unacceptable and whereas there are limited opportunities for cost effective renewables in Washington State and whereas the farms and ranches of Kittitas Valley are consistent with the wind farm and whereas Horizon Wind, the developer of the proposed wind project, has responded to concerns of some landowners by reducing the number of wind turbines by nearly 50 percent and whereas the existing existence of great wind
resources, high voltage power lines, and roads make Kittitas Valley a rare opportunity to meet our electricity needs with minimal impact, the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra Club endorses Horizon with the Kittitas Valley wind Power Project.

Now I would like to make some statements that are just from me. The way I see this boils down to is there are two visions of what Kittitas Valley is. There are two very different visions.

One vision is in the future you'll see the wind turbines, you'll see farms and ranches, and those will be the predominant uses of land in Kittitas Valley. There will continue to be vacation homes who tolerate the wind turbines just like they currently tolerate horse manure and tractors. The revenue to the landowners will help the farms and ranches stay on the land. The tax revenue will help everyone in the county. It will send the kids to school, and that this valley will help Washington State's economy as a whole by providing clean and renewable, efficient, and affordable electricity. If you look at the supporters of this vision of Kittitas Valley, they're the farmers and the ranchers who are leasing their land. They're the environmentalists. They're wind power developers. They're utilities who are buying the wind.
The other view of Kittitas Valley is very different, and I think we've heard from that view a lot tonight. These are people who don't want to see the wind farms built, and I'm not saying this is their goal, but this is the result of their vision. More farms and ranches will fail and that land will be subdivided into ranchettes. We're already seeing that happen. It's not like this is something that we will prevent from happening, but we will slow and maybe stop. But it's already happening in the valley.

There's no question that if the wind turbines aren't built that we will see an accelerated rate of ranch and farm failures and subdividing the land into ranchettes. These people who move into the valley are not farmers and ranchers anymore than I am, and they don't make their living on the land which is the traditional use in Kittitas Valley. These are people who commute over the mountains into Bellevue and Seattle; they're retired. I'm not saying they don't deserve to do it and we should forbid it, but is that a higher use than providing electricity? Is it a higher use than allowing farms and ranchers to make their living off the land?

The people currently we're talking about in the second people are complaining about the views. I believe next year they will be complaining about the smell
of manure and ranches. The year after that they'll be complaining about the sound of tractors at dawn in the summertime. The people we're talking about are the urban refugees, and I think a lot of the people have pretty much described themselves as such; as I bought land out here to get away from the city, to get away from the hubbub.

But they're not moving to park land. They're not moving to a pristine place. They're moving to a place where people make their living off the land, and these wind turbines are one way that people make their living off the land.

Just I have one my final sort of sum-up idea is that the wind farms are not incompatible with rural life. It's the exsert and refugees who are incompatible with urban life, particularly rural life, but they want to change rural life into their vision of ideal rather than what it is. Thanks very much.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Silber. The next three speakers are Leslie Wilkie, Mike Pelly, and Nick Radovich.

COMMENTS BY LESLIE WILKIE

Hi, my name is Leslie Wilkie, W-i-l-k-i-e. I live here in West Seattle at 7915 34th Avenue S.W., and I just want to say that I did spend some time in Walla Walla, not where you might think at the prison I suppose,
but I lived there. I actually lived there, and I love the rural area that it is, the farmlands, the peace that you find out there, and the residents at that time were pretty hesitant to have wind turbines coming in at the State Line location. And I had a chance recently to go visit this State Line location. This is 400 turbines, and it was beautiful. It really was. They were very silent. It reminded me of sailing or gliding, you know, using the wind, and it was just gorgeous. I just loved it.

And, you know, this project is 65 turbines. It's not very many and grant it I don't live there, but if I lived there, I would invite more turbines. I would like to have a turbine on my property here in West Seattle, but I'm not allowed to.

So my baby is back there too and the last point I want to make is that I'd really like to have her have clean power, have clean air. It's really important to me and that's why I'm here mainly tonight. Thank you for hearing me.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

Mike Pelly.

COMMENTS BY MIKE PELLY

Thank you. My name is Mike Pelly. I live at 1106 Partridge Drive in Olympia and I have a company called Olympia Green Fuels and we work with biodiesel, and
I've been in energy for 20 years following wind farms for quite a while now, and I've just got a little statement. It's easier for me to read it than to say it.

I toured Walla Walla wind farms and in making a comparison I've seen Wal-Marts and I've seen how wind farms have enriched the local economies and I've seen how Wal-Marts have devastated the local economies. This wind project is no Wal-Mart. This project is a 380 million dollar investment in Kittitas County that will result in real living wage jobs and tax revenue; tax revenue that will benefit the local schools.

This might not be important to retirees or vacationers in their second home, but it is important to locals with children in school. We as a nation are waking up to our dependence on foreign oil and how exporting our dollars to oil our nation is bankrupting our nation's economy and ruining lives. We are also seeing the effects of global warming is having on our nation and on the world. We need to make changes in our lives to mitigate the problems with energy consumption world wide and problems of global warming.

This project is one significant piece of this puzzle, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

Nick Radovich, then Dan Evans, and Steve

COMMENTS BY NICK RADOVICH

My name is Nick Radovich, R-a-d-o-v-i-c-h.

I live at 10821 8th Avenue N.W., in Seattle.

I work for a real estate developer. Our primary focus is building office buildings in the Seattle area, and we've recently been looking at wind power for a way to diversify our business in Kittitas and Klickitat County. In the last few months I've seen these projects up close. I've spoken to many developers and the wind power purchasers. I was going to talk quite a bit here about the benefits of wind power, but I think that we've talked about that quite a bit, and so I'm just going to skip that in the interest of time.

But I will say that as of this fall the renewable portfolio standards will be on the ballet and I suspect it will pass. That's going to require us to go up to 15 percent capacity in wind power or I should say in renewable power. In my conversations with executives in Puget Sound Energy, I've been told that they are only considering wind power as a renewable addition to their portfolio.

I also want to agree with the gentleman, the meteorologist that was here, and talk to you about the wind prospecting that I've done. There is just a real
scarcity of sites out there. He says there's only four sites, and I really believe that there's probably only four sites for that size of project anyhow. We're looking for a much smaller project.

Also this site also has transmission capacity which is something that it's quite rare; so it's a great site for that. Please approve this project in the interest of Washington State being a power leader. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

Dan Evans.

COMMENTS BY DAN EVANS

My name is Dan Evans. I'm not the former governor, if you're wondering. I'm a recovering congressional staffer, recovering lawyer, and now an independent consultant--

JUDGE TOREM: You need to defer that client onto other persons.

MR. EVANS: We'll get together. --and a member of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation. Much of the work that I do I emphasize is sustainability which I would characterize as simultaneously trying to achieve economic, ecological, and societal benefits.

I've listened to opponents to this project, and I understand the nature of their concerns, and I might
share their concerns if I had property next to this site. We of Washington State are dedicated to process, equally dedicated to process, and I have to say that I've contributed to some of that process in helping to develop the wind power guidelines for the Department of Fish and Wildlife in the state and working with different entities in this room.

And you, the Council, are charged with that challenging task of helping to balance the public and the personal benefits here. I'll keep my comments short, but I would just like to say that I believe we're in a crisis situation now, and we in Washington even though we put great emphasis on the personal, accommodating personal interest we have a responsibility to the public to make sure that we serve the energy needs and do so in a way that is sustainable.

Climate change is a crisis, and it's a crisis that calls for decisive action. Wind power is currently our most viable alternative to burning fossil fuels in the associated production of greenhouse gases. Every energy project is you know better than anybody else is controversial, and I would urge us to approve and construct wind projects with all deliberate speed and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Where we've done the due diligence, where we've run the process, where
we've afforded individuals and interests their due process rights and where a wind project is clearly in the public interest as I believe this one and is good for the economy, for the ecology, and for society we need to move decisively to approve it. Thank you.


COMMENTS BY STEVE MARSHALL

I'm Steve Marshall. I currently chair the Municipal League of King County but I'm not speaking on their behalf. I've had 25 years of experience in the energy sector, energy issues, including a stint as the head of Snohomish PUD's Power Transmission Conservation. I'm not here on behalf of anybody. I'm here to actually thank you for being the one-stop shopping and for being the board that has to balance the need for new energy facilities with the broad public interest which I think is what the legislature is charged with.

One of the speakers earlier talking about foreign oil and some others have touched on that, and I wanted to tie that into the public interest that I think that you all need to consider in making this and other decisions expeditiously for this site and the state and for the country.

Earlier this year we put on a conference. I helped organize and moderate a conference at Microsoft on
moving from foreign oil to domestic power. At that
classification we brought up a plug-in hybrid car. They're
like Prius only they top off their batteries by plugging
into the grid. Recently Governor Pataki has ordered his
Prius fleets so New York State could be modified to plug
in hybrids, and everybody that I've been talking to in the
last few months have said that if we're going to be
serious about moving away from foreign oil, we have to do
it in transportation, and the way to do it is electrify
our transportation.

In this state we burn 3.6 billion gallons of
gasoline. We send nine billion dollars a year to foreign
countries to buy our oil. Across the country we spend
almost one billion dollars every working day in debt to
purchase our foreign oil. Next year it will be one
billion dollars every calendar day. Jake Woolsey who
talked at this conference that we set up, the one in
Washington, D.C., on the National Summit on Energy
Security said, "We are in effect financing both sides on
the war on terror." There will be a dramatic change in
our demand for power if we move away from oil due to the
electrifying transportation.

Our planning horizons are very long for
electric utilities. It's very difficult to get power
lines sited. Every one of these projects has got to be
looked at in terms of the state public interest and national public interest and reducing greenhouse gases and moving away from foreign oil dependence because of that critical need. And I understand the requirements and the needs of people in local areas. That's always going to be the tough issues to pass. That's why you're here. That's the toughest issue of all. But in looking at what the broad public interest is I would just urge you to take a look at the emerging trends which I think will move very rapidly into moving away from foreign oil to domestic power for reasons of national security, emissions, greenhouse gases, and the economy.

I did write an op-ed piece in the Seattle Times that goes into this a little bit further. It turned out on May 23. I urge you to take a look at that too. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Marshall, did you bring a copy of that with you?

MR. MARSHALL: I did. Thank you very much.

JUDGE TOREM: The next speaker is Karl Krogstad followed by Brian Grunkemeyer and Richard Elkins.

COMMENTS BY KARL KROGSTAD
Hello, my name is Karl Krogstad, K-r-o-g-s-t-a-d, and I'm at P.O. Box 95260, Seattle.

I'm a landowner on the proposed wind farm.
I'm here to speak in favor of it. I also spent the night there on the ridge. Few of you have probably spent the night on the ridge. I was there Saturday night. It is so windy on top of this ridge as you would never be able to hear a turbine. You should go up there sometime and find out. I'm stunned.

I've been to the east side meetings and I've been surprised by when I've asked fellow neighbors and people there that are not proponents and I've been stunned by the fact that really it boils down to we all love wind power. We just don't want it in our back yard. We heard that tonight. And it's more than that. What is wrong with the concept? And it really boils down to the fact they just don't like it. They don't like it because I'm afraid they think it's not pretty.

And I'm going, you know, after the 9/11 we had this national directive. Our government said we have a series of disasters that we have to think in terms of how to solve. The directive was this: We have to find and implement new forms of energy.

And here it is. It's the most perfect form of energy and it's in our back yard, and I think we should approve it. I think we approve it because it's actually good for the county, it's good for the state, and it's great for our nation. Thank you.
JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.
Mr. Brian Grunkemeyer.

COMMENTS BY BRIAN GRUNKEMEYER

Hello, my name is Brian Grunkemeyer, G-r-u-n-k-e-m-e-y-e-r. I live at 16527 N.E. 46th Street here in Redmond. So thank you very much for having a meeting here in Seattle so that those of us can participate.

So as you all know wind power is going to support the farmers in this area a lot. It provides them with supplemental income for the hard years. I don't know if any of you have done any farming but farming is extraordinarily difficult, and it's going to become even worse. We have drought right now. Global warming is going to continue to push us into more common droughts in the future.

I don't know if you're aware of this, but the city of Sidney, Australia is already losing most of their water supply because global warming has forced the rainfall patterns to move 70 miles to the south. So there's already an example of a city that just cannot survive anymore. What happens if the exact same effects happen here to our farmers here in Washington State? Clearly we need more water protection, but fundamentally we need more clean, renewable resources such as wind power.
and wind power on farms helps our farmers survive this elevated level of drought.

I'm from the Midwest. I grew up with a lot of corn and wheat all around me. Once I came out here, I saw the timber stuff with all the clear cuts everywhere. I was deeply offended by that stuff, but then I realized wait a minute. The timber stuff is no different from the farms that we already have in the Midwest. It turns out that agricultural land is already an industrial landscape, and I believe that wind power is not inconsistent with that landscape.

It is inconsistent with the idea of turning our rural lands into vacation spots for people who can afford to move there. I don't think that's what we want to support. So wind does fit with this site as is. The NIMBY argument is predicated on further development of our rural areas.

If we take a 30-year view, we need to electrify our transportation grid for national security reasons as the previous speaker talked about. Global warming is going to be absolutely pressing, and in addition to that we must address peak oil. Electrifying our transportation grid is the only way to do this, and we need more wind power here to be able to support this.

In short, we've got some choices here. We
go with wind power or we have farms that fail. We go with wind power or we get new coal plants because we have no other ways to generate the electricity that our society needs. We go with wind power or we go with more urban development of our farmlands.

I don't think we want to do any of these things. We want to go with the wind power. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Elkins will be followed by I believe Rich Feldman and then Amy Peterson.

COMMENTS BY RICHARD ELKINS

My name is Richard Elkins. It's E-l-k-i-n-s. I live at 5440 East Mercer Way, Mercer Island. I've lived there for 38 years. I was raised in Eastern Washington in the central area, and I know what wind is. My kids went to school there in Ellensburg and it blows. It was plenty of wind. I too looked at property over there in that general area and now I'm utilizing property over in the south Cle Elum area. There's too much wind for me to get up there with the campsites and stuff.

A little bit of background on myself, I presently serve in the State Olympia Commissions for Recreation, also with DNR land area for policy. I've also been on several boards regarding recreation. Anyway a lot of my activity and my recreation has been I just sold my horse about two years ago in that general area. I do a
lot of trail riding, both motorized and nonmotorized. Do
winter recreation which is a marvelous activity which is very nearby in that area.

I've also witnessed the windmills down there in Palm Springs, and I think it's a pretty site. It's like a bunch of sails sailing along. I got a kick out of watching them.

Anyway being in outdoor recreation, I believe this will not harm the recreation area at all, especially the hunting and fishing. Thank you very much.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

COMMENTS BY RICH FELDMAN

My name is Rich Feldman. It’s spelled F-e-l-d-m-a-n. I live at 105 27th Avenue East in Seattle. I'm the state coordinator for the Apollo Alliance of Washington State. That's a coalition of labor, environmental, business, and community organizations in support of our state being more energy independent and creating good jobs.

The EFSEC process that is going that's been established as something that we have in our state because we have facilities that are energy facilities that are of state-wide significance. That is we have an understanding that a process for siting these facilities are not strictly a local decision. The impacts of these decisions
of these facilities in terms of Washington State's future
go far beyond the local concerns.

That being said, local concerns are very
important, and as you look at this process it's important
to understand how those play into this decision and
potential precedent you will be making by engaging in
those concerns. Effectively if we turn down this
facility, we will set a precedent that will severely limit
the development of wind in Washington State; that is,
location of residents, vacation homes, other structures in
a fairly low density pattern then becomes a criteria for
turning down such a facility.

I think we need to think very carefully
about that, especially because as many of the speakers
have said the importance of these type of facilities to
the energy mix of Washington State.

The last time I spoke before your body was
in favor of CO2 mitigation for coal and gas plants which
your body supported. In this case we're looking at a
facility in the same policy realm that is a limit of CO2.
Rarely there's going to be a change in aesthetics of
Kittitas County. Wind will change it in one way and the
global warning will change it in another as we look up at
the skyline and see a shrinking snow level. So the
importance of this facility in terms of creating a strong
and positive mix of clean energy supplies for our state has to be weighed against what is definitely a local impact.

Major facilities like airports which people from Kittitas County come to our area to fly out from have local impacts. We made decisions that those facilities like sewage treatment plants which also are located in communities are important for our communities. This has a similar kind of state-wide impact, and I urge you to support it. I also point out that in terms of other nonhuman aesthetic related issues the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has found this project is consistent with its wind siting guidelines and it shows no measurable impact to wildlife. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

Amy Peterson will be followed by Bill Aston and Tim Gould.

COMMENTS BY AMY PETERSON

My name is Amy Peterson, and I live at 126 20th Avenue East in Seattle.

First, I'd just like to thank this Council for having this meeting here. This particular wind farm would impact the residents of Seattle, and so I'd just like to thank you for having this hearing here.

I would like to speak in support of this
project for three reasons specific to the project and then also for wind energy in the future.

The three reasons particular to this project: First, it has been approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife according to their criteria, also due to local aesthetic concerns Horizon has reduced the number of wind turbines by nearly half, and also this particular wind project is already located on transmission lines. That's a really unique advantage to this particular project.

But also we need to be thinking about our energy future in general. Fossil fuels are no longer an acceptable way for us to be meeting our energy needs so we need to be thinking about clean sustainable power such as wind for the future. So for those reasons I really strongly encourage you to support this project. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Bill Aston, going once, going twice. No Bill Aston.


All right. Toni Potter and Karen Hertz are the last two signed up tonight. Is Toni Potter still in the house?

MS. POTTER: Yes.

JUDGE TOREM: Following Ms. Potter will be
Karen Hertz. She's the last speaker signed up, and I'm not getting any indication from our folks in the back they have anymore signed up. So, Ms. Potter, you and Ms. Hertz have the last words this evening.

COMMENTS BY TONI POTTER

Good evening. I'm Toni Potter. I live in Lake Forest Park. I'm the Energy Portfolio Chair for the Washington League of Women Voters. We have long supported renewable energy for basically three reasons: Fossil fuel pollutes, fossil fuel creates global warming, and fossil fuel causes us to be dependent on foreign counties for the source of our energy.

Pollution from fossil fuel causes a lot of health problems and, for instance, the Centralia Coal Plant in Washington State has been polluting Western Washington with mercury and other emissions for quite a number of years. We find this inconvenient.

Global warming is very much increased by fossil fuels, and if you haven't seen an inconvenient truth, see it. I won't try to repeat all of that. But I'd really like to leave our grandchildren a Washington that has snow on the Mount Rainier; that doesn't have destroyed shorelines. And we feel that to be responsible citizens in the world we need to cut down on our global warming gases. We create a great deal of the global
warming gases for the world and we are way behind Europe in doing something about reducing them. Wind is a good way to reduce greenhouse gases.

As far as being dependent on foreign countries, we all know how oil has affected our foreign policy, and we also don't have control over the price of fossil fuels coming in from other countries. They will always look to their need more than our needs. Renewable energy depends on three things like wind and sun that go on and on producing. Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. Is Karen Hertz available still?

COMMENTS BY KAREN HERTZ

Thank you for being so patient. My name is Karen Hertz. Do you need my address? 15530 Bothell Way N.E. That's Lake Forest Park, 98155.

Thank you so much. I appreciate you being here and all your patience. I'm just an elementary school teacher. I'm not an expert on global warming. I'm more of a social science teacher and anthropologist type. But I just think about my students all the time and I think about, you know, all the kids. And I worry about them because they have to live with the decisions that we make today, and I just think we should think more about future generations instead of our own just current situation and
just financial profits.

I also travel a lot overseas and I talk to a lot of people and I ask them what do you think about our country. I'm a little disappointed with how behind we are compared to Europe because I feel that we should be the leaders in this, and I have one statistic from Scientific American. It just came out 2006. It's really good. You should definitely read it. Here's a statistic I was really shocked about. Europe in 1994 was getting 1,700 megawatts from wind. By 2005 they were getting 40,000 megawatts from wind. And I just think, wow, that's incredible. In the U.S. we only get one-half of one percent of our electricity from wind. I just think that's pathetic.

So I just think we can do better, and I think we have to think about the kids more, a lot more because they can't vote, and we're responsible and they have to live with our decision. Thanks very much.

JUDGE TOREM: Those are all the speakers that are signed up for tonight, and I thank you. We went through a lot, pretty close to three dozen people, coming up on two hours so I know you're probably in a rush to get home. But I want to remind you that we do have two more public comment hearings and the deadline to submit the written comments, and you can still pick up those forms, I
believe that deadline is September 29, two weeks from this Friday.

If you want to attend the hearing next week in Ellensburg, the our schedule discussion earlier today the hearings will be going on at least Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday meeting at the fairground. There may be one session that's scheduled to anticipate witnesses that are testifying by phone. That may be held at the college there. There may not be hearings on Thursday and Friday if things go as efficiently as the parties have projected. So if you're coming over later in the week, there still will be a public comment session on Thursday evening that the Council may have to close down the proceeding on Friday.

Again, the deadline for closing the record will remain September 29 for your written comments. Thank you all for your courtesy and your attention tonight. It is now about eight minutes until 9:00 and we're adjourned.

* * * * *

(Whereupon, the public comment meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.)
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PUBLIC COMMENT
AFFIDAVIT

I, Shaun Linse, CCR, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript prepared under my direction is a true and accurate record of the proceedings taken on September 12, 2006, in Seattle, Washington.

__________________________
Shaun Linse, CCR

CCR NO. 2029