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3 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
4 ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL  
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6 In the Matter of Application No. 2003-01: Application No. 2003-01  
7 SAGEBRUSH POWER PARTNERS, LLC; RENEWABLE NORTHWEST PROJECT'S  
8 KITTITAS VALLEY WIND POWER OPENING STATEMENT  
9 PROJECT  
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13 INTRODUCTION

14 Sagebrush Power Partners LLC has applied to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation  
15 Council (EFSEC) for a site certificate to construct and operate a 182 megawatt (MW) wind  
16 power facility near Ellensburg, Washington. The 182 MW Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project  
17 (KVVWPP) is the first wind project to be reviewed by EFSEC. Established in 1994, the  
18 Renewable Northwest Project (RNP) is a regional non-profit that promotes the development of  
19 solar, wind and geothermal energy resources in order to reduce air pollution and combat global  
20 climate change. RNP has supported the development of properly-sited new renewable energy  
21 projects in the Northwest. RNP believes that the Applicant has taken the necessary steps to  
22 properly site, evaluate, and mitigate the proposed KVVWPP and would recommend that EFSEC  
23 approve Application No. 2003-01.

24 RNP was granted intervention in this proceeding based on the following specific issues  
25 of concern: 1) the economic and environmental benefits of wind power; 2) the importance of

1 resource diversity; 3) the adverse impacts of solely relying on fossil fuels for electricity  
2 generation to meet load growth; 4) environmental protection, including protection of wildlife  
3 and habitats; and 5) the regulatory framework needed to ensure appropriate investments in new  
4 renewable resources in Washington. RNP's prefiled testimony is within the specific list of  
5 issues identified in its petition for intervention and within the Counsel for the Environment's  
6 Consolidated Statement of Issues by Subject Matter.

### 7 RNP'S TESTIMONY

8 RNP has followed closely the development of the KVVPP since the Applicant first  
9 announced its project to the local community in April 2002. Based on its experience in the  
10 Northwest, RNP believes that outreach to the local community and environmental groups is  
11 critical to appropriate siting. In addition, eliciting federal and state wildlife agency input on pre-  
12 project environmental assessment studies is similarly critical. RNP's prefiled testimony attests  
13 that the Applicant engaged the local community, environmental groups, and federal and state  
14 agencies early in the development process.

15 RNP also has reviewed the Applicant's pre-project environmental assessment studies  
16 and proposed habitat mitigation plan. RNP believes that the studies and proposed mitigation  
17 are not only consistent with operating wind facilities in the Northwest, but they are also  
18 consistent with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Wind Power  
19 Guidelines. The Applicant's proposed mitigation plan is more than sufficient. In fact, it  
20 exceeds the recommendations in the WDFW Wind Power Guidelines. The Applicant also  
21 proposes to develop an operational monitoring plan guided by a Technical Advisory Committee  
22 (TAC). An operational monitoring plan guided by the TAC is consistent with operating wind  
23 facilities in the Northwest and with WDFW's Wind Power Guidelines.

24 Ted Clausing, WDFW Regional Habitat Program Manager for Region 3, submitted  
25 rebuttal testimony to clarify WDFW's position on the KVVPP. His testimony represents

1 WDFW's position that, overall, the agency is satisfied with both the pre-project environmental  
2 studies that were conducted and the proposed habitat mitigation plan. Mr. Clausing also points  
3 out that in comparison to the leading causes of the loss of shrub-steppe habitat (namely,  
4 agriculture conversion, reservoir construction, fire, grazing, residential development and power  
5 lines), wind power development is a minor impact. He also outlines the recommendations for  
6 pre-project environmental studies, habitat mitigation, and operational monitoring in the Wind  
7 Power Guidelines. Mr. Clausing is intimately familiar with the Wind Power Guidelines  
8 because he was on the WDFW committee that helped develop them. Mr. Clausing concludes  
9 his testimony by saying that the environmental studies and the proposed habitat mitigation plan  
10 also satisfy the WDFW's Wind Power Guidelines.

11 Additionally, RNP's prefiled testimony discusses the environmental benefits of wind  
12 power, a pollution-free renewable resource, in comparison to the development of a best  
13 available technology gas plant and a recently permitted coal plant. New renewable resources,  
14 such as wind power, can help reduce air pollution and the impacts of global climate change, as  
15 well as the Northwest's over reliance on hydropower, particularly in low water and drought  
16 years.

17 RNP's testimony also addresses the cost-competitiveness of wind power and the  
18 demand for wind power by Northwest utilities. RNP is an active participant in the Northwest  
19 utilities' integrated resource planning (IRP) processes. RNP participates in the public  
20 stakeholder meetings, review and comment on draft IRPs, and follows the IRP processes  
21 through to review by each state public utility commission and the Northwest Power Planning  
22 Council. RNP's prefiled testimony summarizes IRPs and request for proposals (RFPs) that  
23 have resulted from the IRPs of Northwest utilities. Due to the continued volatility of gas prices,  
24 the increased dry or drought years in the Northwest, the growing potential for future additional  
25 regulation of emissions, Northwest utilities are concluding in their IRPs that a diverse portfolio

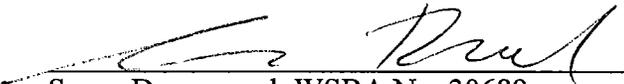
1 including new renewables, such as wind is the best strategy. Wind-generated electricity offers a  
2 cost-competitive fixed-price, free of the volatility of fossil fuel prices, and is one of the cheapest  
3 resources to acquire right now.

4 **CONCLUSION**

5 RNP believes that the Applicant has demonstrated that they have properly assessed the  
6 environmental impacts of their proposed 182 MW wind facility and will more than adequately  
7 mitigate for the potential impacts on wildlife and habitat. Wind power will not only benefit the  
8 environment, but it will also be a boon to the local economy. In addition, RNP believes there is  
9 a demand for non-polluting new renewable resources, such as cost-competitive wind power by  
10 Northwest utilities.

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12 DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2004.

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14 FOSTER PEPPER & SHEFELMAN PLLC

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