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
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, 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
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 KVWPP project an appropriate one for a 6,000-acre wind farm?

COMMENTS BY FRANCES POSEL

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: 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 Piegar. 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'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,

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 or 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, 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 wouldn't hurt the value of property, and you will only have to change your lifestyle a little bit by having your drapes closed for
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 contend 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 of these turbines have that they have to change out all the time?

Thank you.

JUDGE TOREM: Ms. LaVigne.

COMMENTS BY ANGIE LaVIGNE

L-a-V-as in Victor-i-gne, 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. 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 be 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

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<td>1. JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.</td>
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<td>2. When I first purchased the land, I was thinking of</td>
<td>2. The next speaker is Craig Nevil.</td>
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<td>3. building a cabin out there. I started doing a little bit</td>
<td>3. COMMENTS BY CRAIG NEVIL</td>
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<td>4. of road building and stuff and boy that wind just blew my</td>
<td>4. My name is Craig Nevil, N-e-v-i-l. For 30</td>
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<td>5. hat right off and it was just so hard to get anything</td>
<td>5. years I've been a stockbroker in Seattle. I live at 707</td>
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<td>6. done. I mean I was driving CATs and things. I mean it</td>
<td>6. West 2nd in Cle Elum. I would love to get into a debate</td>
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<td>7. was cold and I mean that wind just was hard all the time.</td>
<td>7. about some of the issues. Tax credits for wind farms</td>
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<td>8. You know, I found out how much the wind really blew, and</td>
<td>8. versus hydrocarbons or some of the utility costs pass</td>
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<td>9. it just takes all the topsoil right off the land. It's</td>
<td>9. through that we run in over the years, the stranded cost</td>
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<td>10. all scab rock. Anyway, the stuff I have up there.</td>
<td>10. for WPPSS, 18 percent peak power bonds, the green issue</td>
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<td>11. And, you know, at that time I was thinking</td>
<td>11. from California picking up some of these things. The</td>
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<td>12. that, you know, this would be ideal for a wind farm, and I</td>
<td>12. issue tonight is this site now.</td>
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<td>13. even went as far as to go over to Stewart Anderson's farm</td>
<td>13. I happen to be on the board for the county</td>
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<td>14. which was up on I-90 near Elk Heights which is kind of</td>
<td>14. Economic Development Council, but tonight I'm just talking</td>
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<td>15. across the Yakima River to the south and I talked to him a</td>
<td>15. about me as a taxpayer. You may be aware that in the area</td>
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<td>16. little bit and it wasn't anything I could put together.</td>
<td>16. west from Ellensburg is becoming a bedroom community for</td>
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<td>17. But, you know, it was kind of a thought I had way back in</td>
<td>17. this area. There's a 6,000 acre planning of new</td>
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<td>18. the '80s.</td>
<td>18. development going in. There's a lot of residential growth</td>
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<td>19. And in 1999 I went down to Arizona, traveled</td>
<td>19. going in. You're probably aware that the property tax</td>
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<td>20. through Palm Springs and things, and I saw all those wind</td>
<td>20. consequences of residential development are you pay a buck</td>
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<td>21. farms down there, and I said, &quot;Man, this is the thing to</td>
<td>21. you use more than a buck in services. You have to have</td>
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<td>22. do for Ellensburg. It's something where you can have the</td>
<td>22. some industry in your normal community because an industry</td>
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<td>23. farming underneath, and you get your wind generation.</td>
<td>23. pays a buck and uses 50 cents worth of services; so you</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. It's something that we need for the future.&quot;</td>
<td>24. have to have some kind of a balance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>25. A few years ago, I was approached about</td>
<td>25. There isn't a lot of industry in Cle Elum or</td>
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<th>Page 35</th>
<th>Page 37</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. having a wind farm on the property, and I thought it was</td>
<td>1. Ellensburg right now, west of Ellensburg I guess. This</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. the best idea there ever was. I mean that was something</td>
<td>2. project is roughly $200,000,000 and will pay a significant</td>
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<td>3. that that land is made for it. The land is right on the</td>
<td>3. amount of property taxes predominantly into the Thorp</td>
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<td>4. power transmission lines. You don't have any other</td>
<td>4. School District. When you get to Ellensburg, you will</td>
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<td>5. infrastructure you have to put in for those powers lines.</td>
<td>5. hear most likely from the school district from Kittitas</td>
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<td>6. It's just the local lines because you've got two high</td>
<td>6. and the tremendous impact the taxes have there on the fire</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. power transmission lines right on that property. These</td>
<td>7. districts and police districts. I would urge you to</td>
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<td>8. guys talk about looking down over the project and, you</td>
<td>8. consider that strongly because Cle Elum and the outline</td>
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<td>9. know, how it's going to ruin their view. Well, these</td>
<td>9. areas are going to have some significant shortages of</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. things are much better looking than the power lines that</td>
<td>10. property taxes and we're not going to be able to provide</td>
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<td>11. are currently there, these things.</td>
<td>11. the services because there just isn't the ground for</td>
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<td>12. I've just visited the Wild Horse site. I was</td>
<td>12. industry that we will need to go with this tremendous</td>
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<td>13. able to get up and actually touch the turbines, go</td>
<td>13. residential development.</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. underneath. We could hear the crickets going underneath</td>
<td>14. The witness that talked about the big picture</td>
</tr>
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<td>15. the turbines more than we could hear the wind turbines.</td>
<td>15. as I was sitting there listening to her I couldn't help</td>
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<td>16. There wasn't hardly any noise at all, very quiet. I</td>
<td>16. wonder how 50 years ago how they ran all those power lines</td>
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<tr>
<td>17. looked into the shadow flicker and in the afternoon sun I</td>
<td>17. across this state. Thank you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. looked up there, and I mean I wasn't very far away on some</td>
<td>18. JUDGE TOREM: Ms. Burdyshaw and the next</td>
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<td>19. of them, some of them were a little bit farther, and, you</td>
<td>19. speakers will be Rosemary Monaghan, Cager Clabaugh, and</td>
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<td>20. know, I didn't notice the shadow flicker. I mean what</td>
<td>20. Mike Robertson.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. really is it? I mean it just wasn't something that really</td>
<td>21. COMMENTS BY EMILIA BURDYSHAW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. bothered me. I mean I'm standing in the shadow as the</td>
<td>22. My name is Emilia Burdyshaw. My last name is</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. turbines were going, and it just it wouldn't bother me at</td>
<td>23. B-u-r-d-y-s-h-a-w, and I live at 2806 S.W. Adams Street in</td>
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<tr>
<td>24. all. So I think he's got the end for me. So anyway I'm</td>
<td>24. Seattle; however, I own property right next to the project</td>
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<td>25. for the project. Thank you.</td>
<td>25. area and my property is spaced surrounding the project</td>
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Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I reside at 19205 67th Avenue S.E., in Snohomish, Washington. I am Rosemary Monaghan. That's spelled Monaghan.

JUDGE TOREM: Next speaker is Rosemary Monaghan.

COMMENTS BY ROSEMARY MONAGHAN

My name is Cager Clabaugh, C-l-a-b-a-u-g-h. My name is Cager Clabaugh and Mike Robertson and Jess Nelson. 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.

COMMENTS BY CAGER CLABAUGH

My name is Cager Clabaugh. 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.

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Again, my name is Cager Clabaugh, and I'm a longshoreman at the Port of Vancouver. That's America's Port of 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 Authority 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.

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...
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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
day every other 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
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

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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 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 Marshall.

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 conference 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 approached expeditiously for the country. 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.

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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.
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 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 warming 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

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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 on 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.

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

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Shaun Linse, CCR
CCR NO. 2029