

1. INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 2, RESPONSES TO COMMENTS

1.1 BACKGROUND

Draft EIS

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project (KVVWPP) was issued on December 12, 2003. A public hearing to receive comments was held on January 13, 2004, in Ellensburg, Washington. The comment period for the Draft EIS closed on January 20, 2004.

During the comment period, the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) received comments from tribes, agencies, organizations, and individuals. Comments were submitted in letters, on comment cards, orally at the public hearing, and by e-mail. Together, these are called “comment submissions” throughout this Final EIS. A list of those who commented on the Draft EIS is provided in Table 1 at the end of this section. At the end of the Draft EIS comment period, EFSEC had received a total of 1,075 comments, including:

- 346 written comments from 17 agencies and organizations;
- 610 written comments from 53 individuals; and
- 119 oral comments from 31 speakers at the public hearing (transcribed by a court reporter).

Draft Supplemental EIS

The Draft EIS analyzed reasonable offsite alternatives, which were coordinated between EFSEC and Kittitas County. However, to assist EFSEC in its decision-making process, an additional analysis of offsite alternatives was performed; this is documented in the Draft Supplemental EIS.

EFSEC staff wrote the Draft Supplemental EIS for the KVVWPP, which was issued on August 11, 2004. A public hearing to receive comments was held on August 25, 2004, in Ellensburg, Washington. The comment period for the Draft Supplemental EIS closed on September 13, 2004. A second public comment hearing was held on February 2, 2006.

A list of those who commented on the Draft Supplemental EIS is provided in Table 2 at the end of this section. At the end of the Draft Supplemental EIS comment period, EFSEC had received a total of 171 comments, including:

- 57 written comments from 4 agencies and organizations;
- 60 written comments from 13 individuals;
- 19 oral comments from 5 speakers at the public hearing conducted on August 25, 2004 (transcribed by a court reporter); and
- 31 oral comments from 4 speakers at the public hearing conducted on February 2, 2006 (transcribed by a court reporter).

1.2 ORGANIZATION OF VOLUME 2

Volume 2 contains the written comments received during the Draft EIS and Draft Supplemental EIS comment periods, the transcript from the January 13, 2004, August 25, 2004, and February 2, 2006 public hearings, and the responses to these comments. The volume is organized into the following four sections:

1. Introduction

2. Responses to Key Issues. Two issues were the subject of numerous written comments from individuals and agencies. To address these comments with a minimum of repetition and in a form meaningful to decision-makers, Volume 2 contains detailed responses to the following key issues:

- A. Project Definition and Additional Analyses
- B. Property Values

Each section contains a summary of the key issue followed by a detailed response, incorporating new information from prefiled testimony, hearing testimony and examination, and hearing exhibits.

3. Responses to Comments on the Draft EIS. Each letter and oral comment received during the Draft EIS comment period was categorized into one of five groups: tribal, state agency, local agency, organization, or individual. Within each group, EFSEC assigned an identification number (generally in chronological order based on the date the comment was received or presented). Within each letter or hearing transcript, comments are marked with a line and the corresponding identification number in the right-hand margin. In many cases, individuals have multiple comments addressing a variety of topics.

Following each letter and transcript are the corresponding responses prepared by EFSEC and Shapiro and Associates. Each response is numbered to correspond to its applicable comment. Pursuant to WAC 197-11-560, possible options for responding to comments on a Draft EIS include modifying the alternatives or developing new alternatives, improving or modifying the analysis, making factual corrections, or explaining why the comments do not warrant further agency response. Accordingly, each response does one or more of the following:

- Provides additional information or elaborates on a topic previously discussed in the Draft EIS;
- Notes how the Draft EIS text has been revised to incorporate new information or factual corrections;
- Refers the reader, when appropriate, to another comment response or one of the responses to key issues to avoid repetition;
- Explains why the comment does not warrant further response; or
- Simply acknowledges the commenter when an opinion was stated.

4. Responses to Comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS. For each letter and oral comment received during the Draft Supplemental EIS comment period, EFSEC assigned an identification number in chronological order based on the date the comment was received or presented. Within each letter or hearing transcript, comments are marked with a line and the corresponding identification number in the right-hand margin. In many cases, individuals have multiple comments addressing a variety of topics.

Following each letter and transcript are the corresponding responses prepared by EFSEC and the EIS authors. Each response is numbered to correspond to its applicable comment. Possible options for responding to comments on the Draft Supplemental EIS are the same as those described above for the Draft EIS.

1.3 REFERENCES CITED IN VOLUME 2

The responses in this volume reference the following types of documents:

- Documents that were submitted as exhibits by those who testified during the EFSEC Adjudicative Hearings on the KVVPP. A summary list of these exhibits is provided below.
- The written transcript of the Adjudicative Hearings conducted by EFSEC in September 2006.
- The Applicant's and other Parties final briefs submitted to EFSEC at the conclusion of the Adjudicative Hearings.
- Documents contained in the appendices of the Final EIS (see Volume 1).
- Additional literature sources, which are listed below.

Adjudicative Hearing Exhibits and Post-Hearing Briefs

- Prefiled Testimony of Chris Taylor (Exhibit 20 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Peggy O'Neill (Exhibit 27 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Wally Erickson (Exhibit 29 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Randall Krichbaum (Exhibit 30 series).
- Prefiled testimony of Thomas Priestley (Exhibit 34 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of George Sterzinger (Exhibit 35 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of P. Barton De Lacy (Exhibit 36 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Henrik Kanstrup Jorgensen. (Exhibit 37 series)
- Prefiled Testimony of Michael Bernay (Exhibit 38 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Daniel Kammen (Exhibit 39 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Arne Nielsen (Exhibit 40 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Dana Peck (Exhibit 42 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Darryl Piercy (Exhibit 51 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Sonja Ling (Exhibit 70 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Ted Clausing (Exhibit 71 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Stephen Grover (Exhibit 80 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Roger Weaver (Exhibit 100 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of David Taylor (Exhibit 102 series).
- Prefiled Testimony of Ed Garrett (Exhibit 110 series)

- Sagebrush Power Partner's Opening Post-Hearing Brief and Proposed Site Certification Agreement for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

Other Information Sources

Adair, Rick and Mark Ohrenschall. *Advancing Wind Power: New BPA integration Services Mix Wind and Water*. Con.Web. January 30, 2004. URL: <http://www.newsdata.com/enernet/conweb/conweb.html#cw97-4>. Accessed February 2, 2004.

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