

IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF KITTITAS

KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY)
COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING)
RE KITTITAS VALLEY WIND POWER)
PROJECT)

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

March 29, 2006
6:00 p.m.
Kittitas County Fairgrounds
Ellensburg, Washington

HEARING BEFORE THE KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

REPORTED BY:
LOUISE R. BELL, CCR NO. 2676

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

3 COMMISSIONER DAVID BOWEN, Chairman

4 COMMISSIONER ALAN CRANKOVICH

5 COMMISSIONER PERRY HUSTON

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1 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: It is Wednesday,
2 March 29th, 2006, 6:00 p.m. We're here in the
3 Kittitas County Fairgrounds Home Arts Building.
4 We're here for the purposes of continued public
5 hearing to consider the Kittitas Valley Wind
6 Power Project Z-2005-22 submitted by Sagebrush
7 Power Partners, LLC for siting of a maximum of 80
8 wind turbines and associated facilities at the
9 site located approximately 12 miles northwest of
10 the city of Ellensburg.

11 I'll go through currently what we have in
12 our possession up here. We do have the Planning
13 Commission findings, the deliberations
14 transcript, all e-mails, and I've lost my sound.
15 Is it back?

16 (Pause in the proceedings.)

17 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, within the record we
18 have all e-mails, letters, telephone calls;
19 they've been forwarded to CDS as part of the
20 record before us.

21 The record is still open to written and
22 verbal comment. And we did receive a stack of
23 additional comments today which we haven't had an
24 opportunity to review before tonight.

25 I'm going to go over how the evening will

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1 go, and then we'll get into our declaration.
2 First of all, I'd like everybody to check their
3 cell phones and please turn the ringers off, put
4 them on vibrate, silent, turn them off, whatever
5 you need to do.

6 We'll have our declarations. We'll have a
7 staff report. And actually before the staff
8 report, I think I want to interject some -- I
9 have about four items that didn't come out of the
10 record that I'd like the public to comment on,
11 the proponent to comment on, and staff to comment
12 on. I'll also give my seatmates an opportunity
13 to throw anything out that they feel specifically
14 needs some additional information for us to make
15 a good decision up here.

16 Once we do that, we'll go to a staff report.
17 The proponent indicated that they have a 15- to
18 20-minute opening presentation regarding the
19 Planning Commission deliberations. That could go
20 a little longer, depending on the feedback they
21 get from us and questions we may have for them.

22 I will be -- once that's done, the public
23 comment will open, and tonight I am going to put
24 a five-minute limit on public comment so that we
25 can try and focus and be precise about the issues

1 that are before us. And we'll give the proponent
2 an opportunity to respond to that public comment.
3 Any staff comments and questions from the Board.
4 And at some point in time, whether it's tonight
5 or some other night, we'll go into board
6 deliberations.

7 So with that, declarations from myself, I
8 obviously drive around and I hear radio
9 advertisements, and newspaper ads are in the
10 paper. Normally when the radio comes on, I turn
11 the station or turn it off. Newspaper ads, tend
12 to glance over them and not read them until they
13 actually are officially in the record in front of
14 me.

15 Any e-mails I receive I forward to staff
16 over at CDS for inclusion in the record and then
17 read them as they come back from CDS as part of
18 the official record. Same thing with any letters
19 to the editor, that type of thing; I wait until
20 they come to me in the official record as well.

21 I've had a couple of conversations with
22 Deputy Prosecutor Hurson regarding process and
23 what I can and can't do up here as a commissioner
24 regarding asking questions and giving direction.
25 I've also spoken with Director Piercy from CDS,

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1 asked him for some information specifically
2 regarding setbacks that were in the record, and
3 provided that for me earlier today.

4 And then I believe I had -- I had one
5 conversation that I can specifically remember
6 other than the occasional "I'm for" or "I'm
7 against wind farms" in general out in the public,
8 and one topic that came over lunch was with Ben
9 George, and we were talking about process and
10 then he threw in he understands making
11 adjustments but overall approves of the project.

12 So that would be the limit of my
13 declarations. So with that, is there anyone here
14 who objects to my sitting in hearing on this
15 particular issue?

16 Seeing no one objects, Commissioner
17 Crankovich.

18 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman. I have reviewed the official
20 record as it has been presented to us from staff.
21 Today I did have two brief conversations about
22 the process and procedures tonight with Deputy
23 Prosecutor Hurson and Mr. Piercy.

24 And although I've avoided the letters to the
25 editor in the newspaper, it's kind of hard to

1 avoid a half- to full-page ad, whether it be for
2 or against, so I must say that I did read some of
3 those.

4 And the only actual conversation that I had
5 was today, prior to a meeting on another subject,
6 Mr. Ben George caught me and said that he could
7 not attend tonight and wanted to go on record as
8 supporting the project.

9 And that's all I have to declare.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Hearing those declarations,
11 does anyone object to Commissioner Crankovich
12 sitting in hearing on this issue?

13 Seeing no one in objection, Commissioner
14 Huston.

15 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: I must have entered a
16 quiet time in my life, because I don't recall
17 anybody asking me anything since we last met
18 here. Ditto, we get the e-mails and whatnot; I
19 don't open those. And if that upsets some of
20 you, I'm sorry, but they're not opened, they're
21 forwarded and put in the record and we see them
22 in the hard copy when we come to the hearing.

23 I didn't read the ads, to be honest with
24 you. I looked at them but I didn't read them.
25 So I guess I have nothing to declare. I'm pretty

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1 much where I was last time.

2 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Hearing that, is there
3 anyone here who objects to Commissioner Huston
4 sitting in hearing on this issue?

5 Seeing no one --

6 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: I have a question.

7 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Certainly. Please come to
8 the microphone.

9 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: My name is Hal
10 Lindstrom. I just have a question about anybody
11 coming to you and telling you that they are for
12 or against the wind farm. Now, does that -- how
13 does that play? That's not what I would do, and
14 I would --

15 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: Mr. Chairman, if I
16 might interrupt, the question was, do you object
17 to my sitting. Are you objecting to my sitting?

18 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: No, I'm not.

19 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: Good enough. Then
20 I'll let you talk to the chairman.

21 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: Excuse me. I'm just
22 curious about the process. I mean, if I object
23 or if I'm for, I'll write it or I'll come and
24 testify. But does somebody -- what's going to
25 happen to his recommendation? I guess that's my

1 question.

2 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: We give those declarations
3 so the people are aware of the information we
4 received besides what's in the record. Would I
5 personally do that myself? No. Other people
6 feel that's the only way they're going to get it
7 through: If you don't hear it rather than read
8 it, then you're not going to hear it. But does
9 it have any more influence or standing than
10 anybody else's? No, if that's the gist of your
11 question.

12 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: Does that take the place
13 of his coming here or writing? Can you tell me
14 that?

15 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: It doesn't take the place,
16 in my opinion. It's just if you're -- when we're
17 out and about in the community, as commissioners
18 here we are very close to everybody. His
19 communication with me was part of about nine
20 different issues, and it came up and I didn't
21 expect it to or I would have cut him off.

22 But I just can't say that -- I mean, I've
23 heard it so I can't say that I don't acknowledge
24 that now that I've heard but. But whether -- it
25 doesn't carry any more weight or any less weight

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1 than any other comment I read in the record or
2 anything else.

3 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Questions on those?

5 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: I'd like to add
6 too that he caught me totally off guard today.
7 He had his spiel blurted out before I could even
8 shake my head that no, I don't want to hear it,
9 so -- but it's not going to affect my decision
10 any; I just know where he stands.

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Anything else on that? All
12 right, thank you.

13 With that, I'll -- I think I already stated
14 we would all remain seated, but I will state
15 again for the record all commissioners will
16 remain seated on this issue.

17 Okay, the next thing I'd like to do is, as I
18 was reading through the record and thinking about
19 the last projects that have been in front of us,
20 I ended up with four issues that came out from
21 public testimony, from the record in front, and
22 just stuff from listening to the proponent.

23 And I'm trying to speak slowly; am I doing
24 okay this time? I need to slow down some more,
25 all right.

1 First of all, the DEIS has analyzed a map
2 for 64 turbines. The proposal indicates up to
3 80. I personally need to know the specific
4 number of turbines, their specific location, and
5 which turbine the analysis was based upon, what
6 megawatt or whatever the measurement is on those
7 turbines.

8 The second issue, the sub-area boundary
9 itself, the project has been significantly
10 reduced in size compared to the original
11 application, and I assume that was done based on
12 a business plan and public opinion. Although
13 the -- the number of turbines are reduced, the
14 sub-area boundary remains the same, and I'd like
15 some feedback from the proponent and the public
16 on reducing the sub-area boundary to reflect the
17 current proposal or a modified proposal, should
18 one come forward.

19 The next item would be setbacks. And this
20 is the one that has me bouncing all over the
21 place. We've got -- setbacks are put in place
22 for mitigation; I'll grant that and I think
23 everybody'll agree with that.

24 A thousand-foot setback is proposed. I
25 didn't find in the analysis or the DEIS regarding

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1 that particular distance. I'm a bit curious on
2 if it was just an arbitrary number or if it was
3 based on previous applications or what, where
4 that number came from.

5 Within the record I had noted that in
6 Section 3.8.3.1 of the Desert Claim Wind Power
7 Project there's a correspondence from Zilkha
8 regarding shadow flicker that indicates any
9 receptor beyond 2000 feet would not be subject to
10 shadow flicker, indicating that potentially that
11 would be a -- a setback to consider.

12 Other analysis describes high impacts,
13 mainly visual, from a half mile to one mile,
14 which is 2640 feet to 5280 feet. Other
15 information in the record indicates that those
16 impacts begin to decrease beginning at a half
17 mile to one mile and becoming moderate. I'd like
18 to hear specific comment from the proponent and
19 the public regarding that particular area.

20 There are very few comments about the
21 Development Agreement itself. So if people have
22 reviewed that Development Agreement and have some
23 feedback on it, I would sure like to hear some
24 more details and thoughts on it.

25 And the last two items as I was reading

1 through, re-reading the testimony, one person
2 referred to the towers being powered by diesel
3 when the wind wasn't blowing, and I wasn't aware
4 of that anywhere, so if the proponent could
5 address that.

6 And then microwave interference was also
7 mentioned in one of the comments, and I don't
8 remember hearing much on that.

9 So with that -- that's trying to help you
10 guys give me some information that will help me
11 evaluate and make some decisions up here.

12 And with that, I'll see if Commissioner
13 Crankovich has anything he'd like to add.

14 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: I have a few
15 things that I'd like to add, and I will ask you
16 if it's appropriate --

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear at all.

18 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: There's a couple
19 things I'm going to ask, and I may turn to you to
20 see if it's appropriate at this time or not.

21 One of the things that has been said about
22 this project, and it's located -- and I don't
23 have the exact page here, where it was described
24 that it -- the project is located where its
25 viewscape is dominated by large electrical

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1 transmission corridor facilities.

2 Now, I haven't seen anywhere in public
3 comment or by the proponent or those against it
4 that have gone on record saying that with the
5 exception of possibly a few landowners that those
6 transmission towers were there prior to most of
7 the people purchasing the property in that area.
8 So that's one point that I think that hasn't been
9 addressed, you know. And the proponent is asking
10 to add to that viewscape, I guess, or change it.
11 That's just for an editorial comment, I guess.

12 I have gone over the Draft Development
13 Agreement, and under the section regarding the
14 project access roads; and it says that the
15 accesses from Highways 10 and 97 shall be
16 constructed with slope and culvert design
17 according to WSDOT. And that any of the access
18 roads off of the county roads of Bettis Road and
19 Hayward Road would be reconstructed to the county
20 standards.

21 Having pretty sound knowledge of both of
22 them roads, I would suggest that we add, if
23 appropriate, into the requirements of the
24 Development Agreement that both Bettis Road and
25 Hawyard Road be constructed totally. Hayward

1 Road is very -- it's classified as primitive, and
2 I know that that's not the exact classification
3 as it is called now, but it's a primitive road.

4 Bettis Road, I do have a lot of knowledge on
5 that, and even though it's been chip sealed and
6 worked on within the last couple of years, I have
7 seen it over the course of my time with the
8 County deteriorate very fast; and any -- any
9 heavy use of that road is going to lead to an
10 extreme deterioration.

11 I would like to see those reconstructed as
12 part of the project, you know, whether it be
13 prior to or after, as a condition.

14 The Elk Springs Road I am not familiar with,
15 so I can't speak to the condition, but I would --
16 I would possibly consider that being
17 reconstructed the same. You know, you're
18 entering an area where people live and use that
19 as their main ingress and egress, and I think it
20 should be built appropriately.

21 Also, in -- a couple of the things that have
22 been the real focus of this particular project
23 are on the view and the, you know, if the towers
24 are built, they will definitely have an effect on
25 the view. So, you know, those can only be

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1 mitigated so far.

2 The other big thing that I see is property
3 values and the concern of the effect on property
4 values. And so using a study that was done
5 regarding property values in EgoNorth --
6 EcoNorthwest -- I believe it is here -- on
7 property value impacts, I highlighted some of the
8 areas and I'll use those right now.

9 Lincoln, Minnesota, it said -- and this has
10 to do with the location and proximity to the
11 towns and homes and various things. Turbines are
12 located about two miles outside of town. It
13 doesn't say if there's anything any closer or
14 not.

15 Buena Vista, Ohio, they're located a couple
16 miles outside of town and sit on a high ridge.
17 It doesn't say whether there's any homes any
18 closer.

19 Howard, Texas, there are no homes within two
20 miles of the wind turbines. And in Walla Walla
21 County the turbines are on a high cliff that have
22 a lot of wind and low land values, and the
23 unincorporated town of Touchet lies eight miles
24 from the turbine project.

25 In the next page, as part of a mitigation by

1 project proponents, and this has to do with
2 Curran County, and I'll read it verbatim: In
3 Curran County some residents located on rural
4 properties complained about the plan to locate
5 wind turbines near their properties. They argued
6 that they had bought their properties with the
7 expectation of a view of grazing land and not a
8 wind farm. To solve the problem, the wind
9 developer paid them for the property and the
10 people moved. The wind developer then sold the
11 property, although the property values did not
12 decrease.

13 And all the things that are cited here cited
14 no decrease in property values. So I don't know
15 whether it would be appropriate right now or at
16 some time, but I guess I would like to throw a
17 consideration out there, and I used the chart
18 that's in one of these booklets that outlines an
19 area that encompasses a mile from the project
20 boundaries.

21 I'm going to suggest, possibly, that if
22 there is no concern about the property values
23 that the proponent be willing to purchase the
24 properties for fair market value of anybody that
25 would be willing if the project were approved.

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1 And Comissioner Bowen already brought up the
2 fact of the 64 turbine locations that are sited
3 on the project maps versus the 80. You know,
4 there's a -- quite a percentage number of
5 difference there from 64 to 80. And I realize
6 that, you know, in viewing the contents that it's
7 based upon what type of towers are going to be
8 used, but I would like to see more of the
9 specific -- specifics of what the project would
10 look like, you know, in number. And that's -- to
11 me that's almost too big of a variance to work
12 with. I'd like to see the numbers pinned down
13 more closely.

14 And that's all I have.

15 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Commissioner
16 Huston, do you have anything you'd like to add or
17 specifically like more information on?

18 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: Actually,
19 Mr. Chairman, I don't believe I have any
20 observations at this time.

21 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. I will add one
22 more to the setback, which has been bouncing in
23 my head, and that's in comparing the old strings
24 versus the new strings of proposed sitings of the
25 wind towers, I'd like to know if the applicant's

1 open to discussing the alignment of the towers
2 more centrally in the project area to address the
3 setback situation as well.

4 So with that, we will move on to the
5 proponent's presentation if they're ready to go.

6 MR. DANA PECK: Mr. Chairman, we appreciate
7 the opportunity to have this list as we go into
8 our presentation. Would it be possible to
9 have --

10 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: Mr. Chairman, we need
11 him on the record, please.

12 MR. DANA PECK: Excellent point; sorry about
13 that.

14 Dana Peck, Horizon Wind. I believe my
15 address is on record, but I can give it to you if
16 you'd like.

17 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Why don't we do that, just
18 to have a clear record.

19 MR. DANA PECK: 222 East 4th, Suite 105 in
20 Ellensburg, 98926. I'm the project manager for
21 Horizon Wind Energy.

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear.

23 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Is the microphone up high
24 enough? You have to pretty much speak right into
25 it.

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1 MR. DANA PECK: Would you like me to do that
2 over again?

3 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: It's not necessary.

4 MR. DANA PECK: We very much appreciate the
5 opportunity to have this list to incorporate into
6 our presentation. It would be a huge help to us
7 if we could have three or four minutes to just
8 discuss among ourselves the specific responses.

9 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: That's fine with me, a
10 five-minute recess to give him a chance, out of
11 fairness. I realize we threw these at you, but
12 given the public process we have, we couldn't
13 really communicate those to you prior to this, so
14 I want to --

15 MR. DANA PECK: No, we appreciate the
16 opportunity to work off of this like this; we
17 just need a couple of minutes to caucus among
18 ourselves to make sure that we give you the best
19 answers.

20 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Certainly. We'll take a
21 break, then, until, looks like, 6:30. It's 6:25
22 right now.

23 MR. DANA PECK: Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

24 (A break was taken.)

25 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Mr. Piercy?

1 MR. DARRYL PIERCY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
2 For the record, Darryl Piercy, Director of
3 Community Development Services. I'm going to
4 call on Joanna Valencia, our staff planner, who
5 has had the primary responsibility in the
6 development of this project from the staff's
7 perspective as well as the development of the
8 record, to give a brief introduction as to why
9 we're here and how we happened to get here in
10 terms of this process and to give a history of
11 that effort.

12 I would just like to add, though, before we
13 go there that since we had disclosures in regards
14 to the advertisements that appeared in local
15 newspapers, we will obtain copies of those
16 advertisements and place those in the record.

17 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

18 MS. JOANNA VALENCIA: Thank you,
19 Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. For the
20 record, Joanna Valencia, Kittitas County
21 Community Development Services staff planner.

22 The applicant, Sagebrush Power Partners,
23 LLC, is requesting approval to develop a proposed
24 wind farm pursuant to the Kittitas County
25 Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code. A complete

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1 application was filed with Kittitas County on
2 October 14th, 2005.

3 Implementation of the proposal requires the
4 following related actions by Kittitas County.

5 (A) An amendment to the Kittitas County
6 Comprehensive Plan to designate the approximately
7 6000-acre project area as a Wind Farm Resource
8 overlay district pursuant to KCC 15B.03, which
9 can be accomplished by adoption of a sub-area
10 plan for the wind farm site.

11 (B) Zoning reclassification of the project
12 area as a Wind Farm Resource overlay zoning
13 district in conformance with the provisions of
14 the Kittitas County County Code, Zoning Section
15 17.61A and KCC 17.98.

16 (C) Approval of a Wind Farm Resource
17 development permit for the proposal.

18 And (D) The adoption a Development Agreement
19 pursuant to RCW 36.70B.170 and Chapter 15A.11 of
20 the Kittitas County Code, setting forth the
21 standards and conditions of development of the
22 wind farm, including measures required to
23 mitigate significant adverse environmental
24 impacts identified in the DEIS for the proposal.

25 The proposal involves construction and

1 operation of a utility-scale wind energy
2 facility. The subject parcels are currently
3 zoned Forest and Range and Agricultural-20 and
4 the Comprehensive Plan designation is Rural.

5 The Planning Commission did, on February 13,
6 2006, approve findings to unanimously recommend
7 denial of the Kittitas County -- of the Kittitas
8 Valley Wind Power Project in its entirety.

9 On February 21st, 2006, the Board of County
10 Commissioners did set an open record hearing for
11 March 29, 2006, at 6:00 p.m. A notice of the
12 continued public hearing was issued on
13 February 28th, 2006. This notice was published
14 in the official county paper of record and was
15 mailed to jurisdictional government agencies,
16 adjacent property owners, and other interested
17 parties.

18 Attachments as listed in the staff report
19 were forwarded to the Board of County
20 Commissioners on March 22nd, 2006.

21 Staff would also like to add that all this
22 information, in an attempt to make sure that the
23 public is fully aware of it, has posted
24 everything on the Kittitas County Community
25 Development Services website. In addition, there

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1 has been numerous articles in the Daily Record
2 published to make the public aware of these.

3 At this time I'd like to conclude my staff
4 report and ask if you have any questions.

5 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Any questions for
6 Ms. Valencia from the commissioners?

7 Mr. Hurson, do you have anything to add, or
8 Mr. Piercy?

9 Okay, thank you. All right, thank you all
10 for your indulgence. We just want to make sure
11 we get everything on the record and that
12 everybody hears what we're talking about and
13 thinking about so it definitely is an open
14 process and nobody can question that as we move
15 forward.

16 So with that, now, the proponent, are you
17 ready?

18 MR. DANA PECK: Let me do my introduction
19 again, since it sounds like it wasn't heard by
20 the folks in the back. Am I doing better on the
21 microphone this time?

22 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Stay into it.

23 MR. DANA PECK: Got it, got it. Too many
24 years of working with lapel mics; I've gotten
25 insensitive to the ones sticking out in front of

1 me.

2 Again, my name is Dana Peck; I'm the project
3 manager for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power
4 Project, Horizon Wind Energy. My address here is
5 222 East 4th, Suite 105, here in Ellensburg,
6 98926.

7 I'd like to thank the Board of County
8 Commissioners for the opportunity to meet with
9 you and present the company's response to the
10 Planning Commission's action. And I add to that
11 the opportunity to respond to the points that
12 you've raised here this evening.

13 Erin Anderson and I plan to take not more
14 than 20 minutes, possibly a little longer now
15 that we've got a list, presenting our response to
16 the Planning Commission action, including a brief
17 summary of Mr. DeLacy's information on property
18 values, which I believe you have before you, and
19 the implications to the county and its residents
20 of the bill signed on Friday, March 24th, by
21 Governor Gregoire. And we feel that those topics
22 meet the test of limiting ourselves to
23 clarification and new information on material
24 already in the record.

25 After several meetings with county staff,

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1 it's our understanding that the previously
2 submitted response matrix from Horizon is what
3 the Board wanted from us and that prior to the
4 close of this hearing, Horizon will be allowed to
5 present a response to public testimony.

6 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: That's correct.

7 MR. DANA PECK: If this meets the Board's
8 expectations, I'll get started here.

9 Horizon Wind Energy reasserts its position
10 that the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project as
11 proposed meets the various tests for wind power
12 project development established by Kittitas
13 County, as did the Wild Horse project, and that
14 the project should be approved by the Board of
15 County Commissioners.

16 These points are reinforced by the updated
17 report submitted by Mr. Delacey on property
18 values, whose professional credentials are
19 included in the record, and that report
20 demonstrates there is no reason to believe there
21 are any negative property values impacts from the
22 project.

23 And although I'll come back to this point,
24 we feel Mr. DeLacy's report very much goes beyond
25 those more other area reports that we already

1 have in the record, and I hope that we'll be able
2 to get more specific on that in a couple minutes.

3 Those points are also reinforced by the
4 recent action by Governor Gregoire which
5 establishes the taxes paid by the project will
6 directly benefit the county and local residents,
7 as reported in the Daily Record.

8 The Economic Development Group will be
9 presenting more specific information on this
10 point later, but I'd like to point out that the
11 dollars involved from this scale project are a
12 significant increase in revenue for each of the
13 local taxing districts, and I think that's true
14 by anyone's standards.

15 And as well, they represent a reduction in
16 tax rates, as pointed out by the assessor, a
17 point that will be reinforced later. And this
18 comes at no additional cost to the county's
19 taxpayers.

20 Horizon's been asked by county staff to
21 address the question of the identification of the
22 number of turbines and several other points that
23 have come up separately, so I'll go into those
24 more specifically without kind of the general
25 level discussion that I've got here, hopefully

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1 save us all a little time.

2 And at this point I'm going to go into a
3 couple of those specific points, but Erin will be
4 also going through the matrix that we presented
5 in a couple of minutes. See if I can get them in
6 the same order that you were generous enough to
7 provide them in.

8 On the subject of number of turbines, I
9 think the first and most critical point to
10 recognize is that the 80-turbine number is what
11 was evaluated throughout the Draft Environmental
12 Impact Statement process. So in effect, the
13 environmental analysis that's before you has
14 addressed the greatest impact from the larger
15 number of turbines.

16 For the rest of the points, we very much
17 feel that we're in almost an identical
18 presentation on that as we were in the Wild Horse
19 project. Throughout the Wild Horse project --
20 and I can provide specific citations if the
21 Commission would like -- the range of turbines
22 were discussed frequently between 102 and 158,
23 depending on the turbine technology that was
24 eventually applied. The corridors were defined
25 there as they are in the Kittitas Valley project

1 in the Development Agreement.

2 And we feel there's pretty sound precedent
3 for approaching -- the kind of range of turbine
4 installation, you know, has been already gone
5 through in the Wild Horse project and we're
6 following the exact same process here.

7 And again, the environmental review has been
8 with the larger number and not the smaller
9 number. But in any case, if you'd like, the Wild
10 Horse project we feel sets the precedent on that.

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: It guess it might help you
12 be more -- for me to be more specific. You've
13 got the -- you've got the different strings, and
14 so you're saying if there's 80 turbines, they'll
15 be confined within those strings you've shown, is
16 what I'm hearing you say --

17 MR. DANA PECK: You know, as very precisely
18 defined in the Development Agreement.

19 And just to kind of jump to the last point
20 that was raised, the relative lack of discussion
21 of the Development Agreement up to this point,
22 we'd certainly entertain staff-level
23 conversations on the provisions of that
24 agreement.

25 Which, you know, again, is modeled, you

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1 know, almost at the cut-and-paste level after the
2 Wild Horse agreement, because we felt that
3 provided a good starting point for both our
4 organizations.

5 On the sub-area, much like the turbine and
6 the turbine strings, this is also a point that's
7 addressed very thoroughly in the Development
8 Agreement. To get into modifying the sub-area
9 would, we feel, involve really wholesale
10 revisions that don't really reflect either of our
11 interests, frankly.

12 I mean, the corridors are well-defined, the
13 sub-area around them is well-defined, and it's
14 all been environmentally assessed, if you will,
15 and it's incorporated into the Development
16 Agreement itself. So we feel that kind of
17 negotiation level would be paretic to go into
18 those questions.

19 The question of the setbacks, the
20 thousand-foot setback is not even a national
21 standard; it's an international standard for our
22 industry. It's a standard that's imposed --
23 self-imposed, if you will, even where the local
24 jurisdictions don't have setback standards to
25 address.

1 The specifics of them are that it's a
2 categorical noise compliance issue. It's a way
3 of very clearly getting at noise compliance and
4 model for that.

5 Shadow flicker was raised as an issue
6 related to setback. The 2000-foot number I
7 believe was mentioned in your remarks. At 2000
8 feet there is zero shadow flicker effect.

9 And it's not something that cuts off between
10 no feet and 2000 feet. I mean, there's a
11 diminution of effect, and at 1000 feet we feel
12 that the mitigation's fully achieved. At 2000
13 feet you're asking us to meet a total no-impact
14 standard.

15 When it comes to visual impact, we
16 dramatically changed the size of this project
17 from the original project proposed. We're
18 talking about half the original size. If you go
19 back to the original map, you know, you might
20 remember -- I'm not sure we've got it with us
21 right away, but the reduction of turbines
22 proposed by Horizon is the visual mitigation, in
23 our mind.

24 If you look at where we have dropped
25 turbines from the original proposal, almost

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1 without exception they're on the periphery of the
2 existing project, and those turbines were dropped
3 to enhance people's viewsheds. And that was a
4 self-selected action on our part.

5 So we've got a project that's half the
6 original size, it's half the original size to
7 meet largely visual concerns of our neighbors,
8 and -- I, I don't know what to say beyond that.
9 We feel like we've already shrunk it down to the
10 center.

11 Transmission. Didn't grow up here, couldn't
12 tell you, you know, the history of transmission
13 in the Kittitas Valley. It's my understanding
14 that the transmission corridor easements were
15 laid out in the '20s. You know, I'd be really
16 hard-pressed to provide you with a citation I
17 wanted to stand behind, but it's my understanding
18 that the corridors were defined that early and
19 the construction occurred somewhere between the
20 late '40s and the mid '50s.

21 Again, I'm not -- I'm real reluctant to talk
22 about that at all; I'm sure there's people behind
23 me that can nail this one without any effort
24 because they were there when it happened. And
25 again, it's my understanding that the range of

1 years that transmission's been considered for
2 this valley as opposed to just being there is
3 well within those years I just mentioned.

4 Roads. It's been our agreement that roads
5 that we affected we'd restore, that we'd
6 reconstruct them to their original conditions.
7 Again, that's industry-standard practice in the
8 wind power business. We move big stuff and we
9 come back and fix what we tore up. You know,
10 we're going to affect -- we're going to fix what
11 we affect.

12 Another point on view impacts, if I could
13 just go back to that point, although the
14 project's been redefined with that sentiment in
15 mind, I mean, under the County's existing
16 Comprehensive Plan, preservation of habitat and
17 scenic vistas are a public responsibility. And
18 it's made pretty clear, I believe, throughout the
19 document that individual private landowners
20 should not be expected to provide these goods for
21 free.

22 And I think that's very much the situation
23 we have here. The neighbors, you know, as you
24 will hear tonight, who are in the project area,
25 especially the associated landowners, are being

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1 asked, frankly, to give up -- well, right out of
2 what you said, individual private landowners are
3 being asked to provide this goods as a response
4 to the viewshed issue, and I think that's
5 something that your own Comp Plan makes very
6 clear is not how this county chooses to operate.

7 Property values. I appreciate the attention
8 that you paid to the reports that we brought into
9 the record. We recognize also that those were
10 reports from other areas. There were some gaps
11 in them. I mean, were there people between, you
12 know, the site and the two miles of the town that
13 the commissioner brought up.

14 That's why we had someone with the
15 credentials of Barton DeLacy come in and take a
16 specific look at this area, not once but twice.
17 We've got his original submittal and we also have
18 his most recent submittal for your consideration.

19 I believe that it shows -- and if I could
20 just go back to my own notes --

21 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear.

22 MR. DANA PECK: Am I slipping off the
23 microphone again for the folks back there?
24 Sorry. It's not for lack of trying.

25 Going back to my point about Mr. DeLacy,

1 whose, as I said, professional credentials are on
2 the record, we feel his report demonstrates that
3 there's no reason to believe there's any negative
4 property value impacts from the project.

5 I'm certainly aware of the ebb and flow of
6 that conversation in Kittitas County. I'd just
7 urge you to take a look at Mr. DeLacy's
8 qualifications for making that statement. He's
9 as good as we've been able to find to provide
10 that kind of information for your record.

11 On the subject of buying land -- and I'm not
12 sure exactly how you phrased that; I didn't get
13 it transcribed exactly in my notes -- I think
14 I'll have Erin discuss that more thoroughly than
15 I am, although none of us are aware of a legal
16 basis for that action. But again, I'll have Erin
17 Anderson be the person who gets into that.

18 And I think that gets the list.

19 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Questions for Mr. Peck?

20 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: I don't have any
21 questions. I just wanted to clarify, it was
22 just -- it was just something to throw out there.
23 Because you had it in your record that you gave
24 to us, that that was something that had been done
25 previously with another project. And so I, I put

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1 it out there that, you know, maybe that would be
2 considered as a condition.

3 MR. DANA PECK: Okay, thank you.

4 Well, let's see. Well, at that point, thank
5 you for the opportunity to address the specific
6 questions. I hope that I've been at least in
7 shorthand version been able to get at most of
8 them for you.

9 And if I could, I'll transfer this over to
10 Erin at this point.

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Certainly.

12 MR. DANA PECK: And I'll be giving just a
13 very brief close after she concludes her remarks.

14 MS. ERIN ANDERSON: Mr. Chair, counsel --
15 commissioners. Can you hear me in the back?

16 Erin Anderson, 200 East 3rd here in
17 Ellensburg, residential at 360 Willowbrook out by
18 the airport, and business address in Cle Elum at
19 105 East First Street, on behalf the
20 applicant/proponent.

21 I think Dana has said most of what I had
22 planned to say, so I will make it short.

23 Following the joint hearings between the
24 Board of County Commissioners and the Planning
25 Commissioners, we were encouraged to get all of

1 our information in to you; don't wait to
2 introduce new information until the last minute.
3 In essence sandbagging, as we call in it my
4 practice.

5 So after several meetings with county staff
6 and reviewing the comments of the three county
7 commissioners, we attempted to streamline this by
8 preparing a response matrix to the Planning
9 Commission's findings, understanding that we were
10 required to respond to their findings and to,
11 also, some extent if new evidence comes up or, in
12 this case, questions have come up, or rebuttal to
13 public comment.

14 I believe that the matrix itself is pretty
15 clear. We're enumerated every one of the
16 Planning Commission's findings and stated them
17 verbatim and cross-referenced in your record
18 already all the information that we think
19 addresses that rather than regurgitate it again
20 over the next three nights.

21 A few comments and a little bit of analysis
22 in regard to those. If you have specific
23 questions about the matrix -- I think we've heard
24 them tonight. Commissioner Crankovich, you had
25 some questions, observations; Commissioner Bowen,

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1 you had some specific questions. Mr. Peck I
2 believe has answered most of those. I wanted to
3 go through and just supplement a few of those
4 questions.

5 I note specifically that in the Planning
6 Commission's recommendations and -- or findings
7 and conclusions, they find that there has been a
8 demonstration -- or has failed to be a
9 demonstration of need.

10 And I would point out that this subject is
11 not just a local subject. The matter of need and
12 demand is an international issue. And if you
13 will, the community that we live in is not
14 Kittitas County, it is not that ridge; it is this
15 region represented by our regional legislators in
16 Olympia, it is statewide represented by our
17 statewide officials, and it's represented on a
18 national basis by our senators, congressmen, and
19 our president.

20 This issue is an issue just within the
21 confines of the United States on the spotlight at
22 every single level. I don't find any credibility
23 to say there's no need here. Our president in
24 his State of the Union Address says this is a
25 problem. We have got to find ways to maximize

1 renewable alternate energy sources.

2 The state government has focused on -- both
3 in rebuttal to the president's weekly radio
4 address in about December and also in addresses
5 to the legislature -- that Washington is going to
6 be a leader in the issue of renewable energy
7 sources if the -- if our national government
8 doesn't put it in the forefront. And in fact,
9 they both have done that.

10 It's a regional issue. Our representative,
11 Janea Holmquist, has led the charge just this
12 most recent legislative session on biodiesel as a
13 viable alternative energy resource.

14 The City of Ellensburg is trying to get a
15 pilot solar energy program off the ground.

16 Is there a demand to get ourselves weaned
17 off of foreign oil? Absolutely. Is this an
18 issue of "We are Kittitas County, we have to keep
19 it here"? No, this is an issue that affects you
20 whether you live here or your children live in
21 King County or they live in Grant County, which
22 exports its energy to Kittitas County.

23 This is a big issue for all of us, and to
24 posit that there is no demand is to somehow
25 suggest that we live in this isolated little

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1 bubble, ignorant of the rest of the world; and I
2 don't think you are ignorant of what is going on
3 in the rest of the world. It impacts all of us.

4 Our children fighting in the Middle East
5 over these things; our president -- whatever side
6 of the aisle you are on politically, Democrat,
7 Republican, this is an issue for everybody, and
8 we can't pretend that it doesn't exist here by
9 cherry picking out of the testimony to say that
10 it doesn't exist; it does.

11 Insofar as public benefits, I've read the
12 newspaper. Commissioner Huston, I admire you for
13 your ability to ignore those ads. I haven't
14 gotten to that point yet, and so I do read them.
15 And in fact, I read a quote attributed to Iris
16 Rominger, who is your county assessor, where she
17 said -- and she was quoted as saying -- that the
18 additional revenue -- and I put in brackets
19 "generated by this project" -- is most likely
20 insignificant.

21 I was flabbergasted by that quote and,
22 frankly, I contacted your county assessor today
23 to verify whether or not she made that statement.
24 Her response -- I posed her the following
25 question, and I have this in writing.

1 "Good morning, Iris." After all the address
2 stuff. "I have finished reading yesterday's
3 Daily Record...wherein the following quote
4 regarding tax revenues that could be generated
5 for Kittitas County by the KV Wind Power Project
6 is directly attributed to you." And I quote,
7 "The additional revenue is most likely
8 insignificant."

9 My question to your assessor was this: "The
10 date of said quote is not given. However, given
11 the passage of Senate Bill 6141 signed into law
12 by the governor last Friday, March 24th, isn't it
13 true that the additional tax revenue and
14 reduction in the tax rates that would benefit the
15 County from the KV Wind Power Project are, in
16 fact, significant?" Not insignificant;
17 significant.

18 Her response to that is, "Yes, Erin, since
19 the signing of SB6141 last Friday..." Yes, they
20 are significant. And that is the truth of the
21 matter.

22 In the case at hand -- and we're going to
23 get this evidence from the public as well -- the
24 public benefits in addition to generating
25 renewable, clean, low-cost alternative energy

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1 resources -- I'm assuming it kind of goes without
2 saying, although I seem to think that people
3 still think that the issue --

4 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me, that's 20
5 minutes. 20 minutes --

6 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Please, it is not up yet; I
7 am keeping track of it, and we did ask them
8 additional questions, as I told you when he came
9 up here. I will keep control of this meeting and
10 you will be quiet, please --

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I understand that, but it
12 is 20 minutes.

13 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Quiet.

14 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We waited a long time for
15 the last session.

16 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Sir --

17 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you, I'm done.

18 MS. ERIN ANDERSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
19 commissioners.

20 This project's revenues generated to the
21 county in addition to jobs and electricity
22 include -- and I'm reading here -- \$77,000-plus
23 to our local hospital. That's not insignificant.
24 I'm sure they would be saddened to see that
25 turned away.

1 Our little tiny Thorp School District,
2 \$325,000, a third of a million dollars, to that
3 school district by no stretch of the means could
4 be insignificant.

5 171,000 to fire districts. 293 to the
6 local -- 293,000 to the local road district. 240
7 to the general fund. My understanding is those
8 moneys in the road district can be extended over
9 to the general fund to be used for other purposes
10 such as law enforcement. That also is hundreds
11 of thousands of dollars you're making available
12 to the sheriff's department.

13 Now, bear in mind this project doesn't
14 generate students for schools, but it generates
15 money for schools. This project self-polices
16 itself, but it can generate money for the
17 sheriff's department. They build and maintain
18 their own roads, but it can generate money for
19 the road department.

20 Demand on hospitals, granted; if something
21 happens out there, sure, there's going to be a
22 demand on the hospital, but is that proportionate
23 to the seventy-seven, nearly seventy-eight
24 thousand that will go to the hospital? I would
25 posit probably not. The public benefits are huge

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1 here. Jobs, electricity, and the like.

2 Briefly, I can't compete with Barton
3 DeLacy's curriculum vitae or qualifications on
4 property values and the like, but I can attest to
5 the fact that I'm very familiar with our county's
6 Comprehensive Plan, and it prohibits you from
7 requiring a public -- excuse me, a private
8 property owner -- or in this case 6000 acres of
9 private private property owners -- to be required
10 to preserve their property as a viewshed to
11 benefit the need of the adjacent property owners.
12 That's a taking.

13 To say no, you cannot use your natural
14 resource property for natural resource because we
15 want you to preserve that view for your neighbor,
16 your county Comprehensive Plan prohibits that.
17 Not once. At least four times.

18 And there's a reason for that. You can't
19 impose a public benefit to a third party upon a
20 private property owner, and these people are here
21 before you today saying, Please allow us to
22 maximize our property in accordance with our Comp
23 Plan and our zoning code; we bought our property
24 knowing it was natural resource. Presumably
25 their neighbors did too. But the people that are

1 before you today asking this be approved are
2 asking to use their natural resource property as
3 natural resource. To impose view preservation of
4 viewshed on them, not permissible.

5 Insofar as property values, I would note a
6 letter was submitted to you today from a
7 gentleman named Ian Elliott, and I point this
8 out -- I know people are certain that they might
9 want to sell if this project gets approved, and
10 we do have a free market economy.

11 Mr. Elliott's letter submitted today said
12 that he had previously testified against noise
13 levels but then took the initiative to go down
14 and stand next to one at another project, did not
15 find them offensive to him. As a result of that,
16 two weeks ago today he spent several hundred
17 thousand dollars and bought several hundred acres
18 immediately adjacent to this project and plans to
19 put in a housing development.

20 Two weeks ago. After this has been blasted
21 across the front page of the newspaper for four
22 years, somebody dumps hundreds of thousands of
23 dollars to snap up that property and start
24 building. That's the proof in the pudding here.
25 Not "I think it's going to happen, I think it's

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1 going to reduce my property values." You've got
2 people putting their money where their mouth is
3 already in this county to buy and build
4 immediately adjacent, immediately adjacent. And
5 I have all the details on that.

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you when
7 you're mumbling. Would you please talk so we can
8 hear back here --

9 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: She's silent right now, and
10 she will speak directly into the microphone to
11 assist, okay?

12 MS. ERIN ANDERSON: Thanks.

13 I think the remainder of my comments, I do
14 have Ms. Rominger's response to my inquiry today.
15 I'm going to give that to you. You have
16 Mr. Elliot's letter in the record, so I don't
17 need to provide that to you.

18 I don't believe there's anything else that I
19 have that I would like to introduce that would
20 constitute new evidence, because I understand you
21 don't want that in our rebuttal.

22 I will have some closing argument at the end
23 of the evening after everybody's had an
24 opportunity to speak. But I thank you for your
25 time and opportunity to address and hopefully

1 answer some more of your questions.

2 And I will hand these to your clerk.

3 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Any questions for
4 Ms. Anderson before she steps away? No.

5 Thank you.

6 MS. ERIN ANDERSON: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Mr. Peck, you said you had
8 some closing statement, or --

9 MR. DANA PECK: No, I think she said it.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: You're set?

11 MS. ERIN ANDERSON: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: And I ended up with 25
13 minutes. You did well to answer all our
14 questions and do your presentation. Thank you.

15 MS. ERIN ANDERSON: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, with that, I have,
17 looks like, five sign-up sheets. Do you need a
18 break over here before we start?

19 We're going to take a five-minute break for
20 our court reporter, and we'll be right back with
21 public testimony.

22 (A break was taken.)

23 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: I realize this is an
24 emotionally charged issue for many people, and I
25 want to make sure we address our comments to the

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1 Board up here. We've been very civilized in
2 previous hearings and we will be civilized in
3 this hearing as well. Local people have come --
4 or actually out-of-town people have come and
5 watched our process and commented to us later on
6 how our community can disagree yet do it civilly,
7 and we are going to do that tonight.

8 I'm going to move forward with the public
9 testimony. We will give each person up to five
10 minutes. I would request that -- and I
11 understand people feel it's unfair that the
12 proponent or applicant has more time. They also
13 have -- they have the application in front of us.
14 We need to have a full and complete record that
15 gives them an opportunity to speak and present
16 their project.

17 And I just -- I wish I could do something
18 different, but we really can't in order to keep
19 this process moving forward and being complete.

20 I'm going to -- we've got four and a half
21 pages of folks. I'm planning on going until
22 10:00 or 10:30. I used an extra half-hour to get
23 us started today, so that's why I was kind of
24 looking at the 10:30 time, and we'll get through
25 as many of these as we can. Anybody that doesn't

1 get to speak, we do have tomorrow night reserved
2 here as well; and if we need to continue it to
3 another night, we will do that.

4 So please everybody, if you would, as I
5 said, direct your comments to us up here. And
6 let's try and have a civil hearing.

7 So with that said, the first person on my
8 list is Mr. Lee Bates.

9 MR. LEE BATES: I'm Lee Bates. 1509 Brick
10 Road, Ellensburg, and I represent myself.

11 I am opposed to this wind farm. I do not
12 feel the wind farm developer has been complete in
13 their wind farm presentation for the following
14 reasons. No. 1: The wind farm developer hides
15 the fact that all the new turbines will be 410
16 feet tall. See the DEIS Page 3-9 and -10 and
17 Figures 2-1 and 2-2.

18 No. 2: The shadow flicker estimates shown
19 in the DEIS Appendix A in my opinion are too
20 small since they are for October and November and
21 not December and January, when the sun is lowest
22 and the shadows longest.

23 No. 3: The wind farm developer has not come
24 out to the public with information on which
25 turbine configuration they have selected.

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1 No. 4: The noise levels estimated in the
2 DEIS Table 3.12-5 as shown on Page 3-31 shows the
3 estimator used a turbine hub height of 67 meters
4 or 221 feet, which is for the smaller turbine and
5 not for their 410-foot-high turbines they want to
6 build for this project. See Figure 2-2. If
7 you're going to make accurate noise estimates,
8 you need to use a turbine the same size as the
9 turbine in the project and not a smaller turbine.

10 Is there any questions?

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Next person
12 will be Michael Maw, M-a-w.

13 MR. MICHAEL MAW: Good evening. I am --
14 have listed my address both here and in Auburn.
15 I am originally from this area.

16 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Please state your name.

17 MR. MICHAEL MAW: My name is Michael Maw. I
18 currently reside at 10807 Southeast 290th Street,
19 Auburn. I also have property at 5740 -- or 5370
20 Smithson Road here in Ellensburg.

21 There were some points made here tonight
22 that I'd like to make comments on. One of them
23 was --

24 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: You need to speak in the
25 mic, I'm sorry.

1 MR. MICHAEL MAW: I think maybe what I need
2 to do is take this down a little bit. Thank you.

3 I'd like to make a couple of comments on
4 some of the things that were raised tonight as
5 far as property values. There have been issues
6 presented that maybe these projects would not
7 negatively impact property values.

8 This piece of property I purchased on
9 Smithson Road was right smack dab in the middle
10 of the Desert Claim project, and I can tell you
11 for a fact that I purchased this piece of
12 property for forty to sixty thousand dollars less
13 than what a comparable property would be located
14 in other areas of the valley. This was verified
15 not only by the agent that sold it to me but also
16 by the listing agents and several other agents
17 that I contacted in the area.

18 I think as far as property values in these
19 areas, I believe perceptions are -- and
20 perceptions are basically what drives property
21 values, how people perceive these projects.

22 The turbines being in the 400-foot range are
23 going to significantly impact the aesthetics in
24 the areas that they are located in. They're
25 going to be backdrops to the views of the

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1 mountains to the north and the west. I think all
2 the valley residents around here are going to
3 begin to realize that if they're put in as
4 proposed, which is one of the reasons that I
5 think the Planning Commission was so opposed to
6 these things.

7 The other thing that was mentioned was the
8 tax revenue that would be generated from these
9 projects. I don't think there's any doubt that
10 there's going to be some tax advantages to these,
11 but I don't think anybody really knows exactly
12 what they're going to be for sure.

13 The Grover Report done by EcoNorthwest
14 estimates them anywhere from 1.2 million to
15 2.9 million dollars for both the EnXco and the
16 wind -- the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.
17 But they also say that perhaps 698 -- or \$693,000
18 of that would actually directly benefit the
19 county.

20 Now, on the 9th of January, Senate Bill 6141
21 was introduced to the 59th Legislature; it's in
22 committee on Water, Energy, and Environment.
23 Basically what they want to do is amend a certain
24 amount of RCWs to include electric generation
25 wind turbines in the property tax levy limit

1 calculation. I don't know what that will do one
2 way or the other to the tax revenue situation as
3 far as values of these things once they're
4 erected.

5 I think based on some of the things that
6 I've read in other areas of the country, in the
7 Midwest these projects work real well, they're
8 done in rural areas; there's very little growth
9 pressure. The benefits to the local economy are
10 well-stated. The tax revenues are there.

11 In Europe, where fossil fuels for powering
12 generation plant are prohibitively expensive,
13 they're working well there, as the fact that wind
14 generation is somewhat cheaper than fossil fuel
15 generating plants.

16 In other areas they've been a colossal
17 failure. Altamont Pass, California, they erected
18 these things right in a migration path of the
19 California Condor. The slaughter of these birds
20 has caused them to now alternate; half of these
21 windmill generators are running half the time,
22 half of them are not.

23 On the east coast in West Virginia they
24 erected some along the ridges in the
25 Appalachians. There was very little local

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1 opposition to these things. Once the forests
2 were clear-cut and these 400-foot behemoths were
3 put up, people begin to realize that they are
4 just eyesores.

5 There's moratoriums being proposed up and
6 down the east coast. And basically the studies,
7 some of the aesthetic and noise impacts of these
8 things, based on some of the projects that have
9 gone up and what people realize after they've
10 gone in.

11 The Cape Wind Project in Massachusetts is
12 generating stiff opposition because it's going to
13 be out in the middle of Cape Cod where it's going
14 to visually impact anybody that's anywhere near
15 the shore.

16 I think in a lot of ways some of these
17 issues parallel what is happening here as the
18 concerns of many of the people I've talked to are
19 of the esthetics and the noise, the shadow
20 flicker and things. But what we have here in
21 Kittitas County, I think, is an opportunity where
22 other places don't have, is that we have other
23 areas of the county where we can locate these
24 things where they are not going to necessarily
25 impact the esthetics of the county, aren't

1 necessarily going to negatively affect property
2 values or --

3 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: You need to end your
4 comments, please.

5 MR. MICHAEL MAW: I'm sorry; I'm just about
6 done.

7 (Continuing) -- hinder growth pressures as
8 such.

9 So I think we need to consider these things,
10 perhaps need to come up with alternate sites of
11 the ones being proposed. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Next is Jeff
13 Howard.

14 MR. JEFF HOWARD: My name is Jeff Howard.
15 21 Fawn Road in Cle Elum.

16 Mr. -- or Commissioner Crankovich was
17 referring to a report on property values that
18 came with the original application a couple of
19 years ago. I've been an associate broker with
20 John L. Scott for 16 years, and I went through
21 that report with a fine-tooth comb. Believe me,
22 that particular report was a prime example of the
23 old saying that statistics never lie but all
24 liars use statistics.

25 Now, Mr. Peck has mentioned that he's had an

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1 updated report by a Mr. DeLacy. Perhaps two of
2 them. I couldn't quite tell from his
3 conversations what they were. I'm going to
4 contact your staff and get a copy of those
5 updated reports, go through them myself, and then
6 I'll send another letter to the commissioners
7 about what my findings are. Because they may
8 have come up with something less than spin.

9 Now, I've spoken and written on this subject
10 for nearly four years now. And in the interest
11 of brevity, the Board of County Commissioners are
12 well aware of my views. This massive industrial
13 project should not be sited in the area proposed.
14 It is not appropriate adjacent to numerous
15 private properties that are used for residences,
16 recreation, retirement homes, so forth.

17 The proposed wind power project should be
18 sited where it will not disturb the existing uses
19 of the land and adversely affect nearby property
20 values and scar this marvelous corner of the
21 earth with monstrous turbines.

22 Please consider the recommendations of your
23 Planning Commission and deny this project in its
24 entirety. Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. I have Gordon

1 Gabrielson didn't want to testify. But I have
2 Ann Gabrielson that did.

3 ANN GABRIELSON: My name is Ann Gabrielson.
4 My mailing address is 16516 Northeast 1st Street,
5 Bellevue.

6 I am co-owner of property immediately
7 adjacent to the wind power project site. If the
8 current plan is followed, we will have two to
9 four of these obstructive (sic) turbines within a
10 few hundred feet of our property line.

11 This property was purchased as a family
12 recreation area because of the beauty, the peace
13 and quiet, and the many recreational
14 opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts. The
15 beauty and peace and quiet would certainly
16 disappear if the project is approved.

17 Locating a wind farm at this location will
18 negatively impact the many property owners in the
19 area and the community as a whole. I support the
20 majority of citizens in Kittitas County by
21 stating that this is the wrong site to locate a
22 large-scale wind power project.

23 In the interests of time, I have purposely
24 kept my comments brief, but I thank you for the
25 opportunity to express my opinion. Thank you.

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1 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Mary Pattillo?
2 I can't tell if it's a "T" or a "D" I'm reading.
3 1001 South Chestnut? Okay.

4 MS. MARY PATILLO: Are you saying Mary
5 Patillo?

6 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: I am trying to, yes. Mary
7 Patillo?

8 MS. MARY PATILLO: Yes.

9 Well, I go to the desert almost every winter
10 and I usually go across the Hatchview Pass from
11 Mojave, California, to catch I-5 up, and then at
12 Weed I get 97 all the way into Ellensburg.

13 Well, this year, actually a couple years
14 ago, I saw two or three turbines or maybe a
15 little row of those wind turbines down low near
16 Mojave. But this year all the ridges everywhere,
17 these huge things, there's just like hundreds of
18 them were there. And I thought well, mechanical
19 earth. It just completely ruined the beauty.

20 People have built very expensive homes
21 there, and it's always been a very beautiful
22 pass. Very windy too, because the western air
23 comes up through there and over the mountains
24 into the desert.

25 But I'll tell you, I just urge you to turn

1 them down. This is a small valley. It's not
2 really very big, you know. It's going to ruin
3 it. It's going to ruin this valley. I've seen
4 those things -- they were all over the place, and
5 a lot of them had fallen over, crashed on the
6 ground. I just -- I tell you, turn them down.
7 Bye. Talk to you later.

8 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

9 Next is Sandy Sandall. Sandy Sandall?

10 MR. SANDY SANDALL: I'm here. I'm getting
11 my stuff together.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, I couldn't see you.

13 MR. SANDY SANDALL: My name's Sandy Sandall.
14 I reside at 8560 Elk Springs Road. I have a post
15 office box, 954, Ellensburg, Washington.

16 I'm here to -- a show and tell, I guess is
17 what you want to call it. The pictures before
18 you are from Section 35, and in that area we have
19 approximately 33 parcels of land; 27 cabins,
20 homes, and trailers; and 26 landowners. This is
21 a view that is shared partially by other people,
22 probably 12 other recreational people and a
23 couple of landowners.

24 If you look on the map, I show the view from
25 my deck at Milepost 93 all the way back over to

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1 the Badger Pocket. In there you have a cell
2 tower, then you show the eggbeat -- what I call
3 the eggbeater. It's the old wind turbine or
4 whatever it was over on the Springbrook Ranch.
5 Manastash Ridge.

6 Then we have a picture of Elk Springs Road.
7 And over further you have the canyon. And I-82
8 and then Badger Pocket. That's just a panoramic
9 view off of my deck.

10 Also on Picture No. 2 is a test tower down
11 on Elk Springs Road. The lighting has to be so
12 that you can see it, but that's approximately six
13 inches in diameter. I'm not sure of the height.
14 Anywheres from maybe 110 to 165 feet. But that's
15 visible.

16 And then, of course, just a little show and
17 tell on Lake Ellensburg with the fog.

18 The other item I give to the young lady over
19 there is a real estate guide from the Daily
20 Record. And I've put on the front the pages just
21 to give you an example, when you get time to look
22 at it, showing what the view is. They say view,
23 view. We don't own the view, yes, but they sure
24 sell a lot of it.

25 And our elevation where I'm at is about

1 3295 feet. And one of the H towers -- and it's
2 H1, it's a little further down, but in the
3 H series, about where this test tower is, there's
4 2665. That puts me about 630 feet above the
5 ground, 220 feet above the tower. I'm going to
6 be looking at all of them.

7 The whole viewshed there in the, what is
8 it -- Figure 3.9-6 shows where the towers go.
9 This looks over towards Hayward Hill, all across
10 Manastash, the valley there above 97, up Elk
11 Springs Road, up over by the gravel pit, up
12 Cricklewood. There's maybe a few trees in there
13 that blot out maybe one or two towers or a few
14 towers, but the view is there.

15 The firing range in Yakima. On occasion we
16 can feel the vibration and hear the shooting or
17 hear the firing where I live. Now, what's the --
18 what's the noise level going to be up that short
19 distance? A mile, mile and a half, to my place
20 and these other residents up in that area?

21 Also last year, 2004-2005 winter, we had
22 seven to eight weeks of fog. No wind. This year
23 so far we've had 45 -- about 44 days of ice,
24 rain, ice fog, and fog.

25 You're faced with a big decision here, and

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1 I've heard people say it's a hard decision to
2 make. But you know, EnXco is going to look at
3 this, and if this project is approved, EnXco's
4 going to be right there knocking at your door
5 saying, Hey, it's the same thing we've got over
6 there; why did you allow it here?

7 And then what about the rights -- they talk
8 about the rights of the landowners. Everybody
9 has rights. As long as everything is done within
10 the law, they can build and do whatever they want
11 on their property, but at least they have that
12 right; we have the right to complain about it.

13 We -- where I live we have no power; we live
14 off the grid. And I live on solar power. And it
15 works out fine for me. I'm not against
16 alternative energy; I think it's great. But
17 location, location, location. That's the whole
18 thing.

19 And in this I'd like you to remember your
20 home is your castle and you're dealing with a lot
21 of people that have homes, recreational property,
22 and they are planning on building over here
23 eventually. More people are going to move over.
24 The progress is going to be there; I don't know
25 how it can be stopped. It's sad to see a small

1 community grow, but Issaquah was that way at one
2 time in 1968 and look what it is today.

3 So I hope you make the right decision.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

6 MR. SANDY SANDALL: And you can keep the
7 paper clips too.

8 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Craig Johnson
9 is next.

10 MR. CRAIG JOHNSON: My name is Craig
11 Johnson. 352 Danko Road, Cle Elum. I'm
12 representing myself here.

13 There are a couple of -- one thing you ought
14 to know about me, I'm a pilot and I live a couple
15 thousand feet from the airport. I live what I
16 talk about. I don't like being accused of the
17 "not in my back yard" syndrome. I also have
18 some -- I'm an engineer, Ph.D., professional
19 engineer, that kind of thing, so I have some
20 views about energy. And boy, am I pro wind farm.
21 You can't get much more --

22 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: They need to you speak into
23 the microphone, it looks like.

24 MR. CRAIG JOHNSON: I am pro the Kittitas
25 Valley Farm Wind Project. Did I say that enough?

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1 Pro.

2 No fuel, no thermal emission, no exhaust
3 emissions. That just -- that speaks volumes.
4 That -- as you heard before, this country's going
5 there whether you like it or not. I'd like to do
6 it under control rather than later under duress.

7 I also have an ancillary interest in
8 environmental issues. I'm on the board for
9 Kittitas Environmental (inaudible) stuff like
10 that. And when I see that a farm like this can
11 save habitat -- and what I mean by save habitat
12 is it supports current use of range land and
13 farmland by at least -- you know, there's money
14 coming in for leasing those sites. This is a
15 good thing. So maybe we can keep some of our
16 rural atmosphere.

17 And if it can prevent some development, I --
18 you know, every time I see more mercury vapor
19 lamps and grass, all that means to me is less
20 habitat for the things -- a lot of these things
21 my -- my fellow citizens enjoy, wildlife,
22 et cetera.

23 So those two things predominate the message
24 I'd like you three to take with you, and that is
25 it's very efficient, socially, environmentally;

1 wow, politically, you can't get a much better
2 scenario here. And I urge you to allow this
3 project to go through. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Howard
5 Mitchell?

6 MR. HOWARD MITCHELL: I'm Howard Mitchell.
7 371 Howard Road. I'm here representing my wife,
8 LeOttie and my son Steve and his family. We are
9 lifetime farmers in the area of the proposed wind
10 farm.

11 We favor wind turbines in the area that is
12 zoned Range/Forest and Ag-20. It's already in
13 the power line corridor. Somebody asked me
14 tonight that I -- as I can recall, the power
15 lines were in the late '40s and the early '50s.
16 And then future lines added after that. Wooden
17 lines before -- until after the second war, and
18 then they started putting steel towers in.

19 It makes sense to locate wind turbines in
20 that area, because it's undoubtedly the windiest
21 part of the county. If you commissioners turn
22 down wind farms in that zone, you invite
23 subdivision, realtors and developers. When the
24 realtors and developers get this valley all
25 filled with homes, we will have a wellwater and a

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1 septic drainfield catastrophe.

2 If wind farms in the Kittitas County help
3 prevent land from being urbanized, they have made
4 an outstanding contribution. They also make
5 renewable energy, create a great deal on tax
6 dollars as well as income to the owners of the
7 land they are placed on. This includes state
8 land.

9 I will encourage our governor to support the
10 Horizon wind farm. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

12 Helen Wise?

13 MS. HELEN WISE: My name is Helen Wise. I
14 live in Ellensburg at 1103 (sic) East Third
15 Avenue. I'm here on behalf of myself and my
16 family and all your families. I'm here because I
17 believe it is a very important decision that you
18 will be making this evening. Probably more
19 influence on the future of this area than any
20 other you might make.

21 I attended the Planning Commission's
22 January 30th meeting at which the decision was
23 made to recommend denial of the Kittitas Valley
24 Wind Power Project applications. I have since
25 read the verbatim -- the verbatim transcript of

1 the proceedings of that -- a hundred and -- 112
2 pages. Big print, double spaced, but still it's
3 a lot of talking.

4 I read them to see if what I was remembering
5 had been said really was said. It was for me a
6 very disturbing, disturbing meeting. Well,
7 actually a lot of these are hard on the
8 digestion, you know.

9 The chairman started the discussion on
10 Page 10 of the transcript by saying, "My feeling
11 had been and always has been that it is
12 inappropriate for a wind farm to be considered as
13 a sub-area." Now, that's objective: It had been
14 and always had been. Anyway, his argument seemed
15 to be that the denial of the applications should
16 be based on that belief alone. A lengthy
17 discussion on this concept ensued. But finally
18 they moved on.

19 Now, throughout those proceedings -- and I
20 assume you have not read this transcript, to know
21 what went on in this meeting, how they came to
22 their decision to deny. But throughout the
23 proceedings, the concerns revolved around the
24 view and the property values. Those were the two
25 things that they revolved around.

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1 When speaking -- Commissioner Mark McClain,
2 when speaking of the visual impacts, on Page 32
3 says that they are still moderately high. That's
4 in this revised description. And he declares,
5 quote, "I certainly think that this is the
6 principal issue of concern in this project."

7 He referred -- Page 56 -- 66 -- as he
8 remembered it, to the testimony of Roger Weaver.
9 Quote, "These wind farms, if they are placed
10 here, that the land then in this area would just
11 decrease in value exponentially just overnight."

12 When Commissioner Clark, Page 67, pointed
13 out that according to the Comprehensive Plan --
14 gosh, he read the plan, pointing to the
15 Comprehensive Plan. Quote, "The primary use of
16 that land isn't supposed to be for housing; it's
17 supposed to be for development of natural
18 resources," unquote.

19 Commissioner McClain responded with Weaver's
20 statement that, "Well, it's more pristine
21 high-end development."

22 Okay. The Planning Commission's document,
23 the Findings of Fact, which they used to support
24 their recommendation to, quote, "deny the
25 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project in its

1 entirety" --

2 Pardon?

3 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: One minute.

4 MS. HELEN WISE: One minute? Okay.

5 They had Findings of Fact. The first seven
6 have to do with procedure. The next -- I won't
7 give you the rest of it here, but in every case
8 they were -- the Findings of Fact were not borne
9 out by reality. They said that it was not for
10 public convenience, but I suspect the public will
11 be inconvenienced when demands for electricity
12 cannot be met in the future.

13 City Light Power was shut down in 1951. We
14 have produced no power in this valley since that
15 time. We have been using somebody else's power
16 all that time. It's important that we have power
17 produced, clean power produced in the Kittitas
18 Valley.

19 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

20 Bernice Best?

21 MS. BERNICE BEST: My name is Bernice Best.
22 I live at 210 Tomahawk Lane. It's right at the
23 east boundary of the proposed wind power project.

24 I'd like to state that I do add my name and
25 the names of my family members to the over 200

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1 persons that have voiced their approval of the
2 wind farms, especially of the Kittitas Valley
3 Wind Power Project. And that was on the kcares
4 website.

5 In my opinion, the current pros and cons
6 seem to be growth in Kittitas County versus
7 siting of the wind farms within sight of that
8 growth. Currently growth seems to be going
9 unchecked and unmanaged. As I look out over the
10 valley at night, I see a long line of not only
11 homes but large outdoor lights that are left on
12 all night. My views's already been destroyed by
13 those lights, which are at a much more intensive
14 rate than the view of others would be by the
15 current proposed siting.

16 People want to live in the rural area of the
17 county but have city-style street lights. What
18 is that about? Not only do the lights on at
19 night spoil my view, they are detrimental to the
20 wildlife.

21 I can remember the rural area around
22 Issaquah 20 years ago. Just look at it now.
23 That is what the Kittitas Valley is going to look
24 like if the real estate developers have their way
25 to develop every bit of land that can be

1 developed for homes.

2 Where is all the water going to come from
3 for all those homes and lawns? One real estate
4 agent was quoted in a local publication last year
5 as saying we will run out of water before we run
6 out of land.

7 The drain on services, including schools,
8 will be more than the current available services
9 can bear. The rate of school enrollment will
10 increase as people start moving into the homes
11 currently being built.

12 I really believe that persons worried about
13 their property values decreasing are not
14 concerned about the valley. Rather, they are
15 more concerned about resale and making bigger
16 profit.

17 I'm not against making profit. That should
18 be available to everyone, including those wanting
19 to keep their land and lease it for wind farms.
20 Creative marketing to a different type of buyer
21 will still create a nice profit.

22 And I need to add, even though it's not on
23 your paper, we talk about property values. I
24 sold an 80-acre parcel that I paid \$20,000 for,
25 for 65,000. The parcel next to it this year,

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1 just a year later, was another 80 acres, just
2 sold for \$120,000. And that's right next to
3 where those easternmost wind towers are going to
4 be. And I know for a fact that they knew they
5 were coming in, because I told them. So it
6 wasn't that they bought it without knowledge.

7 It was suggested in the Growth Management
8 Plan the proposed siting area for the Kittitas
9 Valley Wind Power Project be available for the
10 preservation of natural resources and restricted
11 residential growth. Hence the reason for the
12 20-acre restriction on parcel sizes.

13 The reduction in those parcel sizes for more
14 housing adversely affects all the natural
15 resources in the area, including the view some
16 people are so fond of. That view was badly
17 corrupted when six sets of high voltage power
18 lines were erected, and they were there when I
19 moved in there too, so that was almost 20 years
20 ago.

21 It has been stated that we should use
22 conventional power sources and practice
23 conservation to manage the increasing need for
24 power. This is all well and good; however, the
25 main conventional source, hydro, is no longer an

1 option. No more dams will be built.

2 The other sources are non-renewable,
3 polluting, or very hazardous to health.
4 Conservation would be great; however, it is not
5 in our nature as humans as a group to practice
6 effective conservation, even if a few do.

7 Kittitas County is not an island and the
8 only place on this earth. We are a part of the
9 state of Washington, a part of the United States
10 of America, a part of the North American
11 continent, the western hemisphere, and the Planet
12 Earth. As such, we need to look to the common
13 good in providing clean, renewable energy sources
14 for all. We need to look to the future and not
15 just the here and now. Wind power generated in
16 Kittitas County is just a start to provide clean,
17 renewable energy for everyone.

18 I strongly urge the Kittitas County
19 commissioners' support for Kittitas Valley Wind
20 Power Project, and thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

22 Dan Morgan?

23 MR. DAN MORGAN: Thank you, commissioners.
24 My name is Dan Morgan. My mailing address is
25 Post Office Box 999, Ellensburg.

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1 I am the third generation in my family to
2 operate our excavation business in Kittitas
3 County. And I'm here to support the wind farms.
4 When they -- when these guys first came to town,
5 they made the promise that they would hire local
6 companies and hire local people, and they are
7 keeping that promise and I appreciate that. They
8 are providing jobs for my company and the local
9 people that we employ.

10 The wind farms also provide a way for the
11 landowners to keep their Forest and Range land in
12 that usage, which I think is a good thing.
13 They're also providing clean energy and a
14 tremendous amount of tax revenue. Which is why I
15 support the wind farms. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Tina Sands?

17 MS. TINA SANDS: I'm Tina Sands. We live at
18 5690 Smithson Road. I speak tonight for myself,
19 my husband, and my son Christopher.

20 We are vehemently opposed to the wind
21 turbines proposed by Horizon Wind. Monstrous
22 turbines should not be located where people
23 already live. Huge industrial projects like this
24 have major negative impacts on the people who own
25 homes and land in this populated, scenic area, as

1 well as negative impacts on the community and the
2 natural habitat.

3 Wind farms create noise and vibration. They
4 have well-established dangers. And they are a
5 massive visual intrusion. Such projects should
6 at least be restricted to remote and unpopulated
7 areas.

8 We believe that turbines should not be
9 allowed to be considered or built near existing
10 residences, as they are not only seen but felt
11 and heard by residents for many miles from the
12 site of the turbines.

13 The Board of Commissioners and Planning
14 Commission have already exercised great wisdom in
15 declining the recent EnXco application. Please
16 realize that residents of this area equally
17 oppose turbines being built in the area that
18 Horizon is currently proposing.

19 Just the other day we were talking to a
20 fellow who mentioned he was considering making an
21 offer on some land for sale just across the
22 street from us. He was ready to make an offer on
23 property, which indicates he has looked at it
24 pretty seriously. He knew nothing of the
25 turbines that have been proposed on the land he

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1 was considering purchasing. The sellers didn't
2 tell him, the realtors didn't tell him; he hadn't
3 heard about it. It is erroneous to assume that
4 any property that has sold during this conflict
5 was sold with the buyers' knowledge of the
6 possibility of wind turbines being built right on
7 top of them.

8 The wind farm proponents have said the
9 turbines coming in are not hurting land sales now
10 and won't in the future. If there's land still
11 selling, it isn't because no one is telling the
12 buyers prior to their purchase. Or that it's
13 probably an exception if they do.

14 These projects, they haven't told them
15 they're in the works and the fight we're having
16 trying to stop them. We have personally talked
17 with many people who found out after closing that
18 they had just purchased their new place within
19 the impact zone of these proposed projects.

20 Please deny the application for this wind
21 farm; it does not belong here. We live here
22 full-time and we are opposed to this project.

23 And the rest of my comment is from some of
24 the questions you asked at the start. And I made
25 some notes. We built our place five years ago,

1 and we had an appraisal. Two years and many
2 improvements later we heard the news of the wind
3 turbine applications. We looked into selling.
4 We were told by realtors, more than one of them,
5 that we would not get our appraisal value out of
6 our place.

7 This is property that should have only
8 appreciated. In fact, I was advised by the
9 realtors that if we could get 20,000 less than
10 our appraisal, we should take the money and run.
11 You can't tell me there has been no impact on our
12 property values. The disparity in value between
13 our property and properties farther from these
14 projects will only grow.

15 And as to the power lines, they were
16 currently in place in the area when we moved
17 here, but they are not 40 stories high, they do
18 not move, create shadow flicker, noise and
19 vibration for miles around.

20 So we're opposed and go on record. Thank
21 you.

22 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

23 Louise Genson?

24 MS. LOUISE GENSON: Can you all see that?

25 My name is Louise Genson. My address is 101 Elk

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1 Springs Road, Ellensburg.

2 I would like to thank you you for this
3 opportunity to speak in favor of the Kittitas
4 Valley Wind Power Project and to speak
5 specifically about property values.

6 The concern that property values will suffer
7 in the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project if it
8 is approved doesn't have any supporting evidence.
9 The real estate market around the project's
10 boundary has remained very strong since the
11 announcement of the project in April 2002.

12 One only has to look at the records in the
13 office of the county treasurer to see that real
14 estate professionals, real estate investors,
15 people looking for houses and recreational
16 property have continued to purchase property near
17 the wind farm.

18 This area that is highlighted in the blue is
19 access from the Elk Springs Road, which is a
20 private road, and 16 properties have sold since
21 the announcement of the wind farm. All the
22 properties have sold for more than they were
23 purchased.

24 An example I have is Property No. 8 on the
25 map there, which I'll show you. You can see it

1 right here. That was purchased for \$55,000 in
2 5-12-2000 and it sold for \$85,000 on 4-2-03.

3 Also No. -- Property No. 14, which is in the
4 very corner of that section, it was purchased
5 in -- on 4-4-01 for \$195,000 and it was sold for
6 \$260,000 on 10-15-04.

7 And I selected these two examples because to
8 the best of my knowledge, few, if any,
9 improvements were made to the property from the
10 time that it was purchased to the time that it
11 was sold.

12 The Elk Springs area attracts buyers because
13 of the many recreational opportunities that are
14 available. Opportunities that include hiking on
15 state and national forestland, wildlife viewing,
16 hunting, snowmobiling in Green Canyon and the
17 Reecer Creek areas, riding quads and riding
18 horses.

19 People who have purchased land that is
20 accessed by the Elk Springs Road will not lose
21 any of these recreational opportunities they had
22 before the approval of the wind farm.

23 Our county has an opportunity to make the
24 most of the resources we have been given. The
25 land that borders the wind farm can provide for

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1 houses -- I'm sorry, can provide housing for
2 people moving into the area, while at the same
3 time we could use the wind resource to supply the
4 energy that will be needed for these new homes
5 and provide significant income to the property
6 owners of the 6000 acres of land on which the
7 turbines will be located.

8 In researching this property, it's been
9 my -- as I look at these properties, I see real
10 estate professionals, real estate investors, just
11 people looking for homes and recreational homes
12 that are still very much interested in this area.

13 Some of them, I -- I admit some of them
14 might not have known about the wind farm until
15 after they purchased the property. The one
16 person that is in that section that wrote a
17 letter to the editor, she expressed the concern
18 that she didn't know about the wind farm before
19 she bought their property; they have yet to sell
20 their property.

21 People are choosing to buy property and
22 build there with full knowledge of the project.
23 16 properties have sold in the Elk Springs area,
24 all at a good profit. This is not an area that
25 will be adversely affected by the wind farm.

1 This is an area that will -- this is an area that
2 will benefit, as will the county as a whole if
3 the -- if the project is approved.

4 I don't know if you had any questions about
5 the area or the Elk Springs Road. Mr. Crankovich
6 wondered earlier; it's a private road, it's not a
7 county road. We have a road association that
8 maintains the road, so.

9 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. We'll need to
10 have you submit your map to our clerk, please.

11 MS. LOUISE GENSON: Okay, sure.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Henry Yoder?

13 MR. HENRY YODER: Thank you. I am Henry
14 Yoder. I live at 1201 Vista Road here in
15 Ellensburg.

16 I have been asked if I could mention the
17 fact that there have been petitions passed,
18 signatures collected in favor of the wind farms,
19 and I'd like to submit them at this point.

20 Some of the audience has already received a
21 copy of the presentation, and the commissioners
22 have already received that also as far as there's
23 one for the record and one to be torn apart for
24 each of you to receive one.

25 I'm just going to take and emphasize some

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1 very, to me, telling statistics. Many of the
2 arguments against siting of wind power generating
3 farms stems from the destruction of scenery
4 and/or the loss of property values. Under this
5 are bird death, noise, land value deterioration,
6 et cetera.

7 As hard as it is to accept, all progress
8 comes at a price. No land purchase has a
9 guarantee of appreciating in value. All the
10 interstate freeways that cross our land came at a
11 price of scenery destruction. Birds and other
12 wildlife are constantly being killed by vehicles
13 using these highways. Vehicle noise from either
14 the tires or loud radios or just obnoxious people
15 pervade these travelways.

16 President Eisenhower, upon taking office
17 after being a military leader during World
18 War II, took inventory of our military personnel
19 and facilities. It was learned that 50 percent
20 or more of our troops could not locate, let alone
21 reach, the post firing ranges or other lodging
22 and training facilities here in the United States
23 to which military convoys were destined.

24 It was his vision to maintain a strong
25 military viability that caused our interstate

1 freeway system to be established. This
2 interstate highway system had destroyed and is
3 still destroying many, quote, scenic, unquote,
4 highways and scenery.

5 Since we no longer have that strong need to
6 move our troops over the highways here at home,
7 should we dismantle the interstate system and
8 return that land to the scenic beauty it once
9 was? The same principle is on this wind farm. I
10 think we need to look at that.

11 Continuing on, those who display antagonism
12 about the building and the sale of the Wild Horse
13 Wind Farm to Puget Sound Energy and are spreading
14 falsehood that Kittitas County does not receive
15 any of the generated power from that facility or
16 any benefits has not done their homework.

17 The Kittitas County Development Agency has
18 been working on what the financial benefits are
19 to Kittitas County and all of the residents
20 living in the whole of Kittitas County and have
21 either presented or will be presenting their case
22 further tonight.

23 Information from the Kittitas County
24 Assessor's office, there are 5001 residential
25 properties within the boundaries of Ellensburg.

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1 The gross taxable value of the properties is
2 \$764,903,597. That's the total, commercial
3 residential total.

4 My request came too late to get just for the
5 residential. Therefore, I'm taking figures --
6 I'm taking figures, just like everybody is taking
7 figures to say that there's no benefit. You will
8 have this report in yours.

9 The way this is broken down just for points
10 of -- interest points of comparison, taking this,
11 I broke it into fourths, the gross of
12 \$765,000,000, rounding it off to make the figures
13 easy. Each quarter is 190 million. So taking
14 three quarters of that, being what would go to
15 residential, would make that 570 million do --
16 you know, available for residential.

17 Taking that figure and dividing it by 5000,
18 rounding it off, makes it \$114,000 average. Now,
19 being average, it's kind of like putting a foot
20 in a bucket of water and a book in the bucket of
21 ice; on the average you're comfortable --

22 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Wrap up your point, please.

23 MR. HENRY YODER: Yes. The point I'm making
24 is Kittitas Valley development has already said
25 we're getting about \$25, just a tad under, I'm

1 using \$25 at -- per \$100,000 valuation. On
2 \$114,000 valuation, that would be \$28.50 per year
3 tax reduction. That makes for the 5000 homes,
4 \$28, 142,500 additional discretionary spending.
5 That, if spent in Ellensburg, would make
6 \$10,972.50 in collected sales tax, of which
7 Ellensburg gets a direct proportion.

8 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, thank you, we need to
9 stop. Thank you.

10 I'm going to give my reporter a five-minute
11 break again and give my staff a chance to change
12 the CD probably.

13 (A break was taken.)

14 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Our next speaker is David
15 Crane.

16 MR. DAVID CRANE: My name is David Crane. I
17 live at 1201 Vista Road, Ellensburg, Washington.
18 And I had some things here. And I can see that
19 because of the time restriction, I'm not going to
20 have time to read them, so I will submit these
21 items to you.

22 And I would like to address a couple of
23 things. There is a poll that was quoted in the
24 newspaper. Some 4000 people supposedly
25 registered their opinion on a poll that was

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1 quoted in the Daily Record, and it was later
2 basically downplayed because it was not
3 scientifically done and people could enter their
4 opinion as many times as they wished, so the poll
5 was real inaccurate and untrustworthy.

6 And in that poll it had said that 90 percent
7 of the people opposed the siting of wind -- it
8 said opposed wind farms.

9 I have here a picture that was published in
10 the 11th -- the March 11th Daily Record showing a
11 huge wind tower right in the middle of the city.
12 And this, to me, illustrates the behavior of some
13 of the people who are opposed to this siting.
14 Because this is right almost in the middle of a
15 city.

16 But the interesting thing about it is that
17 that's the way they do it in Europe. And I
18 talked to some people in my neighborhood just a
19 week ago who said they just came back from Europe
20 and they have these things right in the
21 communities where people live. And we sat there
22 and listened to them to try to hear them, and we
23 could not hear them because the traffic was too
24 loud.

25 I took some of these little petitions that

1 said "We support wind farms" and circulated them
2 on my own for the wind farm people because I
3 chose to do that. And I went to approximately
4 150 homes in my neighborhood. I had
5 approximately -- I would say exactly 140
6 signatures, and I will tell you that eight out of
7 ten supported this wind farm in its location.

8 And most of the people who did not want to
9 sign the petition said they agreed with it but
10 they didn't want to do it because they were in
11 some public position or because they had friends
12 who lived out there and they didn't want to
13 offend them or that they had a business in town
14 and did not want to be expressing their opinion
15 one way or the other, but they did support it.

16 I've had many conversations with people over
17 a period of several days. I went to one house.
18 The gentleman came to the door. He told me -- I
19 introduced myself as David Crane, I live in your
20 neighborhood, I have here a petition in favor of
21 wind farms. He turned, almost immediately, away
22 from me; he said he's not interested, and he
23 started closing the door. I barely had time to
24 even say "Thank you for your time" as he closed
25 the door.

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1 I went across the street, the young people
2 across the street signed the petition, said that
3 they -- as they were talking to me about it, this
4 gentleman came across the street and proceeded to
5 stand -- and this is about seven o'clock at
6 night, when it's dark -- stand out by the curb
7 and said that I was misinforming people because I
8 wasn't telling them where it was.

9 And I would challenge anyone who says that
10 people signed that petition didn't know where it
11 was. The petition is very simple, it's just a
12 few lines, and I spoke to most of them telling
13 them where it was even when they didn't ask me.
14 Okay.

15 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: One minute.

16 MR. DAVID CRANE: I have here a statement,
17 "Requirements for Siting Wind Farms":

18 They must be built so far from civilization
19 that no one will know they are there.

20 All negative impacts must be totally
21 eliminated.

22 Must guarantee no birds will ever be killed.

23 Must be at least as beautiful as a Rembrandt
24 and invisible.

25 Must be so quiet that only dogs can hear

1 them.

2 Zoning for them must have been in place at
3 the time Kittitas became a county.

4 All lights must be invisible to the human
5 eye.

6 Must be no taller than any other structures
7 in the area.

8 Any person who objects can cancel the
9 project.

10 No cement can touch the surrounding ecology.
11 They must not cast shadows and can operate
12 only at night because of flicker.

13 Must guarantee all property values will
14 increase and pay for those who don't.

15 Must be accessible only by invisible roads
16 and provide hundreds of new high-paying jobs.

17 All power generated must be from -- must be
18 from our -- from our wind must be sold only to
19 Kittitas County.

20 Promoters must not be allowed to make a
21 profit.

22 No tax incentives can be permitted.

23 A clause must be included in any permit
24 which will allow any new rules and restrictions
25 to be added later when thought of.

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1 If windmills don't work, they must be
2 immediately removed and sagebrush, trees, and
3 wildlife must be brought in to exactly duplicate
4 the original ecology, including bats and snakes.

5 They must produce equal to hydroelectric and
6 be at least as efficient.

7 Their insurance policies must indicate that
8 they are safer than any other power generation
9 facility ever invented.

10 And, my apologies to you gentlemen, they
11 must guarantee that if we vote them in, we will
12 be re-elected to office if we vote for them.

13 And this is not meant to be a criticism of
14 you gentlemen or the people on the commission,
15 but that's the hurdles that these people have to
16 go through.

17 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

18 MR. DAVID CRANE: So thank you very much.

19 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Mike Robertson?

20 MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Good evening. My name
21 is Mike Robertson. I'm representing myself and
22 my wife Elizabeth. We live at 4101 Bettas Road,
23 Cle Elum. I'm going to read a prepared statement
24 that I've handed to you. I've also handed you a
25 copy of a transcript of an expert witness in a

1 New York State Legislative Energy Committee
2 hearing that concerns low frequency sound impacts
3 on people and animals.

4 And then I'd like to answer a couple of
5 questions that Commissioner Crankovich had
6 concerning power lines and what people knew about
7 it when they bought property.

8 The applicant, a few people who stand to
9 gain financially if the project is built, and a
10 few other people who think wind power is great
11 since it's not in their back yard would argue
12 that this project should be permitted at any cost
13 to save the planet and make the United States
14 energy-independent.

15 Whether or not this project gets built will
16 have absolutely no bearing on those outcomes.

17 The permitting of this project is not a
18 litmus test on whether you support commercially
19 generated wind power but is about whether the
20 industrial project is consistent with current
21 land uses in the project area. It is obviously
22 not.

23 In the applicant's own EIS it states our
24 homes will be impacted by shadow flicker and
25 noise. They offer no solutions to the impacts

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1 and in fact they admit there are impacts
2 associated with their plan that cannot be
3 mitigated.

4 There is one impact that the wind industry
5 as a whole refuses to even recognize, and that is
6 health problems associated with long-term
7 exposure to low frequency sound sources. The
8 applicant offered paid expert opinion from an
9 acoustic engineer to deny there is any problem
10 with low frequency noise.

11 But as Dr. Pierpont recently testified
12 before the New York State Legislature Energy
13 Committee -- and you have a copy of that --
14 "Describing and documenting symptoms is the
15 province of physicians. So is research on the
16 causes of diseases. Deciding whether people have
17 significant symptoms is not within the expertise
18 of engineers or specialists in acoustics, even
19 when the symptoms appear to be caused by noise."

20 This project is a public health hazard as
21 proposed. A minimum setback of one and a half
22 miles from the nearest non-participating
23 landowner is required to mitigate the effects of
24 low frequency noise.

25 The Planning Commissioners have unanimously

1 determined that this project is not consistent
2 with current land uses in the area, and I urge
3 you to accept the recommendation and deny this
4 project. Wind power may or may not be a good
5 idea, but this project is in the wrong place.

6 And Commissioner Crankovich wondered whether
7 we knew or people out there knew about the power
8 lines. Of course we did, when we bought these
9 properties.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: That's good --

11 Do you want to let him finish?

12 MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: When we bought these
13 properties, we knew about the power lines and we
14 sited our properties such that we didn't look at
15 them. And that's all I wanted to say.

16 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: Okay, I just
17 wanted -- for a point of clarification, that's
18 what I wanted to convey, was that the people that
19 bought the property knew that the power lines
20 were there. I'm not questioning whether or not
21 you knew -- whether anybody new --

22 MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Oh, okay. We didn't
23 know they were going to build 410-foot
24 turbines --

25 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: And I was just

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1 pointing out that the lines were there prior to
2 any kind -- you know, probably most people that
3 purchased the property --

4 MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Sure, sure.

5 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: So if there's any
6 confusion, that's what I wanted to clear up, is
7 I, you know, I'm fully aware that people knew
8 that they were there.

9 MR. MIKE ROBERTSON: Let's see, there was
10 one other. Somebody mentioned, and I don't know
11 who it was, said that denying this project would
12 be like a taking of property by other people
13 around it. There's a law in King County that's
14 passed recently where that's in fact what they
15 did. The County took property, two-thirds of
16 rural property, and said you can't develop it.
17 So this is a moot point. It cuts both ways.
18 Thanks.

19 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

20 Lenny Morrison?

21 MR. LENNY MORRISON: Hello, I'm Lenny
22 Morrison. I live at 1481 Tozer Road. I support
23 the Kittitas Valley wind farm. And the reason --
24 two reasons. One is the Forest and Range land
25 located along that side of the valley -- excuse

1 me, the Forest and Range land located along that
2 side of the valley. It keeps 6000 acres in the
3 Forest and Range land, and that's basically what
4 it was zoned for, was the resource management in
5 that area. So that's it. Thanks.

6 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Sharon Gordon?

7 MS. SHARON GORDON: Hello. I'm Sharon
8 Gordon. I represent my husband, David Gordon.
9 He's already sent you a form, so I didn't come
10 prepared with a letter to hand you.

11 I live at 940 Low Road, which is just off of
12 Bettas Road. I'm a new resident there. And as
13 my husband and I thought about our retirement and
14 where we might like to go, we've been
15 Washingtonians all our life, and we looked around
16 and we loved your community. We loved the places
17 that we saw and we've loved the people that we've
18 met.

19 And as we looked around to find land to
20 build on, we saw that a huge amount of Cle Elum
21 is covered with electrical power lines. And I
22 just said no, we're not going to live near power
23 lines. So we looked a long time. We drove
24 around a lot, we rode around with the realtors,
25 and one of them showed us Bettas Road.

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1 It was beautiful. We saw it in the snow; it
2 was gorgeous. And then in the spring we fell in
3 love with it. And strangely enough, our realtor
4 didn't tell us that there was anything in the
5 forecast for this area.

6 So we bought and we built our dream home.
7 The first -- front part of it is all covered with
8 windows. We look out at the view across the
9 valley, and it's absolutely stunning. We watch
10 the eagles fly around. And it's a wonderful
11 place to be. I've loved the community.

12 But if these wind farms come in, that's what
13 I will see in my view. I will see it in the
14 morning when I wake up; I will see it at night as
15 I go to sleep, because I have no curtains because
16 I just have a beautiful view.

17 And to hear it, to see it, and to lose the
18 birds -- because where are they going to fly if
19 they can fly into those turbines?

20 So I would urge you to think about this.
21 And I know that what I'm -- I'm astounded to hear
22 tonight that there are people who would like
23 these because it would keep people like myself
24 from coming. But I'm here to enjoy your
25 community and to add to it. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Matt Burt?

2 MR. MATTHEW BURT: Yeah, hi, I'm Matthew
3 Burt. I'm the project manager for RES America
4 Construction, Inc., who is presently constructing
5 the Wild Horse Wind Project. Although I guess
6 I'm also a temporary resident of Ellensburg. 808
7 Acacia Lane.

8 I guess I do not really have the right to
9 say whether it is correct or not, as I'm not a
10 proper resident as such. I would just like to
11 just state a few hard facts, basically.

12 Today we have spent in the region of
13 \$1.6 million in the local community. That is in
14 the Kittitas Valley area. My staff presently
15 consists of ten staff members; five of those are
16 local people from -- I think three from
17 Ellensburg, one from Kittitas, and one from
18 Vantage.

19 On top of that we also have security
20 services, which I believe is between three to
21 four people rotated at night and weekend
22 services.

23 On top of that, there's the subcontractors
24 working under me also are employing quite a few
25 people. We don't have the current total,

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1 although we're presently working on that. The
2 last total we had was 23 employees. So there is,
3 I think, a fair share of local involvement in the
4 construction itself.

5 Obviously it's 23, some people may argue and
6 say that's a low figure for the size of this
7 construction project. The actual labor intensity
8 of a construction project like this is a lot less
9 than, say, a big skyscraper or something like
10 that. So it is actually quite a high proportion,
11 probably within the range of 30 percent.

12 Other items which have come up here,
13 generally sort of comments about noise vibrations
14 and other bits and pieces. I've been personally
15 in the wind industry for around seven years.
16 I've been involved in -- I think it's around
17 between 6 to 7 percent of the steel capacity in
18 the U.S., and I believe that is -- with my
19 European experience previous to that, I think
20 around 1 or 2 percent of the world's wind energy
21 to date.

22 On the noise front, these things are
23 actually remarkably quiet. If you stood
24 underneath it, you can hear it; if you stood, you
25 know, 500 foot away, you have very, very

1 little -- very difficulty in basically hearing
2 them.

3 You know, I would say anyone that has any
4 sort of claims that the noise pollution is an
5 issue to actually go out and see for yourself.
6 That's the best, fairest way. You know, I'm not
7 an accoustic engineer, I'm not qualified to give
8 you a testimony saying this is such-and-such a
9 decibel. I mean, that's not my field.

10 I would basically say if that is one of the
11 issues, then you should go out and you should
12 stand, you know, a thousand foot, wherever the
13 setbacks are on this project which is going
14 through, and basically hear for yourself.

15 On the other issues, obviously vibration,
16 that's a fairly new one to me. Again, it's
17 something that I personally haven't witnessed,
18 and I guess on average I've probably had 14,000
19 days of wind projects over the last seven years,
20 and it's one thing that I've personally never
21 seen. Again, I'm not qualified to say if that
22 exists or not.

23 Other items also brought up today was about
24 the urban turbines and stuff. My parent company
25 is actually New (inaudible) Systems, and our

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1 office is in Kings Langley, which is just north
2 of London in the U.K. There we actually have a
3 small wind turbine away from our office probably
4 the length of this room distance-wise. The
5 people in that office, you know, you can't hear
6 it in the office whatsoever. You can obviously
7 see it because it's, you know, it's a few hundred
8 feet away. But you know, again, it's, you know,
9 it's a matter of opinion, basically.

10 The other things I guess we also hear about
11 the health benefits or health -- not benefits,
12 but it's damaging to your health. That is a new
13 one. I've never heard that in any argument to
14 me. Again, personal experience of being in the
15 wind farms for seven years, I'm very healthy; I
16 see the doctor once or twice a year, and I
17 haven't missed a day of work in seven years. So
18 to me, I find that a little bit hard to swallow.

19 I guess -- I guess also on the environmental
20 side, I think as a kind of outsider I would say
21 the environmental benefits of a wind farm is
22 basically great. Obviously with natural
23 resources, fossil fuels, oil, et cetera, the
24 supplies are running low and obviously we've got
25 to think of the future.

1 The amount of years it takes to create oil
2 and coal is phenomenal, and in the few years in
3 the proportion that we've been using them, we've
4 used up a huge resource, and that is actually
5 dwindling and basically fading away.

6 So the way forward obviously is to seek
7 renewable sources, energy that can be generated
8 without damaging -- not so much damaging but
9 using up natural resources. I think it's very
10 important for the future of the people.

11 I think I've taken enough of your time.
12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Jeff Slothower?

14 MR. JEFF SLOTHOWER: Jeff Slothower, 2581
15 Hunter Road in Ellensburg. I will be brief
16 tonight.

17 I wanted to start out by saying that I do
18 agree with my friend and colleague, Ms. Anderson,
19 that this issue -- our dependence on fossil fuel
20 and finding alternative energy, whether it be
21 wind or solar or whatever -- is an issue that
22 affects all of us and will affect her children
23 and my children, who are about the same age. So
24 I think it's important that we solve our energy
25 problems.

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1 But just because an alternative form of
2 energy is needed, and in this case a wind power
3 facility, doesn't mean that you put them
4 everywhere. You still have a land-use decision
5 to make. And that's what this is.

6 And to me, it's very simple: You look at
7 what you have done with Wild Horse and the
8 factors that you looked at to approve the Wild
9 Horse project. You looked at the proximity of
10 residences, you looked at the proximity of the
11 population, you looked at the proximity of
12 conflicting land uses. It doesn't matter how
13 long they've been there, how they got there. You
14 looked at whether they were conflicting land
15 uses. And when you looked at that, you concluded
16 that Wild Horse was properly sited. And put it
17 there.

18 The opposite is true here. If you apply the
19 reasoning that you followed in siting the Wild
20 Horse facility, there's no way you can site it
21 here. Because at every point where you get
22 through the analysis, the opposite facts are
23 here. This is an area where there are a number
24 of residences. There are a number of individuals
25 who reside on a permanent and temporary basis.

1 There are a number of individuals who visit the
2 area to recreate. You cannot apply the Wild
3 Horse reasoning to these facts and conclude that
4 this is a proper site.

5 You have incompatible land uses that you
6 cannot mitigate. The discussion should end there
7 and you should deny it solely based on that.
8 Your code requires you to do that.

9 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. This next one,
10 I -- Linda Johnston or Johanston? 4190 Robbins
11 Road?

12 MS. LINDA SCHANTZ; I need to spell better,
13 huh? It's Linda Schantz, and it's 4190 Robbins
14 Road. I'm here representing my husband and
15 myself.

16 I wanted to make a couple of comments on a
17 point or two that Mr. Bowen and Mr. Crankovich
18 made. The sub-area boundary didn't change, yet
19 the number of turbines were reduced to half. And
20 I believe Mr. Peck said that that was part of the
21 visual mitigation, in the answer to your comment.

22 And I guess my point there, and he had said
23 that they were basically centrally located --
24 really, the strings still reside basically in the
25 same places; there's just less of them. And that

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1 helps with the visual, and it's a short-term
2 advantage for the homeowners over there, but it's
3 a long-term advantage for the wind farm in that
4 in later years there's opportunity to make that
5 wind farm more dense with wind turbines. And
6 that's something that you should think about in
7 your decision.

8 The other thing with shadow flicker, I
9 didn't feel that -- I think a comment was that
10 really to get a hundred percent mitigation on
11 shadow flicker was 2000 feet. That was
12 substantiated by Mr. Peck, but I didn't feel that
13 he really answered the question, in that he said
14 it could mostly be mitigated by 1000, at least
15 that's how I heard it. So that's my comments on
16 those two items.

17 And just my brief statement, just my husband
18 and I, our record has been really consistent and
19 clear for the last four years regarding the
20 siting of the wind farms in a residential area.
21 So I don't want to take any time, more time other
22 than just to say that wind farms should not be
23 sited where people live, period. That's the only
24 solution to the issue at hand.

25 And we urge you to accept the recommendation

1 by the Planning Commission and deny the Kittitas
2 Valley Wind Power Project as it is currently
3 sited. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Charles had
5 indicated he didn't want to speak. Is that still
6 correct?

7 That takes us to Mike Genson.

8 MR. MIKE GENSON: My name is Mike Genson. I
9 reside at 101 Elk Springs Road, Ellensburg,
10 Washington. I'm representing myself and my
11 family.

12 So people say location, location, location.
13 And I agree. I agree. We need wind, we need the
14 power grid, and we need willing landowners. We
15 have all of those things in the Kittitas Valley
16 Wind Power Project.

17 If we took a poll, if we polled the people
18 of this state and asked them the question, What's
19 the windiest spot in the state, they would say
20 undoubtedly Ellensburg. We might tie with the
21 Columbia Gorge, but I doubt it.

22 This location is so important to wind
23 farming that several years ago when I went to
24 visit the State Line project, when I mentioned
25 that a company was interested in my property

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1 because of this location for a wind farm, the
2 very next day I had representatives from that
3 company out there standing on the ridges in the
4 wind with me. And if at-that-time-Zilkha had not
5 pursued this project, then that company would
6 have.

7 We've heard a lot tonight about the benefits
8 to the world and to everyone and to this county
9 in particular. I want to talk about the benefits
10 to me as a personal landowner in this project.

11 I'm urging you to support the Kittitas
12 Valley Wind Power Project. I have land within
13 the project. If the project is approved, I will
14 receive an income from my land that will enable
15 me to keep it intact for the foreseeable future.
16 If the turbines don't even turn one revolution,
17 my family will receive \$14,000 per year from the
18 turbines -- from the turbine sites. If -- this
19 is more than I've been able to make from my horse
20 and buffalo ranching efforts.

21 Wind studies indicate that my family can
22 expect to receive more than \$35,000 per year from
23 wind farm royalties. Income from the 50 turbines
24 shown on the private land on the project map will
25 most likely exceed \$250,000 per year. These are

1 very significant numbers to those property
2 owners.

3 Our wind is a valuable resource. The
4 majority of the land within the proposed wind
5 farm is zoned Forest and Range 20. The county
6 zoning code clearly states that management of
7 natural resource is the highest priority in this
8 zone. Wind farming is doing just that.

9 I can't see how anyone from inside our
10 county or from outside of our county could
11 interpret the code differently. This is a
12 property rights issue that extends beyond this
13 project. This is a property rights issue that
14 has changed the laws in Oregon through the
15 initiative process. And it is very likely to
16 have the same effect here in Washington within
17 this year.

18 If my neighbor has the right to subdivide
19 his property to maximize the economic potential
20 of that property, even though it is not the
21 highest priority in that zone according to the
22 county zoning code, then how can I not be allowed
23 to have wind turbines on my property to
24 accomplish the same means?

25 The negative effect of this project to the

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1 county is much greater -- of this project is much
2 greater -- the positive effect of the Kittitas
3 Valley Wind Power Project to the county is much
4 greater.

5 There is a need for more housing, and if we
6 look at what's happening in this county, that's
7 very obvious. And there is a need for more
8 energy. When you build more houses, you need
9 more energy. The power from wind turbines goes
10 into the grid with all of the rest, but it is
11 green. It is renewable, it is clean, it is the
12 cheapest source available.

13 I will close by asking you once more to
14 support my property rights by supporting this
15 project. Thanks, thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Darlene Young?

17 MS. DARLENE YOUNG: My name is Darlene
18 Young. I live at 771 Sun East Road. And I'm
19 speaking for myself. And I've been to a lot of
20 these meetings; and every time I come, I think I
21 know what I'm going to say. I know that I'm
22 totally against the location of these wind
23 turbines. And it's been quite an emotional
24 roller coaster for myself and I know for
25 everybody else here.

1 We can't stop people from coming here.
2 People want to live here. This is America; we
3 should be able to live where we want to and buy
4 and sell how we want to. But we should be able
5 to control what goes on where we live. It's no
6 different than having a neighbor that hauls in
7 all kinds of junk and crap on their property; it
8 shouldn't be allowed.

9 It's no different than bringing in wind
10 turbines that is going to destroy the valley not
11 only for the property values but it's just not
12 what the valley is made of. People come here
13 because they want to live and retire. And it's a
14 great community.

15 Erin Anderson made a comment about
16 Mr. Elliott buying a hundred acres in the
17 proposed wind turbine areas. Well, that's great.
18 Mr. Elliott can go in, develop that, short plat
19 it, sell it, and be out of there long before the
20 wind turbines are ever built. And so he will
21 have no effect on the wind turbines; only the
22 people that live there.

23 One of the gentlemen, Mr. Crane, and I
24 didn't think I was going to say this, but it
25 really bothers me. I had an occasion to speak

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1 with him, and he asked me my feeling on the wind
2 turbines, and said I was against them and because
3 of the location. He said, Oh, do you live out
4 there? And I said, Yes, I do. And he said, I
5 didn't know anybody lived out there.

6 And that's really sad. It makes me wonder
7 how many other people are not aware that people
8 do live there. And that's my feeling. I just
9 think we need to back off, see what Wild Horse
10 looks like, and then go from there. Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Robert Young.

12 MR. ROBERT YOUNG: My name's Robert Young,
13 and I live at 771 Sun East Road. And I'm not
14 against wind farms, but I'm definitely against
15 them where people live, and I don't think they
16 should be where they're trying to put them in
17 now, so that's my only complaint.

18 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Gloria
19 Lindstrom?

20 MS. GLORIA LINDSTROM: Gloria Lindstrom,
21 1831 Hanson Road, Ellensburg, Washington. This
22 is just a brief summary of my previous
23 testimonies that I seem like have been endless.
24 So I'll make it quick.

25 First of all, no adequate bird studies have

1 been done. One year's time is not enough. Bird
2 populations vary from year to year. This area is
3 a recognized migratory route for raptors.

4 And there have been absolutely no bat
5 studies. Neither birds nor bats are being given
6 consideration, and yet many questions are being
7 raised and problems encountered in the United
8 States and in various parts of the world about
9 kills on wind power projects. Adequate studies
10 are needed.

11 Wind power can be great, but this project is
12 proposed for the wrong place. Do not build wind
13 farms in populated areas. This has not been done
14 elsewhere in the U.S. Why here?

15 How many valleys can boast of a unique and
16 magnificent backdrop that the Kittitas Valley
17 has: the Mt. Stuart range. This is a priceless
18 scenic area that should never be polluted with
19 gigantic wind turbines.

20 Mr. Crankovich mentioned about the
21 transmission lines in our viewscape.
22 Unfortunately they were there before any of us
23 ever knew, and it's been years and years ago.
24 But fortunately they're very short compared to
25 these huge wind-powered turbines that are

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1 proposed to be put in there. That's the benefit.
2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Hal Lindstrom?

4 MR. HAL LINDSTROM: My name is Hal
5 Lindstrom. I live at 1831 Hanson Road.

6 I thought you gentlemen would be a little --
7 seated a little closer together. I thought about
8 bringing three photos, but I just brought one.
9 But some of what I'm saying hinges on this photo,
10 so I'd like to have you look at it.

11 The photo is a project -- shows the project
12 area for what's called the Klondike project.
13 I've mentioned this before in previous testimony.
14 And at the time there were I think 16 turbines.
15 Now generating close to 30 megawatts. And I
16 think now there are 74; the project has been
17 enlarged.

18 But what you'll see there, what you do see
19 there is rolling wheat fields and zero
20 population. My wife Gloria and I were there; we
21 visited it about three years ago, and it's quite
22 unusual, if you've never seen them before, to
23 come upon them out in these rolling wheat fields
24 and get up close to them, and they are enormous.
25 Now, these aren't the largest ones. I think the

1 ones that are scheduled for this project are
2 close to 400 feet to the blade tip.

3 And the bird count, they had a bird count --
4 they'd only been going about five months when we
5 got there, and the bird kill count was four --
6 no, it was three, and the bat kill was a little
7 bit more than the bird kill. Which brings out a
8 point that Gloria mentioned, and that is the need
9 for adequate wildlife studies. And a single year
10 is not enough.

11 I have another thought and I'll close here,
12 and that is the Wild Horse project has been
13 approved and it's being constructed. And why
14 not -- wouldn't a conservative view be to wait
15 about five years and see how that thing cranks
16 out before you put another one of approximately
17 the same size in? Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Howard Carlin?
19 Is Howard still here?

20 I have Kurt Linder, but he marked he didn't
21 want to testify. I think he has left, if I
22 remember right.

23 That takes us to Patrick Butler. Do you
24 still not want to speak, if you're here?

25 Phyllis Whitbeck?

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1 MS. PHYLLIS WHITBECK: My name is Phyllis
2 Whitbeck. I live at 7440 Robbins Road,
3 Ellensburg, Washington, and I represent me and my
4 husband.

5 And it was stated that wind turbines will
6 bring a stop to selling off large amounts of land
7 to the developers in our county. Well, that's
8 wrong. These lands would then sell for less.
9 Developers would put more affordable houses up at
10 a denser rate. No \$500,000 home would want to be
11 built near these turbines. Urban sprawl would be
12 in hog heaven. Example: Land under and near
13 power towers and homes sell for less, making
14 these areas more affordable than the choice land
15 further away.

16 Turbines affect more land because of their
17 huge size, noise, flashing lights which can be
18 seen across the valley, bird kill, and shadow
19 flicker.

20 Please say no to wind turbines and put them
21 away from people in big wheat fields and say yes
22 to solar energy, which is shorter in height, no
23 flashing lights, no vibrations, no noise, no bird
24 kill, easier for animals to live with, and less
25 to keep up because of no moving parts. They use

1 as much land and or less and produce as much or
2 more electricity. I know; we have them both.
3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Noel Anderson
5 or Andrews. 2701 Elk Springs.

6 MR. NOEL ANDREW: It's Andrew.

7 My name is Noel Andrew. 2701 Elk Springs
8 Road. Ellensburg, Washington, 98926.

9 All around the valley, farms and ranches are
10 being sold to housing developers who are covering
11 the land with houses and blacktop as fast as you,
12 the commissioners, can and do approve the
13 subdivisions of the once several-hundred-acre
14 farm or ranch into small-acre parcels or, in some
15 cases, small lots with houses right next to each
16 other.

17 It is a no-brainer to see that is not
18 preserving the integrity of this valley as a
19 farming and ranching community, as some opponents
20 say the towers will ruin the integrity.

21 Approving Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project
22 would secure just a small portion of this valley
23 to remain open land that could not be had by the
24 developers to line their silver pockets with
25 gold.

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1 As a landowner pretty much in the middle of
2 the project with several turbines proposed, it
3 would make my land very productive and would
4 generate from my royalties more tax revenue from
5 me on top of what the project would generate to
6 the county. So the royalties from all the
7 landowners in the project would balloon the tax
8 revenue even more.

9 I really do think the project with towers
10 dotted around the ridges in the foothills of this
11 valley would enhance its beauty.

12 The project's proposed turbines' sites and
13 roads are all situation on ridges that are rocky,
14 wind-swept, and unproductive that is good only
15 for pasture and wildlife. Animals love newly
16 disturbed land as it provides new tender shoots
17 of protein for them.

18 I ask of you, the commissioners, to approve
19 this project on the basis of preserving open land
20 and the tremendous tax benefit it provides. And
21 please don't make a decision on which side has
22 more of your friends on it. Thank you. And I
23 have a picture of -- of a blend-in thing for you.

24 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

25 Joe Brown is listed; didn't want to testify.

1 Is that still correct?

2 And I'm going to -- I'm going to butcher
3 this one probably. Roger "Ben-netty" or
4 "Be-neat"? 7430 Robbins Road?

5 MR. ROGER BINETTE: My name is Roger
6 Binette. 7430 Robbins Road, Ellensburg.

7 I usually come in here without having
8 something written, but I had too much to say this
9 time, so I wrote it down and I will read it.

10 I'd like to start off by saying this is now
11 a fight for our health, safety, and simply our
12 well-being. We have folks who stress that only
13 the economic value of the wind farm and seem
14 blind to the evidence and refuse to listen to
15 people now living and agonizing over the state of
16 their lives living with turbines near their
17 homes.

18 Here's just a few of the facts from people
19 in Europe that are being subjected to in-place
20 turbines:

21 Sounds like a gravel pit
22 crushing rock nearby.

23 The noise domiates the sound
24 scape.

25 It's very unsettling and

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1 disturbing especially since it had
2 been so peaceful here.

3 It's an ongoing source of
4 irritation.

5 Can be heard throughout our
6 house even with all the windows and
7 doors closed.

8 It makes an uneven pitch, not
9 like the white noise of a fan.

10 Can be heard through closed
11 windows, making it hard to fall
12 asleep any time of the year.

13 You can hear them at times as
14 far away as two miles.

15 It is the annoyance of never
16 having a quiet evening outdoors.

17 When the blades occasionally
18 stop, it's like pressure being
19 removed from my ears.

20 You can actually hear the quiet,
21 which is a relief.

22 A power giant has been told it
23 will have to carry out a background
24 noise survey before a controversial
25 proposal to build three -- only

1 three, not eighty -- giant wind
2 turbines.

3 Steel towers will have some
4 impact on local TV, radio, and mobile
5 phone service.

6 Several months ago we spoke with a fellow
7 that worked on turbines in Arizona. He stated
8 how noisy they were and that his father and
9 neighbors received compensation for the
10 tremendous noise intrusion upon their homes from
11 the wind farms next to their properties. Money,
12 for an invasive noise. And Ellensburg, just
13 downwind. How about that one?

14 There's a reason people want to live here in
15 the valley, and it's not because wind turbines
16 will surround their homes. According to an
17 article in the Daily Record dated 18-11-03,
18 Kittias County -- "Kittitas County's 5.5 percent
19 growth rate since the 2000 census makes it the"
20 state's fastest -- "fourth fastest growing
21 county."

22 Our population is growing rapidly because
23 more people want to live here and be part of what
24 the essence of this valley is and has always
25 been: quiet, beautiful, and serene.

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1 The land in Kittitas County is being
2 threatened. Population growth is not what's
3 threatening the county. Wind turbines are what
4 is threatening it. The ugly monstrosities which
5 will at some point fall into disrepair, as has
6 happened to many of them, is what will drive
7 people away instead of attracting them. It seems
8 that others coming into the county with their
9 children value this area more than we do. I
10 guess they're not aware of the turbines.

11 Granted, the lands leased for the turbines
12 are under private ownership, but by a very small
13 number of owners and being leased for who knows
14 how much. I would like to venture to guess that
15 the money they would receive for leasing their
16 land would then -- would make them stern
17 advocates of wind power.

18 What about the rest of us and the legacy
19 left to our children? Children have no vote;
20 that is what parents are for. That's what
21 parents are for, so it is up to us to make the
22 choice. There is always a choice.

23 Besides our children, who are our greatest
24 assets, there has to be land for them to inherit.
25 Once it's filled with concrete it's gone. We

1 have to make a choice: our children or our land.
2 Will it be the legacy of 410-foot towers or this
3 valley that our children will inherit? Will they
4 have to endure these mega structures or enjoy the
5 incredible beauty and serenity of this valley?

6 The two are incompatible and have no
7 comparison for value, validity, and necessity.
8 We need to make a choice. Again, there is always
9 a choice.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: You have one minute.

11 MR. ROGER BINETTE: There's an Amish
12 proverb: "We did not inherit this land from our
13 fathers. We are borrowing it from our children."

14 There was an article in the Ellensburg Daily
15 Record this week by the Economic Development
16 Group of Kittitas County promoting the wind power
17 project. I quote: "The new homes are everywhere
18 in our valley. But in general, residences cost
19 local government more than they pay in taxes,
20 which means fewer services or higher taxes for
21 everyone" -- "for everyone else."

22 This is a ludicrous excuse for turning the
23 valley into an industrial complex, and an
24 industrial complex it is regardless of what label
25 the wind companies put on it. The residents of

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1 these new homes, however, buy gas at local gas
2 stations, food at local grocery stores, their
3 automobiles at the local dealership, furniture at
4 the local furniture store, hardware at the local
5 hardware store, feed at the feed store, lumber at
6 the local lumber yards; frequent local
7 restaurants, taverns, art galleries, and all
8 other businesses in the area, which in turn means
9 revenue for the county as well as the local
10 businesses and, by the way, more jobs as these
11 companies grow.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you, Roger.

13 MR. ROGER BINETTE: I'll give it to you; I
14 had a little bit more.

15 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: I'm sure you did. But if
16 you hand it to the clerk, we'll read it, I
17 promise. Thank you.

18 Christine Cole?

19 MS. CHRISTINE COLE: I'm Christine Cole, I
20 reside at 7430 Robbins Road in Ellensburg.

21 The surest way to denigrate this fragile,
22 scenic, and irreplaceable valley is to allow an
23 industrial wind power project to be placed here.
24 It is totally incompatible with our human and
25 fragile-wildlife environment.

1 The most ludicrous way to impede further
2 population growth, as some would prefer, is to
3 use this massive, ugly, potentially dangerous and
4 totally unnecessary project as a deterrent. The
5 logic is absolutely flawed and ludicrous.

6 The fact that our county is looking at
7 biomass and solar as potential energy producers
8 is certainly more environmentally responsible,
9 less offensive, and a more productive avenue of
10 approach to future power needs.

11 We are also hearing that our dams have
12 reduced their power output for lack of need.

13 A current ad placed in the Daily Record by
14 the Phoneix Group does not show a house in sight
15 and the turbines are placed in totally open land
16 with cows that are clueless and obviously distant
17 from the towers. A more realistic photo placed
18 in the newspaper with public comment is also
19 attached here. Those opposed to the turbines are
20 neither distant nor clueless.

21 As a governing board, you have been
22 inundated with all the information you need to
23 deny this project.

24 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. We're going to
25 go ahead and take a five-minute break for my

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1 reporter.

2 (A break was taken.)

3 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Our next person I have on
4 the list was Rich Bettas, but he did ask to be
5 skipped until tomorrow, unless he is still here
6 for some reason.

7 And I see somebody asking me to speak up.
8 Is that better?

9 So the next person wishing to speak, then,
10 is Gloria Baldi?

11 MS. GLORIA BALDI: I'm Gloria Baldi, and I'm
12 representing Kittitas Audubon, and I appreciate
13 the opportunity to testify once again.

14 The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project draft
15 Environmental Impact Statement issued on August
16 of 2004, Page 3-9 states, "The Kittitas Valley
17 site is located within the Pacific flyway.
18 Because it is located closer to the Cascade
19 Mountains and the Yakima River, it may have a
20 higher incidence of use by migratory birds than
21 the Wild Horse site."

22 The same draft EIS on Page 3-8 states 97
23 species of birds are known to frequent the area
24 of this wind power project. This is 39 percent
25 of Kittitas County bird species, and some of

1 these are known to be in decline, as reported in
2 a recent study completed by Audubon Washington.

3 We do not know the consequences of this
4 project to these birds because the research has
5 not been done. Any wind power project like KKWPP
6 which is located on a bird migratory flyway
7 should require additional study to prevent
8 unintentional consequences of high wildlife
9 kills.

10 Almost four years ago when Zilkha, now
11 Horizon Wind Energy, was beginning to introduce
12 its wind power project to valley residents,
13 Kittitas Audubon questioned the extent of bird
14 research procedures. We voiced our concern then
15 about the accepted protocol, and we continue to
16 stand behind the belief that the one year of
17 point counts, which is periodic noting of species
18 within a certain defined area, is inadequate and
19 incomplete research to support this wind project.

20 No night studies have been done to note bat
21 activity or migration patterns of both bats and
22 birds at higher altitudes to 410 feet. No
23 continuous periodic observation has been done to
24 note patterns of birds in the spring when winds
25 are heaviest. Or in spring and fall when many

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1 raptors (hawks) funnel down the canyons and over
2 the ridges in the area of this proposed project.

3 We are not the only ones to have concerns.
4 Two articles from Bat Conservation International
5 are being included with my testimony, and I have
6 copies of that for you. One dated fall of 2005
7 describes the rejection of access to wind farms
8 owned by Florida Power & Light, the largest
9 producer of wind power in the nation, to the
10 researchers doing bat research.

11 The rejection came after 2000 bat kills were
12 found in a six-week period at two of Florida
13 Power's facilities. And the numbers were
14 probably much higher if one considers predator
15 removal rates and the searcher efficiency in
16 brushy areas. At this time no one knows why bats
17 appear to not be able to escape the tower blades.

18 KAS, Kittitas Audubon, reported earlier in
19 wind farm testimony that the wind project in
20 nearby Walla Walla, which is the Touchet one
21 mentioned earlier, or State Line, have been
22 surprised at the number of bat kills they have
23 discovered.

24 The second report by the Bat Conservation is
25 titled "Impacts of Wind Energy Development on

1 Wildlife, Key Issues of Concern" and in part
2 states that approval processes rarely include
3 scientific peer review either of methodology or
4 results.

5 A second entity that also is expressing our
6 concerns is the Government Accounting Office, and
7 we've mentioned this in previous testimony. And
8 I will just run through the -- basically what
9 they are saying. They are some of the quotes
10 regarding our concerns.

11 1. "Once thought to have practically no
12 adverse environmental effects, it is now
13 recognized that wind power facilities can have
14 adverse effects, particularly on wildlife and,
15 most significantly, on birds and bats."

16 2. "Large numbers of birds and bats are
17 believed to follow and cross through many parts
18 of the United States, including along mountain
19 ridges during seasonal migration. Consequently
20 wind power projects located in these areas could
21 potentially impact these species." Kittitas
22 Valley Wind Power Project falls within these
23 parameters.

24 3. "...there is a shortage of information
25 on migratory bird routes" -- which we

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1 mentioned -- "and bat behavior, as well as ways
2 in which topography, weather, and turbine type
3 affect mortality."

4 4. "...studies conducted at one location
5 can rarely be used to extrapolate potential
6 impacts or mitigation effectiveness at other
7 locations..." The bird studies used for this
8 power project may have been sufficient at another
9 site, but not adequate for a migratory flyway.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: I need you to finish up,
11 Gloria.

12 MS. GLORIA BALDI: Okay.

13 "It appears when new windpower facilities
14 are permitted, no one is considering the impact
15 of wind power on a regional or 'ecosystem' scale
16 that often spans governmental jurisdictions."

17 We, like others, support development of
18 clean, renewable energy resources and believe
19 that wind power has potential. However, the wind
20 power facilities from Altamont to Mountaineer,
21 West Virginia, have seen sufficient wildlife kill
22 to warrant serious concern about the cumulative
23 impacts.

24 Until reliable solutions are developed to
25 minimize wildlife kill, Kittitas Audubon believes

1 high-risk areas for wind farms should be avoided.
2 A migratory bird flyway is a high-risk area, and
3 we strongly recommend denying this project.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

6 Andrew Johnson?

7 MR. ANDREW JOHNSON: Thank you for hearing
8 me. Andrew Johnson, 260 Lenex Road, Ellensburg.

9 I recommend very strongly against approving
10 this project. Several reasons. We've listened
11 to a number of claims brought forth this evening;
12 and I looked at them, and there are some
13 significant problems with them.

14 For example, there were claims of rather
15 strong tax incomes to the county, but I have not
16 heard anyone say anything what happens when the
17 depreciation schedules are set on a rapid
18 depreciation. We could very easily lose a lot of
19 that tax revenue in a hurry.

20 Secondly, they talked about setbacks a
21 number of times, and I heard it said tonight
22 that, oh, that was decided years ago. And yet in
23 earlier hearings I heard that bandied back and
24 forth and discussed before it was a set figure.

25 Now, in the Impact Statement it stated that

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1 there would be a fixed number of -- or a number
2 of turbines in this particular area, but I didn't
3 hear any guarantees that that figure would remain
4 at that figure in future years, and that bothers
5 me a lot.

6 I also heard about a week ago that there is
7 a sun-powered project that's getting started
8 here, and I know a little about that. There are
9 a number of cities around the United States, one
10 of them in Wisconsin that I know about, where the
11 entire town is on sun power.

12 Now, there's a significant advantage to
13 that. With wind power generating AC power, you
14 can't store it; it can't be stored. With sun
15 power generating DC power, it can be stored. In
16 fact, one of our local aviators has a system up
17 on the hill up near Tomahawk Lane where he's
18 doing exactly that. He's generating DC power,
19 storing it in batteries.

20 Thank you.

21 And finally, the advertisements in the
22 newspapers touted the wind power as being
23 low-cost energy. The question is, if it's
24 low-powered energy, why, why did Puget Power
25 raise their rates and state specifically that it

1 was because of the -- of the Wild Horse project?
2 Not once, but twice.

3 Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, thank you. And Rich,
5 I don't know if you heard, do you still want to
6 skip until tomorrow?

7 MR. RICH BETTAS: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, thank you.

9 Joe Sheeran is on here but didn't want to
10 testify.

11 Douglas MacArthur?

12 MR. DOUGLAS MacARTHUR: My name's Doug
13 MacArthur. I live at 4661 Umptanum Road, which
14 is on the south side of the valley. And I'm a
15 photographer and I'm speaking for myself.

16 I am definitely against these wind farms in
17 that location. If they were in some other place,
18 it would be a lot better for everybody. Because
19 that mountain means a lot to this valley. You
20 put those wind farms up there, those turbines,
21 you can have something that's solid as all
22 get-out here, but as soon as you put some motion
23 in front of it, you'll never see it. And you'll
24 never see that mountain after you put those wind
25 machines. Because you can't see after the

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1 motion.

2 I went down to State Line down by Wallula to
3 take pictures of those. Now, those machines down
4 there are small compared to what they're going to
5 put up here. The thing is, I had my aunt with
6 me; I was driving her car, which is a Mercury
7 Grand Marquis. I parked about 200 feet from the
8 base of one of them towers, and that car looked
9 like a toy. Looked like one of them little old
10 Hot Wheels up against something that was about
11 that tall (indicating).

12 And that to me was a little bit ridiculous.
13 I mean, you can't see through them, you can't see
14 around them. The thing is, my aunt is also -- my
15 aunt's name is Lois Young, and she has a little
16 bit of hard hearing. She was inside the car with
17 the air conditioner on and the radio. Well,
18 actually it wasn't a radio; it was a tape. And
19 she could still hear and feel those wind machines
20 at 200 feet. She could feel them here
21 (indicating), the thump, thump, thump of those
22 machines. Not as a person that is -- pretty
23 sensitive, yeah, and I love the dear and I love
24 her so much.

25 But the thing is, why would you submit

1 people that live in that area to something like
2 that 24/7? I strongly recommend that you deny
3 the use -- or the wind machines. Because of the
4 tourists and the mountain. That we need. We
5 don't need those wind machine in that spot. Put
6 them someplace else. Don't leave them up there.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Ken Hartman
9 didn't want to testify and told me earlier he was
10 going home.

11 Robert Keller?

12 MR. ROBERT KELLER: My name's Robert Keller.
13 I happen to be the project manager for Horizon
14 Wind on the Wild Horse project. I want to say a
15 few words.

16 I notice the faces change, but the arguments
17 really stay the same. I've been doing wind
18 turbines for over 20 years, and there's really --
19 it boils down to what is really the -- what is
20 the land zoned for and what economic benefits
21 does it give to the community. And I'm here to
22 kind of address some of the economic benefits
23 that it gives to the community.

24 I'm not going to get into the tax benefits,
25 because I know nothing about that. What I can

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1 give you is what we are contributing to the
2 community at this point on the Wild Horse
3 project.

4 If you look, we've -- since we started about
5 four months ago, five months, we've put in
6 \$2 million into this community. I don't need to
7 go through the list of people we spend it on, but
8 everybody that's working on the project needs
9 housing, food, gas, clothing, things of that
10 nature. And so we spent a lot of money in this
11 community.

12 There's over 30 local hires so far that
13 we've hired. We have 20 people that is from out
14 of town working for contractors that came with
15 them, and we've got 16 management personnel on
16 site. This includes not only Horizon but RES and
17 all their subcontractors.

18 We're also going to be building a
19 maintenance building which we're going to be
20 using all local contractors from this valley down
21 here. There'll be probably a dozen contracts
22 that go out, will be electrical contracts,
23 building contracts, excavation contracts, things
24 of that nature to build the maintenance building
25 at the Wild Horse project. They'll be all

1 locally built. The building's going to be built
2 in Yakima by Sun Buildings. So that's going to
3 be a lot of money generated to the community
4 before it's over.

5 If you turn to the second page, by June
6 we'll probably be putting a million dollars a
7 month into this community. We're just getting
8 started. We should be over a hundred people by
9 that time.

10 And if you look -- this second page is a
11 page we pulled out of our monthly report, so it's
12 published information on exactly how much money
13 we've put into the community.

14 That's pretty much all I have to really say.
15 I just want you guys to understand that we're
16 here putting in a project and we're kind of part
17 of the community while we're here. We try to fit
18 in, we try to leave the community better than
19 when we came, we try to leave it stronger
20 financially.

21 And when we build these projects, we build
22 them to pretty high quality. We make them last,
23 we make them run, we make them perform for the
24 design life. And once we do the construction and
25 leave, it should be approximately 16 to 20 people

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1 on site to do the maintenance. And so we're
2 going to be here for 20 years; the wind farm will
3 be here for well over 20 years in your community,
4 putting an economic benefit to it.

5 That's all I really have to say.

6 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

7 Diane Schwab?

8 MS. DIANE SCHWAB: I just have a few things
9 to say. Oh, my name is Diane Schwab, and I'm
10 here representing myself and my husband. The
11 address is 2600 Cricklewood Lane.

12 There's just been a couple of things happen
13 on the front, just to give you an update. We now
14 have more met. towers. We have some on the east
15 of us and we have them to the south of us. And
16 the Kittitas project that's -- they want to put
17 in now is going to the west and to the north,
18 which is going to put us in the middle. And
19 that's the new -- what's new on the front.

20 The other thing I wanted to mention is that
21 the mitigation, the setback mitigation, is that
22 per property line 1000 feet or from house? Some
23 of us don't have our homes yet. And I would like
24 to have that clarified.

25 Because basically all I can see that they've

1 done that's going to benefit anybody is they've
2 moved them around a little bit but, for us being
3 up there so close and on adjoining land, we're
4 going to see 32 of them up close. Which I think
5 is not good. That's all I have. I'd like to
6 turn in my paperwork.

7 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you very much. I had
8 Albert Schwab not wishing to testify. Is that
9 still correct? Thank you.

10 Jeb Baldi?

11 MR. JEB BALDI: Thank you. Thanks for
12 another opportunity to share my views.

13 In the late '60s and early '70s, I was a
14 promoter of alternative wind; alternative energy
15 production and individual home wind generation
16 was an option for independence from the corporate
17 world. It gave individuals an option, and that
18 option still remains today.

19 However, another option is the huge wind
20 generating projects. And we are well aware that
21 global warming is a real concern and the
22 greenhouse gasses that we're producing with
23 fossil fuels need to come to an end.

24 Our nation needs to be independent from
25 foreign oil, but to do this with a local

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1 large-scale wind generation, as suggested by the
2 Kittitas Valley Wind Project, is not the
3 solution.

4 6000 acres laced with roads, underground
5 cables, overhead power cables, with foundations
6 four stories into the ground to hold 410-foot
7 wind machines will severely alter Kittitas
8 Valley. All of this for less than 1 percent of
9 the state's energy needs.

10 Has anybody considered conservation? Just
11 noticing what we are wasting -- and I have these
12 big bright lights shining right in my eyes right
13 out there in the parking lot -- just noticing
14 what we're wasting, we can correct and we can
15 conserve. We're talking about 1 percent.

16 Another issue with wind machines and one
17 that developers choose to overlook is the impact
18 on wildlife. They have done minimal studies on
19 the birds for only one year. Most experts feel
20 two years is more appropriate. Even though the
21 time has been allowed for more studies, none have
22 been done on this project.

23 Also no bat studies, as mentioned before,
24 have been completed. At the West Virginia site,
25 44 turbines consumed approximately 1980 bats in a

1 six-week period. We have 13 species of bats in
2 eastern Washington, and studies need to be done
3 to protect those bats.

4 And why aren't we discussing solar power?
5 The city is going full bore on it. Perhaps
6 because the government is not giving tax breaks
7 on solar power.

8 So please, in your deliberations, consider
9 the big picture. Is it worth the environmental
10 effects on our beautiful valley, to people's
11 homes, to the natural habitat, and to the
12 wildlife just to generate less than 1 percent of
13 our state's energy needs? Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Duane Fluent?

15 MR. DUANE FLUENT: Thank you for the
16 opportunity to speak. I'll be very brief. My
17 name is Duane Fluent, F-l-u-e-n-t. 650 Goat Peak
18 Ranch Road, Cle Elum.

19 I'm rather a newcomer to the area. I've
20 only lived here about six years; I've been a
21 property owner for sixteen. However, my
22 great-grandfather was buried about 1910 over in
23 Keller.

24 I just want to go on record as being in
25 favor of the wind power project. It's

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1 environmentally sound, it's economically sound,
2 it's a needed resource. And again, I'm in favor
3 of it. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Thomas Maskal?

5 MR. THOMAS MASKAL: Tom Maskal, 420 Kern
6 Road, Ellensburg, 98926.

7 I don't think any of us in this room can
8 argue with the fact that we need more power. I
9 don't think any of us in this room can argue with
10 the fact that conservation alone will solve all
11 of our problems, whether it's Kittitas or the
12 state or the nation or the world or the northern
13 hemisphere or anything else that Erin from the
14 project would like us to believe.

15 I don't think any of us can argue with the
16 fact that even though in many instances to be an
17 environmentalist is to probably have things thrown
18 at you because there are an awful lot of fringe
19 environmentalists and everything else. However,
20 I don't think there are very many of us in this
21 room who would willingly trash our own
22 environment, from throwing cans and bottles
23 out the window if you're going down Badger Pocket
24 Road or Bettas Road or any other road. I don't
25 think very many of us in this room are going to

1 throw refrigerators that we've used out into our
2 yards or out into the county roads.

3 I think truthfully we are all
4 environmentalists whether we want to admit it or
5 not. We're all proud of the fact that we have a
6 resurgence in the bald eagle population and the
7 general raptor population. We've talked about
8 bats. And bats eat mosquitos and bugs, which
9 unfortunately bats have a bad reputation also,
10 just like environmentalists.

11 I don't think any of us can argue with the
12 fact that global warming is a problem. Bush
13 doesn't think so, but the rest of the world
14 thinks so.

15 We need clean, renewable sources of energy.
16 We need wind power projects, we need solar
17 projects. We cannot trash the Columbia River
18 anymore with any salmon-destroying slack-pool-
19 creating dams like we have through beaurac and
20 the Corps of Engineers and the PUDs.

21 However, this project is not Whiskey Disk
22 Mountain. This project is a beautiful viewshed
23 that we all are going to see from the Kittitas
24 Valley, from the city of Ellensburg, and
25 everybody driving up and down 97 and 90. Whiskey

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1 Dick this is not.

2 Whiskey Dick is a fine place off the Vantage
3 Highway for a wind power project. It's a nice
4 big project, it's going to be good for the
5 company; it's probably going to be good for
6 everybody else's power production. It has a
7 steady source of wind.

8 This location is what the problem is with
9 this project. That is its probably main problem,
10 from aesthetics, from, you know, the view, the
11 noise, the people living around it, the property
12 values. Everything the people have said about
13 this project is what's wrong with it, in that one
14 word: location, location, location. And no, I'm
15 not a realtor.

16 I urge you strongly to be less civil and
17 less hospitable, and throw these people out of
18 our county. They've already got Whiskey Dick,
19 they can go someplace else. Let's be less civil,
20 let's be less hospitable. Throw them out, vote
21 no. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Charles Holtz?
23 Is Charles still here? I'll leave him on the
24 list for tomorrow.

25 I had Sharon Holtz, but she didn't want to

1 testify.

2 Stephanie Johnson and Pat -- I'm not sure on
3 the last name. On 3330 Cleman. They didn't want
4 to testify. Is that still the case?

5 Takes us to William Erickson.

6 MR. WILLIAM ERICKSON: William Erickson,
7 6980 Wilson Creek Road, Ellensburg.

8 This is not -- any wind project within the
9 valley is not good. The gentleman was saying
10 about Wild Horse setting a precedent. This goes
11 in, where is it going to stop?

12 These complexes are detrimental to the
13 health, safety, and welfare of the rural
14 residents of the Kittitas Valley. Some of the
15 concerns are health problems caused by the wind
16 generator projects, both physical and mental.
17 Noise, flicker, strobe lights, dust, sight are
18 part of the problem.

19 Strobe lights are used to chase away all
20 types of animals. I don't think anybody has
21 really looked into that. I have an article that
22 I'll give them that the -- in the Farm Show
23 magazine that you can buy strobe lights to get
24 rid of deer and elk and different things that are
25 problems to your area. And so this would be

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1 something that perhaps you won't see the wildlife
2 in that area if you put them in.

3 There are fire dangers being downwind. And
4 we know that this is windy, this area. And if
5 you get a dry situation, there's what, eighty to
6 a hundred gallons of hazardous oil in these
7 turbines? You get a collapse or something going
8 on in it, you're going to start a fire that no
9 one's going to stop if they're 400 feet high.

10 I don't know if you've been in a wind-driven
11 fire, but there was a little one out in our area
12 where somebody was burning in a ditch a couple
13 years ago. And then the wind came up. And you
14 don't want to be around them. We thought it was
15 going to take off and really go, but luckily they
16 got it out, but it took them a long time just to
17 get a little one out. If that happened at night,
18 forget it; the whole valley's going like
19 California.

20 The size of the turbines or feed line grid
21 has not been shown. A gentleman said they're
22 rocky. Well, if I remember on the previous one,
23 it said something like they had to go down -- if
24 they couldn't go down four feet, they had to go
25 up. And so your grid lines are not shown. And

1 there's a lot more of those, I think, than people
2 would realize.

3 Property values, it's not just on what
4 somebody has bought it and sold it, but what was
5 the potential. It could have been a lot higher.
6 These are our homes here. We've been here 37
7 years up there, and these aren't just houses;
8 they're our homes. People have been there for a
9 long time. And you don't want to put a potential
10 danger in people's -- in the valley.

11 The setback I believe it said that from the
12 a residence is 1000 feet. You realize that's
13 less than a fifth of a mile, less than a quarter
14 of a mile. 400 feet. And that's from the
15 residence. That's not from the property line.
16 The property line I believe is 541 feet.

17 Now, you think about that, you're --
18 prevents the neighboring property owners full use
19 of their land. And it should be a lot further
20 away. Because it is -- it would cause your
21 flicker and different things like that; it should
22 be half a mile away from property lines.

23 The construction of wind generators is
24 exempt from state sales tax. So the county --
25 the other taxpayers in the county are going to be

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1 footing some of the bill for the services used by
2 the construction, okay?

3 A large tax base around the county, I mean,
4 it's grown quite a bit, and so we have a lot
5 larger tax base. But you know, my tax bill is
6 going up instead of going down. So I don't
7 always buy this that it's -- the tax bill is
8 going to be less.

9 That's pretty much it; thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

11 Next is Mick Steinman.

12 MR. MICK STEINMAN: Hello, my name is Mick
13 Steinman. I'm from -- I live over in Lynnwood,
14 but I have property up Cricklewood Lane.

15 This wind power, it's a renewable energy
16 that can be -- will be there tomorrow, the next
17 year, the year after. This wind does not stop in
18 Ellensburg. I've owned property up there for
19 20 years, and one of my first thoughts when I was
20 building some roads up there and stuff on those
21 ridge tops, that wind doesn't stop.

22 I mean, it just -- it just howls and it
23 just -- it's a cutting, cold wind that -- you
24 know, it scrapes away the topsoil, it's a very
25 rocky soil, but it's very -- very windy up there

1 on top; and at that time, 20 years ago, I thought
2 that this area would be good for wind farms.

3 So at that time I wasn't ever even thinking
4 of developing any wind farms, nor am I, but I was
5 approached and I signed on. I literally went
6 down before I signed on with this thing, went
7 down and looked at the wind power projects in
8 Oregon and things. And you know, I thought they
9 were very graceful, I really -- I thought they
10 were nice. They would be a nice thing to have in
11 the area.

12 But anyway, the wind is better than
13 producing coal, nuclear power, or building
14 another dam. I mean, these options are not out
15 there. The -- you know, this area, I mean, for
16 the wind, you've got -- you've got wind, you have
17 power grid right there.

18 If you moved it to the other side of the
19 valley or somewhere else, you don't have a power
20 grid like you have up there in the area where
21 they're proposing to put this. I mean, the high
22 energy power lines are going right straight
23 through that area. They don't have to build new
24 power lines. If you were to try and find another
25 place that was as windy as this, you would have

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1 to build 20 to 50 miles of power grid to get back
2 into the BPA system or whatever system you have.
3 So you know, this is -- this is one of the best
4 places for it.

5 This is, you know, this stuff, you know, if
6 you go and put cattle up there or other things,
7 sheep, et cetera, that drains the land. The wind
8 turbines, they don't take away any of the
9 resources off the land. You know, I mean, we
10 aren't bothering the land at all. I mean, the
11 only thing you've got is a little bit of concrete
12 foundation and a tower going up. So you know,
13 it's kind of a good thing.

14 Many of these turbines are on Department of
15 Natural Resource lands. And that be -- all of
16 the revenue for that goes to the schools,
17 et cetera. I mean, it's a good base for that to
18 go.

19 So if -- I don't know how many of you
20 commissioners have been within a mile of a
21 turbine. Have you guys ever visited a wind farm?

22 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: I have visited one.

23 MR. MICK STEINMAN: You have?

24 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: I have visited
25 one.

1 MR. MICK STEINMAN: You have?

2 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: I have.

3 MR. MICK STEINMAN: So, you know, I urge you
4 to look at them, you know, as you make your
5 decision and stuff, because I mean, they are -- I
6 found them quite nice to look at, et cetera. So
7 anyway, I'm in favor. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Next is Karl
9 Krogstad; he had marked no. Is that still
10 appropriate?

11 Shirleen Sterkel, also marked no.

12 Leonard Scheele?

13 MR. LEONARD SCHEELE: Good evening. My name
14 is Leonard Scheele. My family and children and I
15 have property on Elk Springs Road. We live in
16 Seattle.

17 I have several questions. I noticed tonight
18 that it appears that the statement in the agenda
19 is that Sage Brush Partners has executed an
20 Option to Purchase agreement from the DNR. I'd
21 like to know if that's correct and if the terms
22 of such a contract and long-term land use
23 outcomes are known to the public and have they
24 been discussed.

25 My second question is, what is the project's

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1 security plan and how will that impact the
2 residents and the public. Will passing through
3 the gate be equivalent to entering a military
4 facility? If this industrial project is built, I
5 think it should be like that.

6 My third question is likewise. If this
7 project is built, will there be a no-shooting
8 ordinance within the line-of-site radius of the
9 towers? Does that go to the interstate? What
10 impact would that have on the county sportsmen,
11 people who come for weekend holidays and so
12 forth?

13 One more question would be, is there a
14 government equivalent of the FAA for aircraft,
15 mandating maintenance and time between overhaul,
16 government inspectors checking the laminations on
17 the rotors? These things are pretty massive.

18 My family likes to walk around in the area,
19 and will we have a governing body that's going to
20 let us feel safe? One traversing -- I don't
21 think there's any other way for us to get to our
22 property than to drive under them.

23 And lastly, not a question, I'd just like to
24 go on record for myself and my family as being
25 against. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Takes us to
2 Greg Harrington didn't mark whether he wanted to
3 testify or not. Is Greg still here?

4 Kathy Schumaker? Or "Shoe-maker"?

5 AUDIENCE MEMBER: She went home.

6 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay. Barbara and Jerry
7 Newman. They marked no. Are they still here,
8 did they change their minds?

9 AUDIENCE MEMBER: They're gone.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: And I have Rick and Colleen
11 Hawley also marked no. Did they change their
12 mind? I'll leave their names for tomorrow just
13 in case they do.

14 Takes us to Joseph Powell? Is he still
15 here? Doesn't look like it.

16 Kathy Caraway signed in but said no as far
17 as testifying. Hasn't shown up.

18 Okay, I'll keep close to the mic.

19 Fred Brune? Signed up, also said didn't
20 want to testify. He's left.

21 Eric Prater. Did I see him?

22 MR. ERIC PRATER: My name is Eric Prater,
23 and I live at 3740 Cove Road.

24 I am for the wind farms. And specifically
25 for reasons that we're not going to need any more

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1 services in that area. Sheriffs, the hospital.
2 The wind farm is going to take care of the roads.
3 Property taxes, according to the ones that are
4 against the wind farm, they say that values will
5 go down so the property taxes will go down. I'm
6 for that.

7 I'm a long-term resident, fourth generation.
8 I didn't even paint my house last year; my taxes
9 went up. And that was because of people moving
10 in. And I'll tell you what, man, we have got
11 lots of people moving into this valley. There's
12 no shortage. So I'm not worried about people
13 being offended by things, because they're going
14 to take what they can get and be happy with it.

15 That's how a lot of us ended up under the
16 power lines anyway. That was a lower-priced
17 area, that's where you went. If you couldn't --
18 I live on irrigated ground and I'm very thankful
19 for it, because when we have water, it rains and
20 snows, I can irrigate. I have to depend on my
21 neighbors also for their return flow.

22 But up in that area, the values of land,
23 agricultural land were lower, and I am for
24 agricultural land. I am not for preserving this
25 ground for residential property. I'm sorry, I

1 just can't support the realtors anymore. And
2 they're always going to have work. I'm not
3 worried about them making money.

4 And property values have increased so much,
5 I think that we're making money hand-over-fist.
6 It may not seem that way if you just moved in in
7 the last ten or twenty years, but I'm seeing
8 things in a longer frame.

9 So anyway, I'm looking forward to
10 hopefully -- I know you guys probably won't vote
11 for it; it's a political reality. You guys got
12 to stay away from that. But I'm looking forward
13 to seeing a black spot on that hillside from my
14 house on Cove Road, because I can see it and I
15 can see everyone's houses in Sun East and all
16 across the whole range of the valley. In fact,
17 the wheat fields to the west of me, crowder's
18 fields, have got houses on them. You want to
19 talk about scarred fields? Anyway, I won't go
20 there about that.

21 If this thing goes in, it's going to be
22 Forest and Range for 25 more years. Isn't that
23 what it is? It's Forest and Range. It's
24 supposed to be logged and cows. I haven't heard
25 one man or woman tonight say, You wouldn't

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1 believe the cows I got off my range land up here.
2 All I've heard is, My property values are going
3 to drop if this goes in; I'm worried about being
4 able to look at a view.

5 I'm tired of it. If you're going to live in
6 the ag zones, grow something, raise something.
7 That's our heritage. If you're going to retire
8 here, live in town. Live in Seattle. There's
9 beautiful neighborhoods for you. We have a great
10 downtown. I love it. I'm looking forward to
11 Artwalk in a week and a half.

12 And if I want to see my new neighbors that
13 are moving in from the west side and the bigger
14 urban areas, I'll go to Wal-Mart in Yakima,
15 because I'll see more of them there than I will
16 at the Safeway here in town. Or I'll go to
17 Target. That's an honest reality. They're
18 urban, they're sophisticated; two people working.
19 They don't shop here; they shop out of town.
20 They're at Lowe's hardware. Their houses have
21 new everything; it didn't come from Knudson's; it
22 came from out of town.

23 I'm sorry if I'm speaking loudly. This is
24 more from the heart than it is from statistics
25 and that.

1 Also I work for Midstate Co-op in the
2 summertime the last three years. This year I
3 won't be working there. But I deliver fertilizer
4 to farmer's fields. And I see houses on the
5 fields that I used to deliver two years ago and
6 last year.

7 In fact, the farmland on the Passmore Road
8 is known as Windy Ridge. The trees up there --
9 my cousin Roger Weaver, we're distantly related,
10 used to own that, and the name of it's Windy
11 Ridge; it's known for the wind. Look at the
12 trees up there.

13 Let's see, also I think that's the
14 community -- Mr. Crankovich, you suggested that
15 these -- the wind farm buy the property impacted
16 by its nature; is that correct? I guess that
17 would be a developer's impact fee?

18 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: No, it would be --
19 I just suggested that in their -- in their
20 information that they gave that that was a
21 solution that came out of one other project. And
22 that -- would that be considered here.

23 MR. ERIC PRATER: I appreciate your
24 suggesting that, because I kind of took that and
25 ran with that. I've got 13 acres and I'm getting

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1 houses all around me. I'm going to start
2 charging to look at my place. If you buy a --
3 put a mansion on the hillside and want to look
4 across me, I'll use that idea. Instead of
5 selling my place, I'm going to sell a view.

6 That's just a thought. Because as it is
7 now, these people that own the land there, they
8 can't do what they want to with it. They're
9 being told, You can't have that. Now, if I lived
10 in Issaquah, on one side of Issaquah, and
11 somebody put a Costco in my view, I don't have
12 any control over that if I'm five miles away.
13 Time's up? Thank you, sir. Thank you for your
14 time, gentlemen.

15 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Takes us to
16 Tony Helland.

17 MR. TONY HELLAND: My name's Tony Helland.
18 I live 414 Alpine Drive, Ellensburg. Even though
19 I do live in Kittitas. That's my mailing
20 address.

21 Pretty much everything I was going to talk
22 about was covered. Except I hear little bits and
23 pieces, and people are talking about tourists.
24 Right now I'm employed by Hurling Construction.
25 They're a subcontractor up at Wild Horse wind

1 project, and I'm a gate person up there.

2 I get two to three cars a day of tourists
3 coming to look at the wind farm. There's nothing
4 to look at, but they're still coming to look at
5 it. Two to three most every day, as high as five
6 and six carloads of people just out driving
7 around. And that's kind of out of the way to go
8 look at something.

9 I heard something about inspections. There
10 are inspectors coming out of the ears up there.
11 We have environmental inspectors, we've got
12 cultural inspectors, we've got Washington State
13 Department of Fish & Wildlife inspectors, and
14 they've probably got somebody out there to
15 inspect them also. So the place is pretty well
16 inspected, and so I don't think there should be
17 any safety concerns on that -- that case.

18 I, I like I said before, everything's pretty
19 much been covered. I would like to say in
20 closing I saw maybe about 200 people here
21 tonight. Some are for this project, some are
22 against it. And the other 20-some-thousand
23 people living in the county really don't care.

24 So what you need to do is -- and I really
25 don't envy you guys having to do this, because

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1 it's going to be a really difficult, difficult
2 decision to make. But I, I do really urge you to
3 consider approving this. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Mark Schober?
5 Still here or he decided to --

6 AUDIENCE MEMBER: He left.

7 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: -- vacate? Okay.
8 Takes us to Holly Pinkart.

9 MS. HOLLY PINKART: My name is Holly
10 Pinkart. I'm here representing both myself and
11 my husband Wes. We reside at 5900 Robbins Road
12 in Ellensburg.

13 I'd like to go on record as being against
14 approval of this project for many of the reasons
15 that have already been stated. One of the things
16 that wasn't brought up is some of the things
17 about our bird and bat populations, about the
18 ecological value and product that they do for us
19 in controlling the rodent and inspect
20 populations.

21 This has not been well studied enough to
22 make really any kind of real decision on what
23 kind of impact this particular farm is going to
24 have on those populations. It could be
25 devastating. We don't have any numbers on night

1 creatures, the bats and the night birds that
2 really do a wonderful ecological service for us.

3 I think to go ahead with this would be a bit
4 irresponsible at this point. We have a wonderful
5 opportunity with the Wild Horse project to sit
6 back and see what effect a wind farm will
7 actually have on the county, on the ecology, and
8 the economics. I think it's irresponsible to go
9 forward until that's up and running and we can
10 get some idea of what that's going to do for our
11 county.

12 Thank you for your time; I appreciate the
13 opportunity.

14 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. Mark Holloway.

15 MR. MARK HOLLOWAY: My name is Mark
16 Holloway. I live at 1581 Thomas Road.

17 I had the opportunity to actually visit the
18 Dayton wind farm, which has, I believe, like 128
19 wind towers. And I was actually surprised at
20 actually how slow the wind turbines seemed to
21 move. They, they, they told us that they rotate
22 16 to 18 revolutions per minute. I observed
23 redtail hawks flying around, hunting, choosing not
24 to perch on the wind turbines, actually perching
25 on the local telephone poles and power poles that

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1 were there.

2 I realize -- I'm also a falconer and have
3 been since I was 16 years old, a member of the
4 Washington Falconry Association and North
5 American Falconry Association. I realize that
6 there -- there will be a physical impact -- or
7 can be a physical impact with these turbines. I
8 imagine there will be animals killed.

9 But when you look at the -- what we have --
10 what we -- the opportunity we have is a section
11 of land, 6000 acres, with no houses, with
12 adequate fire suppression, roads by the -- paid
13 for by the company that wants to put these in.
14 Open -- open land, pretty much left as it -- as
15 it is for 25 years; and then when they're
16 removed, there should be some -- at the end of
17 their lease terms, there should be some, I guess,
18 provisions for how to restore the land to its
19 previous use.

20 Like at least at the Dayton project what
21 they did is in their plan they removed the, the
22 wind towers and they dig down and remove the
23 first -- I believe it was four feet of the
24 columns that hold these towers up.

25 6000 acres, that's a lot of houses, that's a

1 lot of wells, that's a lot of cats, that's a lot
2 of dogs, if that ends up being changed in use
3 from range land to ranchettes. That's a big
4 impact. Far bigger impact than what I personally
5 saw at the site.

6 As far as the wind goes or the sound
7 effects, I stood next to the turbine, I actually
8 touched it. You could feel, it felt like a
9 refrigerator, like the refrigerator in your house
10 as far as a vibration. Held a conversation with
11 the other people that were there. Didn't have a
12 problem with that.

13 You can hear it, you definitely can hear it
14 at the base. 300 feet away you can hear the
15 sound separate from the actual wind. You can
16 tell what direction the sound is coming from.

17 By the time we walked out 700 feet away, I
18 couldn't hear it. It was -- it was -- I could
19 not distinguish the sound of the wind from the
20 sound of the turbines moving. There was no
21 difference. You know, if they're proposing
22 1500 feet, it seems like a reasonable range.

23 The other thing at this Dayton project,
24 they -- the person who was -- who was taking us
25 to tour it said that they're now working on

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1 allowing -- okay, allowing hunters to be able to
2 use the property but they have to figure out the
3 logistics of making it work.

4 Basically I'm for it. I do think that we --
5 that there needs to be more studies as far as how
6 it's going to actually affect the birds if we've
7 only done a short -- short-term study. So we
8 need to work more on that. But I think it's a
9 good thing. A large tract of land saved for its
10 current use. Thanks.

11 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. We have Kevin
12 Persson, marked he wasn't going to speak.

13 Dale Lee Jr., also not to speak.

14 Bret Brower, also listed not to speak.

15 Scott Nicolai?

16 MR. SCOTT NICOLAI: Mr. Chair, members of
17 the commission, thank you for the opportunity to
18 testify. My name is Scott Nicolai. I live at
19 510 North Mt. Stuart here in Ellensburg, and I'm
20 testifying on behalf of myself.

21 I have a couple of things in a packet I'd
22 like to ask your permission to submit to each of
23 the commissioners.

24 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Certainly.

25 MR. SCOTT NICOLAI: I appreciate your

1 willingness to take a look at that. I know
2 you're all on information overload probably every
3 day of the year, and this is just one more
4 matter.

5 But please, if you would, take a look at --
6 starting with the last page, and I'm going to
7 actually come out of the closet tonight for the
8 first time and support wind power in Kittitas
9 County. It's the first time publicly that I've
10 expressed my support, and the reason is expressed
11 in these documents.

12 And on the last page you're going to see a
13 graph that was compiled by the University of
14 Washington's Climate Impacts group. And this
15 shows you what has happened to the global average
16 temperature in the last 140 years.

17 This is -- this is why I'm here tonight,
18 because we are having profound impacts on our
19 climate. And the preceding page, if you could
20 please turn to that now, you'll see another graph
21 that shows what's happened to the carbon dioxide
22 levels in our atmosphere over the last 60,000
23 years.

24 And the reason we know what the levels were
25 like tens of thousands of years ago is because

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1 they look at bubbles in glacial ice, they look at
2 bubbles that are in newly formed rocks, and they
3 can actually measure the CO2 levels from those.

4 And you'll see that we've virtually shot up
5 from an average of around 260 parts per million
6 to 360 parts per million, just since the dawn of
7 the industrial revolution.

8 Well, what's that done for the climate?
9 Well, it's had profound impacts. My neighbor is
10 a 70-year-old avid outdoorsperson, and he tells
11 me that the high routes that he used to climb up
12 and around Mt. Daniel in the middle Cascades, a
13 lot of those are virtually unavailable now
14 because the snow fields and the glaciers are gone
15 or they are receding.

16 Look at the picture on the front page. It
17 shows you what's happened to glaciers since 1928.
18 You know, less than 80 years. It's retreating at
19 a rate of 180 feet per year.

20 So the question is, how do we produce our
21 power? We're going to need more power. One of
22 the energy program employees for the city, Gary
23 Nystadt, told me two weeks ago that there are 93
24 new coal-fired power plants proposed in the
25 United States right now.

1 Last month's National Geographic had a
2 special on coal. Showed a picture of a train, a
3 trainload of coal headed for one coal-fired power
4 plant in Montana. This train was a mile and a
5 half long. How long do you think that lasted?
6 Just over one day. A trainload of coal a mile
7 and a half long, the caption said this serves
8 that one power plant for just over a day.

9 We can make coal cleaner, but there is no
10 way you can prevent it from contributing to this
11 (indicating). Because it takes carbon that's
12 been stored for millions of years and releases it
13 into the atmosphere.

14 Conservation; conservation is great. I
15 would love it if we could do conservation, but
16 we're humans. Here's some comic relief. Tonight
17 I have turned the bathroom light off in the men's
18 room seven times. Not because I had too much
19 coffee for dinner; just because we are human. I
20 can't get my wife to turn the light off. I mean,
21 that's how we are. We don't think about those
22 things.

23 Hydro; there's no new sites. The solar
24 project in Ellensburg is great. It provides
25 enough electricity when it's built for eight

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1 homes. Eight conservation homes, eight homes
2 that don't use electricity for heat. It requires
3 a \$52,000 contribution from private sources.

4 There's going to be wildlife impacts from
5 this project. There can't be -- and I would love
6 it if we didn't have to build it. But the
7 reality is the project you already approved has
8 more wildlife impacts than this one does. That's
9 what all the public entities -- the biologists
10 say, because it's out there in Whiskey Dick
11 Mountain that's relatively pristine.

12 Your Comprehensive Plan and your zoning code
13 says for these zones, Ag 20, Forest and Range,
14 that uses -- that protect and tend to preserve
15 natural resource-based industries are preferred
16 and uses that degrade those are to be
17 discouraged.

18 Wind power, as you guys know, protects
19 natural resource-based industries. And there's a
20 consortium now of folks, 70 interest groups,
21 mostly farm bureau types, timber industry types,
22 who are promoting 25 percent renewables in the
23 United States by the year 2025. Right now we
24 produce 4 percent.

25 You guys are in an opportunity -- are in a

1 place to deal with this problem (indicating) and
2 help us to get to that goal, and we produce
3 4 percent today. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. We're going to
5 stop for a second. I'm down to five yesses. And
6 I did promise you 10:30. I realize we have to
7 come back tomorrow.

8 THE COURT REPORTER: If you can give me a
9 break.

10 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, I'll give you five or
11 ten minutes --

12 As long as she needs, and then we'll go and
13 address the last five and see if they're still
14 here. Anybody who didn't speak or has left
15 already, we'll give them up to tomorrow night and
16 we'll reconvene at six o'clock. I know several
17 have left, based on that direction.

18 (A break was taken.)

19 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, I've got --
20 Mr. Knudson has graciously said he'll do his part
21 tomorrow.

22 Judith Kleck, are you still here and would
23 you like to still testify? I don't see Judith.
24 We'll leave her for tomorrow night.

25 Debbie Boddy or "Body," B-o-d-d-y? Is no

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1 longer here either.

2 Milt Johnson, did you want to testify
3 tonight or do you want to do this tomorrow? I
4 saw you in the room earlier. There you are.

5 Before you start, let me see who else wants
6 to --

7 We also have Neal Houser. Are you still
8 here, did you want to testify tonight as well?
9 Okay.

10 And George Matheson from Tacoma Street.
11 Didn't say whether he wanted to testify or not.
12 Is he still here? Don't see him.

13 And I had one last name over by the door,
14 which was Catherine Clerf. Are you still here
15 and did you want to testify tonight?

16 MS. CATHERINE CLERF: Yes, I am still here,
17 and if possible I'd like to testify tonight.

18 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Okay, so we've got three.
19 I think we can do this.

20 Milt, you're up.

21 MR. MILT JOHNSTON: Okay, thank you very
22 much. I'm Milt Johnston. I talked to you before
23 as a representative of the Department of Natural
24 Resources. We've provided written comments to
25 the Board already.

1 I'm here tonight as a personal citizen in
2 the county. I just want to comment that I am in
3 favor of the project for many of the same reasons
4 that have been talked about tonight. We're
5 clearly in an energy hole. As a nation we need
6 to work on our energy production. It's
7 economically viable, it'll improve our tax base
8 for all those reasons.

9 I'll keep my comments short and sweet
10 because I know the night's late. Thank you very
11 much.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you, Milt.

13 Neal Houser?

14 MR. NEAL HOUSER: Hi, my name's Neal Houser.
15 I live at 2065 Lawrence Road out at Badger
16 Pocket. Grew up in a small town in Michigan,
17 similar to Kittitas for that area, as a farmer,
18 and I have a small farm out here, about 40 acres.

19 I look right across the valley right now at
20 the Wild Horse wind farm; I can see it with my
21 naked eyes, even in this time see the bases from
22 our house. I know it's probably ten miles away,
23 something like that.

24 We look up the valley at Mt. Stuart and
25 yeah, every night we comment there's more and

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1 more lights out here in the valley as people move
2 in. And putting up several hundred wind towers,
3 whether it's this project or the one after it or
4 the one after it to finally equal that, I don't
5 know how many lights are going to go on those
6 things, but it's going to be pretty amazing, I'm
7 sure. Just to keep airplanes from hitting them.

8 As far as tax base, you know, they come in
9 here for a year and they give lots of jobs and
10 that's great for a lot of the local contractors
11 and things like that, but then they're going to
12 leave and they're going to -- they say 16 people
13 to maintain this one up here after, you know, a
14 hundred jobs leave the valley.

15 You know, they keep saying that the tax
16 rates are going to -- we're going to benefit by
17 having all this great tax money coming in, but
18 I've yet to see taxes go down anywhere when
19 there's more money brought in. I just don't
20 foresee that happening; it's not done.

21 I'm against the wind farm. But the one out
22 here, you know, we're stuck with one here on Wild
23 Horse, and I think we should look at it for about
24 a year or two until we decide if we want another
25 one. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you. That takes us
2 to Catherine Clerf.

3 MS. CATHERINE CLERF: Catherine Clerf
4 currently at 60 Moe Road, Ellensburg, which is
5 out in the Badger Pocket. Fourth generation of
6 the Clerf family that came to this county in the
7 1880s.

8 And historically speaking, my father and his
9 father and my grandfather were a long time, oh,
10 hundred and some years in the community; and
11 during World War II and in the aftermath of World
12 War II there were rangeland that they either gave
13 up at zero cost or pennies on the acre. That was
14 the farming range, and the figure to ranch was
15 lost because it was behind Wanapum Dam.

16 Things have changed radically. We are now
17 in the year two hundred and six (sic) and we're
18 in the same project, only 150 years ago there
19 would be, (a) fewer people in the community
20 living who were living and making -- earning a
21 living ranching and farming in the first place,
22 and they would be looking at it as they would
23 have the dam: It would have provided cheap,
24 economical power.

25 The wind happens to blow where it happens to

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1 blow. My engineering is in chemical engineering
2 and mechanical engineering mathematician, and I
3 worked for a project that was trying to get clean
4 oil -- excuse me, clean coal technology fired
5 plants in the United States, and that's for
6 another discussion. So my background is trying
7 to balance what the needs of our society are with
8 trying to protect the environment.

9 I've also traveled extensively in other
10 parts of the world, especially the behemoths of
11 India and China; and if this country does not
12 address the issues of alternative powers,
13 diversification, we will literally be left in the
14 economic dustbin of history.

15 Because you have the Asian power horses
16 going to be sucking up hydrocarbons, coal at a
17 rate that we won't be able to afford. I grew up
18 in this valley and I agree when you come down off
19 of Yakima, the lights in the valley is striking.

20 It may not be to someone who recently moved
21 here, but I'm 52 years old and I remember that
22 even at the peak of Central, 12,000 people in the
23 valley happened during the school year. There
24 were, you know, six, seven thousand people who
25 lived here.

1 The valley is going to change because people
2 are going to move in. They will buy property
3 here to get out of the three-county area, where I
4 left after 20 years; taxes drove me out. And
5 they will come here even if there is a wind
6 turbine. Because if you compare it to the life
7 and quality of life in the three-county area just
8 120 miles away, living here is still
9 preferential.

10 I simply would state that there are people
11 who want to wait for the other farm to be
12 developed. Well, things get more expensive and
13 our power is going to become more expensive.
14 There will be less of it. Washington is one of
15 the states that's going to gain population in the
16 next ten years. I'm a baby boomer; I'd want to
17 move here too, not Florida. And you need to
18 address this issue now. Postponing it doesn't
19 solve the problem.

20 I thank you for your time.

21 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Thank you.

22 Okay, that does conclude our list, so thank
23 you all for staying so late. Thanks to my
24 seatmates, too, for their indulgence, for kind of
25 shooting -- sitting here a little longer than

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1 they expected, so.

2 Any closing thing we need to do with staff
3 at all?

4 I guess with that I would entertain a motion
5 to continue this hearing until tomorrow at six
6 o'clock.

7 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: Mr. Chairman, I
8 move that we continue this public hearing to
9 tomorrow at six o'clock here in the Kittitas
10 Valley Event Center.

11 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: It's been moved and
13 seconded to continue this public hearing to
14 6:00 p.m. here in the Kittitas Valley Events
15 Center. The record will remain open to written
16 and oral testimony.

17 And thank you all.

18 (A discussion was held off the record.)

19 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: Any discussion to the
20 motion?

21 Hearing none, all those in favor indicate by
22 saying aye.

23 COMMISSIONER CRANKOVICH: Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER HUSTON: Aye.

25 CHAIRMAN BOWEN: I too will vote aye, and

1 the motion carries. Thank you.

2 (The proceeding was adjourned at
3 10:33 p.m.)
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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF YAKIMA)

This is to certify that I, Louise Raelene Bell, Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, residing at Yakima, reported the within and foregoing hearing; said hearing being taken before me as a Notary Public on the date herein set forth; that said hearing was taken by me in shorthand and thereafter under my supervision transcribed, and that same is a full, true and correct record of the hearing.

I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I financially interested in the outcome of the cause.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal this _____ day of _____, 2006.

LOUISE RAELENE BELL, CCR
CCR No. 2676
Notary Public in and for the
State of Washington, residing at
Yakima. My commission expires
July 19, 2007.