

1 **WAC 463-XX-XXX**                      **Socio-economics**

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3 **(1.) Introduction--**This rule describes how an applicant that proposes to construct  
4 an energy facility may meet the standard for socio-economic impacts.

5 **(2.) Statement of Intent--**The Council’s goal is to avoid, minimize or mitigate  
6 adverse project-related socio-economic impacts on the local community and  
7 promote positive project-related socio-economic impacts on the local  
8 community.

9 **(3.) Definitions—**

10 (1) “Socio-economic impacts” refers to the following areas of impact for  
11 purposes of this section.

- 12 i. Impacts on the local population;
- 13 ii. Impacts on the local housing supply and vacancy rate;
- 14 iii. Environmental justice;
- 15 iv. Impacts on local government services, both in terms of revenues  
16 and demands;
- 17 v. Impacts on the local workforce and economy;

18 (2) “Council” or “EFSEC” refers to the energy facility site evaluation council  
19 created pursuant to chapter 80.50 RCW and, where appropriate, to the  
20 staff of the council.

21 (3) “Applicant” means the person or entity making application for a  
22 certification or permit covered in this title.

23 (4) “Adjudicative proceeding” means a proceeding conducted pursuant to  
24 RCW 80.50.090(3) and the state Administrative Procedure Act.

25 (5) “Certificate holder” means a person or entity who is signatory to a site  
26 certification agreement, which has been approved by the council and  
27 signed by the governor, and who is bound by the terms herein.

28 (6) “Environmental Justice” refers to the concept that energy facilities should  
29 not disproportionately impact communities in which a majority of the  
30 residents are either low-income or members of ethnic minorities.

31 (7) “Low income” means a person or family whose annual income is less than  
32 the federally-designated poverty level.

33 (8) “Local government” or “local jurisdiction” refers to, but is not limited to,  
34 cities, counties, water and sewer districts, conservation districts, fire  
35 protection districts and any other government organization engaged in  
36 providing services to the community near the proposed facility.

37 (9) “Local worker” or “local business” refers to a person or business residing  
38 within the State of Washington or within a 100-mile radius of the energy  
39 facility.

40 **(4.) Standard--**The applicant will work with local government jurisdictions to  
41 avoid, minimize or mitigate any negative project-related socioeconomic  
42 impacts and to promote any positive project-related socioeconomic impacts.

43 (1)**Population--**The applicant and local governments will address, if  
44 necessary, the impacts of significant short term or long term increases in  
45 local population due to the project.

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(2)**Housing**--The applicant and local governments will address, if necessary, the impacts on the local housing supply and vacancy rate. Particular emphasis should be given to the possible need for short term housing if the project is located in a remote area.

(3)**Environmental Justice**—The council, the applicant and local jurisdictions will identify, seek out and take extra measures to include nearby minority and/or low-income populations in the permitting process.

(4)**Local workforce and economy**--The applicant and local jurisdictions will seek ways of maximizing the use of local workers and local businesses for construction, operation and maintenance of the facility.

(5)**Local government services**-- The applicant will address any disparities between project-related service demands on the affected jurisdiction(s) and project-generated tax revenue to the affected jurisdiction(s).