



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE and SCOPING NOTICE

Starbuck Power Project - Application No. 2001-02

Description of Proposal: Starbuck Power Project Application No 2001-02. Starbuck Power company, LLC, is proposing a 1,200-megawatt natural gas-fired combined-cycle combustion turbine electrical generation facility. Related project facilities include a natural gas pipeline and an electrical transmission line.

The generation plant would include four Siemens Westinghouse Model 501F combustion gas turbines (or their equivalent), four heat recovery steam generators equipped with supplemental duct firing, two steam turbine generators, and two air-cooled condensers. The plant would be cooled by a "dry" cooling system.

The generation plant would be supplied with water by a proposed onsite well at a rate of 300 gallons per minute (gpm). The Applicant currently is awaiting Washington State Department of Ecology determination on its 300-gpm water right application. If granted, this water right will authorize the proposed onsite well that will serve as the nonpotable water supply for the generation plant. The proposed onsite well would be constructed approximately 600 feet away from the generation plant, withdrawing water from the flood gravel aquifer. To reach its source of groundwater, the well would be drilled to a depth of approximately 190 feet below ground surface.

Process washwater from the generation plant would be routed to an unlined infiltration evaporation pond that would be constructed onsite. No wastewater would be generated from the power production processes. Contaminated stormwater at the site would be managed with construction of an additional unlined infiltration evaporation pond.

Natural gas used to fuel the generation plant would be provided continuously by a 1,200-foot gas lateral and metering/regulatory station (M/R station) that would connect to the nearby Gas Transmission Northwest (GTN) natural gas mainline. This GTN mainline is located approximately 200 feet from the southwest corner of the generation plant site. The gas lateral and M/R station will be constructed, owned, and operated by GTN, and as such is considered a facility under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The electricity produced by the Starbuck Power Project would be transmitted to the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) Lower Monumental Dam via a proposed 16-mile long, 500-kilovolt (kV) line, to be constructed, owned and operated by the Bonneville Power Administration.

Alternatives: The generation plant would be supplied with water by a proposed onsite well at a rate of 300 gallons per minute (gpm). If the proposed onsite well is not feasible, the Applicant would implement the water pipeline alternative, which would supply the generation plant with water from the Town of Starbuck at a rate of 100 gpm.

This environmental impact statement (EIS) will be a combined State Environmental Policy Act/National Environmental Policy Act (SEPA/NEPA) document. The lead state agency will be the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and the lead federal agency is BPA. If approved, construction would commence in late 2002 and be completed in approximately two years.

Proponent: Starbuck Power Company, LLC, 1050 N.E. 8th Street, Suite 2026, Bellevue, Washington, 98004.

Location of Proposal: The 100-acre property on which the proposed generation plant would be constructed is located about 6 miles northwest of the Town of Starbuck in Columbia County, Washington. The proposed plant site is a fairly level terrace located alongside a steep bluff adjacent to the Snake River, approximately 170 feet above normal river elevation and approximately 350 feet back from the shoreline. State Route 261, a two-lane highway, is adjacent to the southwest side of the property. The Columbia County Grain Growers grain elevators are adjacent to the southeast boundary of the site. The site is currently used for cattle grazing, but is zoned for heavy industrial uses, including energy production facilities such as the Starbuck Power Project, if a conditional use permit is issued. Approximately 40 acres of the property will be developed for the generation plant.

The GTN natural gas mainline is located approximately 200 feet from the southwest corner of the property.

The 500-kV electrical transmission line connecting the generation plant to the Lower Monumental Dam switchyard will be located 1,200 feet north of the existing BPA transmission line corridor.

Lead Agency: Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (SEPA); Bonneville Power Administration (NEPA)

EIS Required: The lead agency has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An EIS is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) and will be prepared. An Application for Site Certification has been submitted by the proponent and is available for review at our offices. Copies have also been provided to the county governments listed above and to local libraries. The application and other materials indicating likely environmental impacts are also available at EFSEC's web site at www.efsec.wa.gov.

Scoping and Scoping Meeting: Agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. Interested persons or organizations may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. Public comment may be given in writing or in person as follows:

Written comments should be mailed to the Responsible Official:

Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Or via facsimile to (360) 956-2158.

Oral comments will be accepted at a **Public Scoping Meeting: October 3, 2001, 6:30 p.m.** to be held at:

Starbuck Public School Gymnasium
717 Tucannon Street
Starbuck, Washington

The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an Open House, followed at 7:00 p.m. with an informal informational presentation and a formal scoping meeting pursuant to the requirements of the State and National Environmental Policy Acts.

All comments must be received in EFSEC's office by **5:00 p.m. October 5, 2001.**

Responsible Official

_____/s/_____
Allen J. Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager

Date: _____9/14/01_____