



News Release

Washington State
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
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EFSEC Issues Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility Final Environmental Impact Statement

OLYMPIA -- The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) has issued the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility, a 660-megawatt (MW) combined-cycle combustion turbine electrical generation facility and associated components in Sumas, Washington near the US/Canadian border.

The Final EIS addresses potential impacts to air quality, water resources/supply, noise, wetlands and vegetation, fish and wildlife, visual resources, cultural resources, socioeconomic, energy, traffic and transportation, communications, and health and safety. It also presents some measures to avoid or reduce adverse environmental impacts resulting from the project, and responds to nearly 1,800 comments received in response to the Draft EIS issued in March 2000.

In general the FEIS concludes that even if mitigation measures were required to address the adverse impacts, it is not clear whether all the probable adverse environmental impacts could be adequately mitigated.

Two 115 kV transmission lines discussed in the Draft EIS have been removed in the FEIS because neither the applicant nor Puget Sound Energy has any interest in proceeding with the sponsorship or permitting of the lines. They are not currently proposed and are not expected to be proposed within the reasonably foreseeable future.

EFSEC will make its recommendation to the Governor for approval or denial of the Sumas Energy 2 Project on February 16, 2001. EFSEC will base its decision on the Final EIS together with other information on the record.

Over 250 copies of the FEIS are being mailed to individuals or groups requesting a copy. In addition, copies of the FEIS are being distributed to the libraries listed at the end of this press release. The document is also available for viewing on the EFSEC web at: <http://www.efsec.wa.gov/sumas2/feis.html>

Additional copies are available from EFSEC by calling 360-956-2121 or by writing EFSEC at PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172.

The Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council is the single non-federal authority for licensing major energy facilities in the state of Washington. EFSEC is made up of a citizen chair appointed by the governor and representatives from 9 state agencies. During the review of an application representatives from affected local governments also sit as voting members on the Council. Upon completion of its review, EFSEC submits its recommendation to the Governor for consideration of approval or denial of the application.

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