



EFSEC

**Washington State
Energy Facility
Site Evaluation
Council**



February 2002

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Wallula Power Project and Wallula-McNary Transmission Line Project. The proponent, Wallula Generation, LLC, has requested to build a 1300-Megawatt Gas-Fired Combined Cycle Power Plant in Wallula, WA. The Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) would be required to build 33 miles of 500 kV transmission line and a switchyard to distribute the new power generation into the transmission grid.

Bonneville and the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council) have completed this DEIS under contract with Jones & Stokes. The analysis was undertaken to meet the direction of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other relevant federal laws and regulations as they pertain to power plant requests connected to a federal action and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for state and private lands.

The scoping phase of this project analysis has identified several issues that are addressed in the DEIS. A No Action and Action Alternative, and alternative components, including mitigation measures, are discussed in detail in the DEIS.

To ensure a complete analysis, we are asking you to help by reviewing this DEIS and providing comments. The comment period for this document closes on April 11, 2002.

We have scheduled two public meetings to discuss the findings in the DEIS. The public meetings will be held as indicated below. There will be an open house before the meeting, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Comments will be received from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**March 13, 2002
835 Maple Street
Columbia Middle School
Burbank, WA**

**March 14, 2002
Umatilla Rural Fire District Station #2
305 Willamette Street
McNary, OR**

For further information regarding this proposal, you may also contact Donald Rose at (503) 230-3796 or Irina Makarow at (360) 956-2047. For copies of the DEIS, please contact Irina Makarow at (360) 956-2047 or you may access it on the Internet at www.efsec.wa.gov.

Please send your comments to either:

Wallula Project Comments
BPA Communications Office KC-7
P.O. Box 12999
Portland, OR 97212

Allen Fiksdal, Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Comments on this document must be postmarked by April 11, 2002. Bonneville and EFSEC will review and respond to all comments and intend to publish a Final EIS during Summer 2002.

Please Note: Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

Please remember, for a comment to be considered to have substance, it needs to:

1. Provide new information pertaining to the proposed action or an alternative;
2. Identify a new issue or expand upon an existing issue;
3. Identify a different way to meet the underlying need;
4. Provide an opinion regarding an alternative, **including the basis or rationale for the opinion;**
5. Point out a specific flaw in the analysis; or
6. Identify a different source of credible research which, if used in the analysis, could result in different effects.

Note to Reviewers: Reviewers should provide Bonneville and EFSEC with their comments during the review period of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This will enable the lead agencies to analyze and respond to the comments at one time and to use information acquired in the preparation of the Final Environmental Impact Statement, thus avoiding undue delay in the decision making process.

Allen Fiksdal
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Robert Beraud
Bonneville Power Administration