

Comment Submission 5

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1 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
2 ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
3 In re: Application No. 2001-01)
4) DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL
5 WALLULA POWER PROJECT) IMPACT STATEMENT
6 Site Certification Agreement) PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING
7) PAGES 1 - 10

7 A public comment meeting in the above matter was held in the presence of a court reporter on March 13, 2002 at 7:00 p.m. at 835 Maple Street, in Burbank, Washington, before Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Members.
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9 * * * * *

10 (Informational presentation given on
11 project.)

12 MR. FIKSDAL: I guess it's time to hear
13 comments. We have a sign-up sheet. We have a court
14 reporter. Shaun Linse is here to take down your
15 statements and make sure that we get the comments exactly
16 right, so I am going to ask you if you have a comment to
17 come up and speak into the microphone or at least speak at
18 Shaun, so she can hear what you have to say, so we get an
19 exact record of your comments.

20 MS. MAKAROW: Nobody has signed up.
21 MR. FIKSDAL: Nobody has signed up to
22 comment. Is there anybody that wishes to comment?
23 MR. BUCHANAN: I am going to. I guess I've
24 got to sign up.
25 MR. FIKSDAL: It would be best if you did,

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1 TESTIMONY OF RANDY BUCHANAN
2 The letter you gave me we farm north of Dodd
3 Road. Our property borders Dodd Road. This says the
4 impacts would occur primarily south of Dodd Road. Well,
5 it's going to impact me then primarily? I mean sometimes
6 it's going to go past; sometime it's not going to go past.
7 And then on the temperature I am concerned
8 that it's going to raise the temperature and maybe change
9 the humidity. Well, your letter says several miles
10 downwind there will be no difference. It will be mixed
11 in. I live within a half a mile. I know miles and miles
12 down it's going to be mixed in. It will all be the same
13 temperature. I want to know close.
14 And then it refers me back to the DEIS, if
15 that's what you want to call it, and it says it's suppose
16 to go out over Simplots feed lot. I am from the center,
17 the edge of the plume. We are in the plume. This says
18 the plume is not suppose to go over me. This doesn't
19 mention the cherries I have in the area. It mentions
20 Lundgren's cherries which are out of the drift. Those are
21 the nearest cherries. I mean it doesn't address my
22 concerns very well at all.
23 It says it's not going to raise the humidity
24 because of the Columbia River and the evaporation. Well,
25 if the Columbia River is a mile wide and a mile in length,

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1 so we have a record.
2 MR. BUCHANAN: Well, I've got a couple.
3 I've got to go back and get my letter.
4 MR. FIKSDAL: Okay.
5 Would you state your name and I guess where
6 you're from or your address.
7 MR. BUCHANAN: My name is Randy Buchanan.
8 Our farm is within a half a mile of the proposed project.
9 So you want me to speak now?
10 MR. FIKSDAL: Yes.
11 MR. BUCHANAN: Irina gave me a letter a
12 while ago. Is this the view of the Council, this letter,
13 or is this your response to my comments?
14 MS. MAKAROW: That was a response to a
15 letter and phone calls you made to the Council.
16 MR. BUCHANAN: So that's the Council's
17 opinion?
18 MS. MAKAROW: It is the staff's opinion in
19 response to your letter.
20 MR. BUCHANAN: It's not the Council.
21 MS. MAKAROW: If you want to make comments
22 about the DEIS, this is your chance. You've raised some
23 questions about the DEIS, and we were attempting to answer
24 those.
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1 I get the wind, the current that comes off of that.
2 That's going to have at a maximum 7,000 some gallons a
3 minute on a hot day and on a low day 3,000 some gallons a
4 minute of water loss. The guy said on an average 3,000
5 gallons a minute, 3,500 a while ago. That's on a cold day
6 the way I read this. So you're telling me that I have
7 7,000 gallons of evaporation off the Columbia River
8 blowing across my property on a hot day. I disagree with
9 that.
10 This river would be dry by the time it got
11 to the ocean just about if it evaporated that much water
12 all the way. I mean maybe from Pasco to McNary Dam how
13 many gallons does it evaporate? You know, I don't get
14 that whole drift. It doesn't even evaporate that much in
15 that length of that area. Is there anybody that can tell
16 me that that's here, what the evaporation rate of the
17 Columbia River is in miles in length?
18 That's all for now.
19 MR. FIKSDAL: Thanks, Randy.
20 Anybody else like to comment on the Draft
21 Environmental Impact Statement?
22 Yes.
23 TESTIMONY OF FRED BENNETT
24 Thanks. I'm Fred Bennett from the Port of
25 Walla Walla, and I wanted to take a moment to thank all of

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1 you who are involved in this for the generous amount of
2 time you're spending with it. We've spent a lot of time
3 ourselves as a port trying to encourage economic
4 development in our neck of the woods, and we think this is
5 a very beneficial type of program.

6 I know there are issues on both sides of
7 pros and cons, but I think in the overall the pro is
8 fundamental to the growth of our area, not only in energy
9 but also in the jobs that it produces and the interest
10 that it creates in our county, and we do thank you very
11 much for your concerns.

12 I have read all of the summary, and I spot
13 read the report, and that will take me a while yet before
14 I finish it probably. But I am very well convinced that
15 the work that's been done on that EIS is not only a large
16 project but a well done project. Most of the data that I
17 saw there supported the conclusions very nicely, and there
18 are some issues that will have long-term effects. There's
19 no doubt about that. But, again, the long-term issues
20 that we're most interested in have a vital, positive
21 impact on the economy and on our areas. And the
22 mitigations that have been made, the mitigation measures
23 that have been made for some of these issues such as the
24 environment around the plant and the concerns with the
25 roads, etc., are again I think will end up being a

1 sleeping in the middle of the night, and something goes
2 wrong, and they shut this thing down, it could wake me up.
3 That's an impact. I mean I don't want to be woke up. I
4 don't want to have any negative adverse effects from this,
5 but I need to be acknowledged that at least what we do
6 have is in the area, and it's not represented in the
7 report, our crops and the way the plume is and everything
8 else.

9 But it's just mitigated. I shouldn't have
10 to be negatively affected like the gentleman said it was
11 going to affect me after, and he works at the one by
12 Boardman at the Army Depot along the freeway. He lives in
13 Richland, but thank you.

14 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. Any additional
15 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

16 If not, I think we'll close the meeting and
17 end the meeting. Not seeing any more people that wish to
18 comment, so thank you very much for coming. This ends the
19 comment meeting.

20 (Recess from 7:22 to 7:50 p.m.)

21 CONTINUED TESTIMONY OF RANDY BUCHANAN

22 Since I have my disagreements and my
23 concerns with temperature raise and humidity raise, why
24 doesn't the Council start putting thermometers out,
25 checking the temperature before the plant is started and

1 positive impact.

2 We do as a port and I as an individual
3 appreciate very much the time you're taking and the time
4 that the folks who are proposing the project that are
5 spending not only time but money. It's a big advantage to
6 the total network of the Northwest, and we do thank you.

7 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. Is there anybody
8 else who would like to comment on the Draft Environmental
9 Impact statement?

10 MR. BUCHANAN: I would like to say some
11 more.

12 MR. FIKSDAL: Try to be specific to the
13 Draft EIS. The purpose of the environmental impact
14 statement and the comments are to address concerns and
15 issues that are in the Draft EIS, so that they can be
16 addressed.

17 CONTINUED TESTIMONY OF RANDY BUCHANAN

18 And any of my concerns everybody says it's
19 not going to impact me. It's not going to do this. It's
20 not going to raise your temperature. It's not going to
21 change your humidity. You're not going to have any
22 impact.

23 Well, after the last meeting a gentleman
24 came and talked to me and said that they're real noisy
25 when you start them up and shut them down. So if I'm

1 do some kind of a study, so later if it does impact me,
2 it's already wrote down what the mitigation will be;
3 whether it be turn the thing off until I move, leave, or
4 you know, something else. But it could be predetermined,
5 and it would be real easy then for them to give me a
6 guarantee that if I am impacted negatively that it could
7 be turned off. There could be some kind of a study done.

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9 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at
10 7:51 p.m.)

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**Responses to Comment Submission 5,
Comments from Public Hearing Held March 13, 2002 at Burbank, WA**

- 5-1. Section 3.2 has been updated under “Cooling Tower Plumes” to address temperature and humidity concerns as they relate to the cherry orchards in the immediate area. Please see Chapter 3 of this Final EIS for updated text.
- 5-2. Section 3.2 has been updated to address this comment. Please see Chapter 3 of this Final EIS for updated text. Plume analysis was made more concise by only considering the chance of plumes during the most sensitive cherry months (May-July), rather than an annual average. Locations of cherry orchards in this area have been labeled on Figures 3.2-1 through 3.2-3 which are also included in Chapter 3 of this Final EIS.
- 5-3. Section 3.2 has been updated in response to this comment. The naturally occurring water vapor blowing across the 4,000-foot-wide cherry orchards along Dodd Road during June is estimated at 96 million gallons per day (or 68,000 gallons per minute). This estimate assumes average June temperature, humidity, and wind speed based on weather data from Pasco. The calculation assumes the cooling tower plume completely mixes within a vertical layer extending from the ground surface to a height of 360 feet, which is twice the estimated elevation of the stabilized cooling tower plume centerline under typical June temperature and wind speed.
- 5-4. See response to comment 5-3. Based on measured humidity data from Pasco, the estimated amount of naturally occurring water vapor blowing past the cherry orchards is 96 mgd. Some (but not all) of the naturally occurring water vapor probably originates by evaporation from the Columbia River. Regional evaporation data from the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service indicate the Pasco-Walla Walla area experiences 35 to 45 inches per year of surface water evaporation, with typical daily values in June of 0.25 to 0.35 inches per day. The Columbia River at Wallula is about 2 miles wide, and an air parcel blowing northwest from the power plant to the Dodd Road cherry orchards crosses 3.5 miles of river length. The air parcel would experience evaporation from a water surface area 3.5 miles long and 4,000 feet wide (the width of the Dodd Road orchards). On a typical June day that water surface would evaporate an estimated 11 mgd to 22 mgd.
- 5-5. Thank you for your comment. Support for the project noted.
- 5-6. Thank you for your comment. Support for the project noted.
- 5-7. Thank you for your comment. Support for the project noted.
- 5-8. The most significant noise source during startup would be “steam blows.” The applicant has committed to installing noise silencers on the steam vents, thus minimizing noise impacts. The proposal would be required to meet all regulatory noise limits applicable at this location, as described in Section 3.9 of the Draft EIS.
- 5-9. Section 3.2 has been updated to include modeling of potential steam plume impacts to the cherry orchards north of Dodd Road. Please see Chapter 3 of this Final EIS for updated text.
- 5-10. Thank you for your comment.