Comment Submission 12

Allen J. Fiksdal
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Mr. Fiksdal,

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was issued for the Wallula Power Project in late February and while it did address many important potential effects on the environment, it left out a crucial naturally occurring phenomena in Walla Walla Valley: temperature inversions . On page 3.2-19 and 20 of Section 3.2: Air Quality, the DEIS addresses the "Emissions of Water Droplets and Water Vapor" from the cooling towers. The DEIS adequately addresses the steam plume visibility, localized fogging and icing; however, the statement does not adequately address the Wallula Power Project's potential environmental effects on commonly experienced winter temperature inversions in Walla Walla Valley. 12-1

Could the Walla Walla Valley become Los Angeles with the addition of the Wallula Power Project and the other gas turbines and industry to follow? 12-2 Will the winter fog we experience in Walla Walla turn into days of winter smog? 12-3 These are questions that the DEIS should be addressing.

Thank you for your time.

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Responses to Comment Submission 12,
Letter from Leslie Hickey, Walla Walla, WA

12-1. Emissions from the project would have no discernible effect on air temperature beyond the facility boundary. It is highly unlikely the emissions would affect the occurrence or duration of natural temperature inversions in the Wallula area.

12-2. Thank you for your comment.

12-3. As described in Section 3.2 of the Final EIS, the applicant's predictive air quality modeling was done using meteorological data from Wallula. It predicted ground-level air pollutant concentrations well below EPA's health-based ambient air quality standards, even during winter months with relatively limited atmospheric dispersion conditions.