

## **2.6 COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION WITH AGENCIES, INDIAN TRIBES, THE PUBLIC AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS**

The Applicant has consulted extensively with local, state, and federal agencies and tribal representatives during the development of the proposed Project, as described below.

### **2.6.1 Local Agency Contacts**

#### **County Planning Staff**

Representatives of the Applicant met with Clay White of the Kittitas County Community Development Services department (which encompasses both planning and building permit functions) on June 30, 2003 to discuss the proposed Project and site. County planning staff did not identify any anticipated problems with the proposal and encouraged the Applicant to submit a County development activities application as soon as possible to facilitate County review of the Project. There have been no written responses resulting from this consultation.

#### **County Public Works Department**

Representatives of the Applicant met with County Public Works Director Paul Bennett on October 14, 2003 to discuss the location of the Project and any potential concerns in terms of potential impacts on County facilities such as roads. Mr. Bennett requested assurance that the Applicant would agree to mitigate for any impacts that might occur to County roads (primarily Vantage Highway) from construction traffic and requested confirmation that the Project would not interfere with any existing or proposed approaches or protected airspace for the Ellensburg Airport (Bowers Field). Mr. Bennett indicated he would prefer to wait for the permit application to be filed before conducting a detailed review of the potential issues associated with the Project.

#### **Fire District**

Representatives of the Applicant met with Chief Stan Baker of the Kittitas County Fire District #2 on October 14, 2003 to discuss the Project and the potential for KFD #2 to provide fire protection during the construction period under a contract with the Applicant. The Project area is not within any existing fire district. Vantage and KFD #2 are the two closest fire districts, but KFD #2 has considerably more equipment and staffing than Vantage. Chief Baker planned to visit the Stateline Wind Power Project in Walla Walla county and respond to the Applicant with a proposal for a fire protection arrangement for the Project. There have been no written responses resulting from this consultation.

#### **Kittitas School District**

Representatives of the Applicant made a presentation to the Kittitas School Board at their regular public meeting on October 28, 2003 to present the proposed Project and discuss potential impacts to the District. Superintendent Jerry Harding addressed the board regarding the potential fiscal impacts of the Project.

## **2.6.2 State Agency Contacts**

### **WDFW**

The Applicant's wildlife and plant consultant, WEST, Inc. has contacted WDFW regarding the potential occurrence of state-listed threatened or endangered species within the Project area. This consultation is described in detail in Section 3.4 'Vegetation and Wetlands' and Section 3.6 'Wildlife'. Representatives of the Applicant and their wildlife and biological consultants have met with staff of the WDFW (Ted Clausing, Brent Renfrow, Lee Stream and Edd Bracken) on several occasions to discuss the proposed Project beginning on May 29, 2003. Copies of the study protocols and draft findings have been provided to WDFW during the course of the development of the Project. Input from WDFW has shaped the studies and reports that have been developed for the Project. The Applicant organized a site tour for a group of WDFW regional staff and managers from the Ellensburg and Yakima offices on September 25, 2003. During this site visit, WDFW representatives had the opportunity to visit any areas of the proposed Project and the proposed transmission feeder lines they wished to visit and to discuss the findings of the wildlife and plant studies conducted at the site with the principal researchers. A letter from Ted Clausing of the WDFW Yakima office regarding potential fisheries impacts of the Project and transmission feeder lines is attached as Exhibit 11.

### **WDNR**

The Applicant has met with staff of the WDNR on several occasions to discuss the proposed Project beginning in Spring 2003. These discussions have addressed both the leasing of WDNR land for wind power development as well as potential impacts to plants, animals and cultural resources that might result from the Project. A follow up meeting was held on November 24<sup>th</sup> with WDNR cultural resources and wildlife experts in Olympia. WDNR representative Milt Johnston invited the Applicant to attend a meeting of the Big Game Management Group that includes representatives of WDNR, WDFW, the Kittitas County Cattleman's Association, the Kittitas County Farm Bureau, the Field and Stream Club and other local land owners in Kittitas County to discuss potential Project effects on big game. The Applicant has also consulted via email and telephone with Cindy Preston, Surface Mining Coordinator with the WDNR in Olympia regarding requirements for the proposed gravel quarries associated with the construction of the Project. Ms. Preston has responded that the WDNR does not typically require surface mining reclamation permits for temporary on-site construction gravel quarries if the quarries are to be temporary in nature, and are to be used solely for the construction of a project built on land owned by the same landowner(s) and the gravel will not be sold or used off-site. She indicated that this was the case with the gravel quarries used for the construction of the now-operating Stateline Wind Energy Center in Walla Walla County.

### **WSDOT**

The Applicant has consulted with Mr. Rick Holmstrom, Development Services Engineer with the Washington Department of Transportation regional office in Union Gap regarding potential impacts of the Project on state highways. Mr. Holmstrom has

indicated that the only road under state jurisdiction that would potentially be affected by the Project is I-90 and that the impacts to I-90 are anticipated to be minimal.

### **2.6.3 Federal Agency Contacts**

#### **BPA**

The Applicant has consulted with Mr. Rick Yarde, NEPA Environmental Project Manager, regarding BPA's potential involvement in NEPA review of the Project. Mr. Yarde has indicated that BPA does not intend to take an active NEPA review role in the Project because BPA would not be enabling the Project, as there are other viable interconnection options available (i.e. PSE.) In the event that the Applicant decides to interconnect with the BPA system, BPA will utilize the SEPA EIS developed by EFSEC and BPA's own transmission system NEPA EIS to evaluate the impacts of the Project under NEPA. The correspondence from BPA confirming the above is included as Exhibit 32.

#### **USFWS**

The Applicant's wildlife and plant consultant, WEST, Inc. has consulted with USFWS regarding the potential occurrence of federally-listed threatened or endangered species within the Project area. This consultation is described in detail in Section 3.4 'Vegetation and Wetlands' and Section 3.6 'Wildlife'.

### **2.6.4 Tribal Contacts**

#### **Yakama Nation**

Lithic Analysts, the Applicant's cultural resources consultant, sent a letter on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, to Mr. Johnson Meninick, Cultural Resources Director of the Yakama Nation, notifying the Yakama Nation of the location of the proposed Project and the planned cultural resource surveys to be conducted at the Project site. The Applicant followed up with a subsequent letter on June 30, 2003 to Mr. Meninick initiating formal consultation with the Yakama Nation and inviting the tribe to offer comments on the Project's potential effects and to assist in identifying any previously unrecorded cultural resources which might be located in the Project area. On August 19, 2003, the Applicant forwarded Mr. Meninick a copy of the draft Cultural Resources assessment and Archaeological Survey for the proposed Project site, prepared by Lithic Analysts. Copies of this correspondence are included as Exhibit 25. Lithic Analysts also contacted Mr. David Powell, Yakama Nation ceded lands archeologist regarding the cultural resources surveys to be conducted at the Project site and offered to allow Mr. Powell and/or other tribal representatives to participate in the field surveys, which he declined because of scheduling conflicts. No written response was received from the Yakama Nation regarding any of these communications. Consultation is continuing and copies of the final report will be forwarded to the Yakama Nation.

#### **Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation**

Lithic Analysts, the Applicant's cultural resources consultant, sent a letter on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, to Adelin Fredin, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CCT), notifying the CCT of the location of the proposed Project and the planned cultural resource surveys to be conducted at the Project site. The Applicant followed up with a subsequent letter on June 30, 2003 to Ms. Camille Pleasants, Interim Tribal Historical Cultural Preservation Officer of the CCT, initiating formal consultation with the CCT and inviting the tribe to offer comments on the Project's potential effects and to assist in identifying any previously unrecorded cultural resources which might be located in the Project area. On August 13, 2003, Lithic Analysts contacted Guy Moura (CCT) by phone to advise that a copy of the draft Cultural Resources assessment and Archaeological Survey was completed and that a copy was being forward to CCT. Also, on August 13, 2003, the Applicant forwarded Ms. Pleasants a copy of the draft Cultural Resources assessment and Archaeological Survey for the proposed Project site, prepared by Lithic Analysts.

On September 19, 2003, Ms. Pleasants sent a comment letter to the Applicant in response to the draft cultural resources assessment and surveys conducted at the Site. On October 17, 2003, the Applicant sent a letter to Ms. Pleasants in response to her comment letter. On December 16, 2003, the Applicant forwarded Ms. Pleasants an updated draft Cultural Resources Assessment and Archaeological Survey. On January 5, 2004, Ms. Pleasants sent a comment letter to the Applicant in response to the December 16 letter and draft Cultural Resources Assessment and Archaeological Survey.

Lithic Analysts contacted Donald Shannon, CCT Traditional Cultural Property Project Supervisor, by phone on January 13, 2004. On January 14, 2004, Ms. Pleasants sent a comment letter to the Applicant in response to the phone call of January 13. On January 19, 2004, the Applicant arranged a meeting to be held on February 19, 2004 with the CCT, the Applicant, Lithic Analysts and EFSEC. Donald Shannon called the Applicant on January 23, 2004, to express concerns that cultural resource site specific information should be removed from EFSEC web site. Copies of this correspondence are included as Exhibit 25.

The February 19, 2004 meeting was attended by the Applicant, EFSEC, and CCT representatives. The Applicant is responding to CCT's concerns and discussions are continuing.

Consultation is continuing and copies of the final report will be forwarded to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

### **Wanapum Tribe**

Lithic Analysts, the Applicant's cultural resources consultant, sent a letter on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2003, to Lenora Seelatsee, of the Wanapum Tribe, notifying the Wanapum Tribe of the location of the proposed Project and the planned cultural resource surveys to be conducted at the Project site. To date, the Wanapum have neither replied to the letter nor expressed any concern with the Project. A copy of the cultural resources survey report will be forwarded to them.