

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the matter of)
Application No. 2009-01) Public Hearing Volume VI
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY, LLC.) Pages 856-927
WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY PROJECT)
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A Public Hearing in the above matter was held on Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at the Skamania County Fairgrounds, 710 Southwest Rock Creek Drive, in Stevenson, Washington, before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council with C. Robert Wallis, Administrative Law Judge, presiding.

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(Whereupon, the proceedings went on the record at 6:34 p.m.)

JUDGE WALLIS: Let's be on the record, please.

This hearing will please come to order. This is an adjudicative hearing of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. It's being held at Stevenson, Washington on January 6th of the year 2011.

My name is Robert Wallis, I am the designated Administrative Law Judge for this proceeding. On behalf of the Council I would like to welcome everyone to the session this evening and thank you for taking your time to come out and express your views and listen to your neighbors express their views on the proposal that is now at issue.

1 We have a number of EFSEC Council members present
2 and staff members. I would like to have each of them
3 introduce themselves to you. Council members beginning on
4 my far left.

5 MR. HAYES: Hi. My name is Andy Hayes. I'm with
6 the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

7 MR. TAYLER: I'm Jeff Tayler. I'm with the
8 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

9 MR. MOSS: I'm Dennis Moss with the Washington
10 Utilities & Transportation Commission.

11 MR. CREWS: I'm Kyle Crews with the Attorney
12 General's Office representing the Council.

13 MR. LUCE: I'm Jim Luce representing the Governor.

14 MR. FRYHLING: I'm Dick Fryhling, and I represent
15 the Department of Commence.

16 MR. SUTHERLAND: I'm Doug Sutherland, the designee
17 from Skamania County.

18 JUDGE WALLIS: In addition, we have EFSEC staff
19 here, Al Wright who is the manager; Stephen Posner, staff
20 member; Tammy Talburt in the green outfit; and Jim La Spina.
21 If you have any questions about process or about the
22 operations of the Council, please feel free to talk with any
23 of the staff members.

24 The Council members themselves are sitting as
25 judges in this proceeding and it restricts their ability to

1 talk with individuals about what is going on and the thing
2 that they're going to have to judge. So instead of talking
3 directly to Council members you can feel very comfortable
4 talking to staff and getting the information that you may
5 need in that manner.

6 The purpose of tonight's session is for the
7 Council to receive comments on the proposed Whistling Ridge
8 Energy Project. We have been in hearings since Monday
9 morning at the Skamania Lodge hearing room and have been
10 taking testimony from members of the party and receiving
11 evidence on the proposal both for it and against it and
12 about it.

13 Let me give you a very short summary of what's
14 going on.

15 On March 10, 2009, Whistling Ridge Energy, LLC,
16 which is a Washington limited liability company, submitted
17 an application for site certification to EFSEC to construct
18 and operate the Whistling Ridge Energy Project which is
19 designed to produce 75 megawatts of electrical wind
20 generation energy.

21 The proposed project would be located about seven
22 miles north of the city of White Salmon in Skamania County,
23 Washington. The proposed project site is privately owned
24 land currently used for commercial timber harvest. Up to 50
25 wind turbines ranging in size from 1.2 to 2.5 megawatts and

1 up to 426 feet tall would be installed for the project.

2 The project would include an operation and
3 maintenance facility and electrical substation, an
4 underground collector line system, access roads and other
5 facilities required for its operation.

6 A revised site certification application was
7 submitted on October 12th of 2009, which changed the site by
8 removing use of a forest service road located within the
9 Columbia River Gorge national scenic area.

10 I would like to tell you that we will also receive
11 your written comments until January 15, 2011, if you want to
12 send those in. You may also email them so that the Council
13 receives them by January 15, and they will also be placed
14 within the adjudicative record of this proceeding.

15 In addition, Bruce Marvin is here tonight. He is
16 Counsel for the Environment. Mr. Marvin, will you stand up
17 and identify yourself.

18 MR. MARVIN: Hi. I'm Bruce Marvin, I'm an
19 Assistant Attorney General. I am the Counsel for the
20 Environment which is a statutory position which is created
21 by the legislature as part of the EFSEC process. And my
22 duties are to represent the public and its interest in the
23 environment with regard to the siting of energy facilities.

24 And in addition to contacting EFSEC staff, if you
25 have issues regarding procedure or process that you would

1 like to run by me I would be glad to chat with you.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you, Mr. Marvin. This is a
3 formal adjudicative hearing. It is like a trial. This is
4 one of the sessions. Other sessions are going on, as I
5 said, this week and will continue for one or two days next
6 week. You see that in front of the Council here is a court
7 reporter who is taking down every word that people say, and
8 that will be transcribed into writing, and that will be part
9 of the official record in this matter.

10 Because it's important both for the court
11 reporter, for the Council members and for other members of
12 the audience to hear everything that's being said today
13 we're going to ask everyone to be quiet and listen to the
14 comments of the others who are here.

15 I'm going to be calling three people at a time
16 from the sign-up list. And we have three chairs in front.
17 As we proceed through the list of people we'll keep two or
18 three ahead so that people will be ready to speak and there
19 will be very little delay between individuals.

20 When we call you to the microphone I will ask you
21 to raise your hand and swear or affirm that the testimony
22 that you're giving today will be the truth. Then we will
23 ask for your name, ask you to spell your last name so we're
24 sure that that's accurate in the record and give your
25 mailing address so that we can put you on the list of

1 interested persons and make sure that you get information
2 about the project and its status.

3 If you have brought written materials I encourage
4 you not to read them, although you may if you wish. They
5 may be most effective when you use them as a reminder to the
6 points that you want to mention.

7 We will have a time limit tonight of three minutes
8 for you to present your comments. Again, as I say, if you
9 think of something later, or if you don't have time to make
10 every point you would like to make you're very welcome to
11 put it in writing and submit it to the Council.

12 Mr. Posner is going to be our timekeeper. You see
13 that he has a clock in front there. It counts down three
14 minutes and will buzz at the end of the three minutes. He
15 will give you a warning when you have 30 seconds to go so
16 you can wind up your remarks and conclude.

17 In order to submit your written remarks all you
18 have to do is give those to one of the EFSEC staff members.
19 And we are going to ask staff to make sure that a name and
20 address is on those remarks so that, again, that person can
21 go on our mailing list.

22 Very well, I think we're ready to proceed. And
23 I'm going to read the names on our list to the extent that I
24 can read them. The first person I believe is Ed, it looks
25 like Calhoun.

1 MR. CALLAHAN: You're close, Callahan.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Very good. Then, Don Morby and
3 Charles Pace, if you would like to come up now and be
4 seated. Mr. Callahan, you can remain standing. Jim Pytel
5 is the third person after Mr. Callahan.

6 Very good. Mr. Callaghan, would you raise your
7 right hand.

8 (Ed Callahan sworn on oath.)

9 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state for us your name,
10 spelling your last name.

11 MR. CALLAHAN: Ed Callahan, C-a-l-l-a-h-a-n.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: And tell us your mailing address,
13 please.

14 MR. CALLAHAN: Mailing address is P.O. Box 969,
15 Stevenson, Washington 98648.

16 JUDGE WALLIS: Very good. Please proceed with
17 your comments.

18

19 ED CALLAHAN,

20 having been first duly sworn on oath,

21 testified as follows:

22

23 TESTIMONY OF ED CALLAHAN

24 I'm a four-term county commissioner in Skamania
25 County, so I'm well-versed on its needs. And I would like

1 to just comment in regards to we no longer log in the
2 Gifford Pinchot National Forest, if we do it's very, very
3 little. This county is in dire need of income. And this
4 project fits it to a "T." There's money for schools as well
5 as county government as well as private payrolls.

6 I'm all in favor of the project. I can't see why
7 anybody would not be in favor of it. It will create jobs,
8 increase tax revenues. It's completely outside the National
9 Scenic Area. And one of the pictures I've seen in this
10 brochure shows them up on the ridge. If you're driving down
11 84 at 70-miles an hour you damn well better be looking out
12 front instead of up at the ridge. I don't see how anybody
13 could want to do that, but that's beside the point.

14 Wind energy is a solution not the problem. And
15 I've already ordered my new electric car, so I'm very
16 interested in having electricity for it. Thank you.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Very good. Thank you very much.
18 Mr. Morby.

19 MR. MORBY: Thank you.

20 (Don Morby sworn on oath.)

21 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name and spell
22 your last name, please.

23 MR. MORBY: Don Morby. It's M-o-r-b as in Bravo,
24 "Y" as in Yankee.

25 JUDGE WALLIS: And give us your mailing address,

1 please.

2 MR. MORBY: 715 Jessup Road, Cook, Washington
3 98605.

4 JUDGE WALLIS: Please continue with your comments.

5

6 DON MORBY,
7 having been first duly sworn on oath,
8 testified as follows:

9

10 TESTIMONY OF DON MORBY

11 Thank you. Thank you to the committee. You said
12 I couldn't read this, but I didn't commit it to memory. I
13 wrote it about ten minutes before I came down this way. My
14 name IS Don Morby. I'm a retired Navy chief for 30 years in
15 the military. I'm retired from the state highway department
16 here in the Gorge, so I'm really familiar with the Gorge
17 rules and regulations. I'm a lifetime member of the
18 Underwood area and I was born and raised there. I've
19 attended each and everyone of your meetings, I compliment
20 you guys on being here. I'm sorry you have to be here.

21 Anyway, I'm not a good speaker, so bear with me.
22 I have three minutes, I'm going to try to run through this.

23 Every complaint always includes--that you guys
24 receive about this windmill project--always includes habitat
25 disruption, wildlife, noise pollution, traffic tie-ups,

1 industrial disasters to mention a few. These are always
2 brought up at these meetings. It appalls me that there's so
3 much money always spent on fighting these issues over and
4 over when that money could be spent on school, education,
5 health and welfare of this community here, and we need it.

6 It's something that they oppose that they voted
7 for, renewable energy. They talked about the environment
8 being destroyed and habitat and wildlife destroyed. The
9 agriculture industry in Underwood alone over the years --
10 and I love pears and apples and grapes, don't get me wrong.
11 But they have done just as much to disrupt the environment
12 as any windmill could ever do over the next 20 years.

13 They talk about the traffic tie-ups that's going
14 to happen during this installation. Then they turn around
15 and tell us what great industry it's going to be to have
16 agri-tourists coming up the road in these diesel snorting
17 buses, you know, millions of people coming to buy wine and
18 by the bus loads.

19 The windmill offers good jobs for the community,
20 and they're desperately needed jobs. What jobs the
21 agriculture people bring to this community usually involves
22 illegal aliens -- or immigrants, I'm sorry. Aliens are
23 from...

24 Anyway, this community has suffered enough over
25 the years fighting all these so-called outside friendly

1 groups, starting with the spotted owl and continuing through
2 dam removals. In my opinion, they do it for personal gain
3 and pleasure despite the smoke and mirrors they put out
4 front.

5 So I beseech you as a committee to once and for
6 all put a stop to this nonsense. Approve this plan and
7 getting it into the installation phase. Thank you.

8 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

9 Charles Pace. The next name on our list is Carol
10 Taylor and then Paul Smith. Mr. Pace, raise your right
11 hand, please.

12 (Charles Pace sworn on oath.)

13 JUDGE WALLIS: Would you state your name and spell
14 your last name.

15 MR. PACE: My name is Charles Pace. My last name
16 is spelled P-a-c-e.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: What is your mailing address,
18 please?

19 MR. PACE: My mailing address is P.O. Box 70 in
20 North Bonneville, Washington, zip is 98639.

21 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you, please proceed with your
22 comments.

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CHARLES PACE,

having been first duly sworn on oath,
testified as follows:

TESTIMONY OF CHARLES PACE

Thank you, Your Honor, members of the Council. I want to focus on four things.

The first being site specific impacts, avian and mammalian populations. Those are of concern. But my experience both as I hold a Ph.D. in economics and I've also done some consulting on wind for various drives, those are very site specific and they're difficult to pin down in advance. So I think those are things that you need to consider, but they're very difficult to predict in advance.

There's also impacts, site specific impacts on Underwood Hill, traffic and so on. So I think those are things you need to consider.

In terms of the Scenic Act I don't think is particularly relevant. The project is located outside the Scenic Act area, and moreover there has been a great deal of I wouldn't call it mission creep or creep, it's more an explosion in the mission undermining the Gorge Act. So I don't believe the scenic impacts are particularly relevant here or that there is necessarily a sound basis for assigning economic values to things like iconic values.

1 It's not valued exchange, it's valued use, it's not
2 existence value.

3 In terms of wind development in particular, this
4 project has a lot going for it. It's part of a vertically
5 integrative production process, and it will be used on site.
6 Part of the wind energy that is produced will be used on
7 site. That distinguishes it from a number of other projects
8 in the basin that are simply exporting power outside the
9 region.

10 So this is precisely the kind of project that
11 makes sense from a regional energy perspective. It also
12 makes sense in terms of the Gorge. You've probably heard
13 people say "not in the Gorge." I would say absolutely in
14 the Gorge. That wind is one of the types of generating
15 resources and assets that we need to go forward with. This
16 area can lead the way in terms of wind generation, and
17 should lead the way.

18 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

19 MR. PACE: Finally, the problems that I really see
20 with this project are not problems with this project but
21 rather the integration of wind resources in the basin and
22 the impacts on hydro evaluation. There are some serious
23 issues there. I'm sure that the Chair is aware of those
24 from his experience and Al. But these are things that need
25 to be addressed, but they need to be addressed on a regional

1 basis. This project makes good sense, and it's good for
2 this county. Thank you.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Jim
4 Pytel and Carol Taylor and Paul Smith.

5 Mr. Pytel, raise your right hand, please.

6 (Jim Pytel sworn on oath.)

7 JUDGE WALLIS: Would you state your name and spell
8 your last name for us, please.

9 MR. PYTEL: Jim Pytel, P-y-t-e-l.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: State your mailing address.

11 MR. PYTEL: Six Oak Ridge Road, White Salmon,
12 Washington 98672.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: Very good. If you step a little
14 closer to the microphone we might all be able to hear you
15 better.

16

17 JIM PYTEL,

18 having been first duly sworn on oath,

19 testified as follows:

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21 TESTIMONY OF JIM PYTEL

22 Test, test. My name is Jim Pytel. Former captain
23 of the 4th Infantry Division, former wind energy technician,
24 currently instructor for the Renewable Energy Technology
25 Program at Columbia Gorge Community College, here to speak

1 on behalf of Whistling Ridge. I do support this project. I
2 live in Husum, Washington, right by White Salmon River
3 Valley. My points are basically as an increasing population
4 of increasingly affluent people we're forcing ourselves to
5 make some pretty hard decisions.

6 Energy has to come from somewhere, and our
7 nation's energy must be secured at all costs. What happens
8 to our existing unsustainable energy infrastructure if it
9 begins to crack? We fight more war to keep going for a
10 little bit longer? Do we send your children to fight those
11 wars? Do we impose management for conservation levels? Do
12 we willing give up our position of world influence, state
13 conservation? None of these options make sense to me.
14 Added to these the predicament of the impending removal of
15 Condit Dam and the closure of the Portland Power Plant.

16 Energy has to come from somewhere. Here's a
17 radical idea to transition our nation to energy independence
18 with wind turbines where it's windy, solar panels where it's
19 sunny, put biomass fuel production plants where biomass
20 grows.

21 Know there's no single magic bullet that can solve
22 our problems, but there's a silver buckshot approach that
23 can. Distributed renewable energy generation can become our
24 baseload if our nation becomes serious about it. I'm proud
25 that my community will be contributing toward this effort by

1 establishing the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

3 Carol Taylor and then Paul Smith and Mary Repar.
4 Raise your right hand.

5 (Carol Taylor sworn on oath.)

6 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
7 name.

8 MS. TAYLOR: Carol Taylor, T-a-y-l-o-r.

9 JUDGE WALLIS: Your mailing address?

10 MS. TAYLOR: P.O. Box 185, Cascade Locks, Oregon
11 97014.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed with
13 your comments.

14

15 CAROL TAYLOR,

16 having been first duly sworn on oath,

17 testified as follows:

18

19 TESTIMONY OF CAROL TAYLOR

20 Thank you, Your Honor. Ladies and gentlemen, I am
21 Carol Taylor from Cascade Locks. I want to thank you for
22 this opportunity to express my views on the proposed wind
23 farm.

24 I do not plan on being politically correct. I
25 don't understand why greed is being couched in green energy.

1 Not only will this wind farm cause visual impacts, but scar
2 the land forever. The energy would be sent to California as
3 I understand, so build them in California. I have seen
4 Altamont Pass and the many turbines elsewhere in California.
5 They were built in scrub areas, and if you add a few more to
6 their totals it won't matter.

7 The turbines will be manufactured overseas, so
8 therefore the jobs are overseas. During construction there
9 will be some jobs, but after completion there will be very
10 few, just for maintenance.

11 This same company promoting the wind farm is
12 promoting a resort project further east in the Gorge. This
13 company is one that mined outside of its boundaries causing
14 a huge slide on Highway 14. This company is the one who
15 purchased land in Cascade Locks Port to use for some other
16 project.

17 Obviously, this company and their promoters are
18 not interested in the least in protecting the Gorge.
19 Between this proposal, the proposed casino, the proposed
20 water bottling plant and the newest that I just heard about,
21 the proposed development in Dallesport the area will be
22 ruined. The Gorge will no longer be a recreational
23 sanctuary for future generations.

24 There seems to be many people promoting all of
25 this development and pretending and spouting that it is for

1 jobs. Don't be fooled. The politicians promoting and
2 assisting in this development in ruination of the Gorge are
3 only interested in what they hope to gain.

4 What has happened to the integrity and honesty
5 representing people you work for or who elected you.
6 There's just way too much corruption and self-interest.

7 I have planned a family reunion for next summer
8 and asked them all to bring their cameras, because if these
9 developments go in it will be the last time they will see
10 this place without being ruined.

11 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

12 MS. TAYLOR: I ask you to think long and hard
13 about this project, as once it is built there is no turning
14 back. The landscape and environment will be forever ruined.
15 The threat to the birds and wildlife is very real. The harm
16 to humans is real. Please turn down this monster project
17 and protect the Columbia River Gorge. Thank you.

18 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

19 Paul Smith and then Mary Repar and Dave
20 L'Hommedieu.

21 (Paul Smith sworn on oath.)

22 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
23 name.

24 MR. SMITH: Smith, S-m-i-t-h.

25 JUDGE WALLIS: And your mailing address.

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PAUL SMITH,
having been first duly sworn on oath,
testified as follows:

TESTIMONY OF PAUL SMITH

1482 Mabee Mines Road, Washougal, Washington.

Thank you for the opportunity to share some of my concerns. First, I'm concerned about EFSEC's ability to be fully impartial and objective. Nothing personal to you all. EFSEC is in charge of conducting a project analysis and then make a recommendation to Washington's governor. In my mind, this is analogous to the BIA in charge of doing an EIS --

THE COURT REPORTER: I need you to slow down when you read. Sorry.

MR. SMITH: Then I'm not going to have time in my three minutes.

JUDGE WALLIS: Then you are certainly welcome to submit your written comments for whatever additional that you aren't able to speak to.

MR. SMITH: Okay.

MR. POSNER: I gave you some time back.

MR. SMITH: So that's analogous to the BIA in charge of doing an EIS for proposed traffic casinos such as the -- and giving a recommendation to the DOI such as the

1 grand 600,000 square foot off-reservation casino proposal
2 for Cascade Locks, which would also destroy the majesty of
3 the Columbia River Gorge.

4 I feel that both of these agencies are enablers
5 for the parties they represent. I find it hard to believe
6 these agencies can be fully transparent and impartial. How
7 many wind turbine proposals has EFSEC rejected? The
8 interests of the majority should outweigh the financial
9 benefits of the few.

10 This would be the first wind turbine project in a
11 wooded area in the Northwest, therefore impacts to wildlife
12 are unknown. This proposal is within a designated special
13 emphasis area for protection of the Northern Spotted Owl, an
14 endangered species in Washington state.

15 These wind turbines will have -- can have
16 deleterious effects on numerous birds and bat populations.
17 Stated in the EIS, by the Applicant, under unavoidable
18 adverse impacts, quote, the project would result in some
19 ongoing mortality to birds and bats, and that this level is
20 not expected to be high enough to impact species viability.
21 The proponent is only speculating on this, there's no hard
22 science to back this claim.

23 The Columbia River Gorge is part of the Pacific
24 Flyway for numerous migratory birds. There's no model to
25 predict the mortality in such a heavily used flyway. These

1 wind turbines will be 420 feet tall. The Space Needle is
2 605 feet tall. The Columbia River Gorge is no place for any
3 manmade structure on top of the beautiful ridge lines.

4 The EIS states the level of visual impact would
5 not be higher than low to moderate at any of the view points
6 examined. Over half of the proposed wind turbines would be
7 highly visible from several designated key viewing areas
8 which is more than moderate negative impact. People come to
9 the Columbia River Gorge to enjoy many recreational
10 opportunities. If they want to see the Space Needle they
11 can drive to Seattle.

12 Multiple agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service
13 and the National Park Service has recommended substantial
14 modifications to this project as it is currently proposed.
15 This project would harm sacred cultural resources as
16 confirmed by two separate professional archaeologists'
17 reports by the Yakama Nation.

18 In closing, the wind turbines are made by a
19 foreign company with the majority of energy forecast to go
20 to California. The tax credits the proponent will receive
21 will be coming from my tax dollars to fund a --

22 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

23 MR. SMITH: -- supposed green energy project that
24 will purchase foreign made materials for energy slated to
25 mostly go to California.

1 There's no guarantee that the construction jobs
2 will go to locals. And the miniscule eight to nine on-site
3 positions stated in the EIS may also go to outsiders.

4 Sure there's been a mandate put in place for each
5 state to reach a certain amount of renewable energy, but
6 just because the wind blows doesn't mean you erect several
7 dozen Space Needles in that area, especially in areas so
8 unique in all of America as the Columbia River Gorge. Do we
9 have to ruin all of our scenic places in the name of manmade
10 progress?

11 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Mary
12 Repar.

13 MS. REPAR: Hello.

14 JUDGE WALLIS: Raise your right hand, please.

15 (Mary Repar sworn on oath.)

16 JUDGE WALLIS: Please state your name and spell
17 your last name for the reporter.

18 MS. REPAR: Mary Repar, R-e-p-a-r. 6971 East Loop
19 Road, No. 2, Stevenson, Washington 98648.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed with
21 your comments.

22

23 MARY REPAR,

24 having been first duly sworn on oath,

25 testified as follows:

1 TESTIMONY OF MARY REPAR

2 It's good to see you all. Thank you very much for
3 coming back. Like some wine and like some stories they may
4 be good, but some stories and some wine turn bad over time.
5 And this story isn't getting any better, and the wine isn't
6 getting any better either.

7 Whistling Ridge is a bad idea whose time has come
8 to be nixed. So I hope that with all the information that
9 you're getting you will nix this idea. This is a bad
10 project in a bad place. I won't go -- I'll be emailing my
11 comments to you and they're lengthy.

12 But just for tonight, I want to introduce
13 Northwest Energy Consults White Paper, The Effects of an
14 Increasing Surplus of Energy Generating Capability in the
15 Pacific Northwest. Wind farms are producing too much energy
16 for the existing power lines, and BPA isn't having any fun
17 balancing the capacity load. That's what this draft paper
18 is about.

19 Most of this energy is going to the energy hog
20 California. I don't think we need to be raking and
21 pillaging our environment to satisfy their need. They need
22 to suck it up.

23 There's a second article, The Top Ten False and
24 Misleading Claims the Wind Power Industry Makes. And three
25 of those claims are wind plants do not harm wildlife,

1 industrial wind developers are interested only in providing
2 a public service and wind plants are highly efficient and
3 provide power for significant numbers of homes. Not.

4 Noise. The issue of noise is extremely important.
5 And Neighbors on Wind Farms Cash Out is an article that I
6 will be submitting to you, it was in the Oregonian on
7 January 2nd. These are people at Shepherds Flat who are
8 being bought out or have signed noise waivers because
9 they're interested in their health more than they are in
10 living in an area where they're going to be subjected to
11 wind noise.

12 So I think this is something that you all have to
13 look at very carefully. Nina Pierpont, Dr. Nina Pierpont
14 had the new book out called Wind Turbine Noise Syndrome, and
15 it's \$18, so I couldn't buy it to put in the record, but
16 maybe you all can.

17 And then I would also like to introduce the
18 articles, True Cost of Electricity From Wind Power, and The
19 True Cost of Electricity From Wind Power Is Always
20 Underestimated and its Value is Always Overestimated by
21 Mr. Glenn Schleede who is an expert in the field of doing
22 cost benefit analyses. And that is something that was not
23 covered in the DEIS.

24 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

25 MS. REPAR: So I would urge us to all go back to

1 that and do a recent cost benefit analysis.

2 And, finally, tax breaks have already become so
3 generous that they, not the alleged environmental and energy
4 benefits, have become the primary reason wind farms have
5 been built in the U.S.

6 So thank you very much. Good luck with your
7 reasoning and digestion, and hopefully this bad story will
8 end. Thank you very much.

9 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. David
10 L'Hommedieu.

11 MR. L'HOMMEDIEU: If you don't mind I'll sit here.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Let's adjust the mic so you can be
13 heard.

14 I'm going to ask you to raise your right hand.

15 (Dave L'Hommedieu sworn on oath.)

16 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name and spell
17 your last name for us.

18 MR. L'HOMMEDIEU: Dave L'Hommedieu,
19 L-'-H-o-m-m-e-d-i-e-u.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: And state your mailing address for
21 us, please.

22 MR. L'HOMMEDIEU: P.O. Box 130, Stevenson,
23 Washington.

24 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. Please
25 proceed with your comments.

1 DAVE L'HOMMEDIEU,
2 having been first duly sworn on oath,
3 testified as follows:
4

5 TESTIMONY OF DAVE L'HOMMEDIEU

6 Council Members, I thank you for the opportunity
7 to speak today. I support this Whistling Ridge Energy
8 Project. I've been living in town here for close to 15
9 years, and I'm very interested in the economy of this
10 county. I'm presently a member of the Economic Development
11 Committee in Skamania County.

12 Historically, Skamania County has relied on
13 revenues from timber harvest to provide necessary services
14 to its residents. The secure rural schools and county
15 funding is declining annually and will end soon. Skamania
16 County must take advantage of each opportunity it has to
17 grow its tax base and move toward physical sustainability.

18 Skamania County's unemployment rate is currently
19 over 12 percent. This project would provide 143
20 construction jobs, nine permanent jobs, five indirect jobs
21 for a total of 14 new family wage jobs. In a county with a
22 small work force this is a huge impact. \$650,000 annually
23 would generate to support state and local passing districts
24 and the \$900,000 in employee generated local spending there
25 would be substantial ongoing indirect jobs and revenue

1 creation.

2 I have in my hand, which you will get a copy of, a
3 letter that I received or I took from the Save Our Scenic
4 Area website. This letter is from a Mr. Wirt Maxey, a
5 member of SOSA, to Puget Sound Energy. This letter is full
6 of threats and inaccuracies. It claims Whistling Ridge
7 would be visible from all of Skamania County and all of Hood
8 River. That's untrue. It demands that Puget Sound Energy
9 place a wind farm in the west end of Skamania County. The
10 scenic area goes all the way to the east end of Skamania
11 County to the west end of Skamania County along the Columbia
12 River. Shame on them for using these despicable tactics. I
13 will not list anymore.

14 I believe that Whistling Ridge energy is the right
15 project at the right time and the right place. The project
16 creates --

17 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

18 MR. L'HOMMEDIEU: -- green economic development.
19 It is environmentally prudent. It is located entirely
20 outside the national scenic area boundaries, yet provides
21 needed fiscal resources to support community and tourism in
22 the county.

23 I urge the Board to support siting the Whistling
24 Ridge Energy Project in its proposed location. Thank you.

25 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. John

1 Hubner, Tom Linde and Stuart Emmons are next. It will be
2 Mr. Hubner, then Mr. Linde, then Mr. Evans.

3 MR. HUBNER: Good evening.

4 JUDGE WALLIS: You have your right hand raised.
5 (John Hubner sworn on oath.)

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name for us
7 and spell your last name.

8 MR. HUBNER: John Hubner, H-u-b-n-e-r. 122 Foster
9 Road, Carson, Washington 98610.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much, please proceed
11 with your comments.

12

13 JOHN HUBNER,
14 having been first duly sworn on oath,
15 testified as follows:

16

17 TESTIMONY OF JOHN HUBNER

18 I don't have anything formal here, it's just that
19 I would like to state that I am definitely against this
20 project and for several reasons.

21 One is in particular is the scenic value of the
22 Columbia River Gorge. I do realize what literature I have
23 read on it that it is outside of the scenic area. Well, it
24 could be two yards out of the scenic area, but 450 feet in
25 the air is definitely visible in the scenic area. And I'm

1 against it for those reasons.

2 The scenic thing is people, in my opinion, don't
3 realize that there's very little scenic areas left in our
4 country. We're expanding at a massive rate of development.
5 And I would like to hang and to what little we have. And
6 this is very important for this Columbia River Gorge.

7 The other thing is I don't see where these eight
8 jobs are that big of a deal. Are the eight jobs going to be
9 Skamania County employees? Are they going to be Klickitat
10 County employees? Nobody talks about this. Or are they
11 going to be out of state? Nobody says.

12 There's nothing positive about the revenues that
13 are going to come in regards to the employment. And 114
14 jobs as I heard there, and thank you for that information,
15 to construct them is wonderful. But how long is that?
16 That's definitely temporary. So, beneficially, as far as
17 employment and jobs I don't see where it's of value as
18 compared to ruining the scenic area. There's plenty of
19 other windy areas.

20 And so when we talk about -- they talked about the
21 economy, that's a good example. They're saying, hey, we're
22 leaving this massive debt to our children. What are we
23 leaving our children for scenic value? What are you going
24 to see 40 years from now? We've got to save something and
25 we have to save some value to this country. Thank you.

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

2 Mr. Posner, would you check that microphone and
3 make sure it's working.

4 MR. POSNER: This one?

5 JUDGE WALLIS: Yes. Tom Linde will be the next
6 one.

7 MR. POSNER: Testing. It's working. I encourage
8 folks to adjust it because everybody is different, up or
9 down maybe.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Raise your right hand please.

11 (Tom Linde sworn on oath.)

12 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
13 name.

14 MR. LINDE: Tom Linde, L-i-n-d-e. 5312 Wind River
15 Road, Carson, Washington 98610.

16 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed with
17 your comments.

18

19 TOM LINDE,

20 having been first duly sworn on oath,

21 testified as follows:

22

23 TESTIMONY OF TOM LINDE

24 I have been following this issue for quite a
25 while, and basically I am a retired forest service employee

1 who was involved in drafting the recreational plan for the
2 Scenic Area Gorge and the view shift through the Scenic Area
3 Gorge.

4 I see no problem with this project since it does
5 lay outside the Gorge area. A line has to be drawn
6 someplace, and no matter where it's drawn somebody's not
7 going to be happy. This is on private property. I support
8 private property rights. And I support this project fully.
9 Thank you.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

11 Next speaker is Stuart Emmons, and then Ole
12 Helgerson and Dean Stevenson.

13 (Stuart Emmons sworn on oath.)

14 MR. EMMONS: My name is Stewart Emmons. I'm at
15 2211 Southwest Park, Portland, Oregon.

16 JUDGE WALLIS: And spell your last name for us,
17 please.

18 MR. EMMONS: E-m-m-o-n-s.

19 JUDGE WALLIS: And if you tip that mic up and move
20 close to it. When you hear yourself then everybody else can
21 hear you.

22

23 STUART EMMONS,

24 having been first duly sworn on oath,

25 testified as follows:

1 TESTIMONY OF STUART EMMONS

2 I'm opposed to the Whistling Ridge windmill
3 project. 426-foot towers, that is really, really tall.
4 This is absolutely the wrong place to put a windmill
5 project. The Gorge is a national treasure. We have the
6 Grand Tetons, the Grand Canyon, places throughout our
7 country that who would think to put a windmill project in.
8 The Gorge is one of those projects.

9 As the Pacific Northwest, we're all Pacific
10 Northwesterners, and our population is growing, it's going
11 to keep growing. You know, in our city we're looking at,
12 you know, another, you know, million people coming in. And
13 we have to draw the line some place.

14 And one thing that makes our place unique are
15 these areas like the Gorge, like Mount Rainier that we can
16 go and see what our country was like before we came and
17 developed it.

18 We've had pipelines. We've had casinos coming
19 into the Gorge threatening the Gorge. We have to draw the
20 line. We have to just say no. I respect our friends from
21 the Gorge who need more jobs. We all need more jobs, but I
22 think there are creative ways to bring jobs without defacing
23 a national treasure. Thank you.

24 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.
25 Mr. Helgerson.

1 MR. HELGERSON: How is the sound, okay?

2 JUDGE WALLIS: We can hear you, I think. Raise
3 your right hand, please.

4 (Ole Helgerson sworn on oath.)

5 JUDGE WALLIS: And state your name and spell your
6 last name for us.

7 MR. HELGERSON: My name is Ole, middle initial T,
8 Helgerson, last name spelled H-e-l-g-e-r-s-o-n.

9 JUDGE WALLIS: And your mailing address.

10 MR. HELGERSON: Mailing address, P.O. Box 285,
11 Carson, Washington 98610.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. Please
13 proceed with your comments.

14

15 OLE HELGERSON,
16 having been first duly sworn on oath,
17 testified as follows:

18

19 TESTIMONY OF OLE HELGERSON

20 Thank you, Your Honor. Good evening. I
21 appreciate the Council taking the time to be here tonight.
22 This is an important process.

23 As mentioned, my name is Ole Helgerson. I have
24 resided in Carson, Washington, Skamania County, for nearly
25 20 years now. I retired after public service as a forestry

1 educator and before that as a researcher. I hold a
2 doctorate in forestry.

3 I greatly appreciate the need for clean renewable
4 energy in our society and where energy demand is going;
5 however, I oppose the Whistling Ridge wind farm development
6 at this time for the following biological reasons based on
7 information from the National Wind Coordinating Cooperative,
8 an organization representing the wind power industry.
9 Research on wildlife as noted has so far been limited to
10 wind farms on grassland or shrub-steppe ecosystems. No data
11 appear to be available for Western Forest Coniferous
12 ecosystems. Existing research indicates that raptor
13 mortality is greatest on ridge top areas. This wind farm
14 would be, according to the map I saw, on a ridge top. If
15 the wind farm increases the prey base for raptors such as
16 the Northern Spotted Owl or eagles then raptor mortality
17 would also appear to increase.

18 The newer turbine designs, the larger ones, seem
19 to reduce raptor mortality; however, their effects on
20 songbirds are uncertain. And according to the little
21 information sheet I saw less is known about bat populations.
22 With this biologic uncertainty to me it doesn't make sense
23 to proceed here and now.

24 In addition to the ecological concerns it's
25 compounded because of the project's location to the scenic

1 area which many people have referenced. These things are
2 tall. They're going to be visually apparent to
3 recreationists. This has the potential to reduce
4 recreational revenue to our communities which depend on
5 this.

6 The visual degradation comes from the sight of the
7 towers, the flashing lights. And there's also the sound
8 aspect which appears ephemeral at this point but could
9 exist.

10 In comparison, for me as a forester the SDS
11 proposed route mill resort development makes an awful lot
12 more sense both ecologically and economically short and long
13 term.

14 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

15 MR. HELGERSON: Thank you. That concludes my
16 comments, Your Honor.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much for those
18 comments. Next we have Dean Stevenson. And after him North
19 Cheatham and then Doug Charters.

20 (Dean Stevenson sworn on oath.)

21 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
22 name for us.

23 MR. STEVENSON: Dean Stevenson, S-t-e-v-e-n-s-o-n.

24 JUDGE WALLIS: And your mailing address.

25 MR. STEVENSON: 3672 Northwest 124th Place,

1 Portland, Oregon.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you never much. Please
3 proceed with your comments.

4

5 DEAN STEVENSON,
6 having been first duly sworn on oath,
7 testified as follows:

8

9 TESTIMONY OF DEAN STEVENSON

10 Thank you. American Government and American
11 people have made a big commitment to move more towards
12 renewable energy. In the Northwest large electrical
13 companies, PGE, Pacific Power & Light have also made huge
14 commitments to their shareholders, to their customers to not
15 only produce but purchase more renewable green energy that's
16 environmentally friendly.

17 The Whistling Ridge windmills are very low impact
18 on the environment. They bring many jobs during the
19 construction phase. They bring jobs throughout the life of
20 the program, brings in tax revenues for not only the county,
21 the school districts and for many, many years to come.

22 And it seems to me that the major descending voice
23 here is not in my backyard. And it seems that they're, you
24 know, rather than being friends of the Gorge or friends of
25 the environment it's more it's not -- the message that I

1 hear against it is not in my backyard. Thank you.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. North
3 Cheatham. Raise your right hand, please.

4 (North Cheatham sworn on oath.)

5 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
6 name, please.

7 MR. CHEATHAM: My name is North Cheatham, that's
8 C-h-e-a-t-h-a-m. My mailing address is 3 East Point, Hood
9 River, Oregon 97031.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

11

12 NORTH CHEATHAM,
13 having been first duly sworn on oath,
14 testified as follows:

15

16 TESTIMONY OF NORTH CHEATHAM

17 First of all, I would like to thank you,
18 Mr. Wallis, and members of the committee for the opportunity
19 to speak today. I support this project.

20 Back in 1996, I was awarded the stewardship award
21 for the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area for my
22 agriculture operation. I have served as Chair of the Gorge
23 Commissions Community Advisory Team throughout much of 2008.
24 And I have lived approximately 300 feet from a 90-kilowatt
25 turbine.

1 We need more energy. The U.S. Department of
2 energy has forecasts that we need approximately 1.1 percent
3 more energy every year at least through 2030. We have
4 committed to shutting Boardman down by 2020, that's 600
5 megawatts of power going offline in 2020. We must replace
6 clean power. We must replace it with clean power not no
7 power.

8 The Whistling Ridge wind site has the highest
9 annual wind speed measured in the state of Washington. It's
10 a primary resource and exploiting it is entirely appropriate
11 under controlled conditions.

12 I wasn't here 100 years ago so I wouldn't have
13 known the glaciers on Mount Hood have already receded
14 30 percent if I hadn't read it in a study. I could talk
15 about the Wilkins ice sheet collapsing into the Arctic Ocean
16 last year, ice sheet the size of Lane County in Oregon. But
17 it's a long way away, so let's not worry about Antarctica or
18 the Arctic Ocean. Let's just worry about what's locally
19 appropriate.

20 The build out of wind energy everywhere we can is
21 critical to prevent brownouts in the future, including areas
22 visible but adjacent to the National Scenic Area. We must
23 stop resisting the erection of wind turbines.

24 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

25 MR. CHEATHAM: They are the key to keeping our

1 lights on and dramatically reducing our release of
2 greenhouse gases. Thank you.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Our
4 next speaker will be Doug Charters. After Mr. Charters I
5 apologize for my inability to decipher in it's entirety,
6 it's an S. T. Jones, and then Jules Burton. And then we'll
7 need another list. So, Mr. Charters, raise your right hand,
8 please.

9

10 DOUG CHARTERS,
11 having been first duly sworn on oath,
12 testified as follows:

13

14 TESTIMONY OF DOUG CHARTERS

15 MR. CHARTERS: Doug Charters, C-h-a-r-t-e-r-s.
16 P.O. Box 1655, White Salmon, Washington.

17 I did quite a bit of research on this, and I found
18 myself in support of it. I do work for SDS. I'm a member
19 of the Friends of the Gorge and several other types people
20 in those ranges. I have been here for 50 years of my life.

21 One thing is kind of like Plan B of this project.
22 Plan A had the DNR involved, and it would have had less
23 impact on the visual quality in the Gorge. And,
24 unfortunately, the DNR removed itself from it. So the
25 company had to readjust and do what you have to do to

1 continue on.

2 But in the state of Washington we also are going
3 to close down a coal plant, too. And that energy is going
4 to have to be replaced. And this is a good way to replace
5 it.

6 The birds and the bat thing there, I believe
7 there's a possibility of a high-pitched type noise device
8 that could be applied to these to keep the bats and birds
9 out of -- I call it the death zone, it's the vacuum behind
10 the turbines. They don't impact the turbines, they just get
11 in a certain point in the stream of the thing and it will
12 suck the wind out of their lungs is what happens. That may
13 be able to be overcome.

14 The thing of the DNR deal here, DNR people have a
15 lot of people laid off. Our whole timber industry isn't in
16 very good shape. And what I kind of find sad is the state
17 of Washington has the educational system using the timber
18 tax dollars and revenues from the timber on DNR controlled
19 lands, and private, and corporate lands the taxes go into
20 the educational system. And we're increasing our
21 populations and we're decreasing our funding for these
22 things. I would like to see more wind turbines across the
23 plateaus of Western Klickitat County above the -- or in the
24 overlay zone area, because the wind is there and the
25 capability is there.

1 The power lines situation the one lady referred
2 to, I have heard rumor thereof that there may be a third
3 major power line come through here in the future just to
4 meet the demands. But we have to wean ourselves off of oil.
5 We have to wean ourselves off of coal. We have to do the
6 clean things or as a species we will not survive. This is a
7 start. It does have problems, but, you know, do what you
8 can do. These won't be here forever, what is it? Maybe a
9 50 year lifespan of this project? Whether it gets replaced
10 after the 50 years, who knows, maybe we use logic and reason
11 we can develop something better. But until that it's a
12 major -- and it has great potential and further on, you
13 know, the capacity of this project.

14 And I really care about the Gorge and I care about
15 its scenic and cultural values, but we need to do what we
16 need to do. Like I say, this won't last forever, but it
17 will help. And oil is a lucrative, not a fuel. Thank you.

18 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

19 Ms. Smith -- or Jones, I'm sorry.

20 (Sallie Tucker Jones sworn on oath.)

21 JUDGE WALLIS: Can you state your full name and
22 spell your last name for us.

23 MS. JONES: My name is Sallie Tucker Jones. And
24 my last name is spelled J-o-n-e-s. I live at 82, and I will
25 spell this for you, Thuja Narrow, T-h-u-j-a, N-a-r-r-o-w.

1 And my post office is in Washougal, but I live in the west
2 end of Skamania County. 98671 is the ZIP code.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed with
4 your comments.

5

6 SALLIE TUCKER JONES,
7 having been first duly sworn on oath,
8 testified as follows:

9

10 TESTIMONY OF SALLIE TUCKER JONES

11 Thank you. As you may or may not remember, I've
12 submitted to you a number of comments about this project.
13 So I decided that I would try to narrow down my focus and
14 present to you my two or maybe three main concerns this
15 evening.

16 My one concern is that the draft EIS document be
17 fair, accurate and complete. And I'm sure as you're aware,
18 if you do remember any of my comments, I'm very unhappy with
19 the document. I think it's not so as it so stands. I know
20 that you're in the process of revising it and adding to it.
21 I'm hoping that the adjudicative hearings that you've been
22 here all week for are adding and clarifying some of the
23 issues that are involved in the -- will be put into that
24 document.

25 I guess my second point mainly is that on the

1 state's renewable resources portfolio requirements to
2 develop alternative sources of power, I think I may be
3 mistaken, but I thought I read somewhere that not only are
4 wind sites suppose to be selected, but at this point in time
5 the best wind project sites are suppose to be selected. And
6 I'm not convinced myself from the information and data that
7 I have researched that this project would qualify as one of
8 the best sites. Thank you.

9 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you.

10 MS. JONES: I guess that's just about it. I have
11 cost concerns about this project. I think in the draft EIS
12 were not included certain issues regarding the alternative
13 sources, for instance, or backup sources of power generation
14 that are required for certain wind or for wind power
15 projects. And I think those should be probably included in
16 the cost. I didn't see any mention of them. I may have
17 missed that, but I think those should be included. They
18 were not included.

19 I guess last I just want to wish you all or thank
20 you all for the efforts you're putting forth. And to wish
21 you well and hope that you maintain your energy and
22 integrity throughout this long and complicated process.
23 Thank you very much.

24 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much.

25 MS. JONES: One other thing if I have time, I

1 wanted to submit a document, may I do that?

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Yes, you may.

3 MS. JONES: This is a Northwest Power Planning
4 Council position or paper put out on January 3rd, 2011. The
5 Effects of Increasing Surplus of Energy Generating
6 Capability in the Pacific Northwest and the problems that it
7 is creating. If may I submit that?

8 JUDGE WALLIS: Yes.

9 MS. JONES: Thank you.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. Raise your
11 right hand, please.

12 (Jules Burton sworn on oath.)

13 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
14 name for us, please.

15 MS. BURTON: My name is Jules Burton, B-u-r-t-o-n.

16 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. And give us your
17 mailing address, please.

18 MS. BURTON: I live at 1219 Columbia Street in
19 Hood River, Oregon.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you, please proceed.

21

22 JULES BURTON,

23 having been first duly sworn on oath,

24 testified as follows:

25 ///

1 TESTIMONY OF JULES BURTON

2 Thank you. Gentlemen, ma'am, thank you very much
3 for going through this process. I think this is an
4 important piece for attaining good balance in the energy
5 battles we're going to have ahead.

6 I would like to say that I do favor wind energy.
7 And I am still observing this process and trying to
8 understand it fully. It's a very complex situation that I
9 think deserves a lot of thought.

10 I am here for a couple of different reasons.
11 First off, I'm a teacher of environmental science. I
12 struggle to identify and understand the compromises we make
13 daily with regards to going forward in a sustainable way.
14 And I also am hoping to inspire future generations to come
15 to meetings like this and speak their minds if they have
16 something to say. I believe if you're here living in this
17 area you will have something to say at some point. So thank
18 you again for providing the opportunity for these young
19 people who are in the audience right now.

20 Also, I have been at the meeting in Underwood
21 yesterday, and I do appreciate you all going to Underwood
22 for that meeting. It was important for the people of
23 Underwood to have that recognition because it's so largely
24 going to impact their community. And I noticed many people
25 speaking about human impacts, and that is very important of

1 course. I would like to echo Ms. Jones' comments about the
2 wildlife issue with the Environmental Impact Statement that
3 was completed for this project. And I'm sure is being
4 revised for the changes that will go on in this process.

5 I am concerned a lot about bats, and I know that
6 this is something you are all concerned about. And you are
7 looking into ways of mitigating the impact on bats, all of
8 the bats in Washington and Oregon, and there are two notable
9 species of concerns Townsend's big-eared bat and long-legged
10 myotis bats that inhabitate that particular area in the
11 forest. And as everyone has said, we don't have very many
12 analog studies about what happens when you put a wind
13 situation in the middle of a forested area.

14 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

15 MS. BURTON: Thank you. I have two pieces to
16 submit to you. One of which you may have already seen.
17 It's a partial report about mixed coniferous forest and
18 mitigation for bat movement through it by changing the speed
19 of the windmill.

20 And I would like to remind you of the Department
21 of Fish and Wildlife statement that mentions that you need
22 to pay specific attention, please, to the environmental
23 impact of the bats. Thank you very much.

24 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. You can give
25 those to staff.

1 is insignificant when one considers the greater cause.

2 No one in this room will live long enough to see
3 this country or the world weaned off of oil. We have been
4 held hostage for far too long by the politics of oil. I
5 cringe every time I fill up the gas tank of my car. Times
6 are changing. People are wising up. You can now buy a
7 plug-in electric car. I dream of the day when oil is not
8 worth the sand it is found under in the Middle East. Only
9 then will the world be a better and safer place.

10 Whistling Ridge can be a part of this great
11 transformation. When the wind turbines are turning we can
12 all look up and know that on a local level we all played a
13 part in this fight to regain independence from our
14 dependency on mid-Eastern oil.

15 Skamania County does not have an argument worth of
16 being exempt from this responsibility. I am thankful SDS
17 has the ability, desire and insight to contribute and lead
18 this area in this great cause. To me providing much needed
19 jobs and tax revenue to our area is icing on the cake.

20 SDS, the Friends of the Gorge and the residents of
21 this area can show the world together we can successfully
22 engineer local and global environmental responsibility.
23 It's time to move past discussion and begin construction.
24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Jacki

1 Duncan and then Jamie Tulfree.

2 (Jacki Duncan sworn on oath.)

3 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
4 name, please.

5 MS. DUNCAN: Jacki Duncan, D-u-n-c-a-n. I live at
6 P.O. Box 67, Carson, Washington.

7 JUDGE WALLIS: And please proceed with your
8 comments.

9

10 JACKI DUNCAN,
11 having been first duly sworn on oath,
12 testified as follows:

13

14 TESTIMONY OF JACKI DUNCAN

15 Okay. I haven't been living in the Gorge but for
16 a couple years. And when I drove out here from Texas and I
17 saw these windmills I was fascinated by the beauty and the
18 majesty of them. And I mean when I heard about this project
19 in the paper I just thought what a beautiful way to provide
20 clean air to the people of this area.

21 And I support this because I feel like it will not
22 have any significant negative impact on any special status
23 wildlife species. And in preparation for Whistling Ridge
24 SDS has conducted extensive wildlife studies. And none of
25 these special status avian species such as Northern Spotted

1 Owls, Goshawks and Bald and Golden Eagles were found to be
2 endangered by the wind farm.

3 And also I read where this thing is -- if this is
4 true, this is wonderful. How can anyone not want this? But
5 in a single year of operations the project will displace
6 114,000 barrels of crude oil, 132,000 tons of CO2 which is
7 equivalent to taking 22,500 cars off the road. So it's kind
8 of like if you feel like you have got lemons somewhere out
9 in this project then I feel we could make lemonade out of
10 them looking at these things providing jobs.

11 I see all these empty buildings in Stevenson and
12 Carson that once was a thriving business that are no more.
13 And I would love to see businesses reopen and taxes -- just
14 the economy thrive again. And I feel like this would be a
15 beautiful way to do that not only -- when you see these
16 things turning maybe you could think of something that is --
17 every time it turns around in its majestic beauty you could
18 think about all the wonderful clean air it's producing and
19 all the jobs and the healthy economy that it could help with
20 this too. So I definitely support it.

21 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. Jamie Tolfree
22 and Dave McKenzie, are you in the audience and still wish to
23 speak? Now is the time to step forward.

24 MS. TALBURT: Jamie stepped outside, sir.

25 MR. MCKENZIE: I can go ahead.

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Raise your right hand.

2 (Dave McKenzie sworn on oath.)

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed. State us your
4 name, spell your last name.

5 MR. MCKENZIE: Dave McKenzie, M-c-K-e-n-z-i-e.

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Your mailing address.

7

8 DAVE MCKENZIE,

9 having been first duly sworn on oath,

10 testified as follows:

11

12 TESTIMONY OF DAVE MCKENZIE

13 P.O. Box 461, big town of Stevenson here, 98648.

14 Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak
15 today. I appreciate you being here in Stevenson. I do
16 support the Whistling Ridge Energy Project for the following
17 reasons. Skamania County's ability to grow its economy and
18 develop renewable energy projects is very limited. The
19 Whistling Ridge Wind Energy Project is proposed for a site
20 that is privately owned and consistent with land use
21 requirements. It is located entirely outside the Columbia
22 River Gorge National Scenic Area; and, therefore, no
23 development restrictions are imposed on this site by that
24 legislation.

25 But speaking of the Gorge Scenic Act that was

1 passed in '86 the Federal Government has purchased more than
2 20,000 acres of private land in Skamania County removing
3 this land from the county's tax roll and to be set aside for
4 scenic protection, which is great. But also within that
5 scenic area was passed -- we still have timber harvesting in
6 the Gifford Pinchot, but that is pretty well all but dried
7 up in subsequent years.

8 Let me share briefly what percentage of Skamania
9 County land base is available for development. Total
10 acreage in Skamania County is about one million acres,
11 roughly 80 percent of that is in the Gifford Pinchot
12 National Forest. Another eight percent is in the Columbia
13 River Gorge National Scenic Area where development is
14 severely restricted. Six percent is in state forestland.
15 And four percent is in private forest commercial resource
16 land.

17 Now, in doing the math, that leaves us
18 three percent to develop within Skamania County, that's the
19 total land base available for residential, commercial,
20 business, industrial development. And, obviously, the
21 figure includes land that has already been developed. So
22 you really don't even have the total three percent to be
23 able to develop.

24 Historically, Skamania County has relied on
25 revenues from timber harvest to provide necessary services

1 for its residents. The secure rural schools and county's
2 funding is declining annually and will end soon.

3 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

4 MR. MCKENZIE: Skamania County must take advantage
5 of each opportunity. I believe Whistling Ridge energy is
6 the right project at the right time and the right place.
7 The project creates green economic development that is
8 environmentally prudent. As I stated before, it is entirely
9 located outside the National Scenic Area boundaries, yet
10 provides needed fiscal resources to support community and
11 tourism in Skamania County. I urge you to support siting
12 Whistling Ridge at its current location.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Jamie
14 Tolfree. Raise your right hand.

15 (Jamie Tolfree sworn on oath.)

16 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
17 name.

18 MS. TOLFREE: My name is Jamie Tolfree,
19 T-o-l-f-r-e-e. P.O. Box 768, Carson, Washington 98610.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed with
21 your comments.

22

23 JAMIE TOLFREE,

24 having been first duly sworn on oath,

25 testified as follows:

1 TESTIMONY OF JAMIE TOLFREE

2 Thank you for another opportunity to hear the
3 citizens of Skamania County about this issue. I am a former
4 Skamania County Commissioner, very recently former Skamania
5 County Commissioner. I moved to the Columbia River Gorge
6 because of its beauty. I came to Skamania County over 30
7 years ago as a college intern.

8 I consider myself a realistic environmentalist,
9 one that looks at the environment from a global perspective
10 and acts on it. I support the Whistling Ridge Energy
11 Project for numerous reasons.

12 In 2006, Washington voters approved by ballot
13 initiative measure I-937 to insure that Washington state has
14 15 percent of its renewable energy by the year 2020. This
15 shows the majority of Washington voters want to see an
16 increase in the development of additional renewable energy
17 resources.

18 They also see the need to address climate change
19 and move away from fossil fuels. So do I. In order to do
20 so we need to embrace various types of alternative energy
21 resources. Whistling Ridge Energy Project is such an
22 opportunity. It will also help create local backup when
23 there is a longterm electrical outage as occurred a few
24 years ago.

25 On an economic level only three percent of

1 Skamania County's land is developable as Dave stated. He
2 gave you much more detail, so I won't even go into that
3 portion of it. Dave just spoke and talked about how limited
4 our development area is because of the National Scenic
5 legislation and environmental mandates that have occurred on
6 Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

7 A point I want to make that has not really been
8 brought up very much when you look at visibility is the fact
9 that the Whistling Ridge Energy Project is located entirely
10 on private property outside of the National Scenic Area on a
11 mountaintop that is far from pristine.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Maybe if you tip the mic down a
13 little.

14 MS. TOLFREE: There, is that better?

15 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you.

16 MS. TOLFREE: Other ridges adjacent to the Gorge
17 would be highly inappropriate for wind turbines; however,
18 the proposed project is a single strand of turbines running
19 up a ridge of a previously disturbed environment. Underwood
20 Mountain has been inundated with private property
21 developments in the form of orchards, vineyards and houses
22 that are highly visible for many miles away for over 100
23 years.

24 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

25 MS. TOLFREE: This is not a pristine site.

1 Turbines will do little to further detract from this
2 developed area.

3 The project received a lack of objection
4 recommendations from the environmental protection agency.
5 And although they raise a few concerns about bats and birds,
6 I trust that SDS will comply with requirements imposed on
7 them by various agencies to address these potential
8 concerns.

9 Ultimately, Whistling Ridge project will be
10 beneficial to Skamania County, the state of Washington and
11 the world as a whole. I encourage you to support the
12 project. Thank you very much.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

14 Let me ask if there are any other people signed
15 up?

16 MS. TALBURT: There's no one else signed up.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Very good. Are there people in the
18 audience who would like to speak? I see a lady in the back.
19 Would you step forward.

20 MR. POSNER: I believe she was next.

21 JUDGE WALLIS: We have three chairs up here for
22 people that would like to get in line. Come on and step up
23 here, please. Raise your right hand, please.

24 (Britney Aker sworn on oath.)

25 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name and spell

1 your last name for us.

2 MS. AKER: Britney Aker, A-k-e-r.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. What is your mailing
4 address?

5 MS. AKER: P.O. Box 1968, White Salmon, Washington
6 98672.

7 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

8

9 BRITNEY AKER,

10 having been first duly sworn on oath,

11 testified as follows:

12

13 TESTIMONY OF BRITNEY AKER

14 I came here with my environmental science class.
15 This is my first public meeting. I didn't know a lot about
16 this issue until I came here. And from things people have
17 said I feel like we shouldn't have the wind turbines here.
18 Because I've lived here for ten years, and ever since I've
19 moved here I've really loved the views and the hiking and
20 the nature.

21 And I feel like the animals shouldn't have to
22 adapt to these wind turbines and have their habitat
23 disrupted for us. Because I've heard like other energies
24 that we're getting from the dams and stuff, a lot of it is
25 going to California. So instead of sending it all the way

1 there, why don't we just use that extra energy for us. And
2 so that's all I have to say.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much for your
4 comments. Next person. Raise your right hand, please.

5 (Loreley Drach sworn on oath.)

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you pull that microphone
7 closer, tip it up and see if you can hear yourself when you
8 speak.

9 MS. DRACH: Is this better?

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Much better.

11 MS. DRACH: Thank you very much.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name?

13 MS. DRACH: My name is Loreley Drach. I live in
14 Underwood, Washington.

15 JUDGE WALLIS: Very good. Could you raise your
16 right hand.

17 (Loreley Drach sworn on oath.)

18 JUDGE WALLIS: Now, this is a test. Your mailing
19 address, please.

20 MS. DRACH: Oh, mailing address. P.O. Box 67,
21 Underwood.

22 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much.

23 THE COURT REPORTER: Could you please spell your
24 last name.

25 ///

1 LORELEY DRACH,
2 having been first duly sworn on oath,
3 testified as follows:
4

5 TESTIMONY OF LORELEY DRACH

6 D-r-a-c-h. I actually pulled my information from
7 the Secretary of the State website. So I hope it's correct,
8 because I'm basing my conclusions on this.

9 So I wanted to thank you for taking the time out
10 of your busy schedules to come hear the public. I think
11 it's great that everybody has showed up. But I want to also
12 make note there's about two million people from the state of
13 Washington that are not here tonight, most of them don't
14 even know this is going on.

15 It's the voice of this public, the voters of
16 Washington state that I want to talk about tonight,
17 recognizing that the millions of Washington voters weighed
18 in on the general issue of renewables, but they just don't
19 know yet.

20 In 2006, Washington voters passed Initiative 937,
21 not resoundingly as some tend to claim, but actually by a
22 slim margin. This much touted initiative was only -- wasn't
23 passed by 48 -- over 48 percent of the votes. Compare this,
24 for example, to a 2010 resolution that passed 84 to
25 15 percent. Now, that is a resounding endorsement.

1 The first sentence of I-937, Section 2 reads, the
2 very first sentence, this is what people saw when they read
3 this, increasing energy conservation and the use of a
4 appropriately sited renewable energy facility builds on the
5 strong foundation of low cost renewable hydroelectric
6 generation in Washington state that will promote energy
7 independence in the state and the Pacific Northwest region.
8 That's what the people voted for, or thought they were
9 voting for. They voted for energy conservation. They voted
10 for appropriately sited renewable energy. They voted for
11 energy independence within Washington state, not California.

12 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

13 MS. DRACH: They voted -- I'm sorry. Apply these
14 words to EFSEC and WRE and we do not have to get bogged down
15 in rhetoric or the representations. When determining
16 whether WRE will be appropriately sited logical minds can
17 only reach one conclusion, it will not pass the definition.
18 This project will harm wildlife. It will harm iconic views.
19 It will harm the Gorge tourist industry and businesses
20 serving tourism founded on breathtaking scenery, not
21 industrial landscapes.

22 Anyway, I just want to finish by saying it doesn't
23 take votes, polls or rocket science to understand it. Thank
24 you very much for coming.

25 JUDGE WALLIS: If you want to submit your written

1 comments please give them to Staff.

2 MS. DRACH: I will. Thank you very much.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. Raise your
4 right hand.

5 (Ann Lueders sworn on oath.)

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you please state your name
7 and spell your last name.

8 MS. LUEDERS: My name is Ann Lueders. Last name
9 is L-u-e-d-e-r-s.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. What is your mailing
11 address?

12 MS. LUEDERS: 11271 Wind River Road, Carson,
13 Washington.

14 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed.

15

16 ANN LUEDERS,

17 having been first duly sworn on oath,

18 testified as follows:

19

20 TESTIMONY OF ANN LUEDERS

21 I would like to start by saying that I am a
22 lifelong resident who has never lived anywhere else but
23 Skamania County in my whole entire 36 years.

24 I am in support of -- in resounding support of the
25 Whistling Ridge Energy Project. SD&S have been good

1 stewards of the land who have been more than generous in
2 providing access to their land for recreational purposes.
3 They have managed it effectively, efficiently and in
4 environmentally friendly ways.

5 Their proposal for the Whistling Ridge project
6 isn't being presented without exhaustive planning and
7 consideration for the communities it will effect. As with
8 every other development project there are too many
9 bureaucratic and emotional barriers to rational management
10 that would benefit the economy of Skamania County and
11 Washington state as a whole.

12 I am in support of the Whistling Ridge project and
13 submit that we cannot wait for science to catch up with the
14 immediate economic needs of a community who has been held
15 back by the red tape and uncertainty of what could happen.

16 I would encourage the Council to proceed
17 positively with the approval of this project. And thank you
18 for your time this evening.

19 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Next
20 person. Raise your right hand, please.

21 (Peter Cornelison sworn on oath.)

22 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
23 name, please.

24 MR. CORNELISON: My name is Peter Cornelison,
25 C-o-r-n-e-l-i-s-o-n. I live at 1003 Fifth Street, Hood

1 River, Oregon.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

3

4 PETER CORNELISON,

5 having been first duly sworn on oath,

6 testified as follows:

7

8 TESTIMONY OF PETER CORNELISON

9 Thank you. I didn't have anything prepared so
10 this is off my memory. But I want to refute the testimony
11 of Tom Watson, who I believe you heard on Tuesday. He was
12 the visual guy on the proponents side. He stated that at
13 most you could see turbines at the distance of 10 miles. I
14 think that's patently false. I can see turbines from the
15 top of Mount Hood meadows which is easily 60 maybe more
16 miles from the turbines that are located out around
17 Goldendale. You can see turbines from Crown Point which is
18 on the historic Columbia River Highway in between Mosier and
19 the Dalles -- not Crown Point but -- I can't remember the
20 name of it. But anyway, I'll give that to staff.

21 So I think the impact of a spinning turbine really
22 catches the human eye. We're predators, we're designed to
23 see movement. I hope that's included in your visual
24 studies.

25 I don't know if you've been on your field trip

1 yet, but I think that's really important that you go to
2 Goldendale and see the turbines out there.

3 Second point is not a dollar, not a single dollar
4 has been set aside for mitigation when the useful life of
5 these turbines ends. These towers could be sitting out
6 there for perhaps hundreds of years by creating this visual
7 impact of the scenic area, and I think that's wrong. It's
8 not planning ahead. In effect, none of this energy
9 production that's happening, which I'm in favor of wind
10 energy production, but it hasn't been integrated, it hasn't
11 been thoughtfully put together in a plan which I know you're
12 aware of. But it just speaks to the fact that we need a
13 bigger framework to put this into in terms of our energy
14 portfolio.

15 Finally, I think it's really important for you to
16 consider the impact, and I know you have a lot going on your
17 shoulders, and you're going to be making the recommendation
18 to Governor Gregoire. On this project it's going to be sort
19 of like the Cape Cod project in terms of --

20 MR. POSNER: Thirty seconds.

21 MR. CORNELISON: -- impact nationally. It could
22 be the first project that has been turned down, or one of
23 the first projects that has been turned down on official
24 grounds. So I think it's a very important decision. Thank
25 you.

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Next
2 person. Raise your right hand, please.

3 (Zachary Halpern sworn on oath.)

4 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name and spell
5 your last name, please.

6 MR. HALPERN: My name is Zachary Halpern,
7 H-a-l-p-e-r-n. P.O. Box 1296, White Salmon, Washington
8 98672.

9 Please proceed with your comments.

10

11 ZACHARY HALPERN,
12 having been first duly sworn on oath,
13 testified as follows:

14

15 TESTIMONY OF ZACHARY HALPERN

16 So I've lived in the Gorge for nearly all my life,
17 and I love the area. I care a lot about the Gorge, and I
18 care a lot about the environment.

19 Initially, I didn't favor this, putting in the
20 wind farms, obviously, because of the harm visually. You've
21 heard scenic value of the Gorge, but people that are saying
22 that you can see it from a long ways away, you can also see
23 the huge smoke plumes that are created from the oil industry
24 and other various things like that. So pollution, man.

25 Also I feel that the sacrifice that will have to

1 be made locally is small compared -- in fact it's
2 infinitesimal compared to the problems that we may see if
3 the country doesn't wean off of -- wean itself off of oil.

4 And to the people that have said, you know, we're
5 putting the wind farms in here and the energy is going to
6 California, why isn't the energy going to us, we're the ones
7 that have to sacrifice for us? Well, ask yourselves does it
8 really matter who gets the energy as long as it's making a
9 difference somewhere, what's it matter where it's going to?
10 It helps, it doesn't matter where it is. It's not our
11 energy. We're providing for someone else. We're providing
12 for the nation as a whole. It's about thinking globally and
13 acting locally. And that's all I have to say. Thanks.

14 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much. Next person.
15 Raise your right hand, please.

16 (Scott Pineo sworn on oath.)

17 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
18 name.

19 MR. PINEO: Scott Pineo, P-i-n-e-o.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: Your mailing address.

21 MR. PINEO: 5302 Wind River Road, Carson,
22 Washington 98610.

23 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

24 ///

25 ///

1 SCOTT PINEO,
2 having been first duly sworn on oath,
3 testified as follows:

4
5 TESTIMONY OF SCOTT PINEO

6 Thank you for persevering tonight. You've heard a
7 lot of testimony. I'll try not to repeat a lot of the
8 testimony that other people have given in favor of the
9 project.

10 I'm an elected board member of the Stevenson
11 Carson School District and as such have had the opportunity
12 to witness what importance the economic development of
13 Skamania County has. We have declining school enrollment.
14 We have declining fiscal resources as well. This project is
15 absolutely essential for the economic likelihood of Skamania
16 County.

17 As a school director I've had the opportunity to
18 go to Washington, D.C. at least half a dozen times to
19 educate our congress on secure rural school's legislation
20 and the importance of the economy of a timber dependent
21 county.

22 In discussion with congressman what we hear all
23 the time is, yeah, we can still support you with secure
24 rural school's funding but what are you doing for yourself?
25 How are you developing your economy? This project is

1 certainly one of the ways that we can help to develop our
2 own economy. And I thank you for hearing our testimony
3 tonight.

4 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you very much.

5 MS. HOLLIS: I'll be brief, I promise.

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Raise your right hand, please.

7 (Angie Hollis sworn on oath.)

8 JUDGE WALLIS: State your name and spell your last
9 name.

10 MS. HOLLIS: Angie Hollis, H-o-l-l-i-s.

11 JUDGE WALLIS: Your mailing address?

12 MS. HOLLIS: P.O. Box 913, Stevenson.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. Please proceed.

14

15 ANGIE HOLLIS,

16 having been first duly sworn on oath,

17 testified as follows:

18

19 TESTIMONY OF ANGIE HOLLIS

20 I'll be brief, I know everybody wants to go home.

21 I'm definitely in support of the project. I'm also in
22 support of private property rights.

23 Main thing I wanted to say is there are wind
24 turbines in Maui, and I've been there three times. I knew
25 they were there the first time I went, I knew they were

1 there the second time I went and I knew they were there the
2 third time I went. I rented the same condo. I didn't
3 complain about them. It didn't really ruin my vacation or
4 obstruct any views. I drove past them from one beach to
5 another. No matter where you put them someone is going to
6 complain. Thank you.

7 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments. Is
8 there anyone else who would like to speak this evening? I'm
9 looking around and I don't see anybody who spoke and failed
10 to survive. So I think you would certainly live through the
11 experience if you decide to comment. If you have some
12 thoughts and would like to express them that's why we're
13 here, and we very much would like to hear your comments if
14 you have them. In addition --

15 (Audience member asks a question.)

16 JUDGE WALLIS: If you have questions about the
17 project please address those to staff.

18 In addition, I'll remind you once more that you
19 are very welcome to submit your comments in writing. We
20 will receive those until January 15th at the end of the day.
21 And, again, you can talk to staff about that. You can look
22 at the EFSEC website and find information there about the
23 project and about how to submit your comments. Thank you
24 again for attending. And this session is concluded.

25 (Whereupon, the hearing adjourned at
8:10 p.m.)

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In re: Whistling Ridge Energy Project

A F F I D A V I T

I, Tami Lynn Vondran, CCR, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript prepared under my direction is a full and complete transcript of the proceedings held on January 6, 2011, in Stevenson, Washington.

TAMI LYNN VONDRAN, CCR 2157