

January 4, 2012

The Honorable Christine Gregoire
Office of the Governor
Post Office Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Subject: Whistling Ridge Energy, LLC- Recommendation Package for Approval

Dear Governor Gregoire:

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council) has reviewed the Whistling Ridge Energy, LLC's Application No. 2009-1, a proposal to build and operate up to fifty 1.2- to 2.5-megawatt wind turbines with a maximum generating capacity of 75 MW, on the forested ridges of Saddleback Mountain in eastern Skamania County. For reasons explained fully in Orders No. 868 and 869, the Council recommends issuance of a Site Certificate Agreement (SCA) for 35 wind turbines, as consistent with our statutory directive to protect the interests of all Washington State citizens.

Our review began with a comprehensive environmental analysis undertaken cooperatively with the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). The process produced a joint BPA-EFSEC Environmental Impact Statement that fully complies with the State and National Environmental Impact Acts.

On a parallel path, EFSEC initiated a process of public meetings and hearings. Nearly all meetings and hearings were held in Skamania County. The meetings were scheduled to maximize the opportunity for public comment. The record includes more than 5,000 pages of citizen comments. Together, with other proceedings, the record totals more than 15,000 pages.

Our findings and recommendations are contained in Order No. 868, detailing the adjudicative process, and Order No 869, which captures both the results of the adjudicative process and the FEIS, to provide the final recommendation for approval of the project. Two Orders are necessary because the Council considered the SEPA process independent of its adjudicatory proceeding.

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You will also find enclosed the Site Certification Agreement, No. 2009-01 that lists the terms and conditions EFSEC proposes for construction, operation, and site restoration of this project.

The Council has determined that the conditions listed in the Site Certification Agreement will ensure that the interests of the public and the environment are protected.

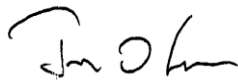
The Council received five petitions for reconsideration and six parties' responses to those petitions. All were denied. The petitions, responses and the Council findings and conclusions of the petitions are included as enclosure No. 5.

RCW 80.50.010 requires that within sixty days of receipt of the Council's recommendation, you do one of the following: a) approve the Application and execute the Site Certification Agreement; b) reject the Application; or c) direct the Council to reconsider certain aspects of the proposed Site Certification Agreement. Please consider the date of this letter as the beginning of the sixty-day gubernatorial review.

If your decision is to approve the project, please execute the proposed Site Certification Agreement by signing the document where designated.

I am available at (360) 664-1361 to answer any questions you may have regarding this recommendation for your approval.

Sincerely,



James O. Luce
EFSEC Chair

- Enclosures:
1. The Site Certification Agreement, No. 2009-01
 2. Order No. 869, Combining findings and recommendations of Adjudication and SEPA Processes, and Recommending Approval of Site Certification Agreement, No. 209-01
 3. Order No, 868, Recommending Conditions; finding of Fact; and Conclusions of Law based Adjudicative Proceeding.
 4. Final EIS for Whistling Ridge Energy Project
 5. Packet of all Petitions for Reconsideration; Parties Responses to Petitions; and Council's Order No. 870, Resolution, and letters responding to Petitions.
 6. A comprehensive adjudicative proceedings record

cc: Keith Phillips, Office of the Governor
Parties of Record, In the Matter of Application for Site Certification
Application for Whistling Ridge Energy, No. 2009-01.