

From: [Neil Caulkins](#)
To: [Aitken, Joan \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Thompson, Jonathan \(ATG\)](#); [Paul Jewell](#); [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#); [Posner, Stephen \(UTC\)](#); [Betts, Patricia \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: RE: Letter regarding the Columbia Solar Project
Date: Monday, April 30, 2018 4:19:44 PM

Dear Ms. Aiken and Mr. Posner,

As it turns out, I had just spoken, late last week, with our planning director who, like me, continues to see no benefit to meet with EFSEC. The reasons are as follows. First, the application for a series of five solar facilities was made to EFSEC. It was not made to the county, and so my client does not have the application materials and so does not know anything specific about each/any of these sites or what specifically is proposed upon them. Hence, the staff has no basis to give input towards conditions (beyond what has already been submitted). In other words, our staff has not conducted a site analysis on these projects. Second, the county will not engage in such a site analysis, and it, indeed, cannot. Our permit department is, for accounting purposes, set up as an enterprise fund. One of the things that means is that it must pay for its activities. When an application comes in, it is accompanied by a fee which will cover the review that staff will need to conduct to process the application. Again, this application came to EFSEC, as did the application fee, hence my client has not conducted any site analysis that would be necessary to comment (beyond the level of comment already submitted) on this project because there is no means of paying the staff to conduct such. The county will not and cannot conduct this site analysis for free. Third, the county process for a conditional use permit (as we've pointed out in our comments) involves public hearing wherein the public bring forth comments/issues that possibly become the basis for further conditions. In the absence of that hearing, the county has no means of guessing what those additional conditions may be. In short, we continue to not see much of a way to be of assistance to you because (1) it's not our application and we've not analyzed it, (2) even if we were to obtain copies of the application, we cannot perform the analysis for free so as to comment further, and (3) we have no way of guessing what good ideas may be brought forth by the public that would become bases for further conditions. The county will comment as it sees fit, but I hope this helps clarify some limitations regarding this sort of process.

Neil Caulkins

From: Aitken, Joan (UTC) [mailto:joan.aitken@utc.wa.gov]
Sent: Monday, April 30, 2018 3:52 PM
To: Neil Caulkins
Cc: Thompson, Jonathan (ATG); Paul Jewell; Bumpus, Sonia (UTC); Kidder, Ami (UTC); Posner, Stephen (UTC); Betts, Patricia (UTC)
Subject: Letter regarding the Columbia Solar Project

Good afternoon,

Please see the attached letter from Stephen Posner, EFSEC Manager.

Please let me know if you have any trouble opening this document.

Thanks,

~Joan Aitken

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Secretary Supervisor

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