



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
PO Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

June 25, 2018

Dick Carkner
Kirk Kirkland

RE: Columbia Solar Project Site Certification Agreement Public Meeting
For the Columbia Solar Project.

Dear Mr. Carkner:

This is in response to your email and letter received by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) on June 19, 2018. In your letter you requested clarification about EFSEC's public meeting currently scheduled in Kittitas County on June 26, 2018, for the Columbia Solar Project.

The primary purpose of this meeting is to hear from members of the public and public agencies regarding the conditions in the proposed draft site certification agreements. It is also to hear how these conditions relate to the county conditional use criteria, as outlined in KCC 17.60A.015 (The oral comment opportunity at the meeting is in addition to the opportunity to submit written comments.)

In other words, the purpose is to receive information akin to, but not necessarily through the same process as what a county hearing examiner would receive at a public hearing on a conditional use permit application. Although EFSEC is seeking site-specific input, it did not commit itself to the same procedures as would be observed at a county hearing examiner-conducted hearing. EFSEC's procedures are different than the county's procedures. For instance, under expedited processing of an application for site certification, EFSEC's rules state the Council shall not hold an adjudicative hearing under chapter 34.05 RCW. WAC 463-43-060. Also, unlike the county, EFSEC does not have a process for administrative appeal (i.e., an appeal within the agency) of SEPA determinations. WAC 463-47.

EFSEC will not be making a decision at the June 26 meeting on whether to recommend the Governor's approval or rejection of TUUSSO's application for site certifications, or if approval is recommended, what conditions to include in the draft SCAs. Those decisions will be presented to the Council for consideration at a meeting later this summer.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of these issues further, please contact Sonia E. Bumpus at (360) 664-1363, or at sonia.bumpus@utc.wa.gov.

Sincerely,


Stephen Posner
EFSEC Manager