

April 11, 2018

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

P.O. Box 47250

Olympia, WA 98504-7250

To Members of EFSEC:

Please consider the following comments for the public hearing regarding the request to amend the Desert Claim Wind Project Site Certification Agreement.

The reduction in the number of wind turbines by Desert Claim is to be applauded. However, the location and increased height of the towers in a Bird Migration Flyway causes bird deaths. This path is located on the inland leg of the Pacific Migratory Flyway. Unfortunately, this windy area coming off the mountain ridge through the gap is a valuable location for the wind project. But it is also necessary for raptors (various hawks, eagles, and falcons) as they use the wind updrafts (called thermals) to create a natural lift with their outstretched wings allowing them to glide and conserve energy for their long migratory journey.

Every year raptors cruise through the cut in the hills to the north heading south for the winter. Conversely, the same happens each spring as they head north. Hawk-Watch International has been tracking the numbers of these birds each fall for decades in the Chelan area, and previously counted just north of Ellensburg.

This puts raptors in the path where the turbines are erected. Every wind project that is already developed in the Kittitas Valley has reported deaths to birds, including the Golden Eagle, which is fast declining in numbers. Additionally, records of killed songbirds are also available as they migrate mainly at night in altitudes of 400 feet or higher.

The solution is to not put the turbines where the raptors are. There must be mapping available to assist this location selection. How can an energy source be considered 'green' if it directly kills birds?

Thank you for considering this concern.

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