Public Hearing (3/12/2003)

Public Hearing

March 12, 2003

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April 1, 2003

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Sincerely,

Roger G. Flygare, President

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                   BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
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              ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
    In re: Application No. 2003-01 ) PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL
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                                        ) and EIS SCOPING
    KITTITAS VALLEY WIND POWER PROJECT ) MEETING COMMENTS
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 5
    Site Certification Agreement
                                      ) PAGES 1 - 65
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                A public hearing in the above matter was held in
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    the presence of a court reporter on March 12, 2003 at 7:00
    p.m. at the Kittitas County Fairgrounds in Ellensburg,
    Washington, before Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
    Members.
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                    MR. FIKSDAL: Mr. Bates.
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                       TESTIMONY OF LEE BATES
                    I'm Lee Bates. I live at 1509 Brick Road in
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      Ellensburg, and I represent myself for the environmental
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      review and scoping comments for the environmental impact
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      statement. The reasons why wind farms are a bad idea for
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      the Kittitas Valley are the wind farms are ugly. The
      planning commission has designated Zilkha's wind farm as a
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      major industrial project. Kittitas County is not the
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      place for such projects. The turbines are huge. The
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       towers are 335 feet high. They're topped with 230-foot
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      diameter spinning blades. They're inefficient. They do
      very little to reduce fossil fuel use. They kill birds.
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      The Altamont Pass Wind Farm has killed an average of two
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      to three hundred redtail hawks and 40 to 60 golden eagles
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each year. They cause shadow flicker. Long shadows from

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Page 2 Page 4 the turning blades sweep rapidly across the countryside. TESTIMONY OF DUANE FLUENT They leave taxpayers stuck with them. Zilkha has stated 2 My name is Duane Fluent. I reside at 650 that the turbines will be here for more than 25 years.

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They're a way for Zilkha to take the federal subsidies and run. The taxpayers are subsidizing this. They're an eyesore with flashing lights. The FAA requires all structures over 200 feet high to have strobe lights by day and flashing red lights at night, and I would look at them out my view. They ruin the views of Mt. Stuart. Zilkha's turbines will be spread halfway down the valley.

10 11 Is there any questions?

12 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. 13

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TESTIMONY OF JEFF HOWARD

14 15 My name is Jeff Howard, and I have a place 16 at 21 Fawn Road in Cle Elum, and I understand that this 17 proceeding is pretty much devoted to the environmental 18 impact, and I may be speaking a little bit out of turn 19 here for a moment, but on the way here I stopped in Cle 20 Elum and met with the real estate agent who sold me my 21 property. Now he's a full-time professional in land and 22 property sales in this area, and I asked him about the 23 property value effects of this wind farm plant. His response to me was any property in the general area or

within view or hearing of the turbines would be sunk by a

3 Goat Peak Ranch Road, Cle Elum, Washington 98922. This is 4 in support for Zilkha's wind farm proposal. I would like to express my support for the Zilkha Wind Farm Project and urge an expedited but thorough review of the proposal. My 6 only concern is the need to ensure removal of the structures when they are no longer used. There must be some assurance that they will not be abandoned in place if they are no longer economically or mechanically viable. 10 With that caveat, I urge a rapid, favorable recommendation 11 12 for approval. Thank you. 13 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. James Cole. 14 15 TESTIMONY OF JAMES COLE 16 Hi. I'm Jim Cole or James Cole at 2606 17 Airport Road in Ellensburg, and I would like to just look 18 at some things. I find that I can understand things 19

better if I back up and get a little perspective, and so I would like you to bear with me for a moment while I describe some contextual things in how I interpret this. It's sort of like the space flights that allowed us to see the earth more effectively and see the context of it all.

We're using energy now at a rate of about five and a half times the other members of this community

Page 3

factor of approximately 50 percent.

Now I don't know if you folks consider a 50 percent drop in property values to be environmental in nature or not. However, it certainly will affect my financial environment.

Now in the interest of brevity, I have some comments for the commission, and I will just turn them over to Irina here and let somebody else speak. The last thing I want to mention is that I've dealt with government a few times in my life. It's never been very pleasant, but I'll tell you Irina has been one Johnny-on-the-spot person and very responsive and very helpful and a very, very good face of someone to do business with as far as getting anything done. And thank you very much for putting her on the job.

MR. FIKSDAL: I will second that about Irina.

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Duane Fluent. I encourage you if you have written comments to give them to us. Written comments are just as good as oral comments. If you don't want to say anything, we have comment sheets here. Please fill those out and given them to us or mail them to us. I think it has our address on it 25 ///

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of the world. We're polluting at about five and a half

2 times the rate of other people in the world. If we look

at the decisions to be made, this one seems relatively 3

simple. If we look at other ones, and I would like to

5 share with you some that are more complex. The people in

Virginia have a number of power plants that are

grandfathered in, are not going to be cleaned up that burn

dirty coal, and they're saying now according to the

American Lung Association 28,000 people a year have

additional asthmatic attacks, 800 hospitalizations, and

1,200 premature deaths. 11

> In Colorado they have problems also with the Native Americans who have sold the coal to the Peabody Company that is also taking all their water to move their coal 200 miles and destroying the reservation. If we look at the small island states of the Pacific, our greenhouse gases are causing water to rise around them. They have written us asking us to stop it. They're going to lose their land and their islands. If we look at Australia. they recently had terrible fires that have been linked to greenhouse gases and global warming. We need to understand this project in terms of what's happening globally.

My understanding is that these windmills will probably kill fewer birds than my patio door; that Page 6 Page 8

they have less noise than the chickens across the street from where I live and would produce less gases than the cows next door.

It seems important here that they might mess up some people's vista, but I would like to suggest that only for those people who do not look beyond the nearest horizon. Thank you.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

Ed Garrett.

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TESTIMONY OF ED GARRETT

My name is Ed Garrett, G-a-r-r-e-t-t. I reside at 19205 67th Avenue S.E. in Snohomish. I represent myself, and my wife, Rosemary Monaham.

My wife and I own property which will be severely impacted if the Sagebrush Power Wind Farm is allowed to proceed. We own a 50-acre lot which is accessed off of Cricklewood Lane on Highway 97. We purchased the property two years ago come this June. We had plans to build a small observatory as I'm an amateur astrometer. We purchased the property because it has a 360-degree view, an altitude of about 3,000 feet, and surrounded by private property. It's very quiet and private.

24 The sky is very dark, and I just get a little bit of light pollution coming from Ellensburg, but

be affected by safety concerns. Safety meaning if we try 2 to visit our property we will be exposed to additional 3 fire potential. The whole project area is a tinder box in 4 the summer. High wind conditions can cause blade failures and tower collapses. Winter recreating will have other concerns with dealing with ice throws from the blades if they're operating.

We are also avid bird watchers, one of the birds, mostly hawks, who concentrate ground on targets and not moving wind turbine blades with tips that can go as fast as 200 miles an hour. Our current use will be affected by the towering turbines blocking views of the planets and nebulae to the west and to the southwest. The additional light pollution from red strobes at night will adversely affect my ability to do astrophotography and telescopic resolution.

Our current use of relaxing back to watch the sunset will drastically be altered as the rows of turbines ruin our western side. The shadow flicker at sunset will make viewing next to impossible.

I did some research on the internet and found that many installed wind farms in the U.S. as well as in Europe have had problems with issues of setbacks to neighboring properties. Siting standards and property setbacks are negotiated, often naively between developers

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basically we purchased it for recreating purposes.

The Applicant states that the current land uses are not affected, and I have some very serious concerns about that statement. Our current land use will be affected by the noise of the turbines. Our property is in the red and orange zone which equates to a 45 to 50 decibel range. The Applicant States in Section 5.1 Land Use, the noise impacts do to nonparticipating landowners are therefore the primary focus of this document, but the rest of this document states basically their full compliance to Washington State law.

Noise impact analysis states there is no completely satisfactory way that exists to measure the subjective effects of noise or to measure corresponding reactions, annoyance, and dissatisfaction. The bottom line is they're going to be noisy. I'm going to be affected.

Section 5.1. Land Use under Subsection 5. states the Applicant shall list all recreational sites within the area affected by construction and operation of the facility and shall then describe how each will be impacted by construction and operation.

And Section 5.3, recreation facilities are noted but nothing about recreational properties which are throughout the project area. Current land use will also

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and county officials. The developers usually start with a 2 thousand foot or less residence, so that they can increase

their density of turbines. Realistically the minimum 3

4 should be 1,500 to 2,000 feet for property lines and at

least one-half mile for many residents.

Apparently wind developers do not heed recommendations of their giant wind turbine manufacturers. Technische Richtlinien, a German manufacturer, states on their website buildings, particularly housing, should not be near two kilometers to a wind farm. The rest has to do with landownership, and they will be covering that in September.

Finally, what I would recommend is an independent full two-year EIS, day and night, especially concentrating on avian impacts paid for by Sagebrush Power and conducted by a third-party company. Independent economic study be done by an independent provider paid by Sagebrush. The requirements of Sagebrush must purchase properties at current assessed values pre-wind farm installation with a two-mile range of the project area if landowners feel they cannot live or recreate on their properties as planned.

And, finally, it's already mentioned about the commissioning, but I would recommend a cash deposit be made to an Ellensburg bank to fully fund the

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decommissioning plan should Sagebrush fail or sell the wind farm.

3 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. 4 Sandy Sandall.

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TESTIMONY OF SANDY SANDALL

6 I have a few items I would like to cover 7 just on environmental impact concerns. Highway 97 is a 8 scenic corridor that travels from Wenatchee, Blewett Pass, to Ellensburg and back and forth. That's going to be 10 affected by this. I think the wind towers should be at

11 least a mile away from the highway. The shadow flicker 12 also is an item that concerns me, noise from the towers,

13 vibration from the towers, if there is any. Disruption of 14 cell phones, radios, television, if I'm allowed to have

15 those luxuries, of course. Bird kills, bald eagles,

golden eagles, hawks, owls, the mountain bluebirds, geese,

ducks, and the great blue herring. Now you think up there 17 18

in that desolate country they talk about there happens to 19 be a stock pond, and the blue herring happen to go in

20 there. They've got to get in there some way or another.

21 I hope they miss those blades. The impact on a well if

22 there's blasting to be done. Fires, ice throws during the 23 winter.

24 We live on Elk Springs Road, and I didn't 25 put my name and address down there, but I've got it on my

me that that property value isn't going to go down. I 2 don't know how much, but it's going to go down for sure.

The area that I'm talking about happens to be Township 20, Range 17, Section 35. We're right above Zilkha's wind towers. We look down on them. In every direction we look they're there. There's 37 parcels of land up there. There's 27 landowners. They travel that road just in Section 35. There's some other sections in

10 I'm not against alternative energy. I am for wind power or solar panels, whatever, but there's a 11 12 wrong place and a right place for location. The proposed 13 location that they're talking about is the wrong location. 14 The right location there's an area out in the Vantage 15 Highway out there at Kittitas, very few homes. This is 16 impacting a lot of homes up there, and I think that the 17 group should take a tour with private landowners taking them up to Elk Springs road as an example or to your 18 19 different areas and show them the views that are up there 20 and let them decide, but the view is a lot to me. Thank 21 you. 22

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

23 Keith Johnson. 24

TESTIMONY OF KEITH JOHNSON I am Keith Johnson. I reside at 3050

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- and I'll finish it up here. But my wife, and a few
- 2 other people travel Elk Springs daily to and from work. Winter, summer, it don't make any difference, and I'm 3
- concerned about the ice coming off those blades. Zilkha
- 5 says it won't happen, but a lot of things don't happen.
- They're like car salesmen. If there's any car salesmen,
- 7 I'm backing down here. Lights on the towers, broken
- blades from the towers, and the view shed.

Now I reside at 8560 Elk Springs Road, and it's a private road, and I've got a view. You look in

this paper, and what is the real estate people selling? 12 Views. That's what they're selling, and I've got a hell

13 of a view up there. And it burns me up when I have

somebody stand up here and say that we should give up our

15 view for these wind towers. There is an alternative 16 energy. Back in '99 they had an alternative energy

17 seminar over here at the college. I saw one person that I

18 recognize so far. Maybe there was a few others there. They talked about solar panels. For \$40,000 you can have

20 a nice unit set up, so you can have alternative energy. 21 That takes away that ozone layer. That green power that

22 you're looking for, the sun always shines in Ellensburg.

24 I've worked hard for my place. I'm retired, and I don't 25

want to have to leave the thing, and nobody can guarantee

But I'm concerned about my property values.

Airport Road in Cle Elum, and I'm representing the

2 Kittitas Audubon Society as their president, and I would

3 like to thank the EFSEC committee for holding its public

4 meeting in Ellensburg to allow the local input.

Kittitas Audubon Society has submitted prior comments to the planning commission on the Zilkha Wind Farm, and tonight I've already submitted an update of that version of those.

In these comments the Kittitas Audubon has tried to identify concerns toward birds, wildlife, and habitat with a high emphasis on potential bird kill. 11 12. Seeing that wind farms are a new major development for 13 Washington State, Kittitas Audubon Society is concerned 14 for the proper seasonal studies of bird migration and

15 flight patterns at proposed sitings. Single season

observation may not provide an adequate species count for 16

17 the proposed turbine sites. A long-term study of all 18 areas will most likely reflect the natural bird exposure

to the turbines. 19

20 Also arguing for multi-seasonal study, 21 Kittitas Audubon's Christmas bird count, if any of you are

22 familiar with that, is performed every Christmas holiday

23 where we go out and do a survey around the Ellensburg 24 area, and it is showing there are changes in the species

year to year. What may not be seen this year could be

Page 14 Page 16

seen next year, so that's the reason why we're asking for 2 at least a two-year count on birds.

Finally, the Kittitas Audubon is in agreement with the Washington State Audubon document relating to wind farms. Kittitas Audubon feels that if EFSEC addresses the recommendations in the Washington State Audubon document, birds, wildlife, and habitat will receive adequate consideration. Thank you.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

10 Is it Doug Stagler?

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MR. STALDER: Doug Stalder.

TESTIMONY OF DOUG STALDER

My name is Doug Stalder. I reside at 2000 Quartz Mountain Drive, Ellensburg. A couple things. I

15 support the wind farm. A couple of things that just 16

brings to mind this gentleman here is to keep in mind as

17 far as property rights. A lot of the folks that are

18 affected say, "Well. We could put it down in Vantage or

19 somewhere else." Well, what about those people's property 20

rights in Vantage and their view corridor and everything

21 else? Just to keep things in perspective, it's quite

22 obvious that it's a typical NIMBY, not in my back yard

23 syndrome, but that's something that Zilkha and EFSEC will

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The other thing that I wanted to bring up,

declining recreation, interference with television, radio, cell phones, and, you know, incompatibility with local

3 land use.

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I knew nothing about wind farms until I 5 heard of the Zilkha project, and I got on the web and all of a sudden I got scared because of all of the things I am 6 finding on the web. So we may not be smart enough to find all of these articles and all of the questions and concerns other people have had, but if you really want to scope this, if you really want your EIS to address all of 10 the concerns that people have, look at the web. Find out 11 12 what people are complaining about, about existing 13 facilities and see if the application and your studies

I personally do not want to have Zilkha pay for automatic awnings to come on my windows, so that shadow flicker doesn't bother me. I don't want that. However, there's an article on the web that says that's exactly what some wind farms have had to do to address vertigo. So these were all issues that if you really want to know what to do, you look for complaints on the web.

adequately address those kind of concerns.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

23 Rockey Marshall.

TESTIMONY OF ROCKEY MARSHALL

Hello. My name is Rockey Marshall, and I am

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and this will be brought up later on, is the portion about a representative of the Pacific Northwest Regional Council the government subsidy that goes into the wind farms. In

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reading the articles in the paper that seems to be kind of

3 a topic, but I would like to remind everybody about the

5 government subsidies that have gone into all of the dams

that we currently have the benefit of cheap power from all

over the Northwest that we as taxpayers have subsidized 7

for the last 55 years. Also the government subsidies for

the irrigation and the water that goes to dams that have

10 provided for the farming that has benefited this community

greatly as far as the hay crops and the agriculture. So

12 anyway I just wanted to bring those to light as far as

when EFSEC does their review on those two issues. Thank 13

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MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

Suzanne Larsen.

TESTIMONY OF SUZANNE LARSEN

Suzanne Larsen, and a lot of people have

19 said a lot of things that I want to say, but one of the

20 things that I would suggest to EFSEC and to the

21 independent consultant reviewing the application is that

22 you get on the web and look for comments from people who

live near existing wind facilities, and you will find

24 problems with shadow flicker, lighting, noise, ground

vibration, declining property values, declining tourism,

2 of Carpenters which has a membership of 25,000 in

3 Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. I will

4 be addressing concerns of over 100 carpenters living in

5 Kittitas County. When the environmental study is being done, we must not forget the socioeconomic impacts to the

residents of Kittitas County. The socioeconomic studies

8 should address the impacts to Kittitas County if the

proposed project is built by out-of-town contractors. It

10 should also address the negative impacts if the project

construction work is performed by out-of-area workers. 11

The socioeconomic study should also address the impacts if 12

13 the majority of the construction work is performed by

local contractors and local craftsmen.

15 Typically it's been my experience that when 16 you have a developer from outside the area building a 17 project that the majority of the contractors are not from 18 the local area. They bring in their workers who are not 19 from the local community. This has a negative impact to

20 the local public services. We are concerned that the

typical practices will occur on this project; that is, the 2.1 22 majority of the construction being performed will be done

23 by out-of-area contractors and workers. When there's

24 double-digit unemployment in the county, this is wrong.

25 This will result in the wages earned being exported out of

Page 18 Page 20 our community. This is unacceptable, and we must not MR. FIKSDAL: Your name and your address, 2 allow this to happen. 2 please. 3 Will the developer provide assurances to the 3 MS. PINKART: My name is Holly Pinkart. I 4 residents of Kittitas County that the majority of the 4 reside at 5900 Robins Road. I'm also a faculty member in construction work will be performed by local craftsmen? the Department of Biology at Central Washington 5

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7 working on the project be paid prevailing wages set by the 8 State of Washington for Kittitas County? Will the developer require that Washington State approve training 10 be made available to local residents? Will the developer 11 mitigate with local public services the negative impacts

Will the developer require that the construction workers

12 if the majority of the construction is done by out-of-area contractors and out-of-area of workers? 13

14 MR. FIKSDAL: Diane Schwab. 15 TESTIMONY OF DIANE SCHWAB

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16 MS. SCHWAB: I will hold my comments for now. I just have one question. If we send you letters do 17 18 they go to the Assistant Attorney General?

19 MR. FIKSDAL: You could ask for us to copy 20 him and we will send it to him.

21 MS. SCHWAB: So they don't go there.

22 MR. FIKSDAL: Not automatically. He does 23 ask for letters at times.

MR. FIKSDAL: The question was if letters go

24 Mike Lufkin. 25 MR. LUFKIN: Yes.

University. I'm by training a microbiologist and my 6 research area microecologist where microorganisms live and

what they do. I have a deep understanding of ecological principles, and so a lot of the things that are going on

with this project are really kind of interesting and some 10 of the comments that have been made are pretty 11

12 interesting. I'm glad that the Audubon has been consulted 13 sort of, and we're looking at those things.

But one of the comments that's been made in the proposal here is that one of the things they're going to do to prevent raptor deaths is to remove cow carcasses from the area where they lie, and that's a good first step; however, the raptors that come into this area are not only drawn by carcasses. They're drawn during this time of year when cows are giving birth, and there's lots of afterbirth that make these raptors very, very happy, especially the bald eagles, and those types of creatures.

But throughout the year we depend on raptors around here to take care of rodents. We have a significant rodent population here, and many of the

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rodents carry hauntavirus. This could pose a serious

to us will you get a copy? 2 health threat to individuals if we don't keep those MR. LUFKIN: I'm sorry. 3 populations in check. As long as we have natural

MR. FIKSDAL: If this woman submits a letter predators for those that aren't being chewed up by

to EFSEC, would you get a copy? 5 windmills, you know, we can keep a handle on that. So MR. LUFKIN: I certainly will probably that's one issue.

request copies from EFSEC of all the comments that are 7 Another issue that was brought up in the made tonight, and the court reporter is taking this down, and I will receive a copy of that as well. But at the

same time if you want to arrange some other way to get it knapweed. Simply reseeding an area will not prevent those to me, you can. 11

12 MR. FIKSDAL: So that's your comment, 13 Ms. Schwab?

14 MS. SCHWAB: Yes.

15 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. 16 Holly Pinkart.

17 I want to mention for those that are

18 standing there's chairs back here that you can take off 19

the rack and sit down if you get tired. 20 TESTIMONY OF HOLLY PINKART

MS. PINKART: Am I the right distance from

22 the microphone? 23

MR. FIKSDAL: It doesn't work.

24 MS. PINKART: It's not working, so I will 25

project. I'm actually good at this because --

proposal is about reseeding impacted areas. Here in an arid environment we have - most of you if you live here

10 know - we have a huge problem with both cheatgrass and

from taking hold. If you want to really help some area, 12.

13 you have to be very, very proactive about doing that. Simply spreading some seed of native grasses will not do

14 that. The areas where they're proposing to put their 15

turbines really, really they're going to have a huge 16 problem with invasive weeds. There's no two ways about 17

18 it. 19

There were several other comments made about zero pollution, for example, from these, but we've already heard about noise pollution and about the ground

22 vibration. These things are significant, and that is 23 pollution. It's real pollution, so saying that there's

24 zero pollution is a little bit misleading.

In addition to the noise, we haven't really

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talked about the generators that will be required when these things aren't running. Those are running on diesel. They do require transport of diesel, so the claims that there will be no transportation of any fuel to these areas is wrong. And also where they're putting these any kind of contamination that is associated with the construction or the running of these particular things will run down.

If you look at the way the aquifers in Kittitas County are arranged, everything from these sites will actually run down in there, so those are some issues as well. So the claims that there's no hazardous waste or transportation of things is -- especially with putting up these structures -- is false, and those do need to be addressed, so there are several issues that do need to be addressed.

There were some very good points brought up that, yes, we are a wasteful people. Putting up a wind farm isn't going to change that behavior. Changes will address that, so anyway I'll shut up now. And thank you.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

21 Gloria Lindstrom

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TESTIMONY OF GLORIA LINDSTROM

My name is Gloria Lindstrom. I live at 1831

Hanson Road, and I've been a resident of Kittitas Valley
 for over 65 years. This is to address the need to have

wind farm siting standards in order to protect scenic

values and vistas. People in other countries, and I've

been on the internet too, where the wind farms have long

been installed now lament their impacted shorelines, their

destroyed scenic vistas, and the loss of an environmental

quality that was so important to them. It is hard to find

the dividing line between the wet side and the dry side of

our state. Magnificent views all around us, including the

Mt. Stuart range with its jagged peaks rising majestically

above the lower rounded mountains in the foreground. Is

create about to be compromised with enormously tall white

California and have spoken to people who have seen them.

blinking, shiny structures diminish the beauty of anything

developed on a significant scale in an inappropriate place

They take over an area. They dominate. The whirling,

else. Wind power, though clean, can be ugly when

I have seen numerous photos of wind farms in

this beautiful scene that took thousands of years to

whirly windmills with flashing strobe lights?

a valley as beautiful as the Kittitas Valley. It sits at

beautiful Montana. We even hesitate to encourage small
 scale pursuit of wind power until the legislature enacts
 siting standards that offers some protection for our wind

California sun. We had never seen anything like it, and

we especially hope never to see anything like it in our

swept foothills, ridge tops in Montana's scenic views.
 One person's alternative energy project could pretty

easily become an entire community's eyesore."

This quote says everything. Please set siting standards for wind farms that will protect our scenic views. Several hundred windmills now can become thousands tomorrow, and the beauty of our valley will be lost forever.

14 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.15 Bernice Best.

TESTIMONY OF BERNICE BEST

17 My name is Bemice Best. I reside at 210 18 Tomahawk Lane in Ellensburg, 98926. I'm speaking on 19 behalf of myself, my husband, and my son, and my

20 11-year-old grandson which some of you know pretty well.

21 I have some questions here. A couple of 22 them are on the economic issues. The study done by

23 ECONorthwest the Phoenix group showed very substantial

4 economic benefits to the county in terms of new tax

revenue, income, and jobs. Will this be a factor in

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considering the application?

And, Number two, under Initiative 747, will my local property taxes go down if the project is built

and pays over a million dollars per year in local property
 taxes? I sure hope so. It sounds like it will, and all

of us could have – we could all use some reduction in

properties taxes.

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And as far as property rights is it accurate to say that denying property owners who want wind turbines on their land will deprive them of the ability to earn significant income? Is this a violation of their property rights? This has got to be taken into account too. Thank you.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

Hal Lindstrom.

16 TESTIMONY OF HAL LINDSTROM

17 My name is Hal Lindstrom, and I live at 1831

Hanson Road, Ellensburg, Washington. Much of what I had
 to say is probably said better by my wife, Gloria, who was

just up here, so I'll skip over part of it.

But when I had went to the public library and looked at the portfolio of pictures that is there provided by Zilkha to give a good representation, as good as I think you can get of what it will look like at

various points throughout the valley, I saw that, and I

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An editorial from the Montana newspaper, the Missoulian, dated August 27, 2001, describes a trip to the Palm Springs area in California, and I quote, "Hundreds,

24 no thousands of small and medium size wind turbines

crowded the landscape spinning and shining in the

Page 26 Page 28

thought that was one of the strongest arguments that I've seen against having the project installed because you can see the project from almost anywhere.

The valley is a special place with remarkable scenic views made the more so by the fact that this is a small, relatively small valley with good views in all directions from practically anywhere on that valley floor. These turbines, if built, will be seen by many, perhaps most of the valley residents everyday. And if one likes to view the evening sky and night sky then too, we won't ever be without them.

I visited what is called the Klondike Wind Power installation in Oregon. It's about 10 to 12 miles south of Biggs, Oregon, and the landscape there is totally different from ours here. I saw the first installment of turbines, a string of 16, of the size as I understand it that Zilkha proposes to install here, and they look fine to me there. As I recall there was only a single house in the area, and it was a quarter to a half a mile distance. And I don't know that it was inhabited. The country is flat, rolling wheat country. The community appears to favor the project. There is minimal visual impact because of the geography and very few people live there.

I think this community divisive project is

not a good idea. It will make no significant

power supplement electricity supply to the state and the region, but also it will bring great financial benefit to the county. It will give steady income to landowners who lease to developers, bring jobs during construction, and later for maintenance and operation. And it will greatly enhance the property tax base of the county, and that will help every property taxpayer in the county.

My concern is for the economic and environmental well being of this community, this county, this state that have been my home for 50 years of my 81.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

James Carmody.

Say your name and spell it for us, and thatdoesn't work.

TESTIMONY OF JAMES CARMODY

I can say my name, and I can spell it. My name is James Carmody, C-a-r-m-o-d-y. I'm an attorney. My address is 405 East Lincoln, and I've been involved in this project much too long, but I do want to provide comments on behalf of a citizen group that's been actively involved in this process, Residents Opposed to the Kittitas Turbines.

There has been an active process to become

There has been an active process to become involved and have a community process in the siting, and this is the first stage of it. My comments on the scoping

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contributions to the imperative need to clean up our act regarding our wasteful energy consumption and associated pollution, and 120 or so turbines spread across some 5,000 acres will permanently detract from and in cases ruin the scenic view of many of our valley residents. Thank you.

MR FIKSDAL: Helen Wise.

TESTIMONY OF HELEN WISE
I am Helen Wise, 1106 East Third Avenue in
Ellensburg. I understood this was for questions, but it
seems we get mostly comments. I think because I am for
the wind farm, and it seems that it's pretty
overwhelmingly people who object, I'm going to say a few
words.

Beauty is very subjective, and that's a big part of what we are working with this evening, our concept of beauty, and you may be surprised there are some people who really think that those are beautiful structures. Now, that includes artists and what do they know? The need for electrical power, clean electrical power is now. Bonneville Power Administration predicts a serious power shortage by 2010. Clean renewable energy must be a part of that answer.

We in the Kittitas County have been studying wind farms, following and supporting the permit process, a lot of you that I see a lot of times. Not only will wind

of the EIS are maybe more technical, and I won't reiterate the earlier comments. But in terms of an EIS, I'm interested in the project description and an accurate project description, and there's two or three elements to that

The comments from Zilkha earlier indicated that there was not a specific design for the turbines. There was one that they were using. I think that an environmental analysis needs to specifically look at a worst-case assessment on turbine design and turbine configuration and location.

The second thing I believe that needs to be

done is that there needs to a site specific set of alternatives presented and studied in the environmental impact statement. There's a specific project, but I think there needs to be on-site alternatives for achieving the purpose, so that you look at different locational options within the review process and then assess the environmental impacts based upon those alternatives within the sites.

The third part that is significant in my mind is that this isn't a traditional project design. It's multiple mixed used property ownerships with scattered machinery throughout a large area. The environmental assessment and the impact is going to be

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uniquely tied to each particular turbine, so the environmental review needs to specifically focus on each turbine and turbine location and their particular impacts within the environmental context that they're located.

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That takes me to the next point which is this community is faced with a variety of projects. We know there's a EnXco project, there's a Zilkha project, and there are alternative sight options to this. I think the environmental review needs to have an environmental set of alternative sites, so I think the environmental impact statement needs not only to assess this particular site but needs to assess the EnXco project and any other alternatives. It's typically what you do within a land use decision making process. That has not taken place in Kittitas County, and that's essential in an environmental review and a selection of options. Also I believe that the no-action alternative needs to be assessed in the environmental review.

The next element of the environmental review 20 that I think is critical in this case is the land use 21 review. This is not a permitted use within this county. It is also important to assess the use options within the context of the growth management act and major industrial developments and the siting criteria associated with the 25 Growth Management Act.

The economic analysis needs to include not

only the particular purported benefits to the community

associated with this project and the comments that were

made earlier but also need to assess the environmental or

corridors, the commitment this community has made to

believe that the environmental review needs to have and

include all necessary components. We heard from BPA

earlier that they may or may not be involved, and if

needs to take that forward and incorporate that at the

present time, not wait until a later point in time. I

also think on the other end of the equation that an

environmental review will be associated with DNR

determinations, and that that needs be to incorporated

into the environmental impact statement. At the present

time the whole point of the EIS and the whole scoping

package, so that the decision-making body can make an

process is to gather enough information on the entire

appropriate determination. Those are my comments.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

there's an environmental assessment or impact analysis

associated with that, and that's a necessary component of

this project, I believe the environmental impact statement

The final point that I want to make is I

the economic impacts associated with tourism, scenic

recreation as an economic development component.

Noel Andrew.

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TESTIMONY OF NOEL ANDREW My name is Noel Andrew, 2701 Elk Springs

Road, and this is what I have to say about this. My view of this project is the fact that the opposition of this project are trying to stop me from producing a crop on my farm because of the looks of the machinery to produce it which the towers are too tall. And the crop I choose to produce is electricity. It is a very important commodity

in this world, and if I produce some of this commodity, I 10 will be doing my part in supplying good, clean energy that 11

12 does not pollute the atmosphere, and clean air for our 13

descendants will be a sought after commodity in another 20 14 years without more green energy projects.

The people that think they should get a royalty check from my farm aren't paying my mortgage payments, and they don't help me with my mortgage payments, so why should they get anything from this project? Most of the opposing comments I have heard are bull shit, and I think the turbine towers of this project placed in this valley will enhance this bare land within the project, that project consumes. This project and those like it proposed for this valley are the best opportunity this valley, county, and state has had for decades, so I recommend immediate approval.

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MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. 2 Jim Stewart.

TESTIMONY OF JIM STEWART

I'm Jim Stewart. I live at 3295 Bettas

5 Road, Cle Elum, 98922, and I guess I'm sort of opposed to

these things; although, I have an emergency powered ammeter radio station licensed by the federal government,

8 and I want you attorneys to take note that the licensing 9 grant comes from the federal government, not from the

state, not from the county, not from some other agency.

My concern is radio frequency interference

11 caused by turbines. Their proposal is I am within a mile, 12.

13 the whole west side of my property and to the south. 14 Because I have a line of sight view all the way to

15 Ryegrass, I get to look at it all. Operating on the

frequencies I'm allowed to work Mr. Chris Taylor has told 16 17

me, when I first talked to him he said - I asked him. He

told me he said that he had had problems at other sites causing interference to television reception and cell

phone communications, and he told me that if he caused me interference to my station he would buy me a bigger

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Well, I have big antennas, and buying me a bigger antenna is not going to solve the problem because the bigger antenna has more gain. You're going to gain

9 (Pages 30 to 33)

Page 34 Page 36

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- more signal coming into that antenna, so basically what
- 2 I'm going to get is just basically more noise from these
- 3 machines. Now I might not have a problem. I'm on 160
- meters from 1.82 megahertz. But what about on VHF and 4
- UHF? What about up on, oh, let's say about 440 megahertz?
- Well, television reception you're looking at somewhere 6
- 7 along, oh, I'd say six, seven hundred megahertz. Cell
- phone probably around 900 megahertz. Well, I can operate
- on 440 megahertz, and I can operate on 1.2 gigahertz.
- 10 That's 1,200 megahertz where the frequency basically the
- wave length is even shorter than where they say they are 11
- 12 causing interference. So how do I power my station? I'm
- off the grid. I have solar power. I have a wind 13
- generator, and I basically have my system installed where 14 15 I do not cause any interference in my station through my
- 16 audio. I talk all around the world, and I have no problem
- 17 with it.
- 18 And if I can put my system in, so I don't 19 cause interference on my station or to me, I expect that
- Zilkha that it has to be of a sound design. The Code of
- Federal Regulations basically states under Title 47 that
- 22 it will be designed and these machines will be of a sound
- 23 design. Well, if I can put my machine up, so I'm not
- causing interference, I expect them to do the same thing.
- 25 Thank you.

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TESTIMONY OF JILL KUHN

- Jill Kuhn, P.O. Box 926, Kittitas, 98934.
- 3 First off, let me state that I've already submitted my
- 4 comments on the EIS to the state, but I would like to make
- a few additional comments. And I believe like everyone
- else in this hall that is gathered here that not any of us 6
- 7 is against renewable energy sources. This project is just
- one mere option for energy sources; however, for the
- siting for this project is totally inappropriate. You
- know, Zilkha is not proposing this project out of their 10
- concerns for their environment. By the background of the 11
- 12 owners their concern for green is not in the environment
- 13 but the green that is in the prospect in the building of
- this company. 14

15 Zilkha has stated many times, and this is

- true, that the project has to be federally subsidized in 17 order for it to operate. And how can a project nowadays
- 18 be approved dependent on the federal government,
- 19 especially at this time when the federal government is in
- 20 a financial wash? Zilkha says that they will help secure
- 21 energy prices or that they will secure energy prices.
- 22 This energy will not even go to the residents of this
- area. There is no security in that at all. 23
 - Zilkha says over and over again that
 - landowners are eager to sign up, and that was provided in

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- Loran Allen
- TESTIMONY OF LORAN ALLEN
- 4 My name is Loran Allen. I live at 1948
 - Reecer Creek Road right up there in the middle of the -

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

- anyways we'll carry on between desert storm, desert
- wind, and Zilkha I'm going to have them on four sides of
- me. We didn't move up there ten years to log blood,
- sweat, and tears into that place to not be able to see the 10
- pristine valley, look down on the valley. We're going to have it below us, to the west, to the horizon, and the 11
- 12 whole nine vards.

I don't have anything in writing, but I do

- 14 have this right here. I did have that right there. It
- was a dollar bill, and that's called the American dollar. 15
- What do you buy this land for or with? The American 16 17 dollar. Do you deface the American dollar? No. Do you
- 18 deface the land? No. Do you let multimillion dollar
- companies come in and run over the landowners which most 19
- 20 people are opposed of in that area? No. What's the
- 21 government? Do you elect officials? Yes. Do you elect
- 22 wind farms? No. Basically that's it.
- 23 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.
- 24 Iill Kuhn

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the documents of the first meeting that was held with the

- 2 Council, and that was on January 13. And as this meeting
- 3 shows, and as I'm sure a lot of testimony here will show
- and a lot of comments in the future will show not all
- 5 landowners are eager to sign up. There is a lot of
- landowners who did not accept their fee agreement to even
- sign the document that they would agree to the proposed
- project, and some of us who didn't sign will be affected
- on three sides.

10 Now those of us who didn't sign up are just

- not concerned necessarily about our individual project or 11
- our individual land but the whole community as a large, 12.
- and the whole environment of this area. 13
- 14 And I was reading the minutes from the
- January 13 meeting, and Mr. Peeples who was introducing 15
- Chris Taylor quote he said: Quite frankly, the primary 16
- 17 reason we're coming to EFSEC is because of the appeal
- 18 process time. The legal appeals are somewhat limited at
 - EFSEC, and so that the primary reason we are coming before you because of the straight circuit to the Supreme Court.
 - And then the Chairman replied, Jim Luce:
- 22 You're suppose to say you're coming to us because of the
- 23 reasonableness of the body and their open-mindedness and
- 24 their sensitivity to the policy and the need for abundant
 - power at a reasonable price and protecting the environment

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Page 38 Page 40

and public interest, so I will pretend that what you saidthat that's what you said.

So what I'm trying to stress in all this is how important it is that the Kittitas County community is involved totally in this process, and I want to say in the end that I don't even think Zilkha would say that these turbines are beautiful. I don't even think they would admit that. Also this is Washington State. This is not Texas, and we love and we want to protect our environment and our community.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

12 Skip Littlefield.

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TESTIMONY OF SKIP LITTLEFIELD

My name is Skip Littlefield, 607 North

Okanogan, Kittitas. That was a pretty hard one to follow
 right there. I just want to express most of my

sentiments, of course, go with the opposition. There has

18 been a lot of good comments today. I would just like to

19 say, ask one question. If some of you property owners who

 $20\,$ $\,$ have signed with Zilkha if you were not offered a contract

 $21\,$ $\,$ and adjacent to the project, how many of you would be

22 sitting over here? I think you're selling out your

23 neighbors and your county. Thank you.

MR. FIKSDAL: This looks a tag team. Bill and/or Chris Hall.

I've reviewed the application very briefly I

2 have to admit and found six general areas of concern.

3 Many of them have already been addressed, but I will

4 repeat them. Wildlife, in particular birds, we are on the

migratory route of birds. The application downplayed the

6 impact of the migration, nor did they look at the

nocturnal, the nighttime impact of the birds. They talk

8 about bats and impact on bats at night, but their review

was only diurnal, daytime.

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The second concern is aesthetics. Bettas
Road is considered moderate, so what happens to us a
thousand feet above Bettas Road? From Bettas Road you can
see one or maybe two of the lines. From our property we
can see all of them.

Noise. We are in the red zone or just on the edge of the red zone. They say that's about the sound of appliances in the house. Do you know how quiet it is when the power goes out? That's why we bought that property. That's what we were after.

Phone. Our property is not on the grid. We have no phone lines to our property. That means we're dependent on cell phones. This project is likely to concern our cell coverage. In an emergency that could be a life or death situation.

25 Another life and death situation is the

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Speaking of teams, I want to congratulate the Kittitas High School girls for being can fourth in the state. Wait a go. And the Cle Elum Roslyn Girls got

4 seventh. Well done over here.5 TESTIMONY OF

TESTIMONY OF CHRIS HALL My name is Chris Hall, and the address I'm

living at right now is 106 East 10th Avenue. We have property adjacent to Bettas Road. In fact, it's about a

9 thousand feet above Bettas Road.

First of all, I would like to thank Allen and the agencies and the consultants that are here and providing this opportunity for me to speak. Like many residents here when our children left the nest we wanted to retire at a beautiful spot, and we bought that beautiful spot. The spot we bought is very much like many other people who buy land in this area to retire on. We

bought it for the wildlife. We bought it for the view.
We bought it for the quiet serene area.

This piece as I say is a thousand feet above Bettas Road. It has a view of 360 degrees. We see the

Stuarts. We see Lookout Mountain with the Manashtash
 Ridge behind it. To the south we see the pass. We see

the town or the city of Ellensburg and Kittitas behind it.
 To the east we have Tabletop and from our property we can

25 see Lion's Rock, so a 360-degree view.

access road to Bettas Road. Many a time when we go to

2 approach making the left-hand turn going north on 97,

3 making a left-hand turn on Bettas Road, you slow down or

4 at least most people slow down to make a left-hand turn.

5 That stretch of road is straight, and it goes for a long

6 ways. A lot of people pass you when you start slowing

7 down and even if you signal left. So one thing here is

8 it's a major problem with safety, and I suggest

mitigation, for example, a left-hand turn. They're talking about putting the substation there, so traffic

11 will only increase.

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Finally, and many of you said, the value of the property. We bought this piece, and we have worked on this land. We have built a house that we're going to retire on. We're working on it now with our hands, not someone else building it. We have built it, and it has a lot of value to us.

So with those six concerns I believe that Zilkha should be mitigating landowners. I believe that it should mitigate the county, and it should mitigate the landowners affected by it, and that's assuming it goes. Because like many of you have said is this the right

23 location? Thank you.

24 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

25 Geoff Saunder.

Page 42 Page 44

MR. HALL: I'm rushing up because I get to follow her. I'm Bill Hall.

MR. FIKSDAL Excuse me.

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MR. HALL: See. I thought we'd come up together, but that's not the way we are doing it.

MR. FIKSDAL: It is a tag team. I didn't see you guys touch.

TESTIMONY OF BILL HALL

I'm a mechanical engineer. I have lived in the Northwest all my life. I love the outdoors. I believe in innovation and cooperation, and I think science is a great thing, and I think wind technology has come a long way. Wind technology is a good thing, but it has to be in the right place.

The siting Council is the appropriate action to be followed at this point. My wife and I bought the property we did because of the wildlife, the fauna, the location. There's all kinds of wildlife out there. I think a lot of people have the stereotype idea that this is kind of like the grounds around Nine Canyons. If you go down south of Kennewick, you see how there's all this open range, and people are missing the point here. This is a about siting not about wind generation. You've got a

national forest. You're bordering on a national forest. 25 You're along a scenic highway in the middle of Washington fact the smallest output of any of those by a large

- 2 margin, and I would venture to guess it's probably a
- 3 hundred times larger in terms of the area that it takes
- 4 up. It's a very, very inefficient way to produce
- electricity. If there was such a huge demand for
- electricity produced by these things, I guess we need to 6
 - ask Zilkha why is it that after a year of trying they
- still haven't found a buyer for their electricity? BPA
- was kind of neutral this evening, but clearly BPA has not
- made a decision to buy it. And I know it's said that BPA 10

has explicitly said that they would not be buying it.

As for this particular location, there's all sorts of places where these things can go. When these

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14 wind companies come to town, they always tell people the

15 same story. This is the only place this project can be

16 built. You can't change where the wind blows. It's got

17 to go here. Well, if you look at the American Wind

18 Density Association's wind maps that shows where the wind

19 blows across the country and in Washington State, the wind

20 blows very, very strongly in the entire southeast quarter

21 of Washington State, and there's an awful lot of

22 uninhabited areas there. So why here? Zilkha was pretty

23 candid about that because the power lines are here. They

could build it in an uninhabited area, but then they would

have to build their own power lines, and that costs them

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State. You're at the front door to the National Forest. and to me you're just putting it in the wrong place.

There are a lot of studies out there for wind, and you will find that all along Wenatchee south along the Columbia River there are plenty of good wind sites available. From my point of view we shouldn't be arguing about this because wind generation is good and we need it. But we don't need to put it in the wrong place because it's not going to benefit wind generation, and it's not going to pull us together as a community. Thank you.

> MR. FIKSDAL: Geoff Saunder. TESTIMONY OF GEOFF SAUNDER

Geoff Saunder, 8241 Elk Springs Road. I know that this evening is intended to be a forum to talk about the environmental impacts of these things, but I certainly hope that we all get an opportunity to respond to many of the other things that Zilkha said earlier because there's a lot that's just not right in what was said. These things do not reduce greenhouse gases. They're not going to have any affect on reducing our dependence on foreign oil. They are incredibly inefficient ways to produce electricity that are subsidized by taxpayers.

Mr. Fiksdal pointed out the other projects that EFSEC is working on right now, and that this is in about \$300,000 a mile.

2 This is not about saving the earth. This is 3 about making money at our expense, but I want to talk and

4 try and get back to the issue we're suppose to be talking

5 about tonight which is the environmental impacts. These things are huge environmental impacts wherever they go in.

If these things didn't have environmental impacts, and

8 Zilkha thought all of us could be satisfied with the

issues that we're concerned about, then they would have

10 gone through the county and let the county make this

decision. But because Zilkha knows that there are so many 11

12 problems with these this could never be resolved

13 satisfactorily at a local level, and they had to bypass

14 the county because we're never going to be happy with this 15 project.

16 It's been said many times by Zilkha that 17

those of us who are opposed to this project are making 18 stuff up; that there are no environmental impacts. The

19 problems that we're claiming are just not true, so I

bought a text book that's published by the wind industry, 20

21 wind energy industry. It's called Wind Energy Theory

22 Design and Application. The authors were Manwell,

23 McGowan, and Rogers, published by the University of

24 Massachusetts last year. So I looked at the wind energy

text book. It's a very technical book. It's about how to

Page 46 Page 48

build wind farms and how to build wind turbines, but I've looked up the issues that people have been talking about, these environmental issues.

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4 For example, ice throws is one that we hear a lot about. We've been told that in the wintertime when 5 the blades don't turn, and the blades don't turn unless 6 7 the wind gets up to a certain wind speed. So when they're not turning in the wintertime, ice builds up on the blades. Wind gets to a certain cutting speed, the wind 10 turbines then kick in and the blades start to spin fairly 11 fast. What happens to the ice? It gets thrown pretty 12 substantial distances. So this text book that I read 13 safety problems can occur when low temperatures cause ice 14 to build up on turbine blades. As blades warm ice either 15 falls to the ground or could be thrown from the blades 16 causing a danger to personnel.

18 Springs Road went to the Stateline Wind Farm about six 19 months ago just to have a look at these things, and the 20 security guards came rushing up to us, of course, as soon 21 as we got there. There's going to be security guards 22 swarming all over the Elk Springs area if this goes ahead. 23 And the security guard said, "What are you doing here?" So he chatted with him a little bit about the wind 25 turbines, and we played dumb and we said, "Well, are there

A couple of friends and I who live on Elk

again, one of the other speakers earlier said go to the 2 web and have a look. It's very easy. You will see plenty 3 of pictures of broken blades and plenty of collapsed 4 towers. The towers do collapse in strong winds or for other reasons, so I looked that up in the text book. And the text book says high ice loads and high winds, poor 6 tower or poor foundation design or corrosion can bring entire turbines to the ground. Again, those of us who are living near these things that doesn't give us a great deal 10 of comfort.

Zilkha has said, "Well, we won't build these things any closer than a thousand feet to a house." If I was living a thousand feet away from these things. I would be pretty concerned, and I am living a little more than a thousand feet away from these things.

16 Fires. People have said, oh, all the time 17 that these things are a fire risk, and Zilkha has constantly said, "No, no. You're just making that up." 18 19 So, again, I went to the text book, and the text book says 20 the same thing. It says fire have started from numerous 21 causes, substandard machine maintenance, poor welding 22 practices, electrical shorts, equipment striking power 23 lines, and lightning. You can even go to the U.S. Department of Energy website, and the USDOE will tell you there's a fire risk. Their website says depending on

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1 any issues?" They said, "Oh, yeah, there was a few fires 2 that these things caused when they first installed them." And we said, "Well, what about ice throws?" And the 3 4 security guard said, "Well, you see this access road here 5 next to these turbines? We're not allowed to drive on 6 that in the wintertime because chunks of ice can come 7 through the roof of our trucks." 8

Now you look at Zilkha's project, the road that I drive on, Elk Springs Road, has two dozen of these lined up right next to the road. I think that's that probably a slight safety issue. What do you think?

Blade throws is another thing we've heard about. We've been told that the blades on these things do break. These turbines when the wind is blowing the blades spin at over 220 miles per hour. Every now and again a blade will break under that stress so we are told. So I looked it up in that text book, and the text book says one of the major safety risks from wind turbines is a blade fragment can be thrown from the rotating machine. The turbine and the cell covers and the rotor nose cones could also blow off machines. The distance of the blade or turbine part that's been thrown has rarely exceeded 1,500 feet. Well, that's a huge comfort to us, isn't it, for

those of us that live near this project? 24 25 Tower collapse. We've also been told, and

locations wind facilities may represent an increase fire 2 hazard

Now, those of you who are not in a fire district, and there's probably a lot of you here like me, would worry like hell, particularly where we have dry winters like this one, we can have a bad fire here. Not being in a fire district, I'm enormously concerned. We're pretty much on our own if a fire breaks out. Zilkha's project is located almost 100 percent outside a fire district, and Zilkha's not going to be here when the fires start. Zilkha is going to be back in Texas. Actually the reality is Zilkha will have sold this project to another company by that stage, and they will be long gone. Noise is another issue that we hear about,

and someone else talked about noise earlier. A UK government report that I spotted on a website said there are cases of individuals being subjected to near continuous noise during the operation of turbines at levels which are clearly disturbing and unpleasant and may have some psychological effects. I've been told that the noise from these things sounds like a helicopter in the distance. Not right up close but helicopter in the distance. So for those of us who live in this area it's going to sound something like 120 helicopters in the distance, and if the EnXco project goes in, we could be

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listening to 300 helicopters in the distance. I don't think that's why any of us chose to buy our properties here and build our houses here.

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We've heard about bird kills, and I'm not going to belabor that point because the gentleman from the Audubon Society said it. He said that the Zilkha study is inadequate, a much longer study needs to be done. These things are notorious killers of birds. Obviously this is going to disturb many other animals and plants as well in the area.

We had to move our road, Elk Springs Road, a couple of years ago because we were told that the location we were in which is down in the valley there was going to be some impact to the stream that ran in that gully which could affect the fish. Erosion from our cars driving up and down that road could cause silt to silt up that stream and affect the fish that live there. So at great expense those of us who live on Elk Springs Road had to move our road, a five-mile section of road, and we had to move it several hundred yards. So it now runs parallel to that stream, and we're up on a ridge line right now.

21 22. Well, Zilkha is going to build two dozen 23 turbines along that same ridge line, and two dozen 24 turbines along the ridge line on the other side of the 25 stream. Now, when they excavate for their footings, how TESTIMONY OF LEIGH SOUTTER

2 I'm Leigh Soutter. I live at 5130 - oh,

3 it's S-o-u-t-t-e-r, and I live at 5131 Manashtash,

4 Ellensburg. My zip code is 98926. What else? I'm just here for myself. 5

So I'm a hydrogeologist which means that I 6 7 have a Ph.D. in geology, and I teach environmental geology classes at CWU. I'm here for myself though and a couple of my students are here. I came at this - I actually I

asked Chris to give a talk for my class. I really 10 appreciate it. You did a great job. Thank you. 11

12 And so I came at this kind of sideways, and 13 I don't have a strong set of opinions, but I do have

14 questions that I think need to be addressed in the

15 environmental impact statement. Because I have personal

16 interest in the deal, I became curious enough to pull out 17 some topographic maps and kind of think about how tall

18 those windmills are and look at the ridge line. And I

19 just have a little bit of concern about the potential for 20 instability related to the slope, especially if the

21 windmills or turbines, whatever, are fully off the road

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far enough that they wouldn't have an impact on the road.

So that seemed to be a critical factor to me, and Geoff 23

already stole my thunder.

I mean you open up a book like Chapter 1 of

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1 much erosion is that likely to cause to the stream? Why 2 is it we have to move our road, but we apparently are 3 seriously considering allowing this company to build 4 dozens and dozens of these massive turbines with huge 5 concrete footing right next to that same stream?

People have talked about shadow flicker. I'm not going to go on about this because there were so many issues, and I'm going to submit my written comments.

And then there's the visual impact of these things which I guess is also an environmental impact. That area that's a world class view shed. This is a real asset for Kittitas County. It's a major resource. It's a major reason why people buy land here and build their homes here. It's a major reason why tourists come here and spend their money, and this county depends to a large degree on tourist revenue. Tourists are just going to keep on driving when projects like this go ahead.

17 18 You know, the last thing I want to say is 19 that it's very easy for Zilkha to describe those of us who 20 have these concerns as NIMBYs. That's a real cheap shot. 21 Well, I'm a NIMBY. This is our back yard, and if we don't 22 look after it who's going to, a company from Texas or EnXco which is from France? I think this is our issue. 24 and we're right to stand up and be concerned about it. 25 MR. FIKSDAL: Leigh Soutter.

environmental geology starts talking to you about as soon as you take a little dig out of a road that you're going

3 to initiate erosion, and so I consider their activity up 4 on the road to be a potential source for grade erosion of

the soil and the stream.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. Ginger Morrison.

MS. MORRISON: Everything has been pretty well addressed, so I'm going to go ahead and put my 10 comments in the box.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. MS. MORRISON: You're welcome. MR. FIKSDAL: Sonja Ling. TESTIMONY OF SONJA LING

Good evening. My name is Sonja Ling, and I'm representing the Renewable Northwest Project based in

17 Portland, Oregon. RNP appreciates the opportunity to

18 comment tonight. We submitted written comments yesterday, 19 so I will keep our comments brief this evening. In the

EIS we urge the Council to consider the baseline 20

21 environmental impacts of energy production in the 22 Northwest and the broader benefits of renewable energy and

23 what renewable energy helps to avoid.

24 Over 9,000 megawatts of new gas-fired plants were proposed during the energy crisis of 2000, 2001. If Page 54 Page 56

all future load growth is to be met by fossil fuels, our 2 environment and health will be adversely impacted. That 3 means that the views in the Kittitas Valley will be 4 significantly adversely impacted from the carbon dioxide emissions, SOx and NOx. 5

6 Additionally, this will --

MR. FIKSDAL: Could you explain SOx and NOx,

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9 MS. LING: Sulfur dioxide and nitrogen 10 oxides. They are acid rain precursors, and it is a known 11 fact that acid rain precursors will kill wildlife and 12 habitat and CO2. It is predicted. It is actually known that will lead to distinction of habitat and wildlife as 13 14 well.

Therefore, we believe that the EIS should include the emissions avoided from a proposed wind project, as well as the economic impacts and the benefits. Thank you.

19 MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you.

20 Kevin Fullerton.

TESTIMONY OF KEVIN FULLERTON

Hi, I'm Kevin Fullerton, and I represent

23 Northwest Sustainable Energy for Economic Development. We

are a nonprofit organization to promote economic

25 development to rural areas through energy projects. We we're looking at about 90 acres that are going to be

2 developed out of 10,000 acres of land that are going to be

3 employed. That impervious cover density is less than one

4 percent. By contrast, if you want to get some comparison

with that, the city of Austin, Texas in the '90s was

afraid that runaway residential development was 6

threatening its water, so in order to protect its water

supply it set impervious cover limits at 15 percent. So

you got one percent with the project, the wind power

project versus 15 percent that a city thought was at least 10

adequate to protect their water. So it's an extremely low 11

12 density project, and we think that creates some real

13 economic and particularly environmental benefits.

This will also create a lot of new wealth

for Kittitas County. That's not really in dispute. We 16 think that the more wealth the county thrives from this

17 will give them more control over development, and this

will allow them - the only other way you're going to get 18

19 this kind of infusion into your tax base is through

20 industrial, heavy industry. That brings a lot of

21 chemicals. That brings a lot of other things that are

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hard on your environment. What you get with a wind power

23 project is a lot of land that won't be developed in any

extremely intensive way for a long, long time.

That is pretty much what we've submitted so

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have come tonight because we would like for EFSEC to 2 consider the economic impacts that this Kittitas Valley

wind project has to the county. The reason we want to 3

4 emphasize the economic impacts even though this is an

5 environmental impact statement is we believe revenues that

are generated by wind projects do produce direct

environmental benefits for rural areas. That's because

they can greatly enrich the commercial value of the land they sit on without causing nearly the same, inflicting

nearly the same harm to native plants, wildlife, and water

11 as other forms of development bring.

> Population and growth in Washington has caused a lot of open space in farm land to be converted to residential, retail, and industrial property over the years. This is a valley with scenic views with proximity to Seattle and with access to popular recreation areas, and it's already a prime destination for a growing number of new homeowners. We do think that the devastating effects of suburban sprawl on Northwest environmental resources are well documented. They create all kinds of what we call impervious cover. That's concrete paving for roads that causes water to run off into your local water,

into your streams, and wildlife in particular aren't too

crazy about housing developments. So with a wind farm like Zilkha is proposing far. We do believe that the state as a whole also stands

2 to avoid some pretty high environmental costs if the

3 Kittitas Valley Wind Project proceeds. Sonja Ling has

already told you that the amount of carbon dioxide that

5 would be added to the air if the thousands of new

megawatts of fossil fuel power generation comes to

fruition in Washington.

8 We are going to be looking at about 5,300 new megawatts of power that is going to be needed in the 10 Northwest for the next 20 years, so it's going to come

from somewhere. We know that. We hope that you will look 11 at the ways the wind project can offset the need for these 12.

13 new fossil fuel plants. Thank you.

MR. FIKSDAL: Thank you. Earle Price. TESTIMONY OF EARLE PRICE

I'm Earle Price, 430 Cricklewood Lane, 16

17 Ellensburg. My house is located just south of the

18 southern end of String J, if you've been looking on these

19 maps. It's a residence that's identified as a red Numeral

80 on Exhibit No. 21-2 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project. 20

2.1 The following is a list of my concerns about the siting

22 for this project.

23 Visual intrusion of the towers. Our valley 24 is wide and gently sloping. The line of our hills for the

most part lies horizontally. Beyond our valley the tips

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of the Stuart range become our focal point because in our community horizontal is the norm and vertical is the extraordinary.

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Exhibit 22-1 shows in yellow only a portion of the valley that would have its view negatively altered. What's visible at one end is also visible at the other end. When we take a horizontal line and place a foreign vertical object on it that object becomes our focal point. If we had a rotating 200-foot pinwheel on top it really gets our attention. If we had white strobe lights in the daytime and red blinkers at night, it becomes disconcerting to the point of being objectionable.

When I turn to Exhibit 22-2, I can readily see that 180 degrees of my personal view will be impacted by between 36 and 84 of these things. I would also be grossly affected by shadow flicker in the afternoon and evening. Our Highway 97 should be classified as a scenic highway. It winds up through Goldendale over Satus Pass through Kittitas Valley over Blewett Pass. It accesses Leavenworth, traverses the orchards of Wenatchee, and passes Lake Chelan, etc.

What should happen when scenic corridors are 23 threatened? Setbacks. I suggest a minimum setback of a mile. An even better siting location would be south of 25 I-90 and east of Ryegrass where there is both wind and

boundaries in the downwind direction. Objectionable noise may carry by a factor of as much as three to four times.

3 By using a factor of two to three for each of the four

4 decibel zones described at least 34 previously unaffected homes shown in Exhibit 22-1 would be affected.

Zilkha's Exhibit 22-2 is an engineer's piece of art, but it doesn't reflect the truth. Too many people will be adversely affected.

8 Number three, range fire can be caused by construction, mechanical breakdown, electrical breakdown, 10 carelessness, or lightning strike. This causes me great 11 12 concern. A short time ago a range fire started in the

13 valley floor east of the proposed String H and wasn't 14 contained until it reached Reecer Creek Road just north of

15 the Highline Canal. Fire here can travel as fast as the 16 wind. This burn swath was five miles long and up to three

17 miles wide. At that time the fire was fought by three

helicopters, one spotter plane, one tanker with repellant. 18 19

How effective would they have been if they were not able 20 to get in close because of the 300-foot tall towers?

21 There is a safety risk for pilots as well. My fire

22 district would have to travel 11 1/2 miles by highway or 5

23 1/2 miles via gravel road through a locked gate to protect

me. This support district, the other one, would have to

travel 7 1/2 miles. I'm located 3,500 feet directly

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urgency of the matter.

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power line access, and it's out of site. As it is now some of these nonparticipating property owners have to contend with proposed windmills immediately up against their property, see Exhibit 21-1, with no property setbacks at all. I suggest 1,500-foot setbacks from all property lines, private roads, wells, and at least 2,000-foot setback from residences. Also on 21-1, I find ten buildings in the

pink areas. That's areas that have been contrived to this. 163 houses outside of the pink and total tax parcels on the 48 sections of land that lie within or adjacent to the wind farm project is 580. This has a tangible effect on a lot of people. There are other locations that would not adversely affect the community.

As was with so many others I would not have dumped my life savings into a place where the value of a house on the open market would drop by as much as 50

18 19 The second item is noise pollution. 20 Something we never thought about. When was the first time 21 we all realized that noise travels much better downwind? This is one of the immutable laws of physics. This exhibit describes the noise that could be expected during 24 construction or maintenance phases on a windless day. 25 Operation noise while it's windy extends the decibel

downwind from Proposed Tower No. 21, String I. I don't think the fire department could get to me in time.

Number four, I have a concern with how Zilkha has handled the threatened or endangered species in their proposal. They seem to reach a determination of nonsigificance whenever conflicting technical references can be used. If, for instance, the American Bird Conservancy's Field Guide lists a particular species as being endangered or threatened and the USFW says they don't think there's a problem in the area, then the determination of nonsignificance is used. This one term has a tendency to calm the reader and take away the

If, for instance, the text of vascular

plants of the Northwest, Pacific Northwest lists several species as threatened, and the sources Zilkha uses minimizes or even laments information and the determination of nonsignificance shows up again. I would like to see a more thorough study done on the following samples that I have seen here. Endangered or threatened birds, the American Bird, common nighthawk, loggerhead shrike, Lewis' Woodpecker, grasshopper sparrow.

Endangered or threatened plants, the mariposa lily, golden corydalis, bristle-flowered collomia, gray cryptantha.

Page 62 Reptiles, blue tail skink, rubber boa and bats. I've seen several bud species unknown. Respectfully. Thank you. MR. FIKSDAL: Thanks so much. Mr. Price was the last to sign up to speak. I want to thank everybody that came. I want to thank all of you who gave us suggestions. We heard a lot of interesting information tonight. We really appreciate you coming. I want to remind you that any comments for scoping are due. They need to be postmarked, if you're mailing it to us, postmarked by Friday. This coming Friday I believe is the 14th. If you have any comments, written comments on comment sheets or any other kind just stick them in the comment box. We will be back in town at a future date and several future dates, so this isn't the last you're going to see of us, so thank you very much for coming. ***** (Whereupon, the public meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.)	Page 64 1
TINDEX PAGE	Page 65 A F F I D A V I T I, Shaun Linse, CCR, Certified Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript prepared under my direction is a true and accurate record of the proceedings taken on March 12, 2003, in Ellensburg, Washington. Shaun Linse, CCR CCR NO. LI-NS-ES-M4020H Shaun Linse, CCR CCR NO. LI-NS-ES-M4020H