

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the matter of:)
Application No. 2003-01)
SAGEBRUSH POWER PARTNERS, LLC,) Public Comment Meeting
KITTITAS VALLEY WIND POWER PROJECT) Pages 1 - 79

A public meeting in the above matter was held in the presence of a court reporter on September 12, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., at South Seattle Community College, 6000 16th Avenue S.W., Olympic Hall, in Seattle, Washington before Energy Facility Site Evaluation Councilmembers.

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JUDGE TOREM: Good evening. We're going to come to order here. It's a little after seven o'clock in the evening. My name is Adam Torem. I'm an Administrative Law Judge. I work for the Office of Administrative Hearings. That's a state agency and my office is typically in Olympia.

This is a public comment meeting. It is Tuesday night, September 12, 2006. We're at South Seattle Community College. This is a public comment meeting before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, otherwise known as EFSEC. Tonight's topic is Application No. 2003-01 for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

As you've read on the handout which is orange tonight, there are adjudicative hearings scheduled for

1 next week in Ellensburg, Washington. They will begin on
2 Monday, September 18 at 8:30 in the morning.

3 Tonight is the first of three public comment
4 hearings on a proposed wind power generating facility that
5 its proponents wish to construct approximately 12 miles
6 northwest of Ellensburg, Washington. It will run
7 approximately along portions of Highway 97 and surrounding
8 lands.

9 I understand that the currently proposed
10 version of the project is asking EFSEC to permit up to a
11 total of 65 wind turbines. These will vary in size. For
12 simplification I call them small, medium, or
13 large--there's no supersize in this one--and they will
14 generate between 1.3 megawatts and 1.5 or 3 megawatts of
15 electricity each. The details on the actual project those
16 are not available tonight from the Council. This is a
17 comment session not an information meeting, but you can go
18 to our website for the Energy Facility Site Evaluation
19 Council and find out information from us on the website as
20 opposed to or on the Applicant's website. You can contact
21 members for the Applicant tonight, and with the lights I
22 have no idea where they are.

23 If the people associated with the Applicant
24 will raise their hand now. I see Mr. Peeples who's the
25 Applicant's attorney. Those folks can provide you with

1 the information you might need about the project if you
2 have direct questions for the people that want to build
3 this.

4 The purpose of tonight's meeting is to
5 collect public comment. As you see, there's a microphone
6 to my left, to the Council's left, and Mr. Allen Fiksdal
7 is the EFSEC staff person and Council manager. He's got
8 cards that will tell you how much time you have left, and
9 at this point I have at least 30 people signed up to give
10 comments. So with that in mind, I'm going to assign
11 people three minutes per person. If we get done and there
12 are still people that want to speak again, we will see if
13 that will work out tonight. But this is the first of
14 three public comment hearings.

15 At this point before we go through all the
16 procedures for making your comments, I'm going to ask that
17 Chairman Jim Luce introduce himself and go down the table
18 and have the other Councilmembers introduce themselves so
19 you know who you're speaking to. We'll then get started
20 taking the public comments.

21 CHAIR LUCE: Good evening. My name is Jim
22 Luce. I'm Chair of the Washington State Energy Facility
23 Site Evaluation Council and to my immediate right is--

24 MS. ADELSMAN: I'm Hedia Adelsman. I
25 represent the Department of Ecology.

1 MR. FRYHLING: I'm Dick Fryhling. I
2 represent the Department of Community, Trade, and Economic
3 Development.

4 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Patti Johnson. I represent
5 Kittitas County.

6 CHAIR LUCE: And to the left of Judge Torem
7 is--

8 MS. WILSON: I'm Judy Wilson. I represent
9 the Department of Natural Resources.

10 MR. SWEENEY: My name is Tim Sweeney. I work
11 for and represent the Utilities and Transportation
12 Commission.

13 MS. TOWNE: I'm Chris Towne representing the
14 Department of Fish and Wildlife.

15 JUDGE TOREM: This is the Council that's
16 charged with making a decision or the recommendation that
17 will ultimately go to Governor Gregoire as to whether to
18 approve this project or not to approve this project as
19 it's proposed. If they do recommend approval, they will
20 be forwarding a site certification agreement that will
21 have a variety of environmental conditions and mitigation
22 measures. If they recommend disapproval, they will set
23 out their reasons and explain those to the Governor.
24 Governor Gregoire makes the ultimate decision, and your
25 comments become part of the public record from which the

1 Council will make and forward its recommendation probably
2 before the end of this year.

3 Now, the procedure tonight, as I said, this
4 is an informational meeting. So if you ask questions to
5 the Council, they're not going to answer them. Any
6 questions you have should probably go to representatives
7 for the Applicant. They're actually in the capacity that
8 they can talk to you tonight. The Council is now in
9 deliberative mode, and next week when it has its hearings
10 will hear all sorts of information from official witnesses
11 and members of the public in Ellensburg where we have two
12 other comment meetings like this.

13 If you speak at tonight's public comment
14 meeting, you will not be allowed to speak at another
15 comment meeting in Ellensburg. Hopefully, this meeting on
16 the west side will make it easier for folks that are here
17 to get their comments on the project. If you know of
18 folks who can't be here tonight and can't travel to
19 Ellensburg to give their oral comments, there are these
20 written comment sheets available from other EFSEC staff
21 which you may have met when you came. Irina Makarow, she
22 can give you one of these. If you submit them no later
23 than September 29, the date the record closes in this
24 matter, they will be considered by the Council in making
25 their decision so they deliberate probably sometime in

1 November.

2 Again, tonight, I've got a list and I'm
3 going to ask people to come up when I call their name.
4 I'll call the first three or four in a row and then call
5 you as a group so there won't be so much shuffling around
6 and wait time. But just come down and have a seat in the
7 front. When it's your turn to speak, come to the
8 microphone. Please state your name and spell your last
9 name. We do have a court reporter, Shaun Linse, taking
10 things down. So I'm probably speaking about the fastest
11 rate of speed you can get things down comfortably. If you
12 see her frantically waving at you or Mr. Fiksdal, slow
13 down and just start over. We'll get your comments.

14 Now, for folks that want to be issued
15 transcripts of this I believe we are going to arrange an
16 expedited transcript available for folks in Ellensburg to
17 know what was said tonight and they may be posted on our
18 website. You can check with Mr. Fiksdal after tonight's
19 meeting or with Ms. Makarow or make a telephone call to
20 the office sometime later this week if that's a concern,
21 and you can get a copy of that transcript.

22 Again, the Council's role tonight is simply
23 to listen, and I want you to draw your attention back to
24 that orange sheet you have tonight. I have a blue one.
25 It has the information about submitting your written

1 comments. It has the address in which you send it. It
2 has e-mail and it also has all the addresses for next
3 week's hearings and where the public comment hearings will
4 be. On the back side you will find all the information
5 about the adjudication itself when the expert witnesses
6 will be informing the Council as to what their positions
7 are on various mitigation measures for this proposed wind
8 power project.

9 Chairman Luce, I think that's all I needed
10 to explain. Is there anything else I left out?

11 CHAIR LUCE: No, I think we're ready to
12 proceed.

13 JUDGE TOREM: Let me turn to the speaker
14 sign-in sheet. I'm going to ask again to try to stick a
15 three-minute comment, would you please. Mr. Fiksdal has
16 those cards and he'll be playing the role again and he
17 really will be right there in your face. It's hard to
18 miss him.

19 Tonight's first three speakers are Randall
20 Thomas, the next speaker will be Frances Posel, and then
21 Linda Maw. If the three of you will come down to the
22 front, and I'll have Mr. Thomas to go to the microphone,
23 and, again, if you'll state your full name, spell the last
24 name, and give us your address and I'll hear your
25 comments.

1 COMMENTS BY RANDALL THOMAS

2 Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen. My name is
3 Randall Thomas. Last name T-h-o-m-a-s. I live in
4 Seattle, also have a place in Ellensburg at 1710 West Sun
5 East Road. My comments are that it's beautiful property
6 over there and a lot of people live over there, a lot of
7 recreational land, and I think this is just going to
8 destroy that whole area. I have a bald eagle on my
9 property. I'm about a half mile to a mile from where
10 these windmills are going to be, and the noise and the
11 site is just going to be totally destructive to the area.
12 Thank you.

13 JUDGE TOREM: Ms. Posel.

14 COMMENTS BY FRANCES POSEL

15 My name is Frances Posel, P-o-s-e-l.

16 JUDGE TOREM: Pardon me.

17 MS. POSEL: And I live at 7517 14th Avenue
18 N.E., in Seattle. Thank you for the opportunity to speak
19 before you. I expect you will hear a lot of testimony
20 this evening about the virtues of wind power. I want to
21 remind you and everyone present that the issue here is not
22 the benefits of wind power rather the issue before you is
23 much simpler: Is the site proposed by Horizon for its
24 KVVPP project an appropriate one for a 6,000-acre wind
25 farm?

1 I expect that some people testifying tonight
2 will not have visited this proposed site and some may not
3 even know where it is. These people may feel that wind
4 power is so important that wind farms should be permitted
5 wherever developers want to build them regardless of the
6 local impacts.

7 I have visited Horizon's proposed site. I
8 know the area quite well. As a glance of the map will
9 tell you, there are over 1,000 homes and properties close
10 to the edges of this project. All these owners would
11 suffer significant adverse impacts. There would be noise,
12 shadow flicker, and a very significant visual intrusion
13 from over 65 400-foot tall spinning turbines topped with
14 strobe lights, and for comparison each of these turbines
15 would be two-thirds the height of the space needle.

16 There has been much testimony before you
17 from Kittitas County realtors that these neighboring
18 owners would experience a substantial drop in the value of
19 their properties. That's obvious. Few people want to
20 live so close to such a huge industrial project.

21 This processed site is also a particularly
22 beautiful part of Kittitas County in Washington State, an
23 area teeming with wildlife, an area that should be
24 protected from industrial development on such a massive
25 scale.

1 I share the concern of everyone here about
2 the damage that fossil fuels are doing to our environment,
3 but it makes no sense to destroy our most beautiful
4 landscapes in order to save them. There are many far more
5 appropriate locations than this one for wind farms.

6 As proof of the fact that other locations
7 are available close by, another wind farm developer,
8 EnXco, proposed a similar wind farm for construction only
9 two miles from this site. Horizon itself proposed a wind
10 farm a dozen miles from this location and that project,
11 the wind farm on Whiskey Dick Mountain, is already being
12 constructed.

13 Last week we learned that yet another
14 developer, EnvEnergy, is proposing a large new wind farm
15 in the rye grass area of Kittitas County. So obviously
16 there's no shortage of viable locations in Eastern
17 Washington. Why shoehorn a wind farm like Horizon's KVVPP
18 into a highly populated and scenic area only nine miles
19 from the center of Ellensburg?

20 The final issue here is the right of the
21 citizens of Kittitas County and their elected officials to
22 make decisions about local land use. Horizon does not
23 respect the decisions that the local officials made but
24 EFSEC must. Thank you.

25 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am. Our next

1 speaker is Linda Maw and Kevin McCabe and Jeff Howard.

2 COMMENTS BY LINDA MAW

3 Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is
4 Linda Maw, M-a-w, and I speak for myself as well as my
5 husband Michael Maw. We live in Auburn but we are
6 property owners in the Kittitas Valley. We are against
7 the proposed site of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power
8 Project; however, we feel it's important to note that we
9 are not against wind power in the Kittitas Valley. We
10 feel the site of the project conflicts with ongoing rural
11 residential development and will impact property value.
12 We know this is true because we purchased our property at
13 a lesser cost because of the proposed Desert Claim Wind
14 Power Project later denied by the County for the same
15 reasons we are concerned about this project.

16 It is important to note that around the
17 county some of these proposed projects are on hold because
18 of noise and shadow flicker concerns and how they will
19 impact neighboring residents. It's also important to note
20 that in some areas such as West Virginia these turbines
21 have been sited in pristine areas and residents there now
22 regret supporting the project. In California one large
23 wind farm operates at half capacity at any given time
24 because it's in the flyway of the condor and the kill rate
25 of these birds was excessive. The local Audubon Society

1 experts have concerns that this project is in the
2 migratory bird flyway.

3 We feel that the Kittitas Valley Wind Power
4 Project and the Desert Claim Project negatively impact
5 some of the more pristine views of the mountains to the
6 north and west. We wonder how Kittitas Valley residents
7 will feel having structures that are as tall as Seattle
8 skyscrapers as backdrops to their views of the mountains.
9 Projects such as these certainly would not be sited in
10 such areas as Seattle or King County.

11 We feel that in Kittitas County there are
12 areas northeast and east of Ellensburg that are better
13 suited for wind power projects. The Wild Horse Project in
14 the Whiskey Dick area is in an area with no development
15 pressure and has little aesthetic, noise, or flicker
16 impact. We recently learned that a Colorado company is
17 studying a site 25 miles east of Ellensburg between I-90
18 and Vantage. These areas make more sense for the
19 aforementioned reasons. We support being environmentally
20 conscious but with environmental responsibility.

21 It is also important to note that the
22 Kittitas County Commissioners did not deny this project
23 outright. They listened to public testimony for and
24 against the project and heard the concerns about noise and
25 shadow flicker from impacted residents. They visited an

1 operating wind farm near Dayton, Washington. After this
2 visit they came back and proposed larger setbacks from
3 affected property owners. Horizon basically stonewalled
4 them, leading to the denial of the project as a whole.

5 We urge the EFSEC Committee to continue the
6 practice of upholding County decisions in these matters.
7 We suspect that the people from EnXco that were denied the
8 Desert Claim Project are waiting in the wings hoping that
9 EFSEC will break precedence and override the County denial
10 of the Kittitas County Wind Power Project so they can file
11 for preemption on their project. We ask that you please
12 do not override the County on this matter. Thank you.

13 JUDGE TOREM: Kevin McCabe.

14 MR. McCABE: Your Honor, Kevin McCabe. I'm
15 from the Sierra Club's Cascade Chapter. I was wondering
16 if I could concede my time to another member of the
17 chapter.

18 JUDGE TOREM: Certainly.

19 MR. McCABE: Thank you.

20 JUDGE TOREM: Who would that member be?

21 MR. McCABE: I'm sorry. That would be Andy
22 Silber will be giving an integrated presentation for our
23 chapter.

24 JUDGE TOREM: You're asking if I give your
25 three minutes to make his six?

1 MR. McCABE: Exactly. Thank you.

2 JUDGE TOREM: Jeff Howard.

3 COMMENTS BY JEFF HOWARD

4 My name is Jeff Howard, 21 Fawn Road, Cle
5 Elum. For the past four years the Applicant has been
6 trying to get permission to install their project in the
7 western Kittitas Valley. In the beginning their main
8 point of argument was that this location was the only
9 place in the entire county where the wind was suitable for
10 their purposes. When they encountered citizen resistance
11 during the county process, they dropped their application
12 and requested EFSEC preemption hoping that the state would
13 step in and grant their wishes. EFSEC sent them back to
14 the county with a request that they try to comply with the
15 county requirements first. Back in Kittitas County the
16 Applicant made a half-hearted effort to meet the county
17 requirements and was finally turned down.

18 The rejection of the application at the
19 county level was ruled on after a protracted series of
20 public hearings, lawsuits, newspaper articles, and volumes
21 of written and oral testimony. In the end the planning
22 commission voted unanimously to recommend denial.

23 After even more hearings and testimony the
24 Board of County Commissioners also voted also unanimously
25 to deny the application. Meanwhile, the same applicant

1 planned another wind project east of the city of Kittitas,
2 but it was quickly approved by the same planning
3 commission, by the same Board of County Commissioners with
4 almost no opposition. It is now nearly complete and ready
5 to go on line.

6 Recently another wind project was announced
7 to be built in the eastern end of the county, and it too
8 should glide through approval at the county level because
9 there's two very important things. First, the applicant
10 has proven by its own actions that wind farms are feasible
11 in sparsely populated areas of the county. The Highway 97
12 area is not after all the only place where the wind is
13 adequate.

14 Second, citizens and officials of Kittitas
15 County are not averse to having wind projects built at
16 all. We are just making the point that this is a very
17 wrong place to site this installation. This proposed
18 project in this location will adversely affect the
19 environment, way of life, property values, and pristine
20 landscape and mountain views which are valued and coveted
21 by all of us who work, live, and recreate in the western
22 valley.

23 The applicant is asking you, EFSEC, to
24 trample on the four-year county public process along with
25 the will, rights, and well being of we the actual property

1 owners in the valley. This project may be basically a
2 good idea, but the location is totally wrong. I
3 respectfully request that you would deny this application.
4 Thank you.

5 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. The next speakers
6 are David Lee, Erin Piegari, and Heather Rhoads-Weaver.

7 Mr. Lee.

8 COMMENTS BY DAVID LEE

9 Good evening. I'm David Lee. I live at 5821
10 Robbins Road, Ellensburg. Last name is spelled L-e-e.

11 I own a couple hundred acres between my wife
12 and myself right probably a quarter mile from where these
13 turbines may land, and I couldn't do this to my neighbors,
14 to put something 42 stories tall so that they would have
15 to look at them. And you as the board members are going
16 to make this decision. When you go home tonight, I want
17 you to look at your back yard and see if you want them in
18 your patch of grass behind you.

19 And yet I'm not against wind turbines. I'm
20 not against conserving energy. I'm not against making
21 energy. But the same people in this great state a few
22 years ago turned down a place called Satsop that was 98
23 percent ready to go on line, and I'll bet you if somebody
24 does some research that nuclear plant would generate more
25 than all these monstrous turbines.

1 And there's also another turbine that's being
2 built internal. It doesn't have the blades. That's
3 internally run; that doesn't have these great big things.
4 I know of it. I can research and find it, but I would
5 think somebody should be able to present something on
6 those.

7 As far as eastern Kittitas County from our
8 humble little ranch that we enjoy watching the moon come
9 up, the sun come up, the start at night, just as recently
10 as Saturday night I sat there and watched blinking red
11 turbines that are at least 20 miles away from me, and I
12 saw them and it's like, "Why people?" Maybe some people
13 don't care if they have them in their back yard but we do.

14 So please consider this from somebody that
15 has invested in land, and I'm sure that at the end of all
16 this if the decision is to go forward with it, I would
17 tell you that you're probably going to look at lawsuits
18 forever. And the state has been hammered by enough bad
19 decisions. I don't think we need more of them.

20 And I've been a property owner over there for
21 15 years plus. I've been president of the Sun East
22 Property Owners Association. I don't speak for those
23 people, but I can tell you that I know of no one out of
24 165 members that ever wanted turbines in their back yard.
25 But if there's so many viable spots in Eastern Washington,

1 put these turbines that won't affect any of us. Let's
2 choose those sites instead of your back yard or ours.
3 Thank you.

4 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Lee.

5 Erin Piegari.

6 I'm sure I'm butchering names. So I'm
7 trying to get a C+ on name pronunciation. I think I'm
8 four out of six so far.

9 COMMENTS BY ERIN PIEGARI

10 Actually you did really good with that.
11 It's spelled P-i-e-g-a-r-i. I'm a resident here in West
12 Seattle. I think I'm probably the first pro voice, and
13 mine's actually just a general comment; that, you know,
14 I'm pro renewable energy and mostly because of my family.
15 When I became pregnant and found out that I couldn't eat
16 certain kinds of fish because of the levels of mercury or
17 because of the levels of mercury that are in fish, and
18 that's because of the amount of carbon dioxide we put into
19 the environment. I would support any project that would
20 look to any sort of renewable energy, and that's all I
21 have to say.

22 JUDGE TOREM: All right. Thank you, ma'am.

23 Heather Rhoads-Weaver.

24 COMMENTS BY HEATHER RHOADS-WEAVER

25 Heather Rhoads-Weaver,

1 R-h-o-a-d-s-W-e-a-v-e-r, and I live at 11824 Vashon
2 Highway S.W., Vashon, Washington.

3 I'm with a company called eFormative
4 Options. We are a market research and public affairs
5 consulting firm specializing in both residential and
6 community scale wind development, as well as the formation
7 and growth of sustainable ventures to enhance local
8 economies.

9 Previously I was also the founder of the
10 Northwest SEED, Sustainable Energy for Economic
11 Development, which has been an active supporter of this
12 project since it was first proposed. We worked with many
13 of the local residents on a watch organization. You've
14 probably heard of Kittitas CARES, Citizens Alliance for
15 Renewable Energy Solutions, and I personally testified at
16 several of the county hearings out in Ellensburg. So what
17 you're hearing tonight is definitely nothing new.

18 But one important reason that I feel it's
19 really important to advocate this particular site is it's
20 a very unique wind resource. I conducted a study along
21 with several other wind experts for the U.S. Department of
22 Energy a few years ago looking at all the wind in the
23 Northwest that would have adequate wind energy to power
24 irrigation in the summertime. And we found that this
25 area, particularly Ellensburg, is one of the few sites

1 that actually has good wind in the summertime during those
2 months when irrigation load is high.

3 It's also becoming an important time of year
4 as the summertime peak is getting as high as the winter in
5 this region. Air conditioning loads go up and such. And
6 it's also very critical in times of drought to ease the
7 strain of the hydro system. So it's just a really
8 important spot. It's good access to transmission lines,
9 fairly close to our load centers here in the state.

10 So approving this project will set a
11 critical precedent to establish clean renewable energy
12 generation in the state relatively close to the state's
13 population load centers. I appreciate your consideration.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

15 The next speaker is Rick Forster, and Angie
16 LaVigne will follow him, followed by Michael Gossler.

17 COMMENTS BY RICK FORSTER

18 My name is Rick Forster, F-o-r-s-t-e-r. I
19 live in Redmond. I have 40 acres up on top of the hill in
20 Ellensburg that looks down in this area. We've been
21 through all the meetings with Horizon Ph.D. specialists.
22 It's kind of like listening to an old time snake oil sale
23 show. It wouldn't hurt the view, it won't hurt the value
24 of property, and you will only have to change your
25 lifestyle a little bit by having your drapes closed for

1 all day for the light flicker and earmuffs for the noise.

2 I'm a little confused about real estate
3 values. They are now going up like crazy over there.
4 With all the money these people have and insight so they
5 say they have, why don't they buy all of this property and
6 resell it later with a huge profit. For I'm sure it will
7 continue going up at least 15 to 20 percent a year like
8 it's been going up, and after structures are up, they
9 could turn around and sell it for a nice profit if their
10 information is really right. Okay?

11 Would any of these people buy property next
12 to these structures? No. I'll tell you about industrial
13 property. I own heavy industrial property where my
14 business is in King County. I could not put these
15 structures on my heavy industrial zone property. You
16 couldn't put them in Thurston County, Snohomish County,
17 Pierce County. Heavy industrial property it wouldn't be
18 allowed. The height is so high it wouldn't be allowed.
19 But we can go to Eastern Washington and put them over
20 there where poor hill folk won't know any better and they
21 won't fight it.

22 My home isn't next to my shop for I didn't
23 want to live in an industrial area. When I wanted
24 recreation property, I bought it in the hills above
25 Ellensburg because I didn't want it next to an industrial

1 area. I have views of Rainier, Mount St. Helens, Stuart,
2 and the Valley.

3 These people trying to sell this to you again
4 are like the old time snake oil salesmen. Comes into
5 town, stuffs his pockets full of money, and leaves town.
6 The mess is left. We have to live with it. The County
7 has spoke and said, no, they don't want this industrial
8 site built there. Please respect the County's decision
9 and wishes of the people who live there, pay taxes, and
10 vote, none of these things are done by the New York owners
11 golden sacks. I'm not against wind power. It's just the
12 wrong place.

13 And by the way, for all you eco-friendly
14 people, how many thousands of gallons does each one these
15 turbines have that they have to change out all the time?
16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Ms. LaVigne.

18 COMMENTS BY ANGIE LaVIGNE

19 Angie LaVigne. Last name is spelled
20 L-a-V-as in Victor-i-g-n-e, 8549 Latona Avenue N.E., in
21 Seattle, Washington 98115. I am an energy management
22 engineer, retired, and as such I would like to speak to
23 the big picture.

24 If we are going to continue the economic
25 vitality of this fair nation and Washington State in

1 particular starting in the near future, we are going to
2 need to invest in any acceptable source of energy
3 generation we can get our mitts on. Wind certainly and I
4 think there seems to be consensus in the room is near the
5 top priority. I'll make a short aside about nuclear. It
6 is way too expensive, and we have not yet found a way to
7 dispose of the spent fuel rods.

8 Returning to wind, hearing the positions of
9 the people at the table, I realize you are totally
10 acquainted with the low emissions, the low pollution, and
11 so on off it.

12 I'll mention an occurrence that happened
13 yesterday. I was bringing a wedding present over to a
14 friend's home. On the mantelpiece is an American flag
15 folded into a triangular display case. If there are
16 families in Ellensburg and Enron's that have lost a son or
17 daughter in the conflict in the Middle East, they know
18 that the price of oil is far higher than what we see at
19 the pump or read at the meter, and wind is a very viable,
20 positive, possible alternative. Thank you.

21 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. I recognize that
22 many of you are going to agree strongly or disagree
23 strongly with speakers and maybe technically give them
24 applause or fortunately we haven't had cat calls or boos
25 or hissing. Let's refrain from that. If you want to

1 cheer or maybe make a piggish boo, the Mariner's team is
2 up the road. Let's hope that we'll offer dignity to all
3 of our speakers tonight, and to the Council this isn't a
4 popularity contest. It's simply somebody may need to hear
5 these items, and I don't want to turn them into a cheering
6 session one way or the other. So thanks. I appreciate
7 the feelings but let's hold them. We did good for the
8 first nine. Let's get back on track.

9 Michael Gossler is next and Helen Gribble
10 and Sara Patton will follow.

11 COMMENTS BY MICHAEL GOSSLER

12 Thank you, Your Honor. My name is Michael
13 Gossler. I reside at 3212 74th Place S.E., Mercer Island,
14 Washington. I also own 40 acres of recreation property up
15 out of Ellensburg that will be impacted by this project.

16 I'm here tonight for the same reason that I
17 left my office, drove over the pass to Ellensburg, and
18 participated at the multiple hearings before the local
19 processes over there.

20 It would be a mistake for this commission to
21 recommend that the Governor preempt the local process. It
22 was extensive. It was thorough. It was well considered,
23 and it was fair in all respects. The local government I
24 think is entitled in particular to be given a lot of
25 credence for its decision making in this process because

1 it listened to a lot of testimony and considered all the
2 arguments and considered them very carefully.

3 I'm here basically to speak to two issues.
4 One is that the impact on the environment and the pristine
5 nature of the valley over there would be devastating and
6 permanent by allowing what is nothing short of a huge
7 industrial project in a rural area.

8 When you put into context the size of this
9 project compared to the local structures in Kittitas
10 County, it's amazing. If you go and drive over and visit
11 Ellensburg, the largest buildings are two or three stories
12 tall. We're talking about something here that's
13 two-thirds the size of the Columbia Center where I spend
14 my days, and it's not something you want to have in that
15 Kittitas Valley. The impact would be permanent I would
16 suggest. Because once you allow this to happen, there's
17 no coming back and these facilities will be here for
18 generations.

19 When you look at the impact environmentally,
20 we're talking about again 40-story structures that will
21 have white and red lights flashing 24 hours a day, 7 days
22 a week. I bought property over there to get away from the
23 city and to enjoy the beautiful views that others have
24 described tonight. It's not something that this
25 commission should take lightly and I know it will not.

1 Secondly, and again people have alluded to
2 this, but I submit it would have a devastating impact on
3 property values if you were to allow this kind of a
4 project to go forward.

5 And finally, again, as most of the people
6 who have spoken against this project tonight, I have
7 nothing inherently against wind power. In the right place
8 it might very well be appropriate. An earlier speaker
9 suggested, well, this might be the absolute best place
10 because it's got good wind in the summertime. Well, it
11 isn't the only place that has good wind in the summertime,
12 and that's not the criteria. The criteria is balancing
13 the interests of the local population, the environment
14 against what I submit is a relatively minimal amount of
15 power that you would garnish from this particular project.

16 So for all those reasons this commission
17 should reject the petition and recommend to the Governor
18 not to preempt the project. Thank you.

19 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

20 Helen Gribble.

21 COMMENTS BY HELEN GRIBBLE

22 Hello, my name is Helen Gribble. That's
23 with a G but like scribble or dribble, G-r-i-b-b-l-e. I
24 live in a small apartment at 2400 Boyer Avenue East. I do
25 have between two and three hundred dollars in my bank

1 account. If anyone would like to sell me property in
2 Kittitas where I can put a wind turbine, please, I'm sure
3 we can work out some kind of financing deal. I only have
4 student loans to pay off for, you know, the next 15 years
5 or so. I'm sure we can work something out.

6 I'm here today to say that change happens
7 and it's not something you can plan for. Sometimes it's
8 good; sometimes it's bad. Sometimes it's in the name of
9 progress. And that's the kind of change that I hope for
10 in my life; that I hope for the kids that I would like to
11 have.

12 And to tell people who want to do something
13 good and put wind turbines on their land and do something
14 for the future, this is inevitably going to happen I
15 believe. There will be wind turbines all across Kittitas
16 County. They're going to be there. If not now, it's
17 going to be in 50 years. They will be tearing down houses
18 to put wind turbines up when we run out of oil. You know,
19 when the nuclear power plant explodes, and we've got to
20 figure out what to do to make power because we are
21 certainly going to continue to need power.

22 So if progress is going to be made, I would
23 rather have it be made for wind turbines than for a strip
24 mall or a diesel power plant or coal or any of those kinds
25 of things. And I know and I understand and I empathize

1 with the people who are going to lose property value, if
2 that's what they think, and the people who are going to be
3 exposed to light and shadow and noise. You know, that
4 happens when highways get put in. That happens when
5 airports get put in it. That happens when strip malls get
6 put in. And I don't think it's any less sad to the people
7 who saved up and invested their money in that kind of
8 property.

9 But sometimes we have to think about what's
10 good for everybody, not what's good for one person or ten
11 people who own land who would like to make a profit. If
12 change is going to happen in Kittitas, which I would bet
13 my whole life savings on which is between two to three
14 hundred dollars, I would put that down that change is
15 going to happen in Kittitas County. And all we can do is
16 try to direct that change in the best possible direction
17 for the county, the state, the nation, and the world.
18 That's what I would like to say. Thank you.

19 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Gribble. There
20 will be a small collection taken in the back.

21 The next few speakers are Sara Patton,
22 LeeAnne Beres, and Mick Steinman.

23 COMMENTS BY SARA PATTON

24 Good evening. I'm Sara Patton. I'm the
25 executive director of the Northwest Energy Coalition. My

1 last name is spelled P-a-t-t-o-n. I live at 2629 East
2 Valley Street in Seattle. That you very much, Mr. Chair
3 and Members of the Council, for having this hearing. The
4 coalition asked for this hearing among others, and we're
5 very glad to have one on the west side for this very
6 important issue.

7 We think this project can be a win win for
8 Washington. It will provide economic development for
9 Kittitas County, and it will provide power for Washington
10 and for the region. The economic development benefits
11 include local job and extended tax revenues. The
12 ratepayers are going to benefit from a diversified mix of
13 new clean renewables. Obviously there are no fuel costs
14 for wind. Puget Sound Energy you may have heard has
15 already estimated that the two wind farms that it has
16 bought have saved its ratepayers 170 million dollars so
17 they are happy. That's in their most recent annual
18 report.

19 I want to talk a little bit about the
20 specifics of this project; one issue being that it is
21 consistent I understand with the Department of Fish and
22 Wildlife Wind Siting Guidelines. It's also consistent
23 with the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan. The
24 developer has done a number of things to improve it from
25 the issues that have been raised to it; the other concerns

1 including reducing the overall number of turbines,
2 removing or actually moving portions of those strings, and
3 increasing setbacks from homes and property lines as well
4 as reducing the impacts of lights on the turbines while
5 still meeting FAA kinds of guidelines. This is the kind
6 of project that makes good sense for Washington, and we do
7 urge the Council to approve it.

8 I want to just step back a moment and say
9 that the Northwest Power and Conservation Council has
10 looked at the opportunities for meeting the region's load
11 growth, and we can meet the region's load growth over the
12 next 20 years and the power council's plan shows it with
13 energy conservation and renewables with an extremely
14 minimal reliance on new coal. We believe that the
15 coalition doesn't need the new coal either, but we have to
16 do that or we will not be able to in fact--was that one
17 minute?

18 MR. FIKSDAL: One minute. Sorry.

19 MS. PATTON: We have to develop the wind or
20 we will not be able to do that and we will have coal
21 development. I just came from a meeting which I met with
22 a colleague from Montana who's fighting eight conventional
23 coal plants, big conventional coal plants which are
24 proposed to meet load on the west side. Montana doesn't
25 need them. They're planning to sell it to Washington.

1 The devastation of the coal mining, of the poisons in the
2 atmosphere, the poisons in the water, the contribution to
3 an unstable climate are the things that we have to avoid
4 by developing wind power whenever and wherever we can
5 responsibly as with this project.

6 Also I understand that the agency firmly
7 knows WPPSS Energy Northwest has now actually submitted
8 its proposal for a 600-megawatt coal plant in Kalama,
9 Washington. There's also a proposal for it's formally yet
10 in Oregon but a proposal for another 600-megawatt coal
11 plant across the river in Clatskanie. So those are very
12 real, very real alternatives to this wind plant. Thank
13 you.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Next is LeeAnne Beres.

15 COMMENTS BY LeeANNE BERES

16 Hi, my name is LeeAnne Beres, spelled
17 B-e-r-e-s, and I live here in West Seattle at 4511 45th
18 Avenue S.W. I'm here representing Earth Ministry which is
19 an ecumenical Christian organization that brings the faith
20 perspective to issues concerning people and the
21 environment. We represent over 150 congregations around
22 Washington State, and I'm here to speak in favor of the
23 Kittitas Wind Project.

24 Some speakers have already mentioned wind
25 power in general is something that all of us given the

1 rush to coal in this region and also the ever emerging
2 need for more energy in this state and this country all
3 support, but I want to talk specifically about the
4 elements of this project.

5 Our members support this project because we
6 believe this brings good balance to both what people and
7 the environment need in this region. It is consistent
8 with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's wind
9 siting guidelines which means that there are going to be
10 adverse impacts to the environment and to the animals in
11 the surrounding area, and especially for our members it's
12 important to acknowledge that many changes have been
13 already made to this project in response to community
14 concerns. The number of turbines has been nearly halved.
15 Other speakers have mentioned that there will be fewer
16 lights than originally intended, and we believe that this
17 compromise brings forward a good balance to meeting both
18 our energy needs in a clean and affordable manner but
19 addressing some very real community concerns.

20 Personally I want to speak to my experience
21 with wind power plants. I was lucky enough to tour the
22 State Line Wind Plant over near Walla Walla that straddles
23 the border of Oregon and Washington, and these are not
24 industrial properties. They are turbines sited out in the
25 middle of farms along ridge lines and between the fields

1 where farmers are actually paid and receive money per wind
2 turbine put on land that is normally not farmable in the
3 first place. So it's actually an economic benefit to the
4 community because farmers have the opportunity to bring
5 additional income for a land that would not be farmed
6 anyway.

7 Also the State Line Project is now the
8 largest contributor to the tax income for the county out
9 there. It's become one of the largest revenue sources and
10 actually is bringing economic boom to the area. So I
11 encourage people who are concerned about the local impacts
12 to think of it as a bigger picture and residents out there
13 who actually were against the proposed in the first place
14 now are happy to have them as neighbors, and I just
15 encourage us to always remember that there needs to be
16 balance and compromise when we are looking at
17 environmental and neighborhood issues and we definitely
18 support this project. Thank you.

19 JUDGE TOREM: All right. Thank you,
20 Ms. Beres.

21 The next three speakers are Mick Steinman,
22 Greg Nevil, and Emilia Burdyshaw.

23 COMMENTS BY MICK STEINMAN

24 Okay. My name is Mick Steinman,
25 S-t-e-i-n-m-a-n. I've been an owner of property over

1 there in Ellensburg on the project for about 20 years.
2 When I first purchased the land, I was thinking of
3 building a cabin out there. I started doing a little bit
4 of road building and stuff and boy that wind just blew my
5 hat right off and it was just so hard to get anything
6 done. I mean I was driving CATs and things. I mean it
7 was cold and I mean that wind just was hard all the time.
8 You know, I found out how much the wind really blew, and
9 it just takes all the topsoil right off the land. It's
10 all scab rock. Anyway, the stuff I have up there.

11 And, you know, at that time I was thinking
12 that, you know, this would be ideal for a wind farm, and I
13 even went as far as to go over to Stewart Anderson's farm
14 which was up on I-90 near Elk Heights which is kind of
15 across the Yakima River to the south and I talked to him a
16 little bit and it wasn't anything I could put together.
17 But, you know, it was kind of a thought I had way back in
18 the '80s.

19 And in 1999 I went down to Arizona, traveled
20 through Palm Springs and things, and I saw all those wind
21 farms down there, and I said, "Man, this is the thing to
22 do for Ellensburg. It's something where you can have the
23 farming underneath, and you get your wind generation.
24 It's something that we need for the future."

25 A few years ago, I was approached about

1 having a wind farm on the property, and I thought it was
2 the best idea there ever was. I mean that was something
3 that that land is made for it. The land is right on the
4 power transmission lines. You don't have any other
5 infrastructure you have to put in for those powers lines.
6 It's just the local lines because you've got two high
7 power transmission lines right on that property. These
8 guys talk about looking down over the project and, you
9 know, how it's going to ruin their view. Well, these
10 things are much better looking than the power lines that
11 are currently there, these things.

12 I've just visited the Wild Horse site. I was
13 able to get up and actually touch the turbines, go
14 underneath. We could hear the crickets going underneath
15 the turbines more than we could hear the wind turbines.
16 There wasn't hardly any noise at all, very quiet. I
17 looked into the shadow flicker and in the afternoon sun I
18 looked up there, and I mean I wasn't very far away on some
19 of them, some of them were a little bit farther, and, you
20 know, I didn't notice the shadow flicker. I mean what
21 really is it? I mean it just wasn't something that really
22 bothered me. I mean I'm standing in the shadow as the
23 turbines were going, and it just it wouldn't bother me at
24 all. So I think he's got the end for me. So anyway I'm
25 for the project. Thank you.

1 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

2 The next speaker is Craig Nevil.

3 COMMENTS BY CRAIG NEVIL

4 My name is Craig Nevil, N-e-v-i-l. For 30
5 years I've been a stockbroker in Seattle. I live at 707
6 West 2nd in Cle Elum. I would love to get into a debate
7 about some of the issues. Tax credits for wind farms
8 versus hydrocarbons or some of the utility costs pass
9 through that we run in over the years, the stranded cost
10 for WPPSS, 18 percent pack power bonds, the green issue
11 from California picking up some of these things. The
12 issue tonight is this site now.

13 I happen to be on the board for the county
14 Economic Development Council, but tonight I'm just talking
15 about me as a taxpayer. You may be aware that in the area
16 west from Ellensburg is becoming a bedroom community for
17 this area. There's a 6,000 acre planning of new
18 development going in. There's a lot of residential growth
19 going in. You're probably aware that the property tax
20 consequences of residential development are you pay a buck
21 you use more than a buck in services. You have to have
22 some industry in your normal community because an industry
23 pays a buck and uses 50 cents worth of services; so you
24 have to have some kind of a balance.

25 There isn't a lot of industry in Cle Elum or

1 Ellensburg right now, west of Ellensburg I guess. This
2 project is roughly \$200,000,000 and will pay a significant
3 amount of property taxes predominantly into the Thorp
4 School District. When you get to Ellensburg, you will
5 hear most likely from the school district from Kittitas
6 and the tremendous impact the taxes have there on the fire
7 districts and police districts. I would urge you to
8 consider that strongly because Cle Elum and the outline
9 areas are going to have some significant shortages of
10 property taxes and we're not going to be able to provide
11 the services because there just isn't the ground for
12 industry that we will need to go with this tremendous
13 residential development.

14 The witness that talked about the big picture
15 as I was sitting there listening to her I couldn't help
16 wonder how 50 years ago how they ran all those power lines
17 across this state. Thank you.

18 JUDGE TOREM: Ms. Burdyshaw and the next
19 speakers will be Rosemary Monaghan, Cager Clabaugh, and
20 Mike Robertson.

21 COMMENTS BY EMILIA BURDYSHAW

22 My name is Emilia Burdyshaw. My last name is
23 B-u-r-d-y-s-h-a-w, and I live at 2806 S.W. Adams Street in
24 Seattle; however, I own property right next to the project
25 area and my property is spaced surrounding the project

1 area.

2 Anyway in my opinion Kittitas Valley Wind
3 Power Project is a poor one. The issue is not about the
4 merits of wind power. It concerns the location of this
5 project. Since EFSEC their purpose is to evaluate the
6 site for energy facilities this site is a poor choice for
7 this facility. It's proposed in a peaceful, scenic,
8 recreational area of rural residences and vacation
9 properties. The project will drastically alter the area
10 making it undesirable for its current use.

11 It introduces 410-foot turbines topped with
12 flashing lights. Spinning blades will emit noise, create
13 shadow flicker, cause bird and bat mortalities. It will
14 jeopardize the safety of property owners since towers
15 collapse, blade throws, ice throws, and fire instances
16 have been known to occur at such facilities. Monetary
17 rewards are being given only to the 13 landowners who have
18 lease property and will receive thousands of dollars per
19 year for each turbine on their land. No compensation or
20 mitigation is being offered to the hundreds of other
21 affected property owners who are not participating in this
22 project.

23 My property will be surrounded on three sides
24 while other adjacent landowners will have turbines only
25 541 feet from their property line. Industrial wind farm

1 facilities have no place among residential development.
2 Since nonpopulated regions are appropriate sites this
3 project could be located elsewhere.

4 Klickitat County has set aside thousands of
5 acres for wind development. The State Line Project in
6 Walla Walla is located on remote farm land. The Wild
7 Horse project which Puget Sound Energy plans to expand is
8 in an isolated area with the closest residence over one
9 and a half miles away.

10 The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project has no
11 buyer for their project. Puget Sound Energy is not
12 interested in purchasing power from this controversial
13 project; therefore, there is no way of knowing where the
14 power will be transmitted. It could be sold to a company
15 that would send the power to another state. Such an
16 arrangement could be similar to Bonneville Power
17 Administration's current practice of selling its surplus
18 power outside of Washington State. Thank you.

19 JUDGE TOREM: Next speaker is Rosemary
20 Monaghan.

21 COMMENTS BY ROSEMARY MONAGHAN

22 I am Rosemary Monaghan. That's spelled
23 M-o-n-a-g-h-a-n. I reside at 19205 67th Avenue S.E., in
24 Snohomish, Washington.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to comment

1 before you today. I own property directly bordering this
2 proposed huge project. My plans of building have now been
3 on hold for four years. Would you continue with your
4 future plans based on this uncertainty?

5 In Seattle people complain about the 65-foot
6 cell towers near their house. How would you like 65
7 410-foot towers with strobe lights in front of your house?
8 Horizon has continued to ignore me and my neighbors who
9 collectively own 320 acres on the border of this proposed
10 project. We're being told that our country needs more
11 wind power, but that's not the real issue. The issue is
12 oversiting. Kittitas County has already permitted another
13 Horizon project. The County has no objection to these
14 projects if they're properly sited. But Kittitas County
15 has determined that this particular project is not
16 properly sited and the County has disapproved of it.
17 There are other areas in our county as well as in the
18 state that can support wind power. This is simply the
19 wrong place, and it's just too populated.

20 I suggest to you that EFSEC's criteria for
21 siting wind farms should include these: The project be
22 built on one or two contiguous parcels of land, no
23 residences or other landowners for at least a mile from
24 the project; that there be a buyer already in place for
25 the power that would be produced, and that the project

1 meets little opposition or has local support.

2 The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project has
3 met none of these criteria. Horizon has repeatedly
4 claimed this is the only place in Kittitas County for a
5 viable wind farm. We now know that this is false. Why
6 else would the Wild Horse and Desert Claim projects have
7 been proposed in Kittitas County? Why do we now have a
8 fourth project being proposed by EnvEnergy out my Vantage?

9 This project is proposed in an inappropriate
10 location. It's not supported by the local community, and
11 I feel it should be denied. Please think thoroughly and
12 vote wisely. The future of Kittitas County and its
13 residents are riding on your recommendations. Thank you
14 very much.

15 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Monaghan.

16 Cager Clabaugh and Mike Robertson and Jess
17 Nelson.

18 COMMENTS BY CAGER CLABAUGH

19 My name is Cager Clabaugh, C-l-a-b-a-u-g-h.
20 I live at 34163 N.E. Lewisville Highway, Yucolt,
21 Washington. I'm a rank and file member of the
22 International Longshore Warehouse Union Local 4, President
23 of the Clark, Skamania, and West Klickitat Labor Council,
24 Vice President of the Washington State Labor Council from
25 the third district.

1 Again, my name is Cager Clabaugh, and I'm a
2 longshoreman at the Port of Vancouver. That's America's
3 Vancouver on the Columbia River. I am here this evening
4 to speak in favor of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power
5 Project. Longshore workers at the Port of Vancouver such
6 as myself have benefited a great deal from the popularity
7 and efficiency of wind generation. The last five years
8 our longshore local has grown from around 118 members to
9 184 members mainly due to the increase of windmill
10 projects in Eastern Washington and Oregon.

11 Many of these projects bring their wind
12 generators through our ports to be off-loaded by our
13 skilled and qualified work force. Afterward they are
14 trucked or barged to their final destination where they
15 are assembled, wired, and maintained by skilled employees,
16 most of which live in the State of Washington. The
17 Hopkins Ridge Project last year created over 13,000 labor
18 hours for our longshore local alone. The Wild Horse
19 Canyon Project is expected to produce 15,000 labor hours
20 for our local by the completion at the end of this year.
21 To put it simply, these projects not only create clean,
22 reliable energy in Washington State, they create much
23 needed family-wage jobs.

24 On behalf of the 184 longshore workers at the
25 Port of Vancouver and their families I urge the Energy

1 Facility Site Evaluation Council to approve the Kittitas
2 Valley Wind Power Project. That means a lot to working
3 families across Washington State. Thank you.

4 JUDGE TOREM: Mike Robertson.

5 COMMENTS BY MIKE ROBERTSON

6 My name is Mike Robertson,
7 R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n. My wife and I live at 4101 Bettas Road
8 in Cle Elum. Our home is 1,300 feet from the proposed
9 Turbine A-1. We've been testifying before various land
10 use authorities for four years as to the impacts this
11 project would cause to us and our neighbors, and during
12 this time the Applicant has maintained that we should
13 cover our windows with blinds to mitigate the effects of
14 shadow flicker which their own analysis shows would happen
15 to our home 149 days in every year. The Applicant also
16 thinks that it's perfectly acceptable that we should look
17 at 385- to 410-foot turbines moving mechanical structures
18 instead of the wide-open shrub-steppe vista that was one
19 of the original reasons we purchased our property.

20 When I submitted documented evidence that
21 wind farms caused low frequency noises for distances up to
22 a mile, the response has been silence or the usual wind
23 industry response that it's not measurable within
24 currently legal standards. Their own studies admit to the
25 probability of high raptor mortality, including bald

1 eagles, during the life of this project.

2 Our locally elected Kittitas County Board of
3 Commissioners has spent the last four years studying and
4 listening to three different wind farm applications. They
5 are very competent at this point in determining proper
6 siting for these large industrial complexes. They have
7 even visited a wind farm to get first-hand experience of
8 the visual impacts of their size and the shadow flicker
9 effect. They have experienced the low rhythmic sound
10 these machines make when operating. They determined the
11 only way to mitigate these impacts is to require
12 sufficient distance between nonparticipating property
13 owners and the turbines.

14 The Applicant maintains the setbacks our
15 County suggested would make their project economically
16 unviable. Economic viability is not a criterion for
17 proper siting of energy facilities. It has been
18 demonstrated that there are many places within Kittitas
19 Valley where wind farms can be responsibly sited. Wild
20 Horse Wind Power Project was analyzed and permitted by the
21 same Board of Commissioners that has denied this project
22 using the exact same evaluation process. There is even
23 another wind company wanting to build a 350-megawatt
24 facility near Wild Horse.

25 In closing, the denial of this project is

1 not a referendum against renewable energy. Renewable
2 energy use in Washington will happen. Permitting this
3 project as proposed would be a referendum for poor siting
4 standards. I urge this Council to not preempt the very
5 thorough comprehensive local land use decision for the
6 siting of this project and recommend to the Governor to
7 deny this application. Thanks.

8 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Robertson.

9 The next speaker is Jess Nelson who will be
10 followed by Jack Arends and Les White and then Mike Ruby.

11 COMMENTS BY JESS NELSON

12 Hi, I'm Jess Nelson. I live in Woodinville,
13 Washington. My business is in Kirkland. I own a piece of
14 property in Ellensburg. Funny Nick never told me about
15 the windmills when he sold it so me, my brother, or my
16 other neighbors. I live in a valley in places I've built
17 over the last six years with my three sons, and I would
18 have turbines on six sides. If one of them lost a blade,
19 it could conceivably hit my property. I would be in
20 constant shadow flicker, constant lights. The towers they
21 have now just for testing the wind the noise is
22 unbearable. You can't hear a cricket. My place would be
23 useless. I would have a loss of about \$200,000. My
24 brother has graded his piece of property. They have been
25 waiting for five years to build. Bud Schwab up on the

1 hill his retirement property he's been waiting five years
2 to build. He's been retired for four waiting to see what
3 happens. The unfortunate thing is it's pitted neighbor
4 against neighbor here. People don't look at each other.
5 It's become horrible. I've avoided these the whole time
6 just to try to stay neutral but you can't. Finally I had
7 to come here and speak up.

8 The area I'm in about 750 acres of it is
9 cattle grazing. You can't take a horse near a windmill.
10 So even that use isn't going to be any good anymore. The
11 place is going to be ruined. I think if you approve this,
12 you're going to open pandora's box that's going to be
13 really hard to close. Thank you.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

15 Jack Arends

16 COMMENTS BY JACK ARENDS

17 Thank you. I'm Councilmember Arends. I
18 live at 234 S.W. 200th Street in Normandy Park,
19 Washington. My last name is spelled A-r-e-n-d-s.

20 Listening to the debate tonight, I'm kind of
21 reminded of the days when I lived in the Kings Gate Ridge
22 neighborhood in Kirkland. I had a view of the Olympic
23 Mountains from there, and the only thing obstructing it
24 was a big power line transmission line that City Light had
25 run down the east side of Lake Washington from up north,

1 and one weekend my cousin, an electrical engineer, came
2 over to visit me from his home in Benton County, and he
3 looked out the window and he says, "Oh, those are lovely,
4 lovely towers. It's really too bad you've got those
5 mountains there distracting us from the view."

6 So as I listen tonight I think there are
7 some points on which it will be impossible for everybody
8 in the room to agree. One person's visual pollution might
9 be another's visual inspiration. I do know this: Our
10 country faces a future that will require us to make some
11 choices and some hard ones about our quality of life and
12 how we go about doing our business. If we deny a wind
13 project in one location, we may find ourselves having to
14 approval a coal project or a nuclear project in another
15 location. I know that if we look to hydro for our
16 solution in this state, there's probably only one or two
17 locations left where a dam could be sited and then we have
18 to ask do we want to sacrifice the last free flowing
19 streams to that sort of a project.

20 So I don't know that I have any easy ten
21 word answer for you, but I do know that I have decided to
22 install vinyl windows this year. The cost to me is
23 considerable. I sympathize with you earlier on your
24 remarks about your limited savings, but I feel this on an
25 individual level is what I had to do to do what I could to

1 mitigate what we face.

2 So reluctantly I would have to say I support
3 the effort to build more wind power in Kittitas County and
4 approving this project, although I'm sympathetic to what
5 people have said tonight. Thank you.

6 JUDGE TOREM: Les White and Mike Ruby and
7 then Andy Silber, and I'll go to our timekeeper to give
8 Mr. Silber a six-minute block using Kevin McCabe's time.

9 COMMENTS BY LES WHITE

10 Mr. Chairman, Council, my name is Les White,
11 W-h-i-t-e. Mr. Chairman, you pronounced my name very
12 well. My address is 15021 28th Avenue S.E. I'm in
13 Burien, Washington. I own property in Eastern Washington
14 northwest of Ellensburg. It's considered recreational
15 property. We're about 4,000 feet which makes us remote,
16 and being remote we don't have any power. Our power is
17 solar generated so I certainly believe in renewable
18 resources and I consider myself a greeny.

19 I supported the project at Wild Horse
20 because I felt the location was appropriate siting. I now
21 understand there's a proposed project down by Vantage and
22 all things being equal chances are I'll support that as
23 well because again I think the site is appropriate.

24 This project does not directly affect me.
25 The Desert Claim would have affected me, but this one does

1 not affect me directly. But having seen the impact it
2 could have had on my property and my neighbor's property,
3 I'm here to testify for other neighbors that I don't know
4 just because I feel this could have an impact on them. I
5 think the siting is a problem.

6 Again, I feel the resources we need to take
7 advantage of, but this is the wrong site. I understand,
8 I'm certainly not an expert in it, but I understand some
9 of the decibel levels as far as noise can be over a
10 hundred, and my understanding it's like a Harley Davidson
11 with straight pipes, and I don't think you'd want to have
12 that as your neighbor or multiple Harley Davidsons as
13 neighbors. So I'd like to support the Kittitas County
14 Commissioners' recommendations to deny this project and I
15 encourage you to do so also. Thank you.

16 JUDGE TOREM: Mike Ruby.

17 COMMENTS BY MIKE RUBY

18 My name is Mike Ruby. I'm a resident of
19 Seattle. I guess I want to start by thanking the EFSEC
20 board for undertaking this responsibility for the rest of
21 us. This kind of thing is a very, very difficult
22 decision, and we've got some people that I know are pretty
23 dedicated to make it for us. You do have to face up to
24 the problem of is this industrial use and is it an
25 inappropriate industrial use in a residential neighborhood

1 or is this an agricultural zone, and it's an appropriate
2 use of the agricultural zone, and a lot of things that are
3 difficult. I'm glad you're going to do it.

4 I want to give you two pieces of
5 information, perhaps may be somewhat contradictory in a
6 sense based on professional expertise. I am in addition
7 to other things a meteorological modeler, and I just
8 completed a model for a rather large section of Oregon and
9 Washington looking for wind power sites, and in this area
10 we found approximately four wind power sites. Wind power
11 sites are not a dime a dozen. They don't come just at
12 hand everywhere in this state. There were four. Of those
13 four, two were marginal, one was really good--it's going
14 to be pursued--and one was you've got to be kidding me
15 sort of site. So this is not something that we should
16 overlook, the opportunity for wind power at any particular
17 point. This is something you've got to look at very
18 seriously. There aren't a lot of them.

19 The second thing I want to talk about is the
20 noise issue. You heard just a moment ago the suggestion
21 on that. I feel some personal responsibility on this
22 because the noise limit that is being sited in this
23 particular application of 50 decibels is one that came out
24 of a committee that I staffed back in 1971, and I know
25 exactly how that number came about. That number really

1 came about through a compromise with folks who live in
2 urban area. That was not an appropriate number for a very
3 rural area, and that number also is not really appropriate
4 for a continuous sound level of a particular low level.
5 That's a dBa number that assumes random noise of a variety
6 of things. It does not look at the kind of noise that's
7 appropriate here.

8 So I started digging into this and looked
9 very closely are there people really who are going to be
10 impacted by that 49 which is just underneath the 50 limit
11 that's cited for the Department of Ecology regulations.
12 There is one. It's a participated property owner. I
13 think we can set that one aside. The second one down, the
14 next one down is also a participated property owner so we
15 can set that aside. They made a conscious decision they
16 want to live with it.

17 JUDGE TOREM: That's that noise.

18 MR. RUBY: Okay. Well, could I have just
19 one second to finish here?

20 JUDGE TOREM: If you will wrap up, please.

21 MR. RUBY: There are three other properties
22 that are really pretty much at risk with this. One of
23 them in talking to folks I found out one is actually
24 occupied. The other two are sort of summer cabin, hunting
25 lodge type structures. I believe if you start to look at

1 it, you will find there are some properties that really do
2 have some noise issues but there aren't a lot of them. So
3 I would suggest that you do look into this. Look
4 carefully at it. Recognize the number that the 50 limit
5 is probably too high for the situation, and then on the
6 other hand recognize we haven't got a lot of choices.
7 We've got to make the choices. We've got to move forward.
8 Thank you very much.

9 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. If there is
10 additional comments and folks feel a little bit pressed
11 for time tonight, I'll just remind you that there is the
12 opportunity to submit things in writing. If you feel that
13 your issues haven't been addressed at the end of the
14 night, perhaps you forgot to say something, that written
15 comment is due by September 29. Again, those forms are
16 available in the back.

17 We're going to hear from Mr. Silber, and I
18 know we've been going for about an hour and a quarter at
19 this point. There are 15 speakers that I have left signed
20 up. I don't know if we have anybody else. We have 15
21 more speakers to go after Mr. Silber so that's a good 45
22 minutes. If our court reporter needs a break, we'll take
23 one. Other than that, I'll suggest that we just press on
24 and you can come and go from the room; just do so quietly.

25 Mr. Silber, you have six minutes.

1 COMMENTS BY ANDY SILBER

2 Thanks very much. My name is Andy Silber.
3 That's S-i-l-b-as in boy-e-r. I live at 6552 37th Avenue
4 S.E. here in West Seattle. I'm the founding chairman of
5 the Energy Committee for the Cascade Chapter of the Sierra
6 Club and I actually got involved with this wind project
7 very early on by being invited to get engaged by opponents
8 of the wind farm, several of whom were here tonight and
9 have spoken. From the very first moment I actually
10 thought, wow, what a great place for a wind farm.

11 So the first thing I would like to do though
12 is to read a statement from the Cascade Chapter of Sierra
13 Club:

14 Whereas Washington will need new sources of
15 electricity to meet growing demand and whereas the
16 increased efficiency measures alone cannot meet this load
17 growth and whereas the climate impact of all fossil fuels
18 without sequestration is unacceptable and whereas there
19 are limited opportunities for cost effective renewables in
20 Washington State and whereas the farms and ranches of
21 Kittitas Valley are consistent with the wind farm and
22 whereas Horizon Wind, the developer of the proposed wind
23 project, has responded to concerns of some landowners by
24 reducing the number of wind turbines by nearly 50 percent
25 and whereas the existing existence of great wind

1 resources, high voltage power lines, and roads make
2 Kittitas Valley a rare opportunity to meet our electricity
3 needs with minimal impact, the Cascade Chapter of the
4 Sierra Club endorses Horizon with the Kittitas Valley wind
5 Power Project.

6 Now I would like to make some statements
7 that are just from me. The way I see this boils down to
8 is there are two visions of what Kittitas Valley is.
9 There are two very different visions.

10 One vision is in the future you'll see the
11 wind turbines, you'll see farms and ranches, and those
12 will be the predominant uses of land in Kittitas Valley.
13 There will continue to be vacation homes who tolerate the
14 wind turbines just like they currently tolerate horse
15 manure and tractors. The revenue to the landowners will
16 help the farms and ranches stay on the land. The tax
17 revenue will help everyone in the county. It will send
18 the kids to school, and that this valley will help
19 Washington State's economy as a whole by providing clean
20 and renewable, efficient, and affordable electricity. If
21 you look at the supporters of this vision of Kittitas
22 Valley, they're the farmers and the ranchers who are
23 leasing their land. They're the environmentalists.
24 They're wind power developers. They're utilities who are
25 buying the wind.

1 The other view of Kittitas Valley is very
2 different, and I think we've heard from that view a lot
3 tonight. These are people who don't want to see the wind
4 farms built, and I'm not saying this is their goal, but
5 this is the result of their vision. More farms and
6 ranches will fail and that land will be subdivided into
7 ranchettes. We're already seeing that happen. It's not
8 like this is something that we will prevent from
9 happening, but we will slow and maybe stop. But it's
10 already happening in the valley.

11 There's no question that if the wind
12 turbines aren't built that we will see an accelerated rate
13 of ranch and farm failures and subdividing the land into
14 ranchettes. These people who move into the valley are not
15 farmers and ranchers anymore than I am, and they don't
16 make their living on the land which is the traditional use
17 in Kittitas Valley. These are people who commute over the
18 mountains into Bellevue and Seattle; they're retired. I'm
19 not saying they don't deserve to do it and we should
20 forbid it, but is that a higher use than providing
21 electricity? Is it a higher use than allowing farms and
22 ranchers to make their living off the land?

23 The people currently we're talking about in
24 the second people are complaining about the views. I
25 believe next year they will be complaining about the smell

1 of manure and ranches. The year after that they'll be
2 complaining about the sound of tractors at dawn in the
3 summertime. The people we're talking about are the urban
4 refugees, and I think a lot of the people have pretty much
5 described themselves as such; as I bought land out here to
6 get away from the city, to get away from the hubbub.

7 But they're not moving to park land.
8 They're not moving to a pristine place. They're moving to
9 a place where people make their living off the land, and
10 these wind turbines are one way that people make their
11 living off the land.

12 Just I have one my final sort of sum-up idea
13 is that the wind farms are not incompatible with rural
14 life. It's the exsert and refugees who are incompatible
15 with urban life, particularly rural life, but they want to
16 change rural life into their vision of ideal rather than
17 what it is. Thanks very much.

18 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Silber. The
19 next three speakers are Leslie Wilkie, Mike Pelly, and
20 Nick Radovich.

21 COMMENTS BY LESLIE WILKIE

22 Hi, my name is Leslie Wilkie, W-i-l-k-i-e.
23 I live here in West Seattle at 7915 34th Avenue S.W., and
24 I just want to say that I did spend some time in Walla
25 Walla, not where you might think at the prison I suppose,

1 but I lived there. I actually lived there, and I love the
2 rural area that it is, the farmlands, the peace that you
3 find out there, and the residents at that time were pretty
4 hesitant to have wind turbines coming in at the State Line
5 location. And I had a chance recently to go visit this
6 State Line location. This is 400 turbines, and it was
7 beautiful. It really was. They were very silent. It
8 reminded me of sailing or gliding, you know, using the
9 wind, and it was just gorgeous. I just loved it.

10 And, you know, this project is 65 turbines.
11 It's not very many and grant it I don't live there, but if
12 I lived there, I would invite more turbines. I would like
13 to have a turbine on my property here in West Seattle, but
14 I'm not allowed to.

15 So my baby is back there too and the last
16 point I want to make is that I'd really like to have her
17 have clean power, have clean air. It's really important
18 to me and that's why I'm here mainly tonight. Thank you
19 for hearing me.

20 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

21 Mike Pelly.

22 COMMENTS BY MIKE PELLY

23 Thank you. My name is Mike Pelly. I live
24 at 1106 Partridge Drive in Olympia and I have a company
25 called Olympia Green Fuels and we work with biodiesel, and

1 I've been in energy for 20 years following wind farms for
2 quite a while now, and I've just got a little statement.
3 It's easier for me to read it than to say it.

4 I toured Walla Walla wind farms and in
5 making a comparison I've seen Wal-Marts and I've seen how
6 wind farms have enriched the local economies and I've seen
7 how Wal-Marts have devastated the local economies. This
8 wind project is no Wal-Mart. This project is a 380
9 million dollar investment in Kittitas County that will
10 result in real living wage jobs and tax revenue; tax
11 revenue that will benefit the local schools.

12 This might not be important to retirees or
13 vacationers in their second home, but it is important to
14 locals with children in school. We as a nation are waking
15 up to our dependence on foreign oil and how exporting our
16 dollars to oil our nation is bankrupting our nation's
17 economy and ruining lives. We are also seeing the effects
18 of global warming is having on our nation and on the
19 world. We need to make changes in our lives to mitigate
20 the problems with energy consumption world wide and
21 problems of global warming.

22 This project is one significant piece of
23 this puzzle, and thank you for the opportunity to speak.

24 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

25 Nick Radovich, then Dan Evans, and Steve

1 Marshall.

2 COMMENTS BY NICK RADOVICH

3 My name is Nick Radovich, R-a-d-o-v-i-c-h.

4 I live at 10821 8th Avenue N.W., in Seattle.

5 I work for a real estate developer. Our
6 primary focus is building office buildings in the Seattle
7 area, and we've recently been looking at wind power for a
8 way to diversify our business in Kittitas and Klickitat
9 County. In the last few months I've seen these projects
10 up close. I've spoken to many developers and the wind
11 power purchasers. I was going to talk quite a bit here
12 about the benefits of wind power, but I think that we've
13 talked about that quite a bit, and so I'm just going to
14 skip that in the interest of time.

15 But I will say that as of this fall the
16 renewable portfolio standards will be on the ballot and I
17 suspect it will pass. That's going to require us to go up
18 to 15 percent capacity in wind power or I should say in
19 renewable power. In my conversations with executives in
20 Puget Sound Energy, I've been told that they are only
21 considering wind power as a renewable addition to their
22 portfolio.

23 I also want to agree with the gentleman, the
24 meteorologist that was here, and talk to you about the
25 wind prospecting that I've done. There is just a real

1 scarcity of sites out there. He says there's only four
2 sites, and I really believe that there's probably only
3 four sites for that size of project anyhow. We're looking
4 for a much smaller project.

5 Also this site also has transmission
6 capacity which is something that it's quite rare; so it's
7 a great site for that. Please approve this project in the
8 interest of Washington State being a power leader. Thank
9 you.

10 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

11 Dan Evans.

12 COMMENTS BY DAN EVANS

13 My name is Dan Evans. I'm not the former
14 governor, if you're wondering. I'm a recovering
15 congressional staffer, recovering lawyer, and now an
16 independent consultant--

17 JUDGE TOREM: You need to defer that client
18 onto other persons.

19 MR. EVANS: We'll get together. --and a
20 member of the Sustainable Fisheries Foundation. Much of
21 the work that I do I emphasize is sustainability which I
22 would characterize as simultaneously trying to achieve
23 economic, ecological, and societal benefits.

24 I've listened to opponents to this project,
25 and I understand the nature of their concerns, and I might

1 share their concerns if I had property next to this site.
2 We of Washington State are dedicated to process, equally
3 dedicated to process, and I have to say that I've
4 contributed to some of that process in helping to develop
5 the wind power guidelines for the Department of Fish and
6 Wildlife in the state and working with different entities
7 in this room.

8 And you, the Council, are charged with that
9 challenging task of helping to balance the public and the
10 personal benefits here. I'll keep my comments short, but
11 I would just like to say that I believe we're in a crisis
12 situation now, and we in Washington even though we put
13 great emphasis on the personal, accommodating personal
14 interest we have a responsibility to the public to make
15 sure that we serve the energy needs and do so in a way
16 that is sustainable.

17 Climate change is a crisis, and it's a
18 crisis that calls for decisive action. Wind power is
19 currently our most viable alternative to burning fossil
20 fuels in the associated production of greenhouse gases.
21 Every energy project is you know better than anybody else
22 is controversial, and I would urge us to approve and
23 construct wind projects with all deliberate speed and
24 reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. Where we've done
25 the due diligence, where we've run the process, where

1 we've afforded individuals and interests their due process
2 rights and where a wind project is clearly in the public
3 interest as I believe this one and is good for the
4 economy, for the ecology, and for society we need to move
5 decisively to approve it. Thank you.

6 JUDGE TOREM: Steve Marshall.

7 COMMENTS BY STEVE MARSHALL

8 I'm Steve Marshall. I currently chair the
9 Municipal League of King County but I'm not speaking on
10 their behalf. I've had 25 years of experience in the
11 energy sector, energy issues, including a stint as the
12 head of Snohomish PUD's Power Transmission Conservation.
13 I'm not here on behalf of anybody. I'm here to actually
14 thank you for being the one-stop shopping and for being
15 the board that has to balance the need for new energy
16 facilities with the broad public interest which I think is
17 what the legislature is charged with.

18 One of the speakers earlier talking about
19 foreign oil and some others have touched on that, and I
20 wanted to tie that into the public interest that I think
21 that you all need to consider in making this and other
22 decisions expeditiously for this site and the state and
23 for the country.

24 Earlier this year we put on a conference. I
25 helped organize and moderate a conference at Microsoft on

1 moving from foreign oil to domestic power. At that
2 conference we brought up a plug-in hybrid car. They're
3 like Prius only they top off their batteries by plugging
4 into the grid. Recently Governor Pataki has ordered his
5 Prius fleets so New York State could be modified to plug
6 in hybrids, and everybody that I've been talking to in the
7 last few months have said that if we're going to be
8 serious about moving away from foreign oil, we have to do
9 it in transportation, and the way to do it is electrify
10 our transportation.

11 In this state we burn 3.6 billion gallons of
12 gasoline. We send nine billion dollars a year to foreign
13 countries to buy our oil. Across the country we spend
14 almost one billion dollars every working day in debt to
15 purchase our foreign oil. Next year it will be one
16 billion dollars every calendar day. Jake Woolsey who
17 talked at this conference that we set up, the one in
18 Washington, D.C., on the National Summit on Energy
19 Security said, "We are in effect financing both sides on
20 the war on terror." There will be a dramatic change in
21 our demand for power if we move away from oil due to the
22 electrifying transportation.

23 Our planning horizons are very long for
24 electric utilities. It's very difficult to get power
25 lines sited. Every one of these projects has got to be

1 looked at in terms of the state public interest and
2 national public interest and reducing greenhouse gases and
3 moving away from foreign oil dependence because of that
4 critical need. And I understand the requirements and the
5 needs of people in local areas. That's always going to be
6 the tough issues to pass. That's why you're here. That's
7 the toughest issue of all. But in looking at what the
8 broad public interest is I would just urge you to take a
9 look at the emerging trends which I think will move very
10 rapidly into moving away from foreign oil to domestic
11 power for reasons of national security, emissions,
12 greenhouse gases, and the economy.

13 I did write an op-ed piece in the Seattle
14 Times that goes into this a little bit further. It turned
15 out on May 23. I urge you to take a look at that too.
16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Marshall, did you bring a
18 copy of that with you?

19 MR. MARSHALL: I did. Thank you very much.

20 JUDGE TOREM: The next speaker is Karl
21 Krogstad followed by Brian Grunkemeyer and Richard Elkins.

22 COMMENTS BY KARL KROGSTAD

23 Hello, my name is Karl Krogstad,
24 K-r-o-g-s-t-a-d, and I'm at P.O. Box 95260, Seattle.

25 I'm a landowner on the proposed wind farm.

1 I'm here to speak in favor of it. I also spent the night
2 there on the ridge. Few of you have probably spent the
3 night on the ridge. I was there Saturday night. It is so
4 windy on top of this ridge as you would never be able to
5 hear a turbine. You should go up there sometime and find
6 out. I'm stunned.

7 I've been to the east side meetings and I've
8 been surprised by when I've asked fellow neighbors and
9 people there that are not proponents and I've been stunned
10 by the fact that really it boils down to we all love wind
11 power. We just don't want it in our back yard. We heard
12 that tonight. And it's more than that. What is wrong
13 with the concept? And it really boils down to the fact
14 they just don't like it. They don't like it because I'm
15 afraid they think it's not pretty.

16 And I'm going, you know, after the 9/11 we
17 had this national directive. Our government said we have
18 a series of disasters that we have to think in terms of
19 how to solve. The directive was this: We have to find
20 and implement new forms of energy.

21 And here it is. It's the most perfect form
22 of energy and it's in our back yard, and I think we should
23 approve it. I think we approve it because it's actually
24 good for the county, it's good for the state, and it's
25 great for our nation. Thank you.

1 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

2 Mr. Brian Grunkemeyer.

3 COMMENTS BY BRIAN GRUNKEMEYER

4 Hello, my name is Brian Grunkemeyer,
5 G-r-u-n-k-e-m-e-y-e-r. I live at 16527 N.E. 46th Street
6 here in Redmond. So thank you very much for having a
7 meeting here in Seattle so that those of us can
8 participate.

9 So as you all know wind power is going to
10 support the farmers in this area a lot. It provides them
11 with supplemental income for the hard years. I don't know
12 if any of you have done any farming but farming is
13 extraordinarily difficult, and it's going to become even
14 worse. We have drought right now. Global warming is
15 going to continue to push us into more common droughts in
16 the future.

17 I don't know if you're aware of this, but
18 the city of Sidney, Australia is already losing most of
19 their water supply because global warming has forced the
20 rainfall patterns to move 70 miles to the south. So
21 there's already an example of a city that just cannot
22 survive anymore. What happens if the exact same effects
23 happen here to our farmers here in Washington State?
24 Clearly we need more water protection, but fundamentally
25 we need more clean, renewable resources such as wind power

1 and wind power on farms helps our farmers survive this
2 elevated level of drought.

3 I'm from the Midwest. I grew up with a lot
4 of corn and wheat all around me. Once I came out here, I
5 saw the timber stuff with all the clear cuts everywhere.
6 I was deeply offended by that stuff, but then I realized
7 wait a minute. The timber stuff is no different from the
8 farms that we already have in the Midwest. It turns out
9 that agricultural land is already an industrial landscape,
10 and I believe that wind power is not inconsistent with
11 that landscape.

12 It is inconsistent with the idea of turning
13 our rural lands into vacation spots for people who can
14 afford to move there. I don't think that's what we want
15 to support. So wind does fit with this site as is. The
16 NIMBY argument is predicated on further development of our
17 rural areas.

18 If we take a 30-year view, we need to
19 electrify our transportation grid for national security
20 reasons as the previous speaker talked about. Global
21 warming is going to be absolutely pressing, and in
22 addition to that we must address peak oil. Electrifying
23 our transportation grid is the only way to do this, and we
24 need more wind power here to be able to support this.

25 In short, we've got some choices here. We

1 go with wind power or we have farms that fail. We go with
2 wind power or we get new coal plants because we have no
3 other ways to generate the electricity that our society
4 needs. We go with wind power or we go with more urban
5 development of our farmlands.

6 I don't think we want to do any of these
7 things. We want to go with the wind power. Thank you.

8 JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Elkins will be followed by
9 I believe Rich Feldman and then Amy Peterson.

10 COMMENTS BY RICHARD ELKINS

11 My name is Richard Elkins. It's E-l-k-i-n-s.
12 I live at 5440 East Mercer Way, Mercer Island. I've lived
13 there for 38 years. I was raised in Eastern Washington in
14 the central area, and I know what wind is. My kids went
15 to school there in Ellensburg and it blows. It was plenty
16 of wind. I too looked at property over there in that
17 general area and now I'm utilizing property over in the
18 south Cle Elum area. There's too much wind for me to get
19 up there with the campsites and stuff.

20 A little bit of background on myself, I
21 presently serve in the State Olympia Commissions for
22 Recreation, also with DNR land area for policy. I've also
23 been on several boards regarding recreation. Anyway a lot
24 of my activity and my recreation has been I just sold my
25 horse about two years ago in that general area. I do a

1 lot of trail riding, both motorized and nonmotorized. Do
2 winter recreation which is a marvelous activity which is
3 very nearby in that area.

4 I've also witnessed the windmills down there
5 in Palm Springs, and I think it's a pretty site. It's
6 like a bunch of sails sailing along. I got a kick out of
7 watching them.

8 Anyway being in outdoor recreation, I believe
9 this will not harm the recreation area at all, especially
10 the hunting and fishing. Thank you very much.

11 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

12 COMMENTS BY RICH FELDMAN

13 My name is Rich Feldman. It's spelled
14 F-e-l-d-m-a-n. I live at 105 27th Avenue East in Seattle.
15 I'm the state coordinator for the Apollo Alliance of
16 Washington State. That's a coalition of labor,
17 environmental, business, and community organizations in
18 support of our state being more energy independent and
19 creating good jobs.

20 The EFSEC process that is going that's been
21 established as something that we have in our state because
22 we have facilities that are energy facilities that are of
23 state-wide significance. That is we have an understanding
24 that a process for siting these facilities are not
25 strictly a local decision. The impacts of these decisions

1 of these facilities in terms of Washington State's future
2 go far beyond the local concerns.

3 That being said, local concerns are very
4 important, and as you look at this process it's important
5 to understand how those play into this decision and
6 potential precedent you will be making by engaging in
7 those concerns. Effectively if we turn down this
8 facility, we will set a precedent that will severely limit
9 the development of wind in Washington State; that is,
10 location of residents, vacation homes, other structures in
11 a fairly low density pattern then becomes a criteria for
12 turning down such a facility.

13 I think we need to think very carefully
14 about that, especially because as many of the speakers
15 have said the importance of these type of facilities to
16 the energy mix of Washington State.

17 The last time I spoke before your body was
18 in favor of CO2 mitigation for coal and gas plants which
19 your body supported. In this case we're looking at a
20 facility in the same policy realm that is a limit of CO2.
21 Rarely there's going to be a change in aesthetics of
22 Kittitas County. Wind will change it in one way and the
23 global warning will change it in another as we look up at
24 the skyline and see a shrinking snow level. So the
25 importance of this facility in terms of creating a strong

1 and positive mix of clean energy supplies for our state
2 has to be weighed against what is definitely a local
3 impact.

4 Major facilities like airports which people
5 from Kittitas County come to our area to fly out from have
6 local impacts. We made decisions that those facilities
7 like sewage treatment plants which also are located in
8 communities are important for our communities. This has a
9 similar kind of state-wide impact, and I urge you to
10 support it. I also point out that in terms of other
11 nonhuman aesthetic related issues the Washington
12 Department of Fish and Wildlife has found this project is
13 consistent with its wind siting guidelines and it shows no
14 measurable impact to wildlife. Thank you.

15 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

16 Amy Peterson will be followed by Bill Aston
17 and Tim Gould.

18 COMMENTS BY AMY PETERSON

19 My name is Amy Peterson, and I live at 126
20 20th Avenue East in Seattle.

21 First, I'd just like to thank this Council
22 for having this meeting here. This particular wind farm
23 would impact the residents of Seattle, and so I'd just
24 like to thank you for having this hearing here.

25 I would like to speak in support of this

1 project for three reasons specific to the project and then
2 also for wind energy in the future.

3 The three reasons particular to this
4 project: First, it has been approved by the Department of
5 Fish and Wildlife according to their criteria, also due to
6 local aesthetic concerns Horizon has reduced the number of
7 wind turbines by nearly half, and also this particular
8 wind project is already located on transmission lines.
9 That's a really unique advantage to this particular
10 project.

11 But also we need to be thinking about our
12 energy future in general. Fossil fuels are no longer an
13 acceptable way for us to be meeting our energy needs so we
14 need to be thinking about clean sustainable power such as
15 wind for the future. So for those reasons I really
16 strongly encourage you to support this project. Thank
17 you.

18 JUDGE TOREM: Bill Aston, going once, going
19 twice. No Bill Aston.

20 Okay. Tim Gould. No Tim Gould.

21 All right. Toni Potter and Karen Hertz are
22 the last two signed up tonight. Is Toni Potter still in
23 the house?

24 MS. POTTER: Yes.

25 JUDGE TOREM: Following Ms. Potter will be

1 Karen Hertz. She's the last speaker signed up, and I'm
2 not getting any indication from our folks in the back they
3 have anymore signed up. So, Ms. Potter, you and Ms. Hertz
4 have the last words this evening.

5 COMMENTS BY TONI POTTER

6 Good evening. I'm Toni Potter. I live in
7 Lake Forest Park. I'm the Energy Portfolio Chair for the
8 Washington League of Women Voters. We have long supported
9 renewable energy for basically three reasons: Fossil fuel
10 pollutes, fossil fuel creates global warming, and fossil
11 fuel causes us to be dependent on foreign countries for the
12 source of our energy.

13 Pollution from fossil fuel causes a lot of
14 health problems and, for instance, the Centralia Coal
15 Plant in Washington State has been polluting Western
16 Washington with mercury and other emissions for quite a
17 number of years. We find this inconvenient.

18 Global warming is very much increased by
19 fossil fuels, and if you haven't seen an inconvenient
20 truth, see it. I won't try to repeat all of that. But
21 I'd really like to leave our grandchildren a Washington
22 that has snow on the Mount Rainier; that doesn't have
23 destroyed shorelines. And we feel that to be responsible
24 citizens in the world we need to cut down on our global
25 warming gases. We create a great deal of the global

1 warming gases for the world and we are way behind Europe
2 in doing something about reducing them. Wind is a good
3 way to reduce greenhouse gases.

4 As far as being dependent on foreign
5 countries, we all know how oil has affected our foreign
6 policy, and we also don't have control over the price of
7 fossil fuels coming in from other countries. They will
8 always look to their need more than our needs. Renewable
9 energy depends on three things like wind and sun that go
10 on and on producing. Thank you.

11 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. Is Karen Hertz
12 available still?

13 COMMENTS BY KAREN HERTZ

14 Thank you for being so patient. My name is
15 Karen Hertz. Do you need my address? 15530 Bothell Way
16 N.E. That's Lake Forest Park, 98155.

17 Thank you so much. I appreciate you being
18 here and all your patience. I'm just an elementary school
19 teacher. I'm not an expert on global warming. I'm more
20 of a social science teacher and anthropologist type. But
21 I just think about my students all the time and I think
22 about, you know, all the kids. And I worry about them
23 because they have to live with the decisions that we make
24 today, and I just think we should think more about future
25 generations instead of our own just current situation and

1 just financial profits.

2 I also travel a lot overseas and I talk to a
3 lot of people and I ask them what do you think about our
4 country. I'm a little disappointed with how behind we are
5 compared to Europe because I feel that we should be the
6 leaders in this, and I have one statistic from Scientific
7 American. It just came out 2006. It's really good. You
8 should definitely read it. Here's a statistic I was
9 really shocked about. Europe in 1994 was getting 1,700
10 megawatts from wind. By 2005 they were getting 40,000
11 megawatts from wind. And I just think, wow, that's
12 incredible. In the U.S. we only get one-half of one
13 percent of our electricity from wind. I just think that's
14 pathetic.

15 So I just think we can do better, and I
16 think we have to think about the kids more, a lot more
17 because they can't vote, and we're responsible and they
18 have to live with our decision. Thanks very much.

19 JUDGE TOREM: Those are all the speakers
20 that are signed up for tonight, and I thank you. We went
21 through a lot, pretty close to three dozen people, coming
22 up on two hours so I know you're probably in a rush to get
23 home. But I want to remind you that we do have two more
24 public comment hearings and the deadline to submit the
25 written comments, and you can still pick up those forms, I

1 believe that deadline is September 29, two weeks from this
2 Friday.

3 If you want to attend the hearing next week
4 in Ellensburg, the our schedule discussion earlier today
5 the hearings will be going on at least Monday, Tuesday,
6 and Wednesday meeting at the fairground. There may be one
7 session that's scheduled to anticipate witnesses that are
8 testifying by phone. That may be held at the college
9 there. There may not be hearings on Thursday and Friday
10 if things go as efficiently as the parties have
11 projected. So if you're coming over later in the week,
12 there still will be a public comment session on Thursday
13 evening that the Council may have to close down the
14 proceeding on Friday.

15 Again, the deadline for closing the record
16 will remain September 29 for your written comments. Thank
17 you all for your courtesy and your attention tonight. It
18 is now about eight minutes until 9:00 and we're adjourned.

19 * * * * *

20 (Whereupon, the public comment meeting
21 adjourned at 8:52 p.m.)

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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 September 12, 2006,
in Seattle, Washington.

Shaun Linse, CCR

CCR NO. 2029