

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 - 60
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A public meeting in the above matter was held in the presence of a court reporter on September 20, 2006, at 7:00 p.m., at Kittitas County Fairgrounds, 512 North Poplar Street, Home Arts Building, in Ellensburg, Washington before Energy Facility Site Evaluation Councilmembers.

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JUDGE TOREM: Good evening. We're going to come to order here for the second of three public hearings in the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project adjudication conducted by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for the State of Washington.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you.

JUDGE TOREM: We're going to fix that. My name is Adam Torem. I'm an Administrative Law Judge for the State of Washington Office of Administrative Hearings and I was saying today is Wednesday night, September 20. It's a little after seven o'clock. We're at the fairgrounds in Ellensburg, Washington to conduct the second of a total of three public comments hearings that are being held in conjunction with the EFSEC adjudication

1 for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

2 I don't know where the handouts are for
3 tonight or what color they are, but they should be
4 explaining that this is a public comment meeting and this
5 is not a time when the Council's going to interact much
6 with the folks here except to listen.

7 So at the last day of the adjudication itself
8 we're hearing expert testimony and we don't have an
9 opportunity for comment which will be tomorrow in the
10 adjacent building. We have three witnesses scheduled in
11 the morning and the adjudication should come to basically
12 a close. There may be one or two exceptional items to be
13 taken care of on the telephone next week.

14 Tonight though we've asked you to sign up.
15 You will each have three minutes to speak. The microphone
16 is directly in front of me and Mr. Allen Fiksdal who's
17 trying to play magician of with the microphone and the
18 sound system has the fancy cards to tell you how much time
19 you have left. He'll be sitting immediately to your left
20 and my right and be indicating the time as it elapses.

21 Tonight I anticipate we're probably going to
22 have more than 30 some people signed up. We have another
23 night of public testimony scheduled for tomorrow night
24 same time.

25 Last Tuesday at South Seattle Community

1 College we had 36 people testify and it took us to shortly
2 before nine o'clock. My Councilmembers have asked me not
3 to allow us to go past ten o'clock tonight so they can get
4 the rest they need. So if we have over 50 people tonight,
5 I don't think we'll be able to get anymore than that in,
6 and EFSEC staff by the doors have been advised as to
7 approximately how many will fit. If we get more than 50,
8 they'll be telling you.

9 There are some people already signed up for
10 tomorrow night. So if you know you want to speak, but you
11 want to wait and hold your thoughts until you've heard
12 more of your friends and countrymen here in Ellensburg,
13 you can sign up for tomorrow night in advance. Just
14 please make sure you show up so that if we call your name
15 wherever it is on the list tomorrow if you're not around
16 you're going to miss your turn.

17 If you've already spoken in Seattle, we're
18 trying our best to monitor the list, and you have some
19 that are good at names, some that are good at faces; so
20 we're only giving one shot at testimony.

21 If you're looking for information about the
22 project and somehow over the last two or three years you
23 don't have it yet, there are probably folks from the
24 Applicant here that can make any information available,
25 but this is not an information session where we give

1 information to you. It's exactly the opposite. You give
2 information to us.

3 I want to go down the list here and point out
4 all the folks and have them sort of wave as who they are
5 and what their purpose is here on the Council, essentially
6 name and what state agency they represent. So to my
7 immediate right, the Chairman, Mr. Jim Luce. To his right
8 is the Utilities and Transportation Commission, Tim
9 Sweeney. Further down the Department of Ecology is Hedia
10 Adelsman and on the far right is Kittitas County's
11 representative Patti Johnson. To my immediate left is
12 Chris Smith Towne from Fish and Wildlife. To her left is
13 Judy Wilson from the Department of Natural Resources, and
14 Mr. Dick Fryhling from Community, Trade, and Economic
15 Development.

16 You can see we have a court reporter at the
17 far end of the table, and if we do look like we're going
18 to go past nine o'clock tonight, I probably will be taking
19 a break at 8:30. So we'll try to go off the record for a
20 short period of time. With a gathering of this size it's
21 a little bit hard to get everybody back in their seats.
22 So I'll have a five minute break knowing it will turn to
23 ten. That will give our court reporter the break she
24 needs. If we choose to take one tonight, it will be at
25 around 8:30, and we'll try to be back on with testimony at

1 around 8:40. Just so you know if we do take a break and
2 you want to see where you are on the list be timing it
3 from there.

4 If you want to submit your testimony in
5 writing because perhaps you thought you would have longer
6 than three minutes, I think in the past we made that four
7 or five minutes at these public hearings, but because of
8 the number of people and to keep it at a reasonable time
9 we've cut it down to three minutes. That's what we did
10 last week and we're going to stick with that tonight and
11 tomorrow. You can certainly hand Mr. Fiksdal your written
12 comments.

13 If you choose make written comments after
14 hearing the other public comments tonight and tomorrow,
15 you can send that into EFSEC. There should be some white
16 public comment forms that you could use or you can simply
17 e-mail those in, get that information from other EFSEC
18 staff by the door, and as long as you get that in a week
19 from Friday, September 29, it will be read and considered
20 by all these fine folks that are making the decision on
21 this project.

22 The record is replete with comment already
23 and if you add yours to it, I assure you they are reading
24 these items and taking them seriously and getting a good
25 feel for what the public wants EFSEC to do.

1 I think I've covered all the preliminaries
2 that I possibly can before I start listening to you folks
3 tonight. So what I'm going to do is ask the first couple
4 of people to make their way closer. If you know you're
5 going to be called up in the first three or four, just
6 immediately start coming up when the next person is
7 finishing so we can take the dead time out as much as we
8 can.

9 The first three speakers tonight are going to
10 be Lee Bates, then it will be David Crane, and then Helen
11 Wise. She'll be followed by Henry Yoder. Again, once we
12 ask you to start speaking, Mr. Fiksdal has the stop watch
13 and will be keeping track. I'll ask you to state your
14 name and your address and then give us your comment.

15 Mr. Fiksdal, are you ready?

16 MR. FIKSDAL: Yes.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Bates.

18 COMMENTS BY LEE BATES

19 My name is Lee Bates, 1509 Brick Road,
20 Ellensburg and I represent myself. I do not feel the wind
21 farm developer has been honest in their wind farm
22 presentation for the following reasons:

23 The wind farm developer hides the fact all
24 the new turbines will be 410 feet tall (see the DEIS).
25 The wind farm developer has not come out to the public

1 with information on which turbine configuration they have
2 selected. The noise levels estimated in the DEIS Table
3 3.12-5 shows the estimator used the turbine hub height of
4 67 meters or 221 feet, which is for the smaller turbines
5 and not the 410 high turbines they want to build for this
6 project. If you're going to make accurate noise estimates
7 you need to use the same size turbine in the project, not
8 a smaller turbine.

9 I feel that only Kittitas County should
10 decide on the wind farm not EFSEC.

11 Any questions?

12 JUDGE TOREM: You made yourself clear,
13 Mr. Bates. Thank you.

14 Next speaker is David Crane.

15 COMMENTS BY DAVID CRANE

16 David Crane, 1201 Vista road, Ellensburg,
17 Washington. I have a written statement here, but I
18 believe after listening to the objections to the wind
19 farms over several months that the objections are baseless
20 and silly, and I have spent many hours talking to people.
21 I believe after going to more than 150 houses that the
22 huge majority in Ellensburg support this project. I think
23 that the permitting process is too long and cumbersome. I
24 believe that the people, the Zilkha people and the Horizon
25 people, have been courteous, factual, and very patient,

1 and I think that they're very professional.

2 I believe that it's not reasonable to object
3 to this on the basis of many of the ideas that have been
4 presented. I've written them out in a statement here. I
5 do believe that if we use the logic that is being used
6 against these wind farms, that we would not have Grand
7 Coulee Dam or any of the other dams, and there are some
8 people now who advocate breaching dams to save the fish.
9 And I think when a person's buys a piece of property there
10 is no guarantee that the surroundings will always stay the
11 same. Our area is growing. Some things better. We like
12 the old. The reality is, however, that progress happens,
13 and I think it would be in the favor of all of us here to
14 approve the siting. Those who are opposed will likely
15 recover and our whole community will greatly benefit.

16 We opted out of the power facility below
17 Vantage, the Wanapum Dam, and it went to Grant County. We
18 bought into WPPSS which was a fiasco. With all due
19 respect it seems that in both cases the decisions were
20 faulty. Let us get it right this time. Either we want
21 clean renewable energy or we don't. If we want wind
22 power, we need to build where the wind is the most ideal
23 and stop caving into lame objections.

24 We don't build dams in the desert. We don't
25 build roads and railroads around houses. We move the

1 houses. Here no one is being forced to move. Being
2 offended or inconvenienced is not the same as being
3 harmed. Approving this project will benefit even those
4 who oppose it. I think it's time to make a wise decision
5 here. And it will help us all out with a tax reduction
6 and help our facilities, our schools, our fire, and roads,
7 and this would be a huge benefit to all of us. Thank you
8 very much.

9 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Crane. If you
10 will give a copy of your written statement to EFSEC staff,
11 that will also be considered in the record.

12 Next is Helen Wise and while she's making
13 her way up, I'll ask that Henry Yoder, Ginger Morrison,
14 and Tom Morrison each get ready to speak.

15 Mr. Knudson, you make a fine microphone
16 stand.

17 Ms. Wise, go ahead.

18 MS. WISE: My name is Helen Wise.

19 JUDGE TOREM: You'll have to speak up,
20 ma'am.

21 COMMENTS BY HELEN WISE

22 My name is still Helen Wise. I live at 1106
23 East Third Avenue here in Ellensburg. Having spent the
24 last six weeks undergoing two surgeries and in the
25 beginning of rehabilitation, I have been unable to focus

1 on new writings to present to you. So please accept
2 copies of a couple of articles that I've written before
3 that give the strong reasons for overriding the County
4 Commissioner's denial of the project, and they are
5 relevant to this hearing.

6 From my observations, from countless
7 hearings and letters and articles in the Daily Record,
8 many of the opponents are self-centered and short-sighted.
9 Most of the most vocal opponents are those who have
10 purchased land overlooking our valley assuming that the
11 valley is there for their domain. Their arrogance may or
12 may not be encouraged by realtors, but it seems to be
13 quite spontaneous.

14 The Planning Commission seems to agree with
15 this perspective. During the Planning Commission's
16 January 30 meeting at which the decision to recommend
17 denial the KVVPP applications Commissioner Martin McClain
18 referred to the testimony of Roger Weaver representing the
19 realtors as the most relevant to the decision apparently
20 to the exclusion of other concerns.

21 The Planning Commission's document is the
22 findings of fact which support their recommendation to
23 deny the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project in its
24 entirety. The first seven principal findings are about
25 the process. Finding No. 8, the Applicant has failed to

1 demonstrate that the proposal is essential or desirable to
2 the public convenience. Testimony was given very clearly
3 about the greatly increasing demand for electricity
4 locally as well as regionally, but it seems to have been
5 ignored.

6 I suspect the public will be inconvenienced
7 when demands for electricity cannot be met. It is
8 interesting to note that the electricity for public use
9 has not been generated in the valley since 1951 when the
10 City Light Power Plant on the Yakima River was shut down.
11 Obviously, we have been using electricity that wasn't ours
12 for over 50 years.

13 Truly it is essential and desirable now and
14 in the future to generate electricity in Kittitas County.

15 Finding No. 9 proposal is detrimental and
16 injurious to the public health.

17 JUDGE TOREM: It goes by pretty quick,
18 Ms. Wise, but I know that you've got some written comments
19 for us. Give those to EFSEC staff. They'll become part
20 of the record. Thank you for coming tonight.

21 MS. WISE: Thank you.

22 JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Yoder to be followed by
23 Ginger Morrison, Tom Morrison, and then Bertha Morrison.

24 MR. YODER: That is Henry.

25 JUDGE TOREM: Henry, I'm sorry.

1 MR. YODER: I know it's well scribbled.

2 COMMENTS BY HENRY YODER

3 My name is Henry Yoder, 1201 Vista Road,
4 Ellensburg, Washington. Thank you for the opportunity to
5 speak tonight. I favor the wind farms and believe them to
6 be a vital addition to our energy resources. I fervently
7 hope you find favorably to have the project approved.

8 Further, in that finding I hope fervently
9 that you will restore many of the turbines that have been
10 caused to be taken out. I think that the garbage that
11 Horizon has had to go through because of our County
12 Commissioners they should be reimbursed by being able to
13 build these additional towers, turbines.

14 I obtained a transcript of all the hearings
15 since January 10 of 2006 regarding the Horizon Energy
16 Company and the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project. In
17 reading them there have been a few recurrent themes that
18 have been harped on. I went through the January 10
19 hearing transcript and part of the 11th before I became
20 too jaded by the misstatements, exaggerations, and
21 misrepresentations and one was made here already tonight
22 by Mr. Lee Bates. He says these towers are 400 feet tall.
23 They are not. They are 363 feet tall. They are 410 with
24 the turbine blades in its upright position. This is one
25 of the themes that have been harped and harped and harped,

1 the height of the turbines, and they have misrepresented
2 it and everybody is beginning to believe it because of the
3 consistent, constant harping.

4 I was so irate I began to write out the
5 opposition statements and, boy, I believe them to be
6 fallacious. Near the middle of the January 11 transcript
7 I could no longer maintain my ability to do so and I had
8 to stop. But since these are already transcripts that
9 you've got, I am only excerpting them, filled in what I
10 believe them to be fallacious and I would like to turn
11 them in to this committee tonight. Thank you.

12 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Yoder.

13 All right. I'm going to ask that folks when
14 they come up please again spell their last name for the
15 court reporter. I believe this will be Ginger Morrison.

16 MS. MORRISON: That's correct.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

18 COMMENTS BY GINGER MORRISON

19 My name is Ginger Morrison. I reside at
20 41512 North Sherman Road in Deer Park, Washington.

21 I was a resident of Kittitas County for over
22 37 years, and my family owns over 1,500 acres here today.
23 I am very much in favor of the wind turbines. I have been
24 at most of the hearings that have gone on. My husband and
25 I decided in early 2000 when someone came to him about

1 putting wind turbines in Kittitas County that we needed to
2 do a little homework on our own. So we went down to the
3 Nine Mile Project and the amazing thing to us is when we
4 drove there and all those hundreds of turbines are around.
5 We got out of the car and we stood there and he looked at
6 me and goes, "Listen." I said, "I don't hear anything."
7 He said, "Exactly." So there has been a lot of
8 exaggeration that has gone on about the wind turbines, and
9 we have seen wind turbines all over the western part of
10 the United States different times, with being California,
11 Utah, Wyoming, Montana.

12 Tonight I brought some very vital
13 information that does not pertain to Kittitas County, but
14 I felt was very important for EFSEC to take a look at.
15 Number one, this was published in Denver, August 1, 2006,
16 the headlines read this: Vale Resorts chooses wind power
17 for 100 percent of the electricity use. It becomes second
18 largest corporate wind power purchaser in U.S. There's a
19 lot of information there. I will hand that over.

20 The other one comes from Health Links which
21 is a linking to health and environment. It's the pros and
22 cons, myths and misconceptions of wind turbines, and it
23 goes on in talking about the bird kill which I find very
24 interesting. It says a two-year project where over 7,000
25 turbines were involved only 182 dead birds were found. I

1 know that's been a subject that's been brought up a lot.
2 There's a lot of other interesting things in that article.
3 Thank you.

4 The other one deals with Green Power News in
5 Boulder, Colorado and using green power in the community,
6 and I also have some other renewable energy information
7 that comes from the Office of State Deputy Comptroller in
8 the City of New York as they are using it there.

9 And, lastly, is, again, like I said, I live
10 in Deer Park, Washington and our Inland Power News just
11 came out this week with Inland Power introduces green
12 power plus. It's very interesting and the fact thing is
13 one of the places that the power will be purchased from is
14 the State Line Project in Walla Walla County, Washington.
15 Thank you very much for your time.

16 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

17 Next is Tom Morrison.

18 COMMENTS BY TOM MORRISON

19 Tom Morrison, 41512 North Sherman Road, Deer
20 Park.

21 JUDGE TOREM: Speak into the microphone
22 please, sir.

23 MR. MORRISON: Did you get that? But anyway
24 we've lived or I've lived here the first 62 years of my
25 life and are landowners here. But the one thing that

1 strikes my mind is where's all the electricity going to
2 come from in the future for all these new homes that are
3 being built? I do have a couple articles here. One of
4 them is an educational tool or environmental impact. It
5 talks about a school with two wind turbines. It says the
6 caption under picture here it says Micron left or Wind
7 World 250 -- 800 feet south of the elementary and middle
8 schools and this is in Iowa. So I thought that would be
9 interesting for you.

10 The other thing I have a wind map here that
11 if you're going to generate wind with wind turbines it
12 makes sense to put the wind turbines where the wind is and
13 as near as I can measure about 30, 35 miles north of
14 Yakima. It doesn't show Ellensburg here. It does not
15 show that, highways either, but it does show the power
16 lines in the state and in this area some of the best wind
17 in the state. So it makes sense to put wind turbines
18 there and that's all I have. Thank you.

19 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

20 Bertha Morrison and followed by Michael
21 Genson, Tony Helland, and Andrew Johnson.

22 COMMENTS BY BERTHA MORRISON

23 I'm Bertha Morrison. I live at 9131 on the
24 Nanan Road in Ellensburg, Washington. I've been a
25 resident of Kittitas County for 88 years, and I sure hope

1 that we get the wind power that I'm very much in favor of
2 them. We need our taxes lowered, and we need a little
3 more control of the people that own the ranches and own
4 the places in Ellensburg. I've been on the same ranch all
5 of my life and I'm still there. So we hope the wind power
6 will bring us more electricity so it will help our
7 country. Thank you.

8 COMMENTS BY MICHAEL GENSON

9 Mike Genson, G-e-n-s-o-n, 101 Elk Springs
10 Road, Ellensburg. I'm a supporter of this wind farm and
11 any wind farm since there aren't any rivers left to dam,
12 and science and common sense says we should not put any
13 more pollutants into the atmosphere. We need to turn to
14 these clean renewable resources. Right now wind is the
15 one that's most viable.

16 It's obvious that there's a need for more
17 energy. All we have to do is take a look around us. So
18 what seems to me is the question is if this is the correct
19 site for the wind farm project and the answer is an
20 emphatic yes. We have the best winds in the state across
21 this area as the previous speaker spoke to. We have the
22 grid that is necessary there and we have landowners who
23 are willing and anxious to have wind turbines on their
24 property.

25 Will there be an impact? Yes. But the

1 positive impacts are much, much greater than the negative
2 impact which pretty much boils down to impact on the view
3 shed. Impact on a view shed is a very subjective thing.
4 Some people like to look at houses and mercury vapor
5 lights. I prefer looking at wind turbines. Thank you for
6 your time. Please approve this project.

7 JUDGE TOREM: Tony Helland and then Andrew
8 Johnson and Shannon Cogan.

9 COMMENTS BY TONY HELLAND

10 My name is Tony Helland, H-e-l-l-a-n-d. I
11 live at 414 Alpine Drive, Ellensburg. First off, I'd like
12 to apologize to all you people for being uprooted and drug
13 out here because our County Commissioners didn't have the
14 foresight to approve this project months and months ago.

15 You will hear about the vast majority of
16 people are against this project. Everybody that's
17 interested is here tonight. The rest of the people in the
18 county don't care. You'll hear about people not being
19 against wind power if it's sited properly. Horizon is not
20 going to come out and spend millions of dollars to put a
21 wind park in a place where it's not going to work so it is
22 a properly sited. They talk about driving the tourists
23 away.

24 I work up at Wild Horse right now. I'm the
25 gate guard. I get anywhere from three to eight people a

1 day as far away as Moses Lake coming to look at the wind
2 farm because they can see it and they're interested in it
3 and they think it's the greatest thing in the world. So I
4 urge you to approve this wind farm and not make the same
5 mistake as our County Commissioners did. Thank you.

6 JUDGE TOREM: Andrew Johnson.

7 COMMENTS BY ANDREW JOHNSON

8 Andrew Johnson, 260 Leves Road, Ellensburg.

9 I have been wondering for quite a while why I have to pay
10 for a wind farm through my tax money to pay the subsidies
11 to the people who put these things up so that they can put
12 them up and cause my electric rates to raise. That's
13 historical.

14 The Wild Horse Project was put in. Puget
15 Sound Energy bought it and promptly raised our electrical
16 rates twice. It doesn't make sense to build a wind farm
17 to raise our electrical rates and take the money to do it
18 out of my hip pocket.

19 Now, let's talk about a couple of other
20 things, and Fish and Wildlife, Ms. Towne and Ms. Adelsman,
21 you'd be interested in this. Because when the demand for
22 electricity goes onto the wind farm they also have to run
23 turbines with water power as a standby in case the wind
24 quits because the demands of the grid don't change. Think
25 about that. That's water that has to go through those

1 turbines just to turn them. So that if the wind lowers or
2 quits, the turbines kick in to provide the electricity
3 that have been lost when the wind turbines aren't turning.
4 That is wasteful in my book and I think our Ecology people
5 and Fish and Wildlife should be most interested in that.
6 We're wasting water when we do that.

7 Now, I won't go into a lot of other things
8 that have been discussed here, but those things really do
9 concern me, and so I hope you will turn this thing down
10 and get these people off our backs. They have been
11 pushing and shoving this thing ever since they started.
12 Thank you very much.

13 JUDGE TOREM: Shannon Cogan, and Ms. Cogan
14 will be followed by W. C. Fitzgerald and Catherine Clerf.

15 COMMENTS BY SHANNON COGAN

16 Shannon Cogan, 3111 Bettas Road, Cle Elum.
17 We purchased our property on Bettas Road based on the fact
18 that there was unobstructed beauty, no man-made
19 structures. We have an older manufactured home. We
20 bought it for the land. We could have bought a nice piece
21 of property with power lines in front of us, a view of the
22 Stuart, but we chose that area based on what's around.

23 I understand that other people have the
24 ability to do what they want with their property and can
25 have towers put on it, but it requires a rezone that was

1 unanimously denied by all the commissioners. I have
2 restrictions on what I can do with my property. I can't
3 throw things up on it and ruin things for my neighbors.

4 I'm also in real estate. I have the home
5 next to me listed. I had an offer about a month and a
6 half ago, and the people walked away based solely on the
7 possibility of a wind farm going in. It's now on the
8 market for \$10,000 less than the offer that we had.

9 I do know people to the north of us who have
10 purchased property to build their retirement homes. A lot
11 of people had no knowledge of the wind farm. When we
12 purchased we had no knowledge of the wind farm and would
13 have not purchased there knowing that.

14 I want to have the ability to build a nicer
15 home on my land and have it in some valley which is not
16 going to happen with the huge structures right across the
17 road from our house. You know, the shadow flicker 233
18 days a year. The sun rises over there. It's going to
19 cast a huge shadow, and these people that want the revenue
20 having the towers on their property it's going to affect
21 property owners for miles around, and it's not an area
22 where this belongs.

23 I believe in having alternative energy
24 sources, but it's just not the place for it. There's too
25 many homes and small parcels. Parcels down to three acres

1 in the area that will be affected. They're not just huge
2 landowners. So I really hope that this is denied.
3 Thanks.

4 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

5 W.C. Fitzgerald and then Catherine Clerf and
6 Geoff Saunders.

7 COMMENTS BY WILLIAM FITZGERALD

8 I guess I'll get to hunch over. Anyway,
9 William Fitzgerald, 1751 Bettas Road, and I lived in an
10 area where they had wind power. And I think people here
11 see the revenue in the beginning and the greatness of the
12 these turbines, but they don't look at the long term of it
13 and the fact that as these things get old, they bring in
14 one and leave the old one there and bring in another one
15 and leave the old one there until you get a place like
16 Tehachapi, California where there's hundreds, two to three
17 hundred of them standing there idle, not being used, not
18 doing us any good, not creating any revenue because
19 they're broken. They don't take care of them and it's
20 cheaper to put up another one. So pretty soon you've got
21 a wind farm all right, but you've got a wind farm of
22 broken windmills that don't work that are just standing
23 there and it's an eyesore. It's ghastly to put it mildly.
24 Thank you.

25 JUDGE TOREM: Catherine Clerf.

1 COMMENTS BY CATHERINE CLERF

2 Catherine Clerf, C-l-e-r-f-as in as Frank,
3 60 Moe Road, Ellensburg, Washington. I would like to
4 preface my remarks first of all by saying I'm a fourth
5 generation original cattle ranching family in Kittitas
6 County, and for everyone in the entire hearing when you go
7 across I-90 and look at the land behind Wanapum Dam, there
8 once used to be a very large herd cattle ranch called
9 Figure 2. My great grandfather, my grandfather, his
10 brothers, my uncle, my father, and other co-related Clerf
11 family members made several decisions. Figure 2 went
12 because of federal domain. One big goose egg. My family
13 did it because it was for the benefit of the United States
14 of America, being a former Luxembourgers who are neither
15 positive about Germany or any other foreign powers running
16 the United States of America which is why they immigrated.

17 My family also gave up land to form the
18 Yakima Firing Artillery Range. In the beginning for zero,
19 sometimes a penny, sometimes a dollar. We also lost
20 farmland because of two interstates upon which is where
21 the original Hemming Clerf Farm resides. You can see it.
22 It's that white hill on the knoll before the freeway
23 leaves Yakima County.

24 I have done a lot of international
25 traveling. I have my own consulting business for 13 years

1 based in Seattle. I have seen over 75 foreign countries,
2 most of them developing, and I have one message for the
3 State of Washington.

4 The Pacific Northwest and the United States
5 of America, we need to use all of our natural resources:
6 wind, minerals, coal, water, intelligence and capital.
7 For those who like to bad mouth Goldman Sachs, remind
8 yourself when you can't get a cheap mortgage loan it's
9 probably Goldman Sachs thinking I'd like to have your
10 spot.

11 So my message to the people representing the
12 State of Washington is we have to make intelligent,
13 cogent, clear, and concise decisions about the future.
14 The only way to keep America strong and to have a vibrant
15 economy and it requires infrastructure.

16 And I've traveled for years in countries
17 such as Pakistan, India, Bangladesh where they're right
18 there in that one little part of the world is 1.5 billion
19 people. They need all of the things that we have and they
20 don't have capital, intelligence, and engineering, money,
21 land, and the political process by which to approve or
22 deny something that will help and benefit the economy of
23 the State of Washington. Thank you.

24 JUDGE TOREM: Geoff Saunders, Ann
25 Gabrielson, and then Gloria Baldi.

COMMENTS BY GEOFF SAUNDERS

1
2 Geoff Saunders, 8241 Elk Springs Road,
3 Ellensburg. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
4 Contrary to some of the previous speakers I believe this
5 is really not about wind power. This is only about two
6 issues: Is this an appropriate location for this
7 particular project and do our elected officials here have
8 the authority to make land use decisions that affect all
9 of us in Kittitas County?

10 I think you know already why this is such a
11 controversial project. First, it's a patchwork quilt of a
12 project shoehorned into an area that currently has a lot
13 of residential and recreational use, an area with booming
14 real estate sales. Look at the map and I think you now
15 had an opportunity to look at the area itself. There are
16 roughly 500 properties within just one mile of the
17 boundary of this proposed project, and at least a dozen of
18 those nonparticipating landowners would actually be
19 surrounded on all three sides by this project.

20 Second, this 6,000-acre project is far too
21 close to Ellensburg with the closest turbine only 9 miles
22 from the post office, not 12 miles that you frequently
23 hear from the developer. It's also being one of the
24 prettiest parts of the county. As I'm sure you know
25 Highway 97 and that area is a state designated scenic

1 byway.

2 The proposed site is, of course, high up on
3 the ridges that would make its strobe lights and spinning
4 blades visible across the entire valley just as the strobe
5 lights of Wild Horse are now visible across the entire
6 valley even though they are 20 miles away.

7 Third, this developer has gone about this
8 project in entirely the wrong way. Horizon ignored
9 anything the County land use process. It's been highly
10 critical of our elected officials and to ask you to
11 preempt their decision.

12 In democracy preempting local government is
13 wrong except under the most extreme circumstances, and
14 there are no extreme circumstances here. Horizon has not
15 shown this project is any way essential to the citizens of
16 this state. It does not even have a buyer for the project
17 or power for this project. There is no energy shortage,
18 and in any case the amount of power from this project
19 would be trivial by comparison with the enormous, with the
20 conventional power plants. In this area the damage done
21 by the project's footprint would out of any proportion to
22 the benefits it might produce.

23 While it's important Washington State
24 supports alternative energy, this is far from the only
25 place that a wind farm can be built. Kittitas County has

1 already demonstrated that it's willing to site appropriate
2 projects in appropriate locations. Now, there's another
3 developer, Invenergy, that said it wants to build a wind
4 farm near Wild Horse, and I think it's pretty safe there
5 that Kittitas County will be willing to approve that one
6 as well.

7 Wind farm developers don't need EFSEC for
8 their projects. They only need EFSEC when they want to
9 pound a project into an area where there's opposition from
10 local government and residents. You have the ability to
11 preempt the decision of our local authorities, but I urge
12 you not to set such a major precedent using this highly
13 unworthy project as your test case. Thank you.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

15 Ann Gabrielson.

16 COMMENTS BY ANN GABRIELSON

17 My name is Ann Gabrielson. Ann without an
18 E, Gabrielson, G-a-b-r-i-e-l-s-o-n. I reside at 16516
19 N.E. 1st Street in Bellevue, Washington 98008.

20 I am representing my family, my husband
21 Gordon, our three daughters and their families, our
22 co-owners Dick and Dorie Kohler, their children and
23 grandchildren. We total 25.

24 We own property immediately adjoining the
25 proposed site. At least two of the wind turbines would

1 only be feet from our property line. Our property was
2 purchased because of the many recreational and outdoor
3 educational opportunities for our families. The area has
4 a unique ecosystem, four distinct seasons, occasional
5 extreme weather from the Northwest and plant and animal
6 life that change with the seasons and climate conditions.
7 We value the peace and quiet, the opportunity to observe
8 the undisturbed wildlife, the spectacular and changing
9 floral displays, the night sky, and studying the geology
10 of the area. All quantities special to that area that
11 will be negatively impacted by noisy, blinking, and
12 potentially dangerous I don't know if they're 363 or 400
13 foot towers, structures.

14 We have become increasingly aware of how
15 intrusive these structures are as we watch construction of
16 the Wild Horse Wind Power Project. The turbines, whether
17 their revolving blades and strobe lights, are clearly
18 visible day and night 22 miles as the crow flies from our
19 property.

20 One part of the equation in the discussion
21 regarding appropriate location for wind turbines needs to
22 be considered. Northwesterners take great pride in the
23 magnificent scenic beauty of our state. It is part of our
24 culture and our values. Individuals and organizations
25 state wide spend time, resources, and energy to protect

1 and restore the natural beauty of our area. State and
2 local visitor bureaus spend many dollars encouraging
3 others to come and admire our diverse scenery. Developing
4 an unsightly wind turbine site on the major cross-state
5 highway at the entrance of the rugged Cascade Mountain
6 Range is it a good idea? We think not. The need for
7 preservation of nature's creations and protection of human
8 values should not be sacrificed in the rush to appear
9 progressive.

10 We all recognize the need to develop
11 additional power sources and that there will be some
12 ecological impact surrounding a wind power site. Criteria
13 for locating wind farms should concentrate on preserving
14 quality of life for human and wildlife occupants of the
15 area, not on minimizing the financial impact for the
16 developers. The Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project
17 seriously impacts a large number of property owners and
18 wildlife residents. Thank you for the opportunity to
19 share a few of my ideas with you tonight.

20 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Gabrielson. I
21 believe it's Gloria Baldi. She'll be followed by Gina
22 Lindemoen and Gloria Lindstrom.

23 COMMENTS BY GLORIA BALDI

24 Council, my name is Gloria Baldi. I'm
25 representing Kittitas Audubon, a membership of about 150

1 families in the Kittitas Valley.

2 JUDGE TOREM: Ma'am, could you spell your
3 name for the court reporter.

4 MS. BALDI: I'm sorry. B-a-l-d-i. The
5 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project is proposed in the
6 location of the Pacific Migration Bird Flyway. The
7 company's Draft Environmental Impact issued in August of
8 '04, page 3-9 states that fact and adds that because it is
9 located closer to the Cascade Mountains and the Yakima
10 River it may have a higher incidence of use by migratory
11 birds than the Wild Horse site. To further verify the
12 importance of migration in the area, Hawkwatch
13 International for years monitored raptors as they flew
14 south past Diamond Head just north of the subject area
15 into the exact area of this proposed wind generating
16 project. The funnel effect where mountain ridges force
17 the concentration of birds as they follow the mountain
18 ridge tops is the proposed location of the Kittitas Valley
19 Project.

20 Approximately four years ago when Zilkha
21 (now Horizon Wind energy) was beginning to introduce its
22 wind power project to valley residents, Kittitas Audubon
23 questioned the extent of bird research procedures. We
24 voiced our concern at that time about the accepted
25 protocol and we continue to stand behind the belief that

1 one year of point counts, which is the periodic noting of
2 species within a certain defined area, is inadequate
3 producing incomplete research to support this wind
4 project. Mortality estimates were based on extrapolation
5 from other sites and areas very different from Kittitas
6 Valley. Therefore we have no way of knowing the kill
7 numbers until they occur and then it will be too late.

8 No night migration patterns of birds and
9 bats at altitudes to the 410 feet have been done to prove
10 there will be no affect during night migration. The
11 majority of the passerines, the song birds, migrate at
12 night, not during the day when the avian studies were
13 done. No night studies have been done to note bat
14 activity. No continuous periodic observations have been
15 done to note patterns of birds in the spring when the
16 winds are heaviest or in spring and fall when the heaviest
17 concentration of raptors funnel the canyons and over the
18 ridges in the area of this project. Any wind power
19 project like Kittitas Valley which is located on a bird
20 migratory flyway is unique and should require additional
21 study to prevent unintentional consequences of high
22 wildlife kills. They have also found that for some reason
23 bats are curious and they're attracted to the towers.
24 Large numbers have been killed in the east. No one knows
25 why bats appear to not be able to escape tower blades. It

1 appears that wind generating projects have the potential
2 to eliminate bats as dams have eliminated the salmon.

3 I've also included a couple of reports from
4 Bat Conservation International with more information on
5 the bats. The government accounting office has also
6 backed up our reasons and I'm done. Thank you very much.

7 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Baldi. You can
8 just hand those to Mr. Fiksdal.

9 COMMENTS BY GINA LINDEMOEN

10 My name is Gina Jefferson Lindemoen, and my
11 last name is spelled L-i-n-d-e-m-o-e-n, and I live at
12 19000 Reecer Creek Road, and first of all, I would like to
13 thank our County Commissioners for having the foresight to
14 see what this valley could have become if they would have
15 allowed the wind turbines to go into our neighborhoods.

16 I've been listening to the radio this week,
17 and on PBR radio they've had several physicians and
18 scientists that have been studying deafness, and the wind
19 turbines are part of that study and it does cause
20 deafness. And they say that if young children are exposed
21 to that over a number years, that they will become deaf,
22 not partially deaf but completely deaf. They compared it
23 to the ipods that the kids are listening to now.

24 Also, I would like to say that I've heard
25 first hand from the manager of the Horizon project that

1 they would be glad to see the property values lessened
2 here in our Kittitas County so they could purchase them
3 here. I don't want to see that happen, and I don't want
4 to see our property value go down.

5 Also, I guess a lot of us should have gone to
6 see what Whiskey Dick really looks likes during
7 construction. My husband knows that first-hand
8 recognition of going out and seeing what is being done and
9 about the unorganization of the whole project.

10 They don't provide material for the roads in
11 a timely manner. There are bulldozers pulling dump trucks
12 off the road, into the roads due to the rain and the poor
13 conditions of the road, the lack of material that they
14 have provided to put on the roads.

15 So there has not been a lot of planning
16 process that's gone into effect to develop the road to
17 actually get the trucks in to bring the material in for
18 the holes they're digging.

19 Also we were talking about the water tables
20 being disturbed. I can't even imagine what would happen
21 if you actually saw one of the holes for one of the
22 turbines what it would do to our water table. That's all
23 I have to say. Thank you.

24 JUDGE TOREM: Gloria Lindstrom. She will be
25 followed by Hal Lindstrom and Diane Schwab.

1 COMMENTS BY GLORIA LINDSTROM

2 Gloria Lindstrom, L-i-n-d-s-t-r-o-m, 1831
3 Hanson Road. No matter how many wind turbines Horizon
4 cuts back it will still be too many. They are simply in
5 the wrong place. There are so many irresolvable problems
6 associated with people living close by. Both the County
7 Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners
8 recognized this and voted unanimously to deny a permit for
9 this project.

10 I have testified earlier that the one-year
11 bird study was inadequate. Washington Audubon recommends
12 a two-year study because usage and migration patterns vary
13 from year to year. Decision makers must recognize and
14 take into account that this area is a recognized raptor
15 migration route because of the funnel effect. This
16 phenomena is a consequence of geographic features which
17 tend to funnel or concentrate birds into certain areas.
18 Horizon should have undertaken a two-year study of both
19 day and night activity and include both birds and bats.
20 There has been ample time to do further study, but it
21 hasn't been done. It is good that the one-year study by
22 West was done, but it is only half a load also. What is
23 in the works for oversight following construction in terms
24 of competent regular studies of the avian effects?

25 This small valley should not be reigned by

1 wind turbines just because the power lines are here. The
2 Wild Horse installation that is 20 miles east of our
3 property is clearly visible and we can even see the blades
4 turning. This big white, industrial turbine farm is out
5 of character with its surroundings. If the KVVPP is
6 allowed it will be much closer to Ellensburg and much more
7 out of character. The upland area to the north and west
8 of Ellensburg has a unique and lovely geography with the
9 Stuart Range as its crowning backdrop. What will the
10 addition of giant wind turbines with running blades placed
11 in the foreground infested with blinking lights day and
12 night do to this historic treasure view? If such a wind
13 farm proposal is made in the Puget Sound area and it was
14 to be sited in the view shed of either the Olympic or the
15 Cascades Mountains, there would be a tremendous uproar and
16 it would never happen.

17 Please don't let it happen to this small
18 valley. My request to you is to protect the people who
19 live in the area of the proposed KVVPP, protect the birds
20 and bats and project the view shed of the Kittitas Valley
21 for all of us. Wind farms are okay, but put them in their
22 proper place located in unpopulated areas on disturbed
23 terrain by farmed land.

24 Please do not make the mistake of preempting
25 the local process. Instead take a message to Governor

1 Gregoire that we need leadership of all levels of
2 government to promote energy conservation. Thank you.

3 JUDGE TOREM: Hal Lindstrom.

4 COMMENTS BY HAL LINDSTROM

5 Hello. My name is Hal Lindstrom. I live at
6 1831 Hanson Road, Ellensburg, Washington. I am speaking
7 for myself. It may sound like I'm also speaking for
8 Gloria.

9 I don't know how many public meetings have
10 been held on this issue before the Kittitas County
11 Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners
12 but there have been many, and I've testified at all but
13 one perhaps with essentially the same message; that both
14 Desert Claim and now the Kittitas Valley Wind Power
15 Project, renamed Horizon, are inappropriately sited. The
16 Horizon wind farm would severely impact homeowners who
17 purchased property and live in the immediate area. They
18 would lose much and for some all those values for which
19 they purchased property. I estimate 80 percent of those
20 who spoke at the public hearings that I attended were
21 opposed to both Desert Claim and to this project for
22 essentially the same reasons. Their views were supported
23 by unanimous decisions from both the County Planning
24 Commission and the Board of County Commissioners for
25 Kittitas County to reject the proposal.

1 When my wife and I were returning from
2 Yakima a couple weeks ago, we stopped to change drivers at
3 a high point shortly after the I-82 rest stop out of
4 Yakima. When I walked around the car sort of stretching
5 and getting the kinks out, I looked to the north and,
6 whoa, I could see the wind turbines installed at Wild
7 Horse and looking at my map at least 23 miles distance.
8 Yesterday afternoon I could see the turbines far more
9 easily from Pfenning Road which is immediately east of
10 town. I'd estimate approximately at least 15 miles
11 turning and reflecting the sun. We're talking about a
12 major impact to the scenic character of this truly tight
13 little valley.

14 I treasure my home. Home for me is more
15 than the one and a half acres that our house sits on. It
16 extends to the larger Kittitas Valley. It really is
17 difficult to put into words what this place where I've
18 lived for almost 60 years now means to me. Seeing the
19 natural wonder that is the Stuart Range, including Mount
20 Stuart. I had lunch on top of it one day. And the
21 Wenatchee Mountains is an integral part of my life and
22 enjoyment that I've had for years that I've lived in this
23 valley. To compromise this splendid view by installing
24 these giant, spinning, lit by night turbines lining the
25 ridges in the foreground would be a travesty.

1 For those who live in the immediate area and
2 enjoy for the reasons they purchased their property and
3 under the County's then existing land codes this
4 industrial installation would be a nightmare full time.

5 Kittitas County bought into GMA and from my
6 perspective tries to, not as well as I would like
7 sometimes, to operate according to its mandates. I
8 believe the County has performed accordingly in arriving
9 at its decision to deny this project; therefore, I don't
10 understand the basis for whereby EFSEC could preempt the
11 County's decision to deny the project. Thank you.

12 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir. Diane Schwab
13 will be followed by Richard Fischer and Jeb Baldi.

14 COMMENTS BY DIANE SCHWAB

15 My name is Diane Schwab. My address is P.O.
16 Box 290 in Maple Valley, Washington 98038.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Could you speak up, ma'am.

18 MS. SCHWAB: We have 50 acres out in the
19 hills. We've owned our land since 1993, and it was
20 originally purchased to build a home and retire. We've
21 spent thousands of dollars to develop it. When we
22 originally heard of these massive wind farms everything
23 was put on hold. We needed to do some research to find
24 out the impacts of not only the land but to us personally.

25 Our land is long and narrow with a big

1 valley running through the middle of it. There are two
2 prime home locations. Unfortunately one on the end will
3 be directly next door to a row of wind turbines. The
4 other is on top of the hill overlooking the valley. Both
5 of these locations will have the full effect if these
6 turbines go in.

7 As it stands now, there are met towers.
8 That's 100-foot towers to measure the wind velocity to the
9 north, south, land adjoining ours on the east, and land
10 adjoining ours to the west. This also entails more than
11 one developer. If these all come to be developed we will
12 be completely surrounded by massive white structures. We
13 should not be forced to live with the noise, shadow
14 flicker, and sure massiveness of the wind turbines in our
15 faces. There is no easy way out. They say we could put
16 blinds on our windows, plant trees, etc., etc. This won't
17 solve the problem. You can't plant trees that tall. And
18 why have view property if you can't use it?

19 GPO 8.7 of the County code states that
20 private landowners should not be expected to provide
21 public benefits without just compensation. Okay. So why
22 are a few of us up on the hill expected to give up our
23 property? In my opinion that is stealing. According to
24 local real estate professionals it would be next to
25 impossible to sell any property located next to wind

1 turbines unless the property owners want to give away
2 their property for next to nothing, and I'm got more here.
3 I'll just give it to him. Thank you.

4 JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Fischer.

5 COMMENTS BY JEB BALDI

6 Jeb Baldi, 1405 Brick Road in Ellensburg.
7 Thank you for this opportunity. Please make my comments
8 part of the official hearing for the Kittitas Valley Wind
9 Power Project No. 2003-01.

10 Every wind generating facility no matter
11 where it's proposed location needs to be reviewed as a
12 unique project, as well as the cumulative effects of all
13 other wind farm projects in the area. With this in mind,
14 please deny this project for the following reasons:

15 One, there is a threat to migrating birds,
16 especially raptors. Each spring and fall hundreds of
17 hawks migrate through Kittitas Valley along the ridges in
18 the subject area. Raptors funnel right down to the valley
19 on the flight south or they stay for the winter, depending
20 on the species. The lack of comprehensive data regarding
21 birds and no studies on bats are a major concern.

22 Number two, the placement of the towers in
23 the vicinity of residential homes there is little regard
24 for the mitigation to the nearby residents with such
25 negative features as noise, shadow flicker, and

1 infringement on the view shed.

2 Number three, no one is considering the
3 conservation of electricity. Does our nation have an
4 energy conversation policy? No. Does our state have one?
5 No. Nor does Kittitas County or the City of Ellensburg.
6 Before we spend all of Horizon's cash and our tax dollars
7 on this project every one should learn to conserve. It's
8 not renewable. It's just using less so the need is less.

9 Number four, this project like other wind
10 developments is an energy sink hole. How much energy and
11 resources are used to build the towers and the generator
12 to bring the towers from Vietnam, the turbines from
13 Europe? How much energy and resources are used in land
14 transportation of these items to site? How much energy,
15 gravel and cement is used to fill the holes that have been
16 blasted deep into the ground? How much destruction of the
17 habitat is there with building the roads and the ground
18 ditching? And we're told it will be outdated in 20 years
19 or less. What then? Will they stay or will they be taken
20 down?

21 Do we not live in a democracy where we elect
22 people to represent us? They in turn make decisions best
23 suited for our community. Our elected officials felt it
24 was in the best interest of Kittitas County not to approve
25 this project after four years of hearings and studies.

1 The decision you make as a committee, not elected or
2 appointed by us, does not directly affect you or your
3 families, but it will drastically affect the lives of many
4 people in this community. Thank you.

5 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Baldi.

6 Is Richard Fischer still present?

7 COMMENTS BY RICHARD FISCHER

8 Hi, I'm Richard Fischer, F-i-s-c-h-e-r, 5053
9 Weaver Road, Ellensburg. This proposed wind farm 12 miles
10 northwest of Ellensburg is in the wrong place. Many
11 people have purchased land in which to build in this
12 pictorial location and some have already built there. The
13 residents of Kittitas Valley have always been proud of
14 their view of Mount Stuart and its range of mountains
15 along the Enchantments. Why should this splendor be
16 marred when there are other locations which are suitable
17 for wind farms? Two locations. Then too, the highway map
18 of the State of Washington shows that Highway 97 where the
19 proposed wind farm is to be located is a scenic highway.
20 Here again, the proposed wind farm is in the wrong place.

21 If the state agrees to this proposed
22 location, how is the state planning to recompense all of
23 those involved which could include all those in the valley
24 who value their magnificent view for the devaluation of
25 the property? Thank you.

1 JUDGE TOREM: The next speakers are Debbie
2 Strand, Chris Cole, and Marian Claassen. Following that I
3 have three additional speakers and that will take us to 27
4 for the evening. A little under my guess, but maybe
5 people are holding their tongues for tomorrow night.
6 Anyone that is going to speak tonight see our EFSEC staff
7 and make sure we get aware of it before these other
8 remaining six speakers tonight are done.

9 COMMENTS BY DEBBIE STRAND

10 Good evening. My name is Debbie Stand, 221
11 East Fourth Avenue, Ellensburg, Washington. I'm the
12 Executor Director of the Economic Development Group of
13 Kittitas County and I am speaking on their behalf. The
14 Economic Development Group is an organization, nonprofit
15 organization that deals with business development and
16 looks at the economy of our community here.

17 Based on the facts that our organization has
18 collected, a lot of discussion, the organization has
19 voted, the board members have voted to support the
20 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project due to its nets
21 positive impacts that it will have on the community
22 related to taxes, jobs, capital investment, and income
23 generated.

24 You've heard me state numerous times before,
25 in fact you've heard many of the people here speak, and

1 there are passionate voices on both sides of this issue.
2 What I would like to do right now is provide you with a
3 little bit of additional new information that we've
4 collected.

5 As the Wild Horse project has been
6 developed, the affects of our county our organization has
7 been collecting data from it, and I believe that we could
8 make some correlation between the two projects, even
9 though the Kittitas Project is somewhat smaller as
10 proposed today. What we've been doing is we've been
11 trying to figure out what the local spending impact is on
12 our community, and so we've been looking at how many jobs
13 have been developed during the construction process, how
14 many of those were local and how many of those are not
15 local, these types of information; and how much local
16 spending is being done on the project.

17 We recognize the fact that the towers and
18 turbines are not purchased directly from our county.
19 We're sorry to say that, but we don't produce that kind of
20 materials here in the county. But based upon what we've
21 been able to collect so far it looks like there's been
22 about ten million dollars that's been put into our local
23 economy due to this project. That includes things such as
24 office supplies, utilities, services, etc, etc. There are
25 about 40 percent of the jobs it looks like have been local

1 contractors, people who have been hired in the community
2 here. Nonlocals are living in this community during the
3 six- to nine-month period of time that the project is
4 being developed, and they are renting apartments, motel
5 rooms, buying food, purchasing additional services in the
6 community.

7 Recognizing that my three minutes are just
8 about up, I will tell you that I'm going to provide you
9 with additional written data supporting some of the tax
10 revenue information that we have collected and that type
11 of information. But just based on what's happened here
12 with the Wild Horse Project, I will tell you that there
13 has been a net positive impact on our community locally.
14 Thank you very much.

15 JUDGE TOREM: We certainly know that new
16 hotels have gone up. We hope it's not just to accommodate
17 our business.

18 Chris Cole, Marian Claassen, and then Harry
19 Whitaker.

20 COMMENTS BY CHRISTINE COLE

21 Christine Cole. I'm representing myself and
22 my partner Roger Binette. My name is spelled C-o-l-e.
23 His is B-i-n-e-t-t-e. I live at 7430 Robbins Road here in
24 Ellensburg.

25 Our County Commissioners made the right

1 decision. After many agonizing hours of hard work, public
2 testimony, and review, finally an on-site visit to a wind
3 farm somewhat comparable to what is proposed, they decided
4 that those most affected, the nonparticipating landowners,
5 would be subjected to conditions that could not be
6 mitigated and there were many whose lives would be
7 negatively affected.

8 We have a small taste of what is proposed
9 here at KVVPP with Wild Horse. Those towers are barely
10 half the size in comparison and are visible from
11 everywhere. The ground is torn with infrastructure and
12 ugly red lights do strobe at night and are visible from
13 our homes 20 miles distant and easily more as one comes
14 down into the valley from the east, south, and west.

15 The proponents' only argument is based on
16 monetary rationale and gain for the few. And now another
17 company wishes to make application for yet another
18 industrial site so Pandora's box is open and we knew it
19 would happen. This valley will look like an ugly, sick
20 porcupine, and all the arguments for renewable and clean
21 energy for this particular site are a smoke screen for
22 monetary gain and nothing more.

23 Even with all the evidence presented
24 throughout the process, the most telling was from the
25 commissioners themselves in their visit to a site.

1 Nothing takes the place of that, and after that experience
2 they knew nothing would mitigate the negative impacts for
3 those who would bear the brunt of this industrial site.
4 It is unconscionable to place these mega structures in a
5 rural area filled with homes.

6 Granting these towers to be placed among our
7 homes is an overwhelming disaster that need not occur.
8 Choose not to do that. Do not force this valley into such
9 an ugly situation just for the promised monetary gain.
10 The cost is much too high and the valley irreplaceable and
11 a cruel joke on people who know what will happen to their
12 lives and to those who have no sense of what will happen
13 to their lives. They must also be protected, perhaps from
14 themselves.

15 There is little to gain and much to lose and
16 it isn't just measured in monetary terms. Thank you.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Marian Claassen.

18 All right. She's going to pass for tonight.
19 Marian Claassen is not going to speak. Harry Whitaker,
20 followed by Debbie Boddy and Art DePalma, and those are
21 the last speakers I have signed up. If there are any
22 others let EFSEC staff know before Mr. DePalma finishes.

23 COMMENTS BY HARRY WHITAKER

24 Harry Whitaker, W-h-i-t-a-k-e-r, 3411 Loop
25 Road. I'm here representing myself. I'm opposed to this

1 particular project. I'm not opposed to wind energy, per
2 se. I just feel this is an inappropriate siting.
3 Kittitas County has been through a lot of agony over this
4 particular project, as well as enXco's project, and came
5 to what I feel were the right decisions to deny, and I'm
6 hoping that you folks will back that up.

7 The reasons are as been stated so far the
8 residential and recreational values out in that area the
9 growth is pretty intense, and Kittitas County has
10 demonstrated a willingness to place these wind farms in
11 what I think and most people in the valley think are more
12 appropriate sites at the east end of the valley where
13 there's very little, if any, residential development.

14 There's another concern I have. I'm a piano
15 tuner and I've worked on pianos for close to 30 years now.
16 I worked at Central Washington University, but, again, I
17 want to say I'm here just representing myself. I know for
18 a fact that from my reading that these wind turbines
19 produce powerful low frequency vibrations that can travel
20 for miles and can penetrate buildings.

21 Now, the State of Washington has been
22 spending tens of millions of dollars upgrading buildings
23 on the campus. The measured distance from the closest
24 turbine to the post office is a longer distance than that
25 to the new music building where I spend my time. For the

1 last 18 months we've been in this new wonderful music
2 facility which the State of Washington built, and I can
3 say from my experience I was trained in Boston and I've
4 been at Symphony Hall in Boston for the Boston Symphony
5 Orchestra. I've been in Carnegie Hall and our particular
6 hall is what I would say, and I don't think it's really
7 disputed, it's acoustically just a fantastic facility. So
8 placing these turbines in this particular location brings
9 them into a range that I fear may produce affects that are
10 not currently present. What those will be I'm not sure.
11 But will there be an affect? I think there probably will?
12 And I think it's somewhat of a gamble and experiment that
13 I don't know we need to take.

14 So I'm hoping that you will side with the
15 County fathers and deny this project, as well as enXco if
16 they come back. Thanks a lot.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Debbie Boddy.

18 COMMENTS BY DEBBIE BODDY

19 Thank you. My name is Debbie Boddy,
20 B-o-d-d-y, 790 Dudley Road, and tonight I'm here just to
21 basically support our commissioners. It's been a long,
22 tedious process. One sometimes I agree and don't agree
23 with their decisions, but I really believe they're looking
24 out in the best interest for the citizens of this county.

25 My message to the Governor would be the same

1 as it was to our commissioners when I spoke to them. To
2 say yes to Horizon I believe is to set a new standard for
3 wind farm development, not just now in our county but in
4 the State of Washington. And that new standard would be
5 that they could be built in close proximity to prime rural
6 residential communities like Thorp, like Kittitas,
7 Ellensburg, and so on.

8 The scenic byways would be affected. So to
9 set this new standard you can put wind farms in scenic
10 byways which will impact our mountain-to-sound scenic, our
11 clear water scenic corridor which is beautiful Highway 10,
12 and then, of course, Highway 97 recreational highway.
13 Also it will set a standard to put wind farms in scenic
14 river and canyon corridors like the Yakima River between
15 Thorp and Cle Elum, close proximity to nature
16 conservancies like Swauk Creek Winter Conservancy, and it
17 impacts our John Wayne Millennium Legacy Trail which also
18 I think puts in jeopardy other great recreational areas in
19 the State of Washington.

20 I believe the issue has never been if wind
21 farms. The issue has been where. Our commissioners
22 clearly saw that need and have both approved and denied
23 wind farms. I say that if this particular wind farm goes
24 in, whether it's 80 or 8 million wind farms they're going
25 to go in the most prized and cherished land in the State

1 of Washington, especially with a yes vote by the Governor
2 because it's escalated to that level. And that means our
3 ocean's shores, our San Juan Island, and I just look at
4 any new residential rural community in the state could be
5 impacted. Do the right thing. Uphold and support
6 Kittitas County people, government, and our commissioners.
7 Thank you.

8 JUDGE TOREM: Art DePalma

9 I do have one additional person signed up
10 after Mr. DePalma, Woody Woodcock.

11 COMMENTS BY ART DePALMA

12 My name is Art DePalma, that's
13 D-e-P-a-l-m-a, and I live at Manastash Road, Ellensburg,
14 Washington. As I see there's about four groups here
15 tonight with about two or three different agendas.

16 First, there's Horizon and their agenda
17 basically is the bottom line; how many millions of dollars
18 they can get in tax incentives. Now, they're a business
19 and this is what businesses do. So I mean this is really
20 to be expected. They're not too concerned about residents
21 in the area. They've argued that the towers won't affect
22 home prices, the soft pedal effects of shadow flicker,
23 evidence of low level noise which has been mentioned.
24 Kind of belittling the residents calling them just
25 west-siders with vacation homes when most of the people

1 live here. There's many bucks to be made and residents'
2 quality of life isn't too big of a concern if it doesn't
3 bring them money.

4 Then there's the landowners in the area who
5 will benefit monetarily by these turbines, and you hear
6 landowners' rights and keeping too many houses from being
7 built. The need for electricity like our lights will go
8 out if this isn't built and they won't. And I think if
9 there weren't any profits, they'd probably be here
10 testifying against the wind turbines or staying at home.

11 There are those who come up as
12 environmentalists who tell you to build all the wind farms
13 that you can build; that we need them. But they don't
14 want it in their neighborhood. They're willing to
15 sacrifice and ruin other people's quality of life for a
16 minimal amount of energy. I had to chuckle in reading the
17 paper when some of the people that were arguing for wind
18 farms around all these peoples' homes was quite concerned
19 when a gun club was coming a little closer to her, and she
20 was quite concerned about home values, her home value.

21 Now, then there's the homeowners and the
22 residents' quality of life that will be directly hurt and
23 whose home value will fall. And they're here to tell you
24 that they need your protection and will tell you that wind
25 farms are fine as long as they're not close to these

1 homes.

2 And, me, I don't live near the wind farm so
3 I probably should have stayed home, but what I think is
4 that it's not right for some people for the sake of money
5 to blight other people's properties and degrade their
6 quality of life. They need the government to protect and
7 Kittitas County has done just that. Imagine how you would
8 decide if the project were coming out right around your
9 house. So I ask you to give the residents in this area
10 the same consideration and protection by denying this wind
11 farm. Thank you.

12 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

13 Mr. Woodcock.

14 Before you begin, staff, is there anybody to
15 follow Mr. Woodcock?

16 All right. Mr. Woodcock, you have the last
17 word tonight. We will be back at seven o'clock tomorrow.
18 Go ahead, sir.

19 COMMENTS BY WOODY WOODCOCK

20 Thank you very much. I'm Woody Woodcock,
21 309 East Third Avenue, Ellensburg, W-o-o-d-c-o-c-k. I
22 appreciate the opportunity to get up and speak on this.
23 My concerns basically--well, first off, I oppose
24 reconsidering this. I think my concerns were pretty well
25 expressed by Mr. Saunders. This is the wrong place, and

1 it would preempt an intelligent and patient study by
2 Counsel officials.

3 I hear a lot of people get up and say we
4 need to put this where the wind is, and they don't say
5 this is being put where the people are. I believe
6 Mr. Saunders' numbers speak to that. There are a lot of
7 people in this area and probably more to come as
8 Mr. Whitaker stated. It's sort of a recreational,
9 residence area. You know, Mr. DePalma or the last guy to
10 speak anyway he sort of categorized the different groups
11 that were up here, and it seemed like a lot of speakers
12 are benefiting from this with cash were people wanting it
13 to be reconsidered and a lot of the people in opposition
14 are just trying to preserve a quality of life.

15 I'd just like to say one thing I've noticed
16 with the Whiskey Dick Wind Horse site is shadow flicker.
17 I work right out by there so I get to see it in the
18 morning and the afternoon. And when the sun is low it
19 will be like me turning these lights off just like this:
20 darkness, light; darkness, light. And I don't think their
21 mitigation aside from planting trees and putting up
22 curtains has even come with dealing with that: the affect
23 it's going to have on people that are in close proximity,
24 if you will. Thank you.

25 I think we've got a great opportunity in

1 this county with a wind farm going in out there with the
2 Wild Horse to just wait and see how these concerns--the
3 noise, the shadow flicker, the birds kill, all of other
4 ones that were mentioned--how they'll play out a few years
5 down the line once people are allowed past the gate and
6 can get out there and stand near these things and hear
7 them, see them. And I think you should deny this just so
8 we have some time to see how it fits in this valley.

9 I just also want to say it's great to be an
10 American. We can all stand up here and say what we think
11 with no fear of reprisal other than what people think
12 about us. That's about all I have to say. Thanks.

13 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

14 Thanks to all of you for the polite and
15 consideration you gave all the speakers regardless of
16 their points of view. As Mr. Woodcock points out that's
17 what the process is all about.

18 We heard from 28 people tonight and last
19 week in Seattle we heard from another 37. I expect there
20 will be probably 20 or 30 more that will want to speak
21 tomorrow night. Some of you may have signed up to speak
22 on Thursday night, the 21st already.

23 We will be back here at seven o'clock
24 tomorrow. As I said, the adjudication continues tomorrow
25 morning at nine o'clock in the morning at the building

1 adjacent to us. It's a smaller room. There's going to be
2 a site visit tomorrow as well that will wrap up the
3 process.

4 So the Council will get a chance to see all
5 the places you're talking about. That's been worked out.
6 For those of you who are curious about the process, we'll
7 close the record if you want any written comments by next
8 Friday, September 29. We expect the post-hearing briefs
9 to be done just before Thanksgiving so that all the
10 lawyers will have told the Council all the reasons and sum
11 what's occurred this past week and all the past years of
12 proceedings.

13 You can expect hopefully by the end of the
14 year, probably by the middle of December or a little bit
15 later, that this group will be back to announce its
16 decision on both the issues that are near and dear to your
17 heart, whether or not the state will choose to preempt the
18 local county commissioner, and, if so, what they'll
19 recommend with regard to the Kittitas Valley Wind Power
20 Project. Just so you can put a mental reminder to
21 yourself as when this might all be wrapped up, it should
22 be the end of the year, and then the other lawyers will
23 take over I'm sure one way or the other.

24 But if you're coming back tomorrow night,
25 you won't be allowed to speak again. Certainly you're

1 welcome to listen, but you don't have to come back if I've
2 told you what you need as far as closure. We welcome you
3 to be back tomorrow. We welcome you to come see the
4 proceeding as it goes tomorrow morning. There's three
5 additional witnesses then, but if you want to know when
6 it's going to wrap up, that's my best estimate for now.

7 If there are direct questions as to timing,
8 I'll stick around a little bit after tonight. But these
9 are the decision makers. You can't talk to them. I don't
10 have a vote in this so you can ask me those procedural
11 questions.

12 It's now about 8:30, a little bit shy of
13 that, and we're going to close for this evening. We'll
14 see some of you back I'm sure tomorrow night on Thursday.

15 * * * * *

16 (Public comment meeting adjourned at 8:30
17 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 20, 2006,
in Ellensburg, Washington.

Shaun Linse, CCR

CCR NO. 2029