

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 - 59  
 \_\_\_\_\_ )

A public meeting in the above matter was held in the presence of a court reporter on September 21, 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 and welcome. My name is Adam Torem. I'm an Administrative Law Judge for the Office of Administrative Hearings for the State of Washington, and I'm here tonight to conduct the last of the three public comment meetings, the second one in a row here in Ellensburg on behalf of the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

This is Application No. 2003-01 before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council or EFSEC. As you know, we had adjudicative hearings here in town all this week. We were able to wrap those up today. Tonight is the public comment session that's the last one scheduled, and, again, I want to remind you the record in this matter won't close until a week from tomorrow, next week Friday,

1       September 29. So if you hear something tonight and you've  
2       already spoken at one of the other public comment sessions  
3       and you feel you need to still get some additional  
4       comments into us or you simply don't want to come to the  
5       microphone tonight, you still have until next Friday so  
6       long as those comments are received in Olympia and that  
7       can be by e-mail as well. By next Friday they will be  
8       included in the record, and these fine folks gathered  
9       around me will in fact read them.

10                   Let me introduce the EFSEC Council. Many of  
11       you are familiar with their names already, but for the  
12       record, to my right is Chairman Jim Luce, and to his right  
13       is the Tim Sweeney, Utilities and Transportation; Hedia  
14       Adelsman, Department of Ecology; and Patti Johnson from  
15       Kittitas County. To my immediate left is Councilmember  
16       Chris Smith Towne from the Department of Fish and  
17       Wildlife, and Dick Fryhling is representing Community  
18       Trade and Economic Development and Judy Wilson from the  
19       Department of--

20                   MS. WILSON: --Natural Resources.

21                   JUDGE TOREM: Natural Resources. Thank you.  
22       I butchered that last night as well.

23                   (Microphone making noises.)

24                   JUDGE TOREM: Are we back on? Okay. I'll  
25       try not to break it again.

1                   If you were here last night you already know  
2                   the ground rules. If you've spoken at any of the last two  
3                   public comment sessions, you can't speak again tonight.  
4                   You can give up to three minutes of public testimony this  
5                   evening. We're asking that folks come up and state their  
6                   name, spell their last name for our court reporter, speak  
7                   at a reasonable rate so that she can take your testimony,  
8                   and address your testimony to be heard by the  
9                   Councilmembers; and as needed if you want to hand anything  
10                  that's written to Mr. Fiksdal, he'll take that and make it  
11                  part of the record. Mr. Fiksdal also has cards to tell  
12                  when you have one minute left and when you should be  
13                  ending. So he'll be right there, and it's pretty hard to  
14                  miss him. He may let you run over just a little bit.  
15                  He'll ask you to round up and make room for the next  
16                  speaker.

17                   Last night we had almost 30 people and  
18                   tonight I know we have at least 20 people signed up,  
19                   probably more, and we'll be going until approximately  
20                   8:30, 9:00, if that's the case. If we get many sign-ups,  
21                   we'll still take a break for our court reporter and for  
22                   everybody to stretch and be able to pay attention, but we  
23                   won't go past ten o'clock tonight unless there's been an  
24                   incredible demand because you can submit things back in  
25                   writing by next Friday.

1                   So I don't forget to do this later tonight,  
2           I've been asked and I know now some of you may leave after  
3           you speak. If folks are interested in what happens after  
4           this and after the record closes next Friday and want to  
5           know if there will be any further communication between  
6           the Applicant, between the County, between EFSEC staff,  
7           and these decision makers, the answer is no.

8                   This is a little bit different process than  
9           perhaps what was perceived before your Board of County  
10          Commissioners. This is not going to be an open process  
11          after the record closes. It's been a rather open process  
12          up to this point with a whole lot of process for the  
13          public and for all of the intervenors in the adjudication  
14          to provide as much information as possible and everything  
15          that they thought was relevant. But once the record  
16          closes I want it to be clear that you won't be reading  
17          anything truthful about people having communications with  
18          this Council. They will not be hearing anything more from  
19          the Applicant other than post-hearing briefs. They won't  
20          be hearing more from the County attorney here, Mr. Hurson,  
21          except for his post-hearing brief, and it will all be in  
22          writing. We've scheduled those today and that will done  
23          by November 6 or 13 or I guess it's November 20 will be  
24          the last written communication on legal arguments and then  
25          the Council anticipates deliberating within the first week

1 or so of December and issuing its decision on this matter  
2 by the close of the year, and we'll come back to  
3 Ellensburg here to announce that and have copies of  
4 whether it is a recommendation to preempt the local  
5 government or not and one way or the other whether we  
6 recommend to the Governor this group of wind power to be  
7 built or not be built. So all of that will be wrapped up  
8 in one document. It will be announced and briefly  
9 explained here in Ellensburg as was done with the Wild  
10 Horse project if you attended that final meeting.

11 From there, there may be some room for some  
12 additional legal process, but we expect the product will  
13 get to the Governor in January or the latest February of  
14 next year and the Governor will have 60 days to act on the  
15 recommendation and then the County and the people at  
16 Ellensburg will know the final ruling on this particular  
17 process.

18 I think I'll look for Mr. Hurson to see if  
19 he wants to wave for any further explanation for this.  
20 We're good. So I think I've answered some of the  
21 questions that have come his way about the final process.

22 We're ready to get going with the speakers.  
23 I'm going to call people a couple at a time as I did in  
24 the last couple of meetings, but we're going to start with  
25 Louise Genson, Linda Schantz will follow, and then Janet

1 Lee. Dan Morgan is the fourth signed-up speaker.

2 So again come up, state your name and  
3 address, spell your last name for the record, and give us  
4 your comments and pay attention to Mr. Fiksdal.

5 COMMENTS BY LOUISE GENSON

6 My name is Louise Genson. It's G-e-n-s-o-n.  
7 101 Elk Springs Road, Ellensburg, Washington. I'd like to  
8 thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening. I've  
9 enclosed a copy of my written comments that I submitted to  
10 the Kittitas County Commissioners and the written comments  
11 contained in research I did on property values in the Elk  
12 Springs area.

13 My husband and I own 420 acres along Elk  
14 Springs Road that's in Horizon's proposed project. Much  
15 has changed in the five years since Horizon first  
16 contacted us with the idea of being involved in a wind  
17 farm project. I see a positive change in the awareness of  
18 the need to use renewable energy sources and preserve the  
19 nonrenewable resources our nation has been blessed with.  
20 We see more people driving hybrid cars, using biodiesel,  
21 and companies promoting conservation of resources as well  
22 as encouraging any energy efficient alternatives.

23 I mention this because I believe our  
24 property has been blessed with a definite resource: the  
25 wind. Our property is zoned forest and range 20.

1 According to the zoning code of Kittitas County the  
2 purpose and intent of this zone is to provide for areas of  
3 Kittitas County wherein resource management is the highest  
4 priority and where subdivision and development of lands  
5 for uses and activities incompatible with resource  
6 management are discouraged.

7           Harnessing the wind is compatible with this  
8 zoning. I feel the wind farm would be the best use for  
9 our property. I have found Horizon and their employees to  
10 be professional, hard working people who are truly  
11 committed to building a quality project that this County  
12 can be proud of. It is because of their vision and hard  
13 work that we currently have one wind farm producing clean  
14 renewable energy.

15           Horizon has reduced the size of the Kittitas  
16 Valley Wind Power Project, the actual number of turbines,  
17 and has mitigated every possible concern that opponents  
18 have raised. I would have liked, to be honest, this  
19 project to have been approved before now, but I think this  
20 extra time has allowed just for extra comments and  
21 concerns to be answered by the Applicant; and I think it's  
22 really given the community time, especially with the other  
23 wind farm up and running, to actually see what a working  
24 wind farm looks like and it kind of dispels some of the  
25 fears that they might have that this wouldn't be right for

1 the county.

2 The Kittitas Valley Wind Power site is  
3 unique. It has one of the best wind resources in our  
4 county. It has the necessary power grid to receive the  
5 electricity produced. Wind farms can only be placed where  
6 these conditions are present. Please give us the  
7 opportunity to put this resource to work for the benefit  
8 of so many. Thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

9 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

10 Linda Schantz.

11 COMMENTS BY LINDA SCHANTZ

12 Hello, my name is Linda Schantz,  
13 S-c-h-a-n-t-z. Thank you for allowing public comment this  
14 evening and please take my comments into consideration  
15 when deciding upon this project.

16 What we know today, we know that wind farms  
17 are industrial complexes. They're typically 280- to  
18 400-feet tall each turbine with rotors that are about the  
19 length of about two-thirds of a city block. They do not  
20 fit into a rural terrain or character of a rural farming  
21 and residential area. They stick out like a sore thumb.

22 We know that wind towers cause shadow  
23 flicker. They sometimes throw ice. They interfere with  
24 radio and T.V. transmissions and that they interfere with  
25 airport communication and radar, including the offshore,



1       although that doesn't affect us here. We know this  
2       because there's whole industries being created to support  
3       the education and mitigation alternatives to these  
4       effects.

5                       We also know that there's no mitigation for  
6       a 400-foot wind tower being placed 1,000 feet from your  
7       living room window. They're not natural. They move about  
8       30 percent of the time and some have blinking lights.  
9       Common sense tells us that this will not be a pleasant way  
10      to live if wind farms are put outside our homes. We also  
11      know that Horizon and its predecessors had ample time to  
12      relocate this project due to the overwhelming concerns of  
13      the citizens opposed to this location and they chose not  
14      to. In the meantime, several other wind developers have  
15      been snooping around Kittitas Valley and there are some  
16      other projects out there proposed, including their own.  
17      It's a fact that the County Commissioners tried to find a  
18      way to mitigate these effects to the citizens that they're  
19      here to protect, and they could not find a way to do that  
20      so they denied the project. They did their job and they  
21      did it right.

22                      Horizon Company has demonstrated that they  
23      will not be good for this valley. They do not have the  
24      same values as most of us who live here. They have lied  
25      to us continually and they really don't care that we don't

1 want the project located where it's proposed. They've had  
2 over three years to try to make it work by relocating it,  
3 and it should be obvious that we are willing to site wind  
4 farms in Kittitas Valley. Just look at the Wild Horse  
5 Wind Farm Project. It's going to be done at the end of  
6 the year and it belongs to them or it did.

7 So in closing, I just would like to say the  
8 following: The Trojan Horse is at the gates of Troy.  
9 This wind power project is Ellensburg's Trojan Horse. If  
10 we open our gates to a wind farm that resides in close  
11 proximity to residences we have lost Troy, and there will  
12 be no turning back. Thank you and I've added a couple of  
13 attachments to my document.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Schantz.  
15 Janet Lee, Dan Morgan, and Elizabeth  
16 Robertson.

17 COMMENTS BY JANET LEE

18 My name is Janet Lee, L-e-e. My husband and  
19 I have property at 5821 Robbins Road in Ellensburg, and we  
20 attended the Seattle meeting last week so he could speak.  
21 I have written letters to the Daily Record Newspaper,  
22 Allen Fiksdal, Christine Gregoire, and EFSEC over the wind  
23 farms. We've attended meetings on both sides of the  
24 mountains.

25 They want to put these wind turbines in our

1 back yard. Kittitas County said no; the property owners  
2 said no. Why is our whole public process ignored? It's  
3 very apparent that Horizon plays dirty. There is no one  
4 in this community who will just get over it if the wind  
5 farms come in. It will have a long lasting domino effect  
6 on each and every one of us. If we had known that we  
7 would be fighting wind turbine projects here, we would  
8 have never purchased properties here.

9 I invite you to come out to our properties  
10 and see what a community it is. We are retired people who  
11 have built their dream homes. We have people who have  
12 invested their savings into this area to get away from the  
13 hustle and bustle of the city and industrial areas. We  
14 have adults and kids who thoroughly enjoy riding horses,  
15 quads, and snow mobiles here. We have birds and wildlife  
16 that we all enjoy. We are a community of people who have  
17 been here for quite a while. So what happens to the  
18 property owner whose property has devalued 50 percent? We  
19 lose thousands of dollars and just absorb the financial  
20 loss. Do this for the common good and we should just get  
21 over it.

22 You want to make the right decision because  
23 your decision affects a whole community the rest of their  
24 lives. You want to responsibly put the energy facility at  
25 the right site. I am very pro alternative for energy and

1 fuel, but I don't want a biodiesel plant in my back yard  
2 anymore than I want wind turbines. I am not saying no to  
3 wind farms, but there is a responsible place for them;  
4 places like Wild Horse at Whiskey Dick Mountain or Vantage  
5 Highway or the new Invenenergy Wind, LLC, which has options  
6 to lease or buy land. There is not a community in either  
7 of those places.

8           These projects are popping up all over and  
9 not just in Kittitas County. The state and Governor  
10 Gregoire would still get their wind projects where they  
11 are wanted not have to force them upon local residents and  
12 unwilling landowners. I know this is not part of your  
13 plan, but it seems to me that this Council should research  
14 all aspects of this project; meaning taking a few hours  
15 out of your schedule and drive around on your own or take  
16 a tour from one of the landowners in this community. We  
17 would gladly show you around. You would then see what we  
18 see in this pristine area. Thank you for your time.

19           JUDGE TOREM: Dan Morgan.

20           COMMENTS BY DAN MORGAN

21           My name is Dan Morgan, M-o-r-g-a-n, P.O. Box  
22 999, Ellensburg. I am here to speak in favor of the  
23 proposed project. I'm the third generation owner of a  
24 family excavation business in Kittitas Valley. I grew up  
25 on Reecer Creek Road which is right in front of where the

1 project is proposed. My parents still own property there,  
2 and I can tell you quite a bit about the wind out there.  
3 I've been cussing it for 45 years. It's good to see that  
4 somebody is finally going to put a positive spin on it.

5 Horizon came to town and proposed the Wild  
6 Horse Project. They made a lot of promises about hiring  
7 local people and what they were going to do, and I'm happy  
8 to say they've fulfilled those promises. My company has  
9 been busy out there on the Wild Horse Project all year.  
10 We have employed probably close to 20 people out there  
11 directly. All those people have families here in the  
12 valley. They buy their food, their gas, everything here  
13 in town. Indirectly we've employed quite a few other  
14 people, products, and supplies. So we've supported many  
15 families and businesses in this town, and they have kept  
16 their word, been excellent people to work with. So please  
17 vote in favor of this project.

18 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

19 Next will be Elizabeth Robertson, followed by  
20 Ben George, and Billy Robins.

21 COMMENTS BY ELIZABETH ROBERTSON

22 My name is Elizabeth Robertson. My husband  
23 and I--sorry. Robertson, R-o-b-e-r-t-s-o-n. My husband  
24 and I live at 4101 Bettas Road in Cle Elum. Our home is  
25 1,300 feet from proposed Turbine A1 located on Washington

1 State DNR land. This turbine along Turbines F3, 4, 5, and  
2 6 will give us 149 days of shadow flicker, almost half a  
3 year. We don't even know the impacts of the low frequency  
4 sound because Horizon in typical fashion refuses to allow  
5 it to exist. It does exist. See the attachment report.  
6 Along these same lines, no one has answered the question  
7 about our wells. How will they be affected if they have  
8 to use dynamite to prepare the holes for the massive  
9 foundations that are needed to support these towers that  
10 measure 410 feet to the tip the of blade?

11 I understand that as part of this site visit  
12 you came to our home today off Bettas Road. Pretty windy,  
13 wasn't it?

14 Attached is a graph measuring the wind at  
15 only ten feet elevation over a 16-hour time period. You  
16 will notice that there were three hours when there was  
17 virtually no wind followed by wind so strong that I would  
18 guess if it had been measured at say 100 feet the readings  
19 would be so high that any turbines would have had to shut  
20 down. At this juncture though it doesn't matter if there  
21 is wind in the area. It is not the only place that the  
22 wind blows in this state. The Whiskey Dick facility  
23 speaks to that.

24 It doesn't even matter about the tax dollars,  
25 the revenue generated by the workers on the project, or

1 even the electricity made. You are a site evaluation  
2 board, and it has already been determined in a fair,  
3 democratic process by our elected officials that  
4 industrial generation facilities built among homes near  
5 wildlife corridors and in scenic byways are not proper  
6 sites. We need to end this once and for all.

7 We need to get our lives back. Too long have  
8 we been in limbo. Our family is not fourth generation  
9 landowners in Kittitas Valley. If this facility goes in,  
10 it will impact our entire estate. It is all we have. It  
11 is what we have invested everything we have worked for.  
12 If this project is permitted, it will be as if we have  
13 donated the value of our property to the state. We have  
14 20 acres. That's all we have. We cannot move to some  
15 other part of the valley and start anew.

16 The County process works. Horizon is in fact  
17 building a wind farm at Whiskey Dick because the County  
18 process works. How many times and how many ways do we  
19 have to say to this company that this is the wrong  
20 location?

21 Please respect the County process and the  
22 decisions made by our County Commissioners and tell  
23 Horizon and all those that come up after them that places  
24 where people build homes are the wrong location for these  
25 monsters.

1 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, ma'am.

2 Ben George.

3 COMMENTS BY BEN GEORGE

4 To the Honorable Judge Torem and Council, my  
5 name is Ben George, G-e-o-r-g-e. Thank you for giving me  
6 the opportunity to testify. I have a cattle ranch at 320  
7 East Taneum Road which I've farmed for 60 years. The  
8 ranching business becomes more difficult each year as  
9 people move in that require more services which their  
10 payments in taxes do not cover. As I have land, the  
11 burden is put on me to help provide these services. The  
12 project and payment of personal property taxes will help  
13 to reduce my funding for this obligation.

14 I've investigated other projects like this  
15 one proposed and find that they do not have adverse effect  
16 on the environment.

17 For 40 years I've lived by the Milwaukee  
18 Railroad which is 200 feet from my house. There are  
19 several transmission lines of high voltage which snap and  
20 crack all during the winter. They apparently did me no  
21 harm as shortly I will turn 83 years.

22 Last fall I had the opportunity to accompany  
23 Governor Gregoire on a trade mission to Japan and China as  
24 an agricultural representative. In talking to the members  
25 of the Chinese government and ranch managers they wanted



1 to know if I used biodiesel, if we had a method of  
2 producing electricity on our farms. At a fast pace they  
3 are exploring their options which would include wind  
4 farms.

5 I would whole heartily endorse this project  
6 as a win win situation for everyone.

7 If any of you would like, I would be happy to  
8 take you on a tour of our ranch. We had the Governor and  
9 Lieutenant Governor over, and I think you would find it  
10 very interesting and enlightening. Thank you.

11 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you.

12 Billy Robins he will be followed by Roger  
13 Clerf and J.P. Roan.

14 COMMENTS BY BILL ROBINS

15 My name is Bill Robins, and I live at 5855  
16 Thorp Prairie Road. My last name is spelled R-o-b-i-n-s.

17 One of the questions that I have that I  
18 don't understand is who is this power generated for? It  
19 doesn't seem it's going to be for our county except it's  
20 going to be for somebody else, especially King County,  
21 Pierce, or the other side, the west side. I don't  
22 understand why the west side comes to our side of the  
23 mountains to destroy our beautiful valley for wind for  
24 generation of electricity when they could have it on their  
25 own side.

1                   I understand that the wind farm that we have  
2                   now will produce enough electricity for 70,000 homes which  
3                   is more than we have in this Valley to start with. And  
4                   one of the other things I don't understand is that why  
5                   they don't put this wind farm on the other side of the  
6                   mountains where there's not only wind near the ocean but  
7                   there's enough hot air down in Olympia to run it all by  
8                   itself.

9                   It's going to destroy our wildlife here. It  
10                  will affect the people that own property. People say,  
11                  "Well, it's good for it." Good for it. The last time I  
12                  heard a politician say it was good for me it cost me more  
13                  money.

14                 So to me I think this is a bad thing for our  
15                 County. I've been here over 20 years, and I've been  
16                 living in many other places while I was in the military  
17                 and I've seen wind farms and they destroy a lot of things.  
18                 And then the poor ecological goes, when it comes to the  
19                 wildlife and everything else around it.

20                 So I think it's the wrong thing for you and  
21                 I hope that you realize that the people on this side if  
22                 they want more power in this state put it somewhere that  
23                 it's not going to affect the property values and stuff and  
24                 the people within this county. Thank you.

25                         JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

1 Roger Clerf.

2 COMMENTS BY ROGER CLERF

3 My name is Roger Clerf. I live on Upper Peak  
4 Point Road in Cle Elum, C-l-e-r-f. How many of you know  
5 the meaning of the word innocuous? The definition is  
6 having no adverse effect, harmless, innocent, lacking  
7 significant impact, benign.

8 I toured the Wild Horse Wind Farm yesterday  
9 and saw the turbines standing tall and majestic with their  
10 blades turning lazily at 15 revolutions per minute. There  
11 was no noise, no vibration, no piles of dead birds. Just  
12 innocuous turbines quietly doing their job of generating  
13 electricity for the farms and factories, for homes and  
14 offices in Puget Sound Energy's service area.

15 The Kittitas Valley Wind Project is proposed  
16 for a very similar landscape of high dry ridges covered  
17 with sparse grass and brush and a few trees. Despite what  
18 you have heard from the opponents this is a good location  
19 for a wind farm as you have seen on your tour today. This  
20 project has some very vocal local opponents, but you  
21 people represent the State of Washington. You have to  
22 look at the bigger picture. The State of Washington needs  
23 electricity that this project would produce. This state's  
24 industry and economy were built on the cheap hydro power  
25 in the 1930s, the '40s and the '50s. Now hydro power is

1 capped out, but wind power is just in its infancy.

2 In my view the wind power potential for the  
3 State of Washington exceeds the hydro power now produced.  
4 Electricity demand will grow. Steam generation using  
5 coal, oil, or natural gas will become more and more  
6 expensive. The wind is free today, tomorrow, and  
7 hereafter. We need to be using it.

8 JUDGE TOREM: J.P. Roan and then R.B.  
9 Peterson and Sandy Sandall.

10 COMMENTS BY J.P ROAN

11 My name is J.P. Roan. I live at 13991  
12 Reecer Creek Road, R-o-a-n. I've been a cattle rancher  
13 here in Kittitas County all my life. I'm in favor of this  
14 project. I was thinking today I can't think of another  
15 thing that if you approve that would benefit everybody.  
16 People in the county and the state, the tax revenue. I  
17 was happy to hear that you toured the site today because  
18 that was more than we could get our county governors to  
19 do. A lot of politics I think was involved in the County  
20 process, but that's just my opinion, and I'm glad you're  
21 here and thank you for your time.

22 JUDGE TOREM: R.B. Peterson.

23 COMMENTS BY ROBERT PETERSON

24 I'm Robert Peterson. I live at the 70  
25 Chucker Ridge Road, C-h-u-c-k-e-r, Road, in Ellensburg.

1 I'm not against the wind power turbines. I'm just against  
2 where you want to put them. Now, there are 4,222 square  
3 miles in this Kittitas Valley. I'm pretty sure you can  
4 find some other place to put it besides in people's back  
5 yards.

6 And when you put those turbines in the  
7 concrete that you put down with them and that's cement,  
8 there is chemical that will spray on wells.

9 JUDGE TOREM: Could you speak into the  
10 microphone just a little better, sir.

11 MR. PETERSON: Oh, I'm sorry. That's about  
12 all I have to say. Just find a different place to put  
13 these. It decrease out buying value on stuff that we've  
14 worked for retirement. There's got to be another place to  
15 put them besides in people's back yards. Thank you.

16 JUDGE TOREM: Sandy Sandall, then Sean  
17 Jeffries, and Skip Littlefield.

18 COMMENTS BY SANDY SANDALL

19 My name is Sandy Sandall, S-a-n-d-a-l-l. I  
20 reside at 8516 Elk Springs Road. I'm not against the wind  
21 power or renewable energy. It's the location that we're  
22 concerned about. My wife and I live off the grid, using  
23 solar and wind, solar panels, and a wind generator. I've  
24 listened to the comments that have been made of the people  
25 that are in favor of the wind farm and I can understand

1 some of their concerns. We need green energy.

2 The location is what we're looking at. I  
3 would like to ask a question of the audience just to put  
4 it into perspective. How many of you are willing to  
5 really conserve on your energy bill? We do. How many of  
6 you have invested 10 to 20 thousand dollars in an  
7 alternative energy system? We did. How many of you are  
8 willing really to live around those wind towers like they  
9 are proposing in our particular area? We're not.

10 So if the State of Washington approves this  
11 wind project, then the State Washington or Horizon should  
12 be willing to purchase my property for far market value  
13 and the relocation. We have invested in this with our  
14 retirement and we've got everything invested. It just  
15 scares the hell out of me when you talk about putting wind  
16 farms up and what could happen to the property values. I  
17 support the County Commissioners in their decision to deny  
18 the wind project and urge EFSEC to do the same. Thank  
19 you.

20 JUDGE TOREM: Sean Jeffries.

21 COMMENTS BY SEAN JEFFRIES

22 Sean Jeffries, J-e-f-f-r-i-e-s, 4421 Red  
23 Bridge Road in Cle Elum. Good evening. I'm here as a  
24 resident and on behalf of the International Union of  
25 Operating Engineers Local 302. I appreciate this

1 opportunity to come before you on this issue of wind farms  
2 in Kittitas County. I'm not here to talk for or against  
3 the future wind farm projects. I respect local authority  
4 and understand that Kittitas County Commissioners are  
5 speaking on behalf of its citizenry.

6 I also note that we must continue to provide  
7 alternative ways to generate energy for the growing  
8 demands of our state and the country. The operating  
9 engineers have invested interest in the outcome since we  
10 are landowners and taxpayers of this area. We have over  
11 1,600 acres of land in Kittitas for our training center.  
12 There we provide our state registered apprentices the  
13 training they will need to become the next generation of  
14 operating engineers. While in training our apprentices  
15 stay in local hotels and contribute in many ways to the  
16 economy of Kittitas County.

17 Our concern is how these wind farms are being  
18 built. Horizon now has a track record in this state and I  
19 think that bears looking at. Our experience on the Wild  
20 Horse Project found that there has been little local hire  
21 for operating heavy equipment. In fact, the workers were  
22 brought in from all over the country. They were paid a  
23 flat rate much less than the prevailed wage with no  
24 benefits.

25 We have approximately 160 members that live

1 and try to work in Kittitas County. By bringing these  
2 workers from out of state, Horizon undercut the wages and  
3 the work of the operating engineers in this community. A  
4 large portion of the money earn by these out-of-state  
5 workers does not go back into the economy of Kittitas. It  
6 goes to other parts of the country. I'm only speaking for  
7 my trade, and there is many other trades that are involved  
8 in the building of these wind farms that have similar  
9 experience. I urge you to look into this.

10 It is our understanding and by the testimony  
11 last night that the Economic Development Council supports  
12 Horizon's position. The job of the EDC is to bring  
13 business to the community. We strongly suggest that the  
14 EDC and this Council work closely with Horizon to assure  
15 they pay the various prevailing wage for a given  
16 occupation and that there's a stipulation of a percentage  
17 of local hire and apprenticeship utilization on all  
18 projects. Only then will you have true economic  
19 development for this County. Thank you.

20 JUDGE TOREM: Skip Littlefield.

21 COMMENT BY SKIP LITTLEFIELD

22 My name is Skip Littlefield,  
23 L-i-t-t-l-e-f-i-e-l-d, 607 North Okanogan in Kittitas. I  
24 strongly believe local land issues should be decided by a  
25 local county government. Our elected government officials



1 have made their decision to deny this project because of  
2 the negative impacts to the local residences. Please  
3 respect this decision and recommend denial of this project  
4 to our Governor. Thank you.

5 JUDGE TOREM: Next is Wayne Bell, Kurt  
6 Linder, and Bernice Best.

7 COMMENTS BY WAYNE BELL

8 Mr. Chairman and Members of the Council, my  
9 name is Wayne Bell. I reside at 3911 Bettas Road, Cle  
10 Elum, Washington. My wife is here with me tonight and  
11 before I begin my testimony I would like to say that I  
12 totally concur, my wife and I, with the comments that Mike  
13 Robertson made in Seattle, our neighbor, and his wife, Liz  
14 Robertson. I'm totally support everything he said so I'm  
15 not going keep going over that. I will pick up where they  
16 left off.

17 Today you saw our property on your tour as  
18 you crested Hayward Road and headed down into Horse  
19 Canyon. We had the barn-like looking house with five  
20 horses out in front, and if those turbines go up where  
21 they're talking about, we're going to stop rescuing horses  
22 for Kittitas. That's kind of what we do and that's going  
23 to go away for this county because those horses can't  
24 stand that shadow flicker and noise, shock, and vibration  
25 that would be created by those four or five turbines that

1 are going to be surrounding our property.

2 So having said that, that's the subjective  
3 view, and I'm going to try to get away from that. I'm  
4 opposed to this project for two reasons. Simply put, the  
5 site is in the wrong place, and I would ask that you  
6 support the will of the majority of the people of this  
7 county, the decision of the Planning Commission, and the  
8 elected Board of Commissioners that represent the people  
9 of this county and do not usurp their authority.

10 Secondly, again this is subjective, is that I  
11 would like to ask that you reject this request for  
12 preemption on the grounds it would set a dangerous  
13 precedent for deliberations on any future projects on any  
14 industrial project application. A decision to preempt the  
15 will of the majority of the people, the County's duly  
16 appointed Planning Commission, and the elected Board of  
17 Commissioners would open pandora's box for other such  
18 corporations to diminish the due diligence of the normal  
19 process and to leverage the preemption option literally to  
20 run the table at the expense of those of us that don't  
21 have the time to stay and wait.

22 I have sat through a number of hearings and  
23 listened to and read a lot of the testimony that  
24 proponents of this project have presented. There's one  
25 common thread that runs through all of this. In my

1 opinion it's arrogance. They were arrogant in their  
2 efforts to press their fill on the majority of the people  
3 in this county explaining that they know more about where  
4 we live and know more about us and our opinions.

5 They were arrogant in their testimony before  
6 the Planning Commission when they stood here and lectured  
7 those members about how they should conduct their job and  
8 how they should interpret the law. They were also  
9 arrogant when they walked away from the County  
10 Commissioners toward the end of that process, and today  
11 they are arrogant asking you to usurp the will of the  
12 majority of people in this county, the decision of the  
13 appointed members of the Planning Commission and the  
14 decision of the elected Board of Commissioners.

15 In closing, I ask that you reject this  
16 project because it is in the wrong place. And in that  
17 rejection, you will send a message to other such  
18 corporations that you better do your homework and be a  
19 little respectful to the process before you try to win the  
20 hearts and the minds of the people of Kittitas County and  
21 the members of this Council. Thank you.

22 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

23 Kurt Linder.

24 COMMENTS BY KURT LINDER

25 My name is Kurt Linder, and I live 107 North.

1 Sampson Ellensburg, Washington. I also have a ranch at  
2 8540 Smithson Road. I was fortunate to have a wind  
3 turbine. I was fortunate to own a wind turbine of my own  
4 from a factory. I was at a seminar and on the way back  
5 when I completed the seminar, I purchased this wind  
6 turbine and I erected it here at my place here at Smithson  
7 and Reecer Creek Road across from the old Reecer Creek  
8 Schoolhouse; and it had a 22-foot wing span, and it was 60  
9 feet high, and it produced the power that went directly  
10 into the PUD line to my meter, and I didn't use the power.  
11 My meter would run backwards. It would reduce my bill  
12 from the PUD and I operated it for about eight years. And  
13 my wife she was ill so I had to leave the ranch and move  
14 closer to town so I sold the wind farm--it's a wind  
15 machine. I had not a farm. Sorry. But that's my story.  
16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE TOREM: Bernice Best.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear you back  
19 here.

20 JUDGE TOREM: Ms. Best, can you speak into  
21 the microphone.

22 COMMENTS BY BERNICE BEST

23 I will try that. My name is Bernice Best.  
24 The last name is spelled B-as in boy-e-s-t. I live at 210  
25 Tomahawk Lane, Ellensburg, Washington 98926. That is

1 located on the northeast boundary of the proposed project  
2 so I'm very close within site of the area. And I want to  
3 thank you for giving me an opportunity to again speak out  
4 in support of this project.

5 The current growth in Kittitas County and the  
6 State of Washington supports the need for this project as  
7 well as additional wind and other alternative energy  
8 projects. We need to be able to meet the increasing  
9 demand for more electricity in the very near future. In  
10 order to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and other  
11 nonrenewable fossil fuels, we need to turn to wind and  
12 other renewable energy resources as quickly as possible.  
13 Cleaner air will also be the result of alternative energy  
14 sources. With the current oil prices being so high and  
15 coal being nonrenewable, as well as polluting, wind is the  
16 least expensive source of power. Even though we have an  
17 abundance of wind resources in Kittitas County this site  
18 is right, having both willing landowners, as well as easy  
19 access to existing transmission lines thereby helping to  
20 keep the costs to consumers down.

21 I have often heard the remarks I would  
22 support wind farms in Kittitas County if the power were  
23 only used here. I wonder if those persons realize that  
24 most of the electricity now being consumed in our county  
25 is being produced elsewhere and was purchased on long-term

1 leases from other producers. Some of the leases will soon  
2 expires. Since the power is not in those local areas the  
3 leases are not expected to be renewed.

4 To build the Grand Coulee Dam ten communities  
5 were demolished and/or moved affecting hundreds of people.  
6 In comparison to my way of thinking, having a wind farm in  
7 my view scape or close by is a very small sacrifice to pay  
8 to ensure adequate energy for future needs. In some  
9 countries the wind turbines are located by the people's  
10 back yards, and they are in town.

11 This project has my support and that of my  
12 family. We strongly urge you to approve this application.  
13 Thank you.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Next three speakers are Fred  
15 Brune, Eric Prater, and Gary Giesick.

16 COMMENTS BY FRED BRUNE

17 My name is Fred Brune. I live at 2310  
18 Umptanum Road, Ellensburg. My last name is spelled  
19 B-r-u-n-e. I'm a life-long valley resident. My great  
20 grandparents homesteaded here in 1869. I have a good  
21 heritage and a good history here in the valley. Our rural  
22 life is disappearing. Our farmers are subdividing and  
23 developing and building houses. They've discovered that  
24 there's more money in houses than there is tending the  
25 hay.

1                   We have lots of people moving in here, but  
2                   they're not bringing much new industry with them, and we  
3                   need a good tax base here. We need good jobs with  
4                   benefits. I look out at the Wild Horse Project and see  
5                   those wind turbines turning and finally we have an  
6                   industry here that provides some jobs, good benefits.  
7                   Something is happening in Kittitas Valley. We've chased  
8                   away Busby Manufacturing in the early '60s and they moved  
9                   to Moses Lake. They employ 50 plus people year-round. We  
10                  turned down a quarter-horse race track because we can't  
11                  have gambling in Kittitas County. You know, what about  
12                  the wealth it would have brought? DNR is going to lease  
13                  land that these turbines are on or are going to be on, and  
14                  that supports the public schools and the universities.  
15                  The Kittitas School District is already profiting from the  
16                  Wild Horse turbines. It's time we had them here.

17                         If the landowners on the proposed project are  
18                         really concerned about their view, they wouldn't have  
19                         built houses near power lines. They can already see the  
20                         power lines. I've been told that noise can be an issue  
21                         with the turbines, but I've also been told that if the  
22                         wind is blowing above 15 miles an hour, you can't hear  
23                         them turning.

24                                 I understand that if the ridge all the way  
25                                 around the valley were lined with wind turbines we

1 wouldn't have property taxes. The hospitals, the fire,  
2 law enforcement would all be funded. Wouldn't that be  
3 wonderful to not have property taxes? I think it's in a  
4 perfect location. I look forward to be it being built.  
5 Thank you very much.

6 JUDGE TOREM: Eric Prater.

7 COMMENTS OF ERIC PRATER

8 My name is Eric Prater. I live at 3740 Cove  
9 Road, P-r-a-t-e-r. I'm a fourth generation resident of a  
10 farming family in the valley. I've also seen a lot of  
11 change. I drive for the Ellensburg School District from  
12 Horse Canyon to Badger Pockets, from there to Manastash  
13 Ridge, and I've seen a lot of growth in that area.

14 One of my concerns about this I guess issue  
15 it's the agricultural lands staying somewhat overspaced,  
16 and in our County Planning Commission and the  
17 recommendation to the Commissioners I think that was a  
18 flawed decision on their part. I do not support their  
19 decision and I spoke against it, as I would rather see a  
20 dark spot on the hillside up there rather than see house  
21 lights and see roads going up there.

22 The other concerns with this issue is they  
23 didn't address the water issue. This 6,000 acres will  
24 only add one more well. I'm sure there will be more if  
25 there's more houses that come in around it. We're looking



1 at in some cases 20-acre lots and some areas we're looking  
2 at 3-acre lots in forest and range conversion zones. In  
3 fact, last week the Planning Commission just turned down  
4 6,000 acres in the upper county. The developer tried or  
5 landowner tried to go from forest and range to out of that  
6 designation.

7           Anyway that's my point basically is I would  
8 rather see open spaces with wind towers because if I could  
9 have a wind tower by my house, I would because maybe there  
10 wouldn't so many houses around me. I wish I could  
11 influence, but thank you for the opportunity to speak and  
12 please, please, give us the wind farm.

13           I also drive school bus for the Ellensburg  
14 School District, and this wind farm won't be in our  
15 district. It will be in the Cle Elum District, but they  
16 can use the money if we can't. Our bond just failed in  
17 our district. Maybe someday we'll have another industrial  
18 thing to give us the money. Anyway thank you for that.

19           JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Prater.

20           Gary Giesick will be followed by James  
21 Markaret and Jaelle Downs.

22           Gary Giesick going once, going twice. All  
23 right. We'll move onto James Markaret, or I'm not going  
24 to find out, on Pfenning Road I think it is.

25           Next is Jaelle Downs.



1 generations? Look where they are. We came all of us from  
2 somewhere and pushed the Native Americans out. Okay? If  
3 you don't like where you are, move on.

4 Energy we need it. We're over here and  
5 luckily my daughter is only 14, but in four years from now  
6 who's to say that we're not somewhere fighting for oil,  
7 sending our kids to fight for that. Do we want that? I  
8 have friends that were in Vietnam for what? It was  
9 worthless. We have veterans that can tell you the same  
10 thing.

11 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Speak for yourself. You  
12 haven't been there. If you haven't been there, don't talk  
13 about it.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Sir, don't disturb the  
15 speaker. Let him finish.

16 Go ahead, Mr. Markaret. Finish your  
17 comments.

18 Folks that want to disturb I'm going to ask  
19 them to leave. If we're going to disrupt each other,  
20 we're not going to be able to finish the hearing. So  
21 please give some due respect to people's opinion even if  
22 you don't like it.

23 MR. MARKARET: Going back to what I was  
24 saying about Vietnam, I had friends that were there, and  
25 their families were upset why they were sent there. And

1 I, again, maybe I wasn't in Vietnam, but, again, I don't  
2 want to see our kids sent somewhere for what: for oil? We  
3 all know that's why we're there fighting. Again, thank  
4 you for your time.

5 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you. Let's keep the  
6 clapping down, please.

7 Jill Kuhn and Holly Pinkart.

8 COMMENTS BY JILL KUHN

9 Good evening, I'm Jill Kuhn, K-u-h-n, 607  
10 North Okanogan, Kittitas, Washington 98934. Back to the  
11 issue. This contradictory project has boiled down to  
12 basically one factor right now. Probably the biggest  
13 factor of all, county versus state rights and land use  
14 decisions. Kittitas County was capable of reviewing the  
15 other two wind farm projects. In fact, Horizon praised  
16 the County Commissioners when they approved the Wild Horse  
17 Project, but when they denied their Kittitas Valley Wind  
18 Farm they went straight to the state. I consider this  
19 contemptuous.

20 Land use rights should remain county  
21 decisions, as the residents of this county will have to  
22 live, play, and work around the project. Also all the  
23 meetings should have been held in this county. A meeting  
24 wasn't held in Kittitas County for the controversial  
25 placing of cell phone towers in King County. Keep the

1 decision with the County. The state should recommend a  
2 denial of this project. And, again, I would like to  
3 praise to all the county residents who have persevered  
4 through this process for the love of their community and  
5 this environment. Thank you.

6 JUDGE TOREM: Holly Pinkart, followed by  
7 Andrew Wright, and Jesse Smith.

8 COMMENTS BY HOLLY PINKART

9 My name is Holly Pinkart. I reside at 5900  
10 Robbins Road in Ellensburg. I represent both myself and  
11 my husband West tonight. I am a resident of Ellensburg.  
12 I'm also a professor of microbiology at Central Washington  
13 University, a tenured professor there.

14 JUDGE TOREM: Can you speak up just a little

15 MS. PINKART: Oh, sorry. Sorry about that.  
16 Both as a citizen and biologist I have to say that I  
17 really vehemently oppose this particular wind farm. I've  
18 opposed from day one and I've spoken on several occasions  
19 about some of the big problems they had with their  
20 environmental impact statement. There are many things  
21 that are shortcomings there, not only with the  
22 environmental impact statement but as well as some other  
23 folks have talked about poor mitigation process for people  
24 who would be affected by these wind turbines and those  
25 haven't changed one bit from day one until now.

1                   Simply giving somebody a blind and a tree or  
2                   two to block something that's 400 feet tall is not really  
3                   adequate mitigation. On a personal note this summer when  
4                   my father was visiting we went to lunch at KV Winery  
5                   across the Columbia River in George and my father looked  
6                   out and said, "Oh, look, at those wind turbines. I didn't  
7                   know Vantage had a farm too." I said, "No, those are the  
8                   ones from Ellensburg 40 miles away." They were very, very  
9                   visible on the horizon. And to actually have these things  
10                  that's only 1,000 feet from someone's home is asking a  
11                  little bit much, especially if they aren't being  
12                  compensated in any way for loss of their property value.

13                  As a biologist I've been around several  
14                  situations where government intervention has sort of  
15                  forced individuals to comply and to either lose land value  
16                  or lose their land, but in many cases, especially in  
17                  wetland transformation, they were at least compensated for  
18                  their loss which is not happening here.

19                  There are several problems with this  
20                  project. I urge you to deny it as the citizens have, as  
21                  the Planning Commission has, as the County Commissioners  
22                  have. We have a lot of layers of no. If folks come in  
23                  and override us and force us to accept this in having  
24                  brute-force, unwanted decisions on a populous, it gets  
25                  kind of ugly and I would urge you not to do that. Thank

1       you for your time.

2                       JUDGE TOREM: Andrew Wright. He will be  
3 followed by Jesse Smith and Debbie Lee, and, Bob, I can't  
4 quite read your last name, Cove perhaps.

5                       COMMENTS BY ANDREW WRIGHT

6                       My name is Andrew Wright, W-r-i-g-h-t. I  
7 live on 5821 Robbins Road in Ellensburg, Washington. I  
8 don't know all the technical facts, but I do know some of  
9 them, and none of them sound like anything that I would  
10 appreciate.

11                      Over here I ride snow mobiles and quads and  
12 dirt bikes and I like to go up to the mountains on the  
13 north side of Ellensburg and I just like to just sit there  
14 and, you know, look at the scenery, you know. And these  
15 wind turbines they're going to destroy that good,  
16 beautiful view.

17                      And the sounds of them, you know, they are  
18 very, very loud. I sat at a meeting a year ago and one  
19 guy said that a Harley Davidson they put out, they put out  
20 96 sound decibels and these wind turbines decibels they  
21 put out over 100 and they want to put 180 of them in our  
22 Valley. You basically have a whole bunch of Harley  
23 Davidsons driving around all day possibly.

24                      And, you know, I enjoy, you know, the  
25 weather here. It gets kind of weird thunder storms. They

1 roll in and this valley literally magnifies the rumble of  
2 thunder. If you have a whole bunch of these wind  
3 turbines, it's just going to magnify that sound a lot, lot  
4 more.

5 These turbines will also have an affect on  
6 many people. My sister she has seizures. The shadow  
7 flicker they can cause seizures, and I would not want to  
8 have my sister have to worry about getting another one so.

9 The animals. The turbines have a big affect  
10 on the animals. I hunt, and, you know, Ellensburg is the  
11 only place I hunt and with all these turbines here I'm  
12 pretty sure them deer don't want to be here. And the only  
13 thing that I think would benefit is would be the mice  
14 because all the hunters wouldn't be around to control the  
15 mice, and we have a big, big mouse problem where we live  
16 right now. And I could also hunt those if I run out of  
17 everything else to hunt.

18 And I also plan on investing in some land  
19 here and I heard that the land value could drop 50  
20 percent. That really isn't going to help me out or many  
21 other people that really want to buy land here. And thank  
22 you who letting me try to speak.

23 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Wright. We  
24 appreciate it.

25 Jesse Smith, then Debbie Lee.





1       tour the wind farm and you can't hear the turbines. All  
2       you can hear is the wind and I'm for the wind farm.

3                   JUDGE TOREM: Bob on Schribbly Ridge Road.  
4       Anybody with really good handwriting analysis? Bob Covee  
5       or Cove? Okay. It doesn't appear that he's here anyway.

6                   Paul Bennett. He's be followed by Mark  
7       Holloway and Desmond Knudson.

8                   COMMENTS BY PAUL BENNETT

9                   Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My  
10       name is Paul Bennett, B-e-n-n-e-t-t, and I reside at 2013  
11       Quartz Mountain Drive, Ellensburg. I've been  
12       participating and listening to many of the wind farm  
13       hearings and other meetings since the first application  
14       was submitted--

15                   JUDGE TOREM: Could you slow down just a  
16       little bit.

17                   MR. BENNETT: --many years ago. I've been a  
18       participant. There have been so many valid issues and  
19       depending on what your position is on the issues  
20       everybody's opinion is correct. I think three are basic  
21       issues I would like to briefly address tonight.

22                   One, what is the correct setback; two,  
23       property rights: your, mine and others; and three, is  
24       EFSEC relevant?

25                   What is a correct setback? Well, that

1 answer won't be answered by you because everyone will have  
2 a different opinion ranging from 200 feet to 200 miles.  
3 But you do have to decide on the setback and I think you  
4 need to look at what type of setbacks have been approved  
5 in the past for all types of powers and what restrictions  
6 the County placed on the proximity to new and existing  
7 homes.

8           The questions you need to ask the County  
9 before you decide what the setbacks are: What's the  
10 setback from a neighbor's home from a cell tower? What's  
11 the setback from a ham radio tower? What's the setback  
12 from a radio tower? And what's the setback from an  
13 existing or new high voltage power tower? Okay. Has the  
14 County restricted the building of homes near new or  
15 existing high voltage lines? Has the County recently  
16 allowed subdivision of land near these high voltage towers  
17 and was there restrictive language on the setback from  
18 homes to towers? Have power providers voluntarily  
19 provided setbacks to high voltage towers? Hint: I think  
20 it is 700 feet. Did the County comment on the setbacks  
21 during the EIS process for the new high voltage line  
22 constructed late last year or the year prior?

23           It you're going to determine setbacks, you  
24 need to look at the answers to these questions as a guide.  
25 I think the County should come up with standardized

1 minimum setback that applicants, leased owners, and  
2 adjoining landowners and interested parties can discuss in  
3 a public setting that is then passed into code. Until  
4 that time the numbers are arbitrary and capricious. So is  
5 2,500 the right setback? Is 1,320 feet the right setback?  
6 You need to rule based upon the setbacks of other towers  
7 and don't just randomly pick.

8 Two, properties rights. Boy, do I dislike  
9 looking at the cell tower outside my home with that big  
10 red light, and I really dislike the new addition on the  
11 fire station and how I have to listen to the noisy siren  
12 at all hours of the night every time they go out and save  
13 someone's life or protect someone's property. Do you know  
14 my neighborhood has changed with the current and future  
15 addition of 64 new homes down the street? And I really  
16 won't even comment on the new 180 homes coming down on my  
17 neighborhood. How about what those properties owners have  
18 done? How could they have done that?

19 Because each of those property owners have  
20 something that I haven't got. No, it's not a heart or a  
21 brain or courage, but they have what I don't have is a  
22 property right to do exactly what they're doing in  
23 accordance with the county code. If I didn't like any of  
24 these things, I had the options to attempt to buy property  
25 to keep the change from occurring.

1 JUDGE TOREM: Just wrap it up.

2 MR. BENNETT: Okay. Then we'll come down to  
3 is EFSEC relevant? You also need to look at whether this  
4 committee is even relevant. I believe, and I could be  
5 wrong, that you were formed to rule in this very  
6 situation, whether the local jurisdiction either refused  
7 to decide or rule against an applicant. Your website  
8 states that you've never had a situation before you where  
9 the local jurisdiction you have never ruled against a  
10 local jurisdiction. Well, if all you can do is rubber  
11 stamp the local jurisdiction, then save a lot of money and  
12 not have this committee. But if you're truly trying to  
13 determine the appropriate siting for an energy facility,  
14 then you're obliged to ensure this application complies  
15 with all rules, codes, laws, and past practices. And, if  
16 not, overridden by a new rule then this committee is  
17 relevant.

18 If the logic to approve or disapprove is  
19 legal, thoughtful, and logical, then you have done your  
20 job. If you disapprove because you've never overridden a  
21 local jurisdiction, then you have done a grave injustice.

22 Now it's time to stand up and be counted,  
23 and I make this statement knowing that it will have an  
24 impact on my family and my children. I support the wind  
25 energy project on this sit before you and I encourage you

1 to support the project as well. Thank you.

2 JUDGE TOREM: Mark Holloway, then Desmond  
3 Knudson, Tom Maskal. The last two speakers after that are  
4 Ed Garrett and Julie Emery.

5 COMMENTS OF MARK HOLLOWAY

6 My name is Mark Holloway. I live at 1581  
7 Thomas Road in Ellensburg, Washington. I have been a  
8 resident for Ellensburg for 30 years. I've been to the  
9 Dayton Wind Farm. On the point of noise I stood  
10 underneath it, had a conversation with people directly  
11 below it, and you can hear a whish sound; whish, whish,  
12 like that. About 300 feet away you can hear a sound just  
13 slightly, but you can't really tell what direction it's  
14 coming from. 750 feet away you can't distinguish any  
15 sound from the wind towers. You can't distinguish any  
16 sounds from the wind and the wind towers. You can't even  
17 tell where the sound is coming from. You just hear the  
18 wind. When it's not blowing, there is no sound.

19 On the point of the revenue that would be  
20 generated by the wind towers, the local government is  
21 going to get some money. We just had a school bond that  
22 didn't pass. We have a junior high school that I have two  
23 kids in. That is, you know, it was there when I went to  
24 junior high and it was there way before me. It's in bad  
25 shape. It's an old building. It would be great for our

1 local economy to have a steady 25-year stream of income  
2 that could be used to upgrade some of the things in our  
3 county, including things for the hospital.

4 I live approximately a mile south of the  
5 power lines. I have no problems with the power lines that  
6 are out behind our house. They haven't affected our land  
7 value. In fact, our land value has gone up. So this is  
8 property that belongs to individuals, and if they decide  
9 to do that, then that's a great thing.

10 My last comment is on the biological  
11 standpoint. If you're going to take 6,000 acres, it's  
12 basically 6,000 acres in one lot as habitat versus 6,000  
13 acres turned into 300 houses turned into which each has  
14 two cats, a dog, two SUVs, 300 wells. How is that going  
15 to affect the habitat? I think that's going to have a  
16 greater affect on the habitat of that area for the next 25  
17 years than one lot of 6,000 acres cared for and managed.  
18 Thanks.

19 JUDGE TOREM: Desmond Knudson. Mr. Knudson,  
20 you can take the microphone out of its holder for your  
21 purposes. That would be fine.

22 COMMENTS BY DESMOND KNUDSON

23 Good evening. Desmond Knudson, 1661 Vantage  
24 Highway, Ellensburg, Washington 98926. Knudson is  
25 K-n-u-d-s-o-n. Good evening, Council, and thank you all

1 for respecting your appointed jobs and duties. I wanted  
2 to first publicly apologize for my outburst with  
3 Mr. Hurson and Mr. Garrett in front of all you today on  
4 our three hour tour.

5 This preemption is not that the County  
6 should or not allow this project. The County has already  
7 given its blessing to a 2,000-foot setback from property  
8 lines and 2,500 from existing residence structures to  
9 nonparticipating landowners unless a flow with the title  
10 variance is signed and that a safety setback distance of  
11 less than 541 feet would never be allowed.

12 Discussions back and fourth between and  
13 during the public hearings did happen. There just was no  
14 direction that either side could or would admit to with  
15 the County playing a cat and mouse game which I also  
16 witnessed during the enXco hearings. The fact is  
17 Horizon's requested setback was given in response to the  
18 line of comments by both staff and the Commissioners. The  
19 County has been presented with and evidence to support a  
20 quarter mile setback. I was in a conference room as a  
21 local (and that does not mean crazy) resident and I  
22 suggested and agreed a quarter mile was the proper  
23 distance, not 1,000 feet.

24 I have personally seen the Hopkins Ridge  
25 Wind Power facility and now I have seen and been to the



1 Wild Horse Wind Power facility while both were in  
2 operation.

3 These pictures that are in front of you  
4 which I'll one at a time show you in a minute are  
5 basically what you've seen today. I took these during  
6 last winter and this is the site that we're looking at.

7 You heard earlier that 800 feet you could  
8 not discern the wind--750 feet you could discern the wind  
9 from the turbine. I couldn't hear a different noise at  
10 250 and 500, but at 750 was also my cutoff point. The  
11 future KV sites, and I suggest you all add a quick tour of  
12 the Wild Horse site while it is up and running before you  
13 go you home and then you will know what a running wind  
14 farm in Kittitas County looks and sounds like. You can  
15 see it, but you can't hear it from here.

16 JUDGE TOREM: Mr. Knudson, it's pretty  
17 apparent you're going to run out of time with those.

18 Mr. Fiksdal, that would be one minute.

19 MR. FIKSDAL: Yes

20 JUDGE TOREM: If you want to page through  
21 the photographs for the rest of your time and turn in your  
22 written statement and we'll read it.

23 MR. KNUDSON: Yes, thank you.

24 JUDGE TOREM: I think for the benefits of  
25 those if you would put the photos on a chair and folks who

1 just want to come by and see them at the end that might be  
2 best.

3 MR. KNUDSON: Okay. Good.

4 JUDGE TOREM: Go ahead.

5 MR. KNUDSON: This is where we were today on  
6 Elk Springs Road is up above these and this is from 97  
7 looking up towards the towers. This is Elk Springs Road  
8 during the wintertime. It was nice and graded and plowed  
9 today. In fact, a local contractor did that. There's a  
10 shot of towers standing straight underneath which you  
11 drove under three times going up Cricklewood Lane. There  
12 is a blade at 750 feet away where the noise is diminished.  
13 There is the man who testified in front of me with the  
14 lead PR lady at Puget Sound Energy at Hopkins Ridge.

15 JUDGE TOREM: How many total pictures do you  
16 have, Mr. Knudson?

17 MR. KNUDSON: Two more. There's a quarter  
18 mile away. There is just looking up towards the mountain  
19 off Cricklewood Lane and there is what we want it to look  
20 like when it's done. Thank you very much.

21 JUDGE TOREM: If you put those on chairs out  
22 front and if folks whether pro or con want to see them,  
23 we'll just leave them. They're going to be going into the  
24 record as well. You're leaving them for us, Mr. Knudson?

25 MR. KNUDSON: Yes, I am.

1 JUDGE TOREM: Tom Maskal, Ed Garrett, and  
2 Julie Emery.

3 COMMENTS BY TOM MASKAL

4 My name is Tom Maskal. I live at 420 Kern  
5 Road, Ellensburg, 98926, spelling M-a-s-k-a-l. I think  
6 most of us in this room can agree that we need renewable  
7 energy sources, we need solar, we need wind. This is  
8 probably a good project. I consider myself an  
9 environmentalist. I'm going to invest in my own solar and  
10 my own small wind turbine. It's certainly not going to be  
11 410 feet high.

12 This is probably a good project. May or may  
13 not be economically viable. It is just in the wrong  
14 place. The Whiskey Dick Wild Horse Project is a good  
15 project. It's in the right place. Nobody lives out  
16 there. You can see it. Nobody lives there to hear it.  
17 Nobody has to worry about the shadow flicker and all the  
18 other problems.

19 Where this is, is this is up on 97 and 970  
20 and off of 10 and you can see it. Everybody in this  
21 beautiful valley will be able to see it because when they  
22 look out towards Mount Stuart they're going to see it and  
23 it's going to be a lot on the landscape. It's going to be  
24 a lot on their view.

25 I want to talk a little bit about arrogance.

1 It was mentioned earlier. I think it's arrogant for  
2 Horizon to come in here and try and ram this thing down  
3 our throat. The County has had numerous hearings of the  
4 Planning Commission and the County Commissioners.  
5 Overwhelmingly the speakers rejected it and it the County  
6 Commissioners rejected it.

7 Your panel to hold a hearing in Seattle I  
8 think is arrogant. When Seattle has an environmental  
9 issue they don't come to Kittitas to hold a hearing. I  
10 used to live in the Seattle area. Certainly they need  
11 more power. They do not need to destroy our valley and  
12 the views of our valley. You're going to make a  
13 recommendation to the Governor. Christine would like to  
14 be a Governor of both sides of this state. If she  
15 overrides you or follows your recommendation and rams this  
16 down Kittitas' throat, she sure as hell is not going to be  
17 my Governor as a resident of Kittitas.

18 I urge you to reject this. I urge you to  
19 listen to the County. I urge you to listen to the  
20 economic interests like Knudson who wants to sell lumber  
21 to build concrete forms and understand where the people  
22 who want this project are coming from; the people who want  
23 to live in this valley, see this beautiful valley stay the  
24 way it is. We already have this Whiskey Dick. We do not  
25 need this project. We do not need more of Horizon and

1 Goldman Sachs. Thank you.

2 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, sir.

3 Ed Garrett.

4 COMMENTS BY ED GARRETT

5 For the record, my name is Ed Garrett,  
6 G-a-r-r-e-t-t. I'm before you speaking for myself. I  
7 don't have any pictures. I'm live. After tonight the  
8 debate will be over and at the close of business next  
9 Friday EFSEC on the KVVPP will be officially closed.  
10 There are three main issues I would like summarize.

11 Number one, in an evaluating wind farm  
12 proposals there are two make or break details: location  
13 and setbacks. Location should be of large land masses  
14 with fewest possible residents such as the Wild Horse Wind  
15 Farm project. Setback should be a minimum of 2,500 feet  
16 from adjacent, nonparticipating property lines.

17 Two, preemption. Horizon has requested  
18 preemption for the second time. The Administrative Law  
19 Judge Torem during the recent adjudicative hearings said  
20 EFSEC has never been asked to exercise this power in 35  
21 years. This is really a profound statement. Not once.  
22 In 35 years EFSEC has successfully sited nuclear, coal,  
23 gas electrical generation plants, plants that produce  
24 thousands of megawatts reliably. The first wind farm  
25 application comes along and throws the whole EFSEC process

1 into question.

2 I can only urge you, the Councilmembers, to  
3 vote no on this motion before you. Siting the  
4 controversial wind farm should not be the test case. To  
5 recommend overturning local land use decision would  
6 reverberate through every county in the state.

7 Number three, energy policy. We need a  
8 comprehensive energy policy that makes sense. Not enough  
9 is being done to conserve electricity. Emphasis is only  
10 given to producing more.

11 Here is a profound thought for you: a watt  
12 saved is another watt produced to be used somewhere else.  
13 If it were to up to me, I would be on all incandescent  
14 light bulbs that utilize fluorescent and emerging LED  
15 technologies. This simple and workable plan would  
16 conserve 40 percent of what we now produce. Just think  
17 about that.

18 Finally, I hope the Councilmembers agree to  
19 let our elected county official decision to deny this  
20 project stand. Please recommend to the Governor no on  
21 preemption and a recommendation to deny this application.

22 It's been a pleasure working with all of you  
23 on this long and protracted process. Thank you.

24 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Mr. Garrett.

25 Julie Emery is our last speaker.

1 COMMENTS BY JULIE EMERY

2 My name is Julie Emery, E-m-e-r-y. I live  
3 on 1000 East Harvest Loop in Ellensburg, Washington. I am  
4 28 years old. I have an undergraduate degree in economics  
5 from the University of Minnesota and I have a master's  
6 degree in business administration from Seattle University.  
7 I grew up in Ellensburg and recently returned here with my  
8 husband.

9 I support alternative energy sources as does  
10 my family. I don't support this project. The Kittitas  
11 County Commissioners voted unanimously against this  
12 project; yet the debate continues. In my opinion the  
13 behavior of Horizon is unwarranted. Instead of accepting  
14 the decision made by the governing body, our  
15 Commissioners, Horizon has continued to disrespect our  
16 county. Our County Commissioners are elected officials  
17 charged with advocating the opinion of our citizens. By  
18 attempting to override their decisions, Horizon is not  
19 respecting our county, our citizens, and our authority to  
20 govern Kittitas County. Thank you.

21 JUDGE TOREM: Thank you, Ms. Emery.

22 Are there any other speakers signed up,  
23 staff?

24 Seeing none, it's now 8:25 and that's the  
25 end of the public comment. As was indicated at the

1 beginning of the proceeding and as correctly noted by  
2 Mr. Garrett, if you still want to file your written  
3 comment, you can pick up one of these forms from staff.  
4 It will be accepted up to close of business next Friday,  
5 September 29, and will be read by the Councilmembers.

6 Council deliberations will probably begin  
7 shortly after Thanksgiving, and we'll be back as I said at  
8 the beginning hopefully by the end of the year to announce  
9 a decision, and that decision is a recommendation to  
10 Governor Gregoire as to whether or not to preempt the  
11 Board of County Commissioners as it's been requested by  
12 the Applicant; and if so, or if not, whether or not the  
13 County will be recommending to the Governor whether or not  
14 this project should be built. So all of that will be  
15 decided and announced back here in Ellensburg. We'll have  
16 it well noticed in advance and hope to see all of you then  
17 so you will know the final ruling and recommendation of  
18 this EFSEC body. It will still be a little while after  
19 that before the Governor makes her final decision.

20 Thank you for all your courtesy to each  
21 other and us through the process. We appreciate it, and  
22 thank you for your hospitality throughout.

23 We're adjourned for the night.

24 (Public Comment meeting adjourned at 8:21  
25 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 21, 2006,  
in Ellensburg, Washington.

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Shaun Linse, CCR

CCR NO. 2029