

# Verbatim Transcript of Monthly Council Meeting

## Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

August 21, 2018

**REVISED**



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WASHINGTON STATE  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

Olympia, Washington  
Tuesday, August 21, 2018  
1:30 p.m.

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MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING

Verbatim Transcript of Proceedings

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

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## A P P E A R A N C E S

## Councilmembers:

KATHLEEN DREW, Chair  
JAIME ROSSMAN, Department of Commerce  
CULLEN STEPHENSON, Department of Ecology  
MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish & Wildlife  
DAN SIEMANN, Department of Natural Resources  
LAURA CHARTOFF, Utilities & Transportation Commission

Local Government and Optional State Agency for the  
Columbia Solar Project:

KELLY COOPER, Department of Health  
IAN ELLIOT, Kittitas County (via phone)

## Assistant Attorney General:

ANN ESSKO  
JON THOMPSON

## Council Staff:

STEPHEN POSNER  
SONIA BUMPUS  
TAMMY MASTRO  
AMI KIDDER  
AMY MOON  
CHRISTINA POTIS  
JOAN AITKEN  
STEW HENDERSON

## In Attendance:

ERIC MELBARDIS, EDP Renewables (via phone)  
JENNIFER DIAZ, Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse (via phone)  
MARY RAMOS, Energy Northwest (via phone)  
CHRIS SHERIN, Grays Harbor Energy  
MARK MILLER, Chehalis Generation  
KELLY WOOD, CFE

\* \* \* \* \*

1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; AUGUST 21, 2018

2 1:30 P.M.

3 --o0o--

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5  
6 CHAIR DREW: This is Kathleen Drew, and we  
7 are now to begin the EFSEC monthly council meeting with  
8 the roll call.

9 MS. MASTRO: Department of Commerce?

10 MR. ROSSMAN: Jaime Rossman, here.

11 MS. MASTRO: Department of Ecology?

12 MR. STEPHENSON: Cullen Stephenson, here.

13 MS. MASTRO: Fish and Wildlife?

14 MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, here.

15 MS. MASTRO: Department of Natural  
16 Resources?

17 MR. SIEMANN: Dan Siemann is here.

18 MS. MASTRO: Utilities and Transportation  
19 Commission?

20 MS. CHARTOFF: Laura Chartoff appearing for  
21 Marguerite Friedlander.

22 MS. MASTRO: Local Governments and Optional  
23 State Agencies for the Columbia Solar Project,  
24 Department of Health?

25 MS. COOPER: Kelly Cooper is here.

1 MS. MASTRO: Kittitas County?  
2 Chair, there is a quorum for the regular  
3 Council as well as the Columbia Solar Project Council.

4 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

5 At this point, I will invite those on the  
6 phone who wish to identify themselves to do so.

7 (Inaudible.)

8 CHAIR DREW: I couldn't hear --

9 MR. MELBARDIS: Eric Melbardis for Kittitas  
10 Valley.

11 CHAIR DREW: Okay.

12 MS. DIAZ: Jennifer Diaz, Puget Sound  
13 Energy.

14 MS. RAMOS: Mary Ramos, Columbia Generating  
15 Station.

16 CHAIR DREW: Okay. We'll move on to  
17 approval of the proposed agenda. In front of you is the  
18 proposed agenda. Is there a motion to approve?

19 MR. STEPHENSON: I'll so move.

20 CHAIR DREW: Second?

21 MR. SIEMANN: Second.

22 CHAIR DREW: Any changes? I don't have any  
23 changes. All those in favor?

24 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

25 CHAIR DREW: Opposed? The agenda is

1 approved.

2 And the meeting minutes now for  
3 July 17th, 2018. Is there a motion to approve those?

4 MR. STEPHENSON: I will move to approve  
5 those minutes.

6 CHAIR DREW: A second?

7 MR. LIVINGSTON: I will second.

8 CHAIR DREW: Are there any changes or edits  
9 to those minutes? Hearing none, all those in favor of  
10 approving the minutes from July 17th, 2018, say "aye."

11 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

12 CHAIR DREW: Opposed? Minutes are approved.  
13 Moving on now to the project updates.

14 Kittitas Valley Wind Project?

15 MR. MELBARDIS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
16 EFSEC Council. This is Eric Melbardis with EDP  
17 Renewables for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.  
18 Project ran routine for the month of July. Summer is  
19 our strong production month. And the only thing out of  
20 the ordinary was we're working currently in heavy smoke  
21 and poor air quality from wildfires.

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you for that update.

23 Any questions?

24 Wild Horse Wind Power Project?

25 MS. DIAZ: Yes. Thank you, Chair Drew and

1 Councilmembers. For the record, this is Jennifer Diaz  
2 with Puget Sound Energy for the Wild Horse Wind  
3 Facility, and I only have two nonroutine updates for the  
4 month of July.

5 The first one is, as voted on by a majority  
6 of the TAC members, the 2018 annual update was provided  
7 to the TAC via email in lieu of an in-person meeting.  
8 And that update should have been provided in your  
9 packets.

10 And then the second update is in accordance  
11 with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and the  
12 Spill Prevention Countermeasures and Control Plan,  
13 annual review and training of both of these plans were  
14 completed with site staff.

15 And that's all I have for the month of July.

16 CHAIR DREW: Thank you, and thank you for a  
17 copy of the report. Nicely done. Appreciated that.

18 MS. DIAZ: Oh, thank you.

19 CHAIR DREW: Especially the picture.

20 Moving on to Grays Harbor Energy Center.

21 MR. SHERIN: Afternoon, Chair Drew and  
22 Councilmembers. I'm Chris Sherin, the plant manager at  
23 Grays Harbor Energy Center. For the month of July, I  
24 have no nonroutine items to report. I will mention,  
25 though, that we did implement the Continuous Emissions

1 Monitoring System changes that were required per the new  
2 Amendment 4 with PSD.

3 CHAIR DREW: Great.

4 MR. SHERIN: Thank you.

5 CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions?

6 Thank you.

7 Columbia Generating Station?

8 MS. RAMOS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and  
9 Councilmembers. My name is Mary Ramos. I'm reporting  
10 for Energy Northwest today. For Columbia Generating  
11 Station, I only have one update.

12 On July 25, Washington State Department of  
13 Ecology and EFSEC conducted an NPDES inspection of  
14 Columbia Generating Station. The inspectors toured the  
15 circulating water pump house, the evaporation ponds,  
16 sanitary waste treatment facility, and the Tower Makeup  
17 pump house. Monitoring equipment and sampling points  
18 were also observed. Records for continuous monitoring  
19 data and equipment calibration as well as laboratory  
20 accreditation and intake structure and outfall  
21 evaluations were also reviewed.

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

23 Are there any questions? No.

24 For the Chehalis Generating Facility?

25 MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,



1 Councilmembers, and Staff. I'm Mark Miller, the plant  
2 manager at the Chehalis Generation Facility. I have no  
3 nonroutine comments for the month of July. Are there  
4 any questions? Thank you.

5 CHAIR DREW: Desert Claim Project Update?

6 MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and  
7 Councilmembers. I'm Amy Moon, an EFSEC Staff person  
8 with the Desert Claim Project update.

9 So Staff at EFSEC continue to work on the  
10 SEPA for the proposed SCA amendment. We're working on  
11 responses to data requests, a visual effects assessment,  
12 and wetlands. We received Data Request 3 response from  
13 the certificate holder on August 2nd. We're reviewing  
14 that response and continue to work with the certificate  
15 holder for additional clarification or anything further  
16 that we might need.

17 On the visual effects assessment, we had a  
18 contractor work on that. We received the report  
19 yesterday, on August 20th, and we'll provide comments  
20 back to the contractor once we review -- once Staff  
21 reviews that.

22 The wetland field verification meeting that  
23 was mentioned that we were going to do last time was  
24 done on August 10th, and I met with the Desert Claim  
25 wetland consultant, the Department of Ecology, Laurie

1 White, who's EFSEC's contractor. We looked at wetlands  
2 and started discussions on potential wetland impacts,  
3 and we continue to work with the Corps of Engineers,  
4 Ecology, on the wetland review and permitting. And we  
5 will keep the Council updated as we move forward.

6 Any questions?

7 CHAIR DREW: Any questions?

8 MR. ROSSMAN: One here. Do you have a rough  
9 timeline of next steps that we should expect?

10 MS. BUMPUS: Councilmember Rossman -- so for  
11 the record, this is Sonia Bumpus. We are working to  
12 make a SEPA threshold determination on the proposed SCA  
13 amendments. I would say right now the visual effects  
14 assessment that we're doing is probably the more  
15 work-intensive part of that review. And so that's  
16 probably the driver for -- for the schedule overall.  
17 Once we get done with that, I think we'll be very close  
18 to having our -- our SEPA determination fleshed out.

19 Right now, as Ms. Moon updated the Council,  
20 we're looking at a draft, a preliminary draft, of the  
21 visual effects assessment, and if that looks complete  
22 and we're happy with that deliverable, we can move  
23 forward with finalizing it. But if it's deficient in  
24 some way or we have some substantial comments on it, it  
25 could be some more weeks of work to finish that.

1 CHAIR DREW: Does that help? So what I  
2 understand is that if we're able to get the information  
3 we need on the visual effects, then we might proceed to  
4 the Council with a determination, SEPA threshold  
5 determination, to inform the Council in September.

6 MS. BUMPUS: That's correct.

7 CHAIR DREW: Or possibly October.

8 MR. ROSSMAN: Okay. And then what are the  
9 next steps after the SEPA determination?

10 CHAIR DREW: So that will drive how we make  
11 a decision on whether or not the Council approves the --  
12 or disapproves the amendment, what that makes a decision  
13 on the amendment or whether it needs to go to the  
14 governor is the magnitude of that SEPA threshold. So  
15 that will determine the next steps in the process.

16 MR. ROSSMAN: Okay. Thank you.

17 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Other questions? Are we  
18 good?

19 Okay. Thank you.

20 Now for Columbia Solar Project?

21 MS. KIDDER: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and  
22 Councilmembers. For the record, I'm Ami Kidder with  
23 EFSEC Staff. I have a project update for you on the  
24 Columbia Solar Project.

25 As mentioned in the May 15th council

1 meeting, in keeping with the requirements of the MDNS  
2 and the draft site certification agreements or SCAs,  
3 Staff has continued to facilitate coordinations between  
4 Ecology and the Applicant to determine buffer zones for  
5 wetlands delineated at the proposed facilities and any  
6 associated mitigation.

7 The Applicant facilitated site visits for  
8 Ecology on May 17th and 18th with the landowners and  
9 provided additional information for Ecology to review on  
10 July 25th. Ecology has reviewed that information, and  
11 following that review, the Applicant and Ecology are  
12 moving forward on establishing appropriate buffers and,  
13 if applicable, any additional mitigation for wetlands.

14 At our last meeting in July, Staff updated  
15 Council on proposed revisions to the draft SCAs made in  
16 response to comments we received during the comment  
17 period from May 29th through July 29th and at the public  
18 meeting held on June 26th in Ellensburg.

19 Since the meeting on July 17th, Staff has  
20 worked to finalize the draft SCAs, providing them for  
21 Council review on Tuesday, August 7th. And Ms. Bumpus  
22 has more information about the SCAs and the report for  
23 recommendation requested by the Council at the July  
24 meeting.

25 CHAIR DREW: Go ahead.

1 First of all, are there any questions?

2 Okay. Go ahead.

3 MS. BUMPUS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and  
4 Councilmembers. As directed at the council meeting on  
5 July 17th, Staff had prepared documents to support the  
6 Council's recommendation for approval of the Columbia  
7 Solar Project. In accordance with RCW 80.50.100, five  
8 draft site certification agreements have been prepared  
9 for each of the five sites, which must accompany the  
10 report EFSEC transmits to the governor.

11 I'm going to talk about the report, the  
12 draft report, that you've been reviewing since last  
13 week. The report on the recommendation to the governor  
14 outlines EFSEC's siting process and gives a detailed  
15 site description for each of the five sites that make up  
16 the proposed project.

17 The report describes the various sources of  
18 information made available to the Council during its  
19 evaluation of the project application and discusses the  
20 public input gathered during the public informational  
21 meeting, the land use hearing, the SEPA public comment  
22 period, and the public comment period specific to the  
23 five site certification agreements.

24 The report also contains the legal framework  
25 for legal arguments and issues raised, and it, you know,

1 ultimately lays out the Council's rationale in  
2 formulating its overall recommendation to the governor  
3 for approval.

4 I also have a couple of changes that I need  
5 to update the Council about for the five site  
6 certification agreements, but before I proceed to that,  
7 are there any questions for me or for EFSEC's legal  
8 counsel about the report?

9 CHAIR DREW: Any questions?

10 Okay. Thank you.

11 MS. BUMPUS: So as I was saying earlier, at  
12 the July 17th council meeting, Staff proposed changes to  
13 the five draft site certification agreements for the  
14 project. Subsequent to that meeting, EFSEC Staff  
15 incorporated the changes we discussed at that meeting  
16 into the versions that the Councilmembers started  
17 reviewing on August 6th.

18 There are two additional changes that were  
19 made since that time that I need to let you know about.  
20 The first edit that Staff made was in light of the July  
21 24th letter from Mr. Sherman. This was sent to EFSEC in  
22 his capacity as counsel for The Environment. In light  
23 of the concerns Mr. Sherman expressed in that letter,  
24 Staff revisited our wetland conditions in each of the  
25 five site certification agreements.

1           We also -- in clarifying the language that's  
2 in that section, we also coordinated with our Ecology  
3 wetlands specialist, and we think we've added some  
4 clarifying language to address his concerns. This is  
5 specifically under Article 4, Part E, No. 2, which is  
6 the wetland streams and riparian area conditions.

7           The second revision made to all of the five  
8 draft site certification agreements was to address the  
9 use of the words "project" and "site." We went through  
10 each of those documents to make sure that we were using  
11 those words appropriately and consistently across the  
12 documents.

13           Are there any questions about the draft site  
14 certification agreements?

15           CHAIR DREW: Councilmember Siemann?

16           MR. SIEMANN: Thank you. In light of the  
17 concerns that Mr. Sherman raised as counsel on The  
18 Environment, I would be interested in knowing whether  
19 counsel for The Environment is satisfied with these  
20 changes or has some lingering concerns.

21           MS. BUMPUS: Well, we have not heard from  
22 the counsel for The Environment. We did send a letter  
23 in response to the counsel for The Environment  
24 addressing the concerns, we think, but we haven't -- we  
25 haven't talked to them about that.

1 CHAIR DREW: Is there anyone here that would  
2 like to make a statement?

3 MR. WOOD: Sure. Hi, I snuck in so...

4 Hi. I'm Kelly Wood with The Environmental  
5 Protection at the AG's office. Bill is doing a 22-mile  
6 hike down the Coast with the attorney general to protest  
7 the proposal to open up <sup>Oil</sup> ~~herbal~~ explorations, so I'm the  
8 one that has to be in the office today.

9 So I did get a chance to talk with Bill on  
10 Friday afternoon after we received a copy of your  
11 letter. Obviously we haven't seen the language that  
12 will be incorporated into those, you know, the draft  
13 SCAs that will be sent on to the governor's office. But  
14 the explanation as to the clarification on setbacks  
15 sounded good to us. It looked like it addressed the  
16 concerns that were set out in Bill's original letters  
17 so...

18 CHAIR DREW: Okay.

19 MR. WOOD: Thank you.

20 CHAIR DREW: Thank you very much. Thank you  
21 for being here.

22 MR. WOOD: You're welcome.

23 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Other questions on those  
24 update changes? Okay. And I would say too that right  
25 now the drafts are on our public SharePoint or public



1 website for what we're talking about right now, the  
2 report as well as all the final draft site certification  
3 agreements.

4 MS. BUMPUS: Correct. They're all there in  
5 draft form.

6 CHAIR DREW: Yes.

7 MS. BUMPUS: So no other questions? If  
8 there aren't any, then I'll go ahead and proceed. So at  
9 this time, Staff would like to request the Council take  
10 action to approve the Council's recommendation report,  
11 which recommends approval of the Columbia Solar Project  
12 and to also approve the five draft site certification  
13 agreements, which will be packaged for transmittal to  
14 the governor.

15 CHAIR DREW: Let's have a motion to put it  
16 before us, and then we can have a conversation.

17 Mr. Rossman?

18 MR. ROSSMAN: Chair Drew, I move that we  
19 approve the Staff draft recommendation to the governor  
20 and draft site certification agreements and recommend  
21 approval of the Columbia Solar Project.

22 CHAIR DREW: Second?

23 MR. SIEMANN: I'll second that.

24 CHAIR DREW: Okay. It's before us. Are  
25 there comments from the Council?

1 Mr. Rossman?

2 MR. ROSSMAN: I want to thank Staff for what  
3 was a very thorough and detailed recommendation  
4 document. I think it covered all the bases well and  
5 explains our thinking well. I think we responded to  
6 every concern raised about the project.

7 I want to note in particular the concern  
8 about potential conversion of rural working agricultural  
9 lands, and I think that Staff did a great job of chasing  
10 down that this isn't a permanent conversion and that in  
11 the future, the site would be able to be restored to  
12 agricultural use. I mean, that's a critical issue here.

13 So I really appreciate Staff and  
14 particularly also the participation of the counsel for  
15 Environment, making sure that we were in a good place on  
16 wetland buffers, and I think that for me in particular,  
17 with those two things, this is a good project and we  
18 should see them forward. Thank you.

19 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Mr. Cullen --  
20 Mr. Stephenson?

21 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you. I want to share  
22 Councilmember Rossman's commendation for Staff. It's  
23 been a nice process. We've done a good job of listening  
24 to the public and responding to the public, and from my  
25 standpoint, it looks like we've done a wonderful job

1 doing that. So thank you.

2 CHAIR DREW: Other comments? Ms. Chartoff?

3 MS. CHARTOFF: Yesterday --

4 MR. ELLIOT: Chair Drew?

5 CHAIR DREW: Just a minute. We have

6 Ms. Chartoff and then I'll move to you, Mr. Elliot.

7 Go ahead.

8 MS. CHARTOFF: Yesterday, I spoke with  
9 Councilmember Marguerite Friedlander, and she advised me  
10 that she read the report and agrees with the  
11 recommendation.

12 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

13 Mr. Elliot?

14 MR. ELLIOT: Yeah, I was -- I am having a  
15 little trouble hearing because I don't think people are  
16 close enough to the speaker, but the comment that I  
17 would like to make is that I still contend that the  
18 permit is invalid because of the combining of all the  
19 sites, which I think is also evidenced by the fact that  
20 each one required a separate certification agreement,  
21 and the process of combining only to save the Applicant  
22 money I think was invalid to begin with. Thank you.

23 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. I would like to  
24 comment. Thank you for those comments. I -- we have  
25 included that comment in the report too since we had

1 received that from you earlier. I would say, first of  
2 all, that the reasons that the sites are included as one  
3 project are further than saving money. They have quite  
4 a bit in common. We chose -- in fact, the Applicant  
5 approached us to have five separate site certification  
6 agreements, which, in fact, we could have had one, but  
7 we thought that it was quite a bit easier for the public  
8 to be able to look at each site and be able to comment  
9 on it. So really for ease of public review, not for  
10 ease of administration, it was the main reason to have  
11 the five site certification agreements.

12 Mr. Rossman, you'd like to add to that as  
13 well?

14 MR. ROSSMAN: Yes, and I was troubled by  
15 this issue until I looked at RCW 80.50.020(3), and that  
16 defines an application as a request for approval of a  
17 particular site or sites filed with EFSEC in accordance  
18 with the chapter. And so to me, that made it quite  
19 clear that we have legislative authorization to take up  
20 a single application that includes multiple sites. So I  
21 feel this issue -- I'm comfortable moving forward.

22 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

23 Other comments? Mr. Siemann?

24 MR. SIEMANN: Yeah, I just wanted to also  
25 commend the Staff and echo things that Commissioner

1 Rossman mentioned in terms of the appreciation. And I  
2 just would like to also add an appreciation for all of  
3 the members of the public that came out to our public  
4 meetings. I found that to be really informative and  
5 well-argued and helpful in terms of my own understanding  
6 of the issues, the complexities, and help me get to the  
7 place where we are now where I feel very comfortable  
8 with the decision.

9 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

10 Any other comments? I would also like to  
11 say that since the TUUSSO Columbia Solar Project  
12 application was submitted last October, the Council has  
13 held several meetings in Ellensburg to hear comments  
14 from the public, hold a regular council meeting locally,  
15 visit the sites, and finally, to take comment on the  
16 draft site certification agreements.

17 And I'm very pleased and proud to say that  
18 that's the first time in EFSEC history that the draft  
19 site certification agreement or agreements were put out  
20 for public comment. And it is something that I'm very  
21 proud we were able to do and include in our timeline of  
22 an expedited process. And it was very important for us  
23 to do so, to get the comments that we did get that were  
24 site-specific.

25 And from all of that interaction, the

1 Council also extended the comment period for the land  
2 use hearing, changed mitigations on our SEPA, draft SEPA  
3 determination based on the public comments we received,  
4 and added conditions to the SCAs, again, based on  
5 site-specific comments we received from the public. So  
6 it has been, in my view, a very interactive project  
7 where we have improved the project through that  
8 interaction with the public.

9 And I want to commend the Council for your  
10 attention to those issues as we heard and you asked for  
11 more information, you asked for a process whereby we  
12 could get site-specific information, and you were very  
13 responsive to all of those issues and requests.

14 I know there are still those who may oppose  
15 this project; however, this is a project which will  
16 provide clean energy over the next 30 years and the  
17 environmental impacts will be mitigated to  
18 nonsignificant levels. Therefore, I too support  
19 recommending approval of the TUUSSO Columbia Solar  
20 Project to Governor Jay Inslee.

21 With that, I will ask the clerk to call roll  
22 call on the vote.

23 MS. MASTRO: Department of Commerce?

24 MR. ROSSMAN: Aye.

25 MS. MASTRO: Department of Ecology?

1 MR. STEPHENSON: Aye.

2 MS. MASTRO: Fish and Wildlife?

3 MR. LIVINGSTON: Aye.

4 MS. MASTRO: Natural Resources?

5 MR. SIEMANN: Aye.

6 MS. MASTRO: Utilities and Transportation

7 Commission?

8 MS. CHARTOFF: Aye.

9 MS. MASTRO: Department of Health?

10 MS. COOPER: Aye.

11 MS. MASTRO: Kittitas County? Kittitas

12 County, do you have a vote?

13 MR. ELLIOT: Oh, I'm sorry. I couldn't

14 hear. Vote is nay.

15 MS. MASTRO: Chair?

16 CHAIR DREW: Aye.

17 MS. MASTRO: It's seven to one.

18 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

19 With that, the recommendation goes to the  
20 governor for the recommendation of approval for the  
21 Columbia Solar Project and the site certification draft  
22 agreements, which will become effective after the  
23 governor, if he so chooses, to approve the project and  
24 the agreements. He does have 60 days within which to  
25 consider this project. So it is approved.

1 I would also like to take this moment to  
2 thank again -- the Council again, EFSEC Staff, our legal  
3 team who -- especially for Mr. Thompson, who spent many  
4 hours helping us to prepare the documents to get to this  
5 point as well as the background issues, our consulting  
6 team, and all our agency partners for their technical  
7 knowledge during the review process. We have a small  
8 staff, and we rely on our technical partners at the  
9 Department of Ecology, Fish and Wildlife, Agriculture,  
10 Utilities and Transportation Commission, and others.

11 This is a landmark in that it's the first  
12 time that EFSEC has used the expedited process for a new  
13 project application. And, again, a special thanks to  
14 our EFSEC Staff who demonstrated their professionalism  
15 at every step and provided the Council with the quality  
16 work as a foundation of our review. So thank you.

17 If there is nothing else to come before the  
18 Council, this meeting is adjourned.

19 (Adjourned at 1:58 p.m.)  
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I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

# ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

## Roll Call Checklist

Meeting Date: August 21, 2018 EFSEC Monthly Meeting

State Agency Members			In attendance	Call	Present
<b>Chair</b>					
Kathleen Drew	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	1. Eric Melbardis <sup>KV</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Commerce</b>					
Jaime Rossman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	2. Jennifer Diaz <sup>WFF</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Ecology</b>					
Cullen Stephenson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	3. Mary Ramos <sup>ENW</sup>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Fish and Wildlife</b>					
Mike Livingston	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	4. Chris Sherin <sup>GHE</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Natural Resources</b>					
Dan Siemann	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	5. Mark Miller <sup>Chetakis</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Utilities &amp; Transportation Commission</b>					
Marguerite Friedlander	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	6. Kelley Woods <sup>GFE</sup>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Laura Chartoff for UTC</i>			7.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Local Gov't. and Optional State Agency for the Columbia Solar Project</b>			8.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Dept. of Health</b>			9.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kelly Cooper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	10.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Kittitas County</b>			11.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ian Elliot	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Call	12.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Assistant Attorney General</b>			13.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ann Essko	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	14.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jon Thompson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	15.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Administrative Law Judge</b>			16.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Laura Chartoff	<input type="checkbox"/> Present	<input type="checkbox"/> Call	17.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Council Staff</b>			18.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stephen Posner	<input type="checkbox"/> Patty Betts		19.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sonia Bumpus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christina Potis		20.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tammy Mastro	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joan Aitken				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ami Kidder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stew Henderson				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amy Moon					

Court Reporter: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Chehalis Generation Facility----Monthly Plant Report – July 2018**

### **Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**

08.10.2018

#### **Safety:**

- There were no recordable incidents this reporting period and the plant staff has achieved 1089 days without a Lost Time Accident.

#### **Environment:**

- There were no air emissions or stormwater deviations or spills during the month.
- Wastewater and Storm-water monitoring results were in compliance with the permit limits.

#### **Operations and Maintenance Activities:**

- The Plant generated 287,733 MW-hours in July for a 2018 YTD generation total of 1,000,320 MW-hours and a capacity factor of 38.1%.

#### **Regulatory/Compliance:**

- Nothing to report this period.

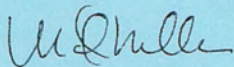
#### **Sound monitoring:**

- Nothing to report this period.

#### **Carbon Offset Mitigation:**

- Nothing to report this period.

Respectfully,



Mark A. Miller  
Manager, Gas Plant  
Chehalis Generation Facility



# Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

## AGENDA

**MONTHLY MEETING**  
Tuesday, August 21, 2018  
1:30 PM

1300 S Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504  
Meeting Room 206

1. Call to Order ..... Kathleen Drew, EFSEC Chair
2. Roll Call ..... Tammy Mastro, EFSEC Staff
3. Proposed Agenda ..... Kathleen Drew, EFSEC Chair
4. Minutes      **Meeting Minutes** ..... Kathleen Drew, EFSEC Chair
  - July 17, 2018
5. Projects
  - a. Kittitas Valley Wind Project
    - Operational Updates ..... Eric Melbardis, EDP Renewables
  - b. Wild Horse Wind Power Project
    - Operational Updates ..... Jennifer Diaz, Puget Sound Energy
  - c. Grays Harbor Energy Center
    - Operational Updates ..... Chris Sherin, Grays Harbor Energy
  - d. Columbia Generating Station
    - Operational Updates ..... Mary Ramos, Energy Northwest
  - e. WNP – 1/4
    - Non-Operational Updates ..... Mary Ramos, Energy Northwest
  - f. Chehalis Generation Facility
    - Operational Updates ..... Mark Miller, Chehalis Generation
  - g. Desert Claim
    - Project Update ..... Amy Moon, EFSEC Staff
  - h. Columbia Solar Project
    - Project Update ..... Ami Kidder, EFSEC Staff
    - Recommendation to Governor ..... Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Staff
6. Adjourn ..... Kathleen Drew, EFSEC Chair

*EFSEC staff will make a presentation and the Council will consider and may take Final Action on the Recommendation Report to the Governor.*



# Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project

## Monthly Operations Report

July 2018

### Project Status Update

#### **Production Summary:**

Power generated: 34,062 MWh  
Wind speed: 8.7 m/s  
Capacity Factor: 45%

#### **Safety:**

No incidents

#### **Compliance:**

Project is in compliance

#### **Sound:**

No complaints

#### **Shadow Flicker:**

No complaints

#### **Environmental:**

No incidents

# Wild Horse Wind Facility Technical Advisory Committee 2018 Update

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Female sage-grouse observed at Wild Horse on 12/27/17



## Sage-Grouse Observation and Conservation Measures

### Sage-Grouse Observation

On December 27, 2017, a sage-grouse was observed incidentally within 200 feet of turbine D31 directly adjacent to the site access road on WDFW property. At the time of the observation, the weather conditions included temperatures below freezing, fog, and no wind. Video was captured of the sage-grouse and emailed to Mike Schroeder, WDFW, who confirmed it was a female sage-grouse (Attachment 1 – Video).

On January 3, 2018 the sage-grouse was observed again in the same location. At the time of the observation, the weather conditions included temperatures below freezing, clear skies, and no wind. This observation was also captured on video.

### Fence Removal

To date, approximately six miles of unnecessary fencing and barbed wire have been removed from the project area to reduce the potential for wildlife collisions.

### Fence Marking

All fencing (approximately 20 miles) required for grazing has been marked with visibility markers to reduce the potential for collisions. The markers are holding up very well and show no sign of deterioration.

### Raven Nest Removal

No inactive or active raven nests have been identified on PSE structures within the project boundary.

### Sage-Grouse Nesting & Brood-Rearing Habitat Improvements

The 2017 sage-grouse habitat monitoring report is attached for your review (Attachment 2). This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual monitoring report. In 2017, PSE contracted with a Third Party, Beck Botanical Services, to complete the field work and collect data for the annual monitoring report. PSE continued to work with Beck Botanical Services in 2018, completing the two surveys on May 30<sup>th</sup> and July 18<sup>th</sup>. The results of these surveys will be provided to the TAC in the 2018 monitoring report. Monitoring of the sage-grouse nesting and brood-rearing habitat area will continue through 2020 in accordance with the Sage-Grouse Nesting & Brood-Rearing Habitat Restoration and Management Plan.

Female sage-grouse observed at Wild Horse on 01/03/18



## Grazing Management and Springs Development/Restoration

During the last TAC meeting on May 31, 2017, Tip Hudson (WSU Extension) provided a comprehensive review of the CRM grazing management plan, monitoring results, and trends of utilization data collected from the project area. He also reviewed the CRM grazing schedule for the next 5 years (2017-2021). During the meeting, TAC members unanimously voted to approve the 5 year grazing plan as presented by Tip.



The 2017 Grazing Monitoring Report prepared by Tip is attached for your review (Attachment 3). This report includes monitoring results from the 2017 utilization measurements and observations in the Wild Horse paddocks. If you have any questions about this report please contact Tip Hudson at [tipton.hudson@co.kittitas.wa.us](mailto:tipton.hudson@co.kittitas.wa.us).

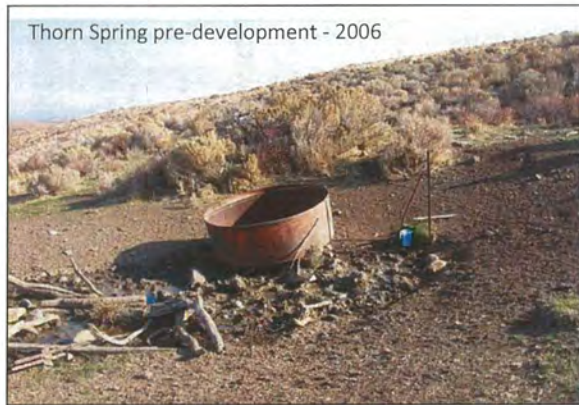
In support of the Wild Horse Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) goals, PSE and the Stingley Ranch partnered in 2009 to redevelop 11 springs throughout the project area to provide water for livestock and wildlife. This included protection of cultural resources, installation of filter fabric and gravel pads (hardened areas) below watering tanks, replacement of old watering tanks, installation of wildlife escapes, installation of overflow pipes into existing channels, and installation of temporary exclusionary fencing during livestock grazing. Following redevelopment, PSE contracted with BFI Native Seeds to develop and implement site specific plans for restoring the areas around the springs at Wild Horse, which included planting native vegetation (plugs and seeds) to accelerate habitat recovery and development of long-term weed management.

Visual observations of the springs indicate that redevelopment, restoration activities, and annual weed management have been successful at improving the overall health of the springs and providing water for both livestock and wildlife. Annual maintenance and management of the springs include:

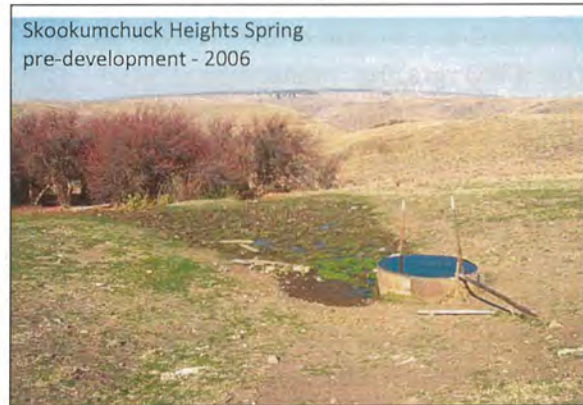
- Cultural resource monitoring to ensure rock cover around tanks are intact and sufficient for protection of cultural resources;
- Maintenance of tanks/piping – cleaning out plugged overflow pipes to prevent water spilling over side of tanks;
- Maintenance of wildlife escapes; and
- Installation of temporary fencing during grazing season to protect riparian habitat associated with the springs.



### Thorn Spring Restoration



### Skookumchuck Heights Spring Restoration





## Habitat Restoration and Weed Management

In 2012, Wildlands Inc. completed 5 years of post-construction habitat restoration monitoring as required by the EFSEC Site Certification Agreement. Results from their final report concluded that total vegetative cover in restored areas had risen steadily and native plants (both seeded and volunteer) continue to outnumber non-native plants, indicating that native vegetation is successfully out-competing non-native species in restored areas. In years following the 2012 monitoring, visual observations indicate that restoration activities, erosion control, and weed management combined with light grazing have helped to increase vegetative cover and improve overall site conditions.



In accordance with PSE's aggressive noxious weed management program, invasive weeds are chemically treated throughout the year, primarily in late spring/early summer and early fall. Treated species include thistles, whitetop, knapweeds, and other invasives on the Kittitas County Noxious Weed List. Areas treated include roadsides, underground cable corridors, transmission line routes, solar facilities, fill slopes, cutbanks, substation, springs, and the visitor center. In addition, cheatgrass is treated with a pre-emergent herbicide (Plateau), as needed throughout the entire project area.



## Eagle Conservation Plan and Permit

The final draft of the Eagle Conservation Plan (ECP) and revised draft Environmental Assessment (EA) were submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on January 23, 2018. Next steps are for the USFWS to complete the EA and initiate the NEPA process. PSE will notify the TAC/EFSEC and provide a link to the ECP/EA when the USFWS begins the public review and comment period. Following public review and comment, USFWS will make a determination of whether to issue an eagle incidental take permit.

In June 2017, PSE signed a Settlement Agreement (SA) with the USFWS to resolve the four eagle fatalities at Wild Horse. The terms of the SA are consistent with the Chief's Directive, and include providing funding for Research and Development of Detect and Deter Technology and providing regular updates to the USFWS during the term of the SA. The SA covers past take, as well as interim take occurring during the ECP process up to the date of eagle permit issuance.

## Wildland Fire

At 9:00am on Monday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> a PSE employee noticed smoke coming from between the A-line and B-line turbines in a rocky ravine on DNR land. PSE called 911 immediately and Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue responded within 20 minutes with two water trucks, two off-road tanker trucks, and approximately 16 responders. The fire was contained within one hour and was fully extinguished within two hours. The estimated size of fire damage is approximately two acres. The DNR sent a fire investigator to determine the cause of the fire, but his investigation was inconclusive. Wind speeds that morning measured at 37 mph, with temperatures at 48°F. Lightning was detected in the area the previous week.



## Questions and Comments

If you have any questions and/or comments regarding this annual update please contact Jennifer Diaz at 509-964-7813 or [jennifer.diaz@pse.com](mailto:jennifer.diaz@pse.com).



## **Wild Horse**

July 2018

### **Safety**

No lost-time accidents or safety injuries/illnesses.

### **Compliance/Environmental**

- As voted on by a majority of TAC members, the 2018 annual update was provided to the TAC via email in lieu of an in-person meeting (see update attached).
- In accordance with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Spill Prevention Countermeasures and Control Plan (SPCCP), annual review/training of these plans were completed with site staff.

### **Operations/Maintenance**

Nothing to report.

### **Wind Production**

July generation totaled 39,899 MWh for an average capacity factor of 19.67%.

### **Eagle Update**

Nothing new to report.



## EFSEC Monthly Operational Report

July 2018

1. Safety and Training

- 1.1. There were no accidents or injuries during the month of July.
- 1.2. Conducted scheduled and required monthly training.
- 1.3. Conducted the scheduled Safety Committee meeting.

2. Environmental

- 2.1. Final Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA) test plan submitted to EFSEC/ORCAA on schedule and load evaluations for both units were provided to Montrose. Scheduled for August 15-17.
- 2.2. All routine reporting completed.

3. Operations & Maintenance

- 3.1. GHEC operated 30 days during the month, with 2 starts on U1, and 1 start on U2. The plant capacity factor was 86%.
- 3.2. GHEC generated 395,156MWh during the month.
- 3.3. PSD Amendment 4 effective date September 1<sup>st</sup>, implemented Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS) changes required.
- 3.4. All routine reporting completed.

4. Noise and/or Odor

- 4.1. None.

5. Site Visits

- 5.1. None.

6. Other

- 6.1. Grays Harbor Energy Center is staffed with 21 personnel.



**Energy Northwest  
August 21, 2018 EFSEC Council Meeting  
Operations Reporting Period for July 1 – 31, 2018  
Site Contact: Mary Ramos**

**Columbia Generating Station Operational Status**

Columbia is online at 100 percent power.

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Inspection:

On July 25, 2018, Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) staff and EFSEC Siting Specialist conducted a NPDES inspection of Columbia Generating Station. The team of four inspectors toured the circulating water pump house, evaporation ponds, sanitary waste treatment facility, and Tower Makeup (TMU) pump house. Monitoring equipment and sampling points were observed. Records of continuous monitoring data, equipment calibration, QA/QC for in-house laboratory analysis, laboratory accreditation, intake structure and outfall evaluations were reviewed.

**WNP 1/4 Building Transfer/Water**

No updates