

Verbatim Transcript of Monthly Council Meeting
Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

March 17, 2020



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WASHINGTON STATE
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
Lacey, Washington
Tuesday, March 17, 2020
1:30 p.m.

TELEPHONIC MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING
Verbatim Transcript of Proceedings

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 COUNCILMEMBERS:

- 3 Kathleen Drew, Chair
- Kate Kelly, Department of Commerce
- 4 Robert Dengel, Department of Ecology
- Mike Livingston, Fish & Wildlife
- 5 Stacey Brewster, Utilities and Transportation Commission

6 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:

- 7 Stephanie Duvall

8 EFSEC STAFF:

- 9 Sonia Bumpus
- 10 Ami Kidder
- 11 Amy Moon
- Tammy Mastro
- 12 Joan Aitken
- Stew Henderson

13 ALSO PRESENT:

- 14 Eric Melbardis, Kittitas Valley
- Jennifer Diaz, Wild Horse
- 15 Chris Sherin, Grays Harbor Energy
- Mark Miller, Chehalis Generation Facility
- 16 Mary Ramos, Energy Northwest
- Kara Warner, Golder Associates
- 17 Owen Hurd, Tuusso Energy
- Summer Trudell, Energy Exemplar
- 18 Cullen Stephenson, Ecology

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1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; MARCH 17, 2020

2 1:30 P.M.

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

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6 CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon. This is
7 Kathleen Drew, Chair of the Energy Facility Site
8 Evaluation Council, and I call our monthly meeting to
9 order.

10 A couple of notes to begin with, welcome,
11 everyone, to our first ever entirely conference call for
12 our meeting. First of all, if you would, when you're
13 not speaking, please mute your microphone so that we
14 don't get background noise. If we do continue to hear
15 background noise, our ever-present Ms. Aitken will
16 search you down and probably mute it for you. So let's
17 be careful about that so that we can hear the meeting in
18 progress.

19 A second thing is, I ask people to introduce
20 themselves when we arrive at that part of the agenda
21 before we adopt the agenda and the minutes. Please
22 pause afterwards between so that Ms. Mastro can make
23 sure we get your name and have that duly recorded. We
24 do have a court reporter taking the minutes as usual, so
25 those are a couple of notes for today.

1 So with that, let's begin our meeting with a
2 call to order. Ms. Mastro, roll call.

3 MS. MASTRO: Good afternoon, Chair Drew.
4 For the record, this is Tammy Mastro.

5 Department of Commerce?

6 MS. KELLY: Kate's here.

7 MS. MASTRO: Department of Ecology?

8 MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, present.

9 MS. MASTRO: Department of Fish & Wildlife?

10 MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, present.

11 MS. MASTRO: Department of Natural Resources
12 is excused.

13 The Utilities and Transportation Commission?

14 MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, present.

15 MS. MASTRO: Is there an assistant attorney
16 general?

17 Council Staff, Sonia Bumpus?

18 MS. BUMPUS: Sonia Bumpus, present.

19 MS. MASTRO: Ami Kidder?

20 MS. KIDDER: Present.

21 MS. MASTRO: Amy Moon?

22 MS. MOON: Hi, Tammy. This is Amy Moon. I
23 am present.

24 MS. MASTRO: Thank you, Amy.

25 Kyle Overton is excused.

1 I am present.

2 Ms. Aitken, Joan Aitken?

3 MS. AITKEN: Present.

4 MS. MASTRO: And Stewart Henderson?

5 Chair, there is a quorum.

6 CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Ms. Mastro.

7 Is there anyone else on the phone who would
8 like to let us know that you have joined us?

9 MS. WARNER: This is Kara Warner with
10 Golder.

11 CHAIR DREW: Ms. Mastro --

12 MR. HURD: This is Owen Hurd with Tuusso
13 Energy.

14 CHAIR DREW: That was Owen Hurd with Tuusso
15 Energy.

16 MR. HURD: Correct.

17 CHAIR DREW: Okay.

18 MR. STEPHENSON: Cullen Stephenson, Ecology.

19 CHAIR DREW: Mr. Stephenson with Ecology.

20 MR. SHERIN: Chris Sherin, Grays Harbor
21 Energy Center.

22 CHAIR DREW: Chris Sherin, Grays Harbor
23 Energy Center.

24 MS. RAMOS: Mary Ramos --

25 (Multiple speakers.)

1 MS. DIAZ: That was bound to happen.

2 Jennifer Diaz, Puget Sound Energy Wild Horse
3 Wind Facility.

4 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Jennifer Diaz, present.

5 MR. MELBARDIS: Eric Melbardis, EDP
6 Renewables, Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

7 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you, Eric
8 Melbel- -- okay. I was bound to do that too.
9 Melbardis.

10 MS. RAMOS: Mary Ramos, Energy Northwest.

11 CHAIR DREW: Mary Ramos, Energy Northwest.
12 Thank you.

13 MR. MILLER: And Mark Miller, Che- --
14 PacifiCorp Chehalis Generation Facility.

15 CHAIR DREW: Mark Miller is present, thank
16 you.

17 MS. TRUDELL: Summer Trudell, Energy
18 Exemplar.

19 CHAIR DREW: Okay.

20 MS. MASTRO: Ms. Trudell, can you spell your
21 last name, please?

22 MS. TRUDELL: T-r-u-d-e-l-l.

23 MS. MASTRO: Thank you.

24 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

25 Ms. Mastro, I have trouble hearing you by

1 the way.

2 MS. MASTRO: Is that better?

3 CHAIR DREW: Yes.

4 MS. BUMPUS: Chair Drew, this is Sonia
5 Bumpus. For the record, I just wanted to let you know
6 that Jon Thompson, our AAG, is out this week, but we did
7 forward the call-in information to Stephanie Duvall, and
8 she may be calling in at some point during the meeting.

9 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

10 Let's move on to our proposed agenda. Do
11 you see on -- before you, either has been sent to you or
12 if you are on the Skype meeting it's now on the screen,
13 our proposed agenda for this meeting.

14 Ms. Brewster, is there a motion to adopt
15 this proposed agenda?

16 MS. BREWSTER: I move that we adopt the
17 proposed agenda for today.

18 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

19 Is there a second?

20 MR. LIVINGSTON: Chair Drew, this is Mike
21 Livingston, I'll second.

22 CHAIR DREW: Okay. It's been moved and
23 seconded that we adopt the agenda in front of us. All
24 those in favor, signify by saying "aye."

25 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

1 CHAIR DREW: Opposed? Amenda -- the agenda
2 is adopted.

3 Moving on to the meeting minutes.

4 Ms. Brewster, is there a motion to adopt the
5 meeting minutes from the February 11th Council meeting?

6 MS. BREWSTER: I move to adopt the --

7 CHAIR DREW: Approve, we should approve
8 that.

9 MS. BREWSTER: I move that we approve the
10 meeting minutes from the February 11th Council meeting.

11 CHAIR DREW: Are there any corrections or
12 comments?

13 Hearing none, all those in favor of
14 approving the Council minutes from the February 11th
15 meeting, say "aye."

16 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIR DREW: Okay. All those opposed?
18 Okay. The minutes are approved.

19 Moving on to the next item on our agenda,
20 operational updates.

21 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project,
22 Mr. Melbardis.

23 MR. MELBARDIS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,
24 Councilmembers. This is Eric Melbardis with EDP
25 Renewables for the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

1 I have nothing nonroutine to report for the period, but
2 I did just want to mention that EDP Renewables and the
3 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project is currently working
4 on Covid-19 preparedness and contingency. We're looking
5 at shift work and how we would structure things and --
6 and shuffle things around to continue to be able to
7 produce power. Because at some point, if the shelter in
8 places get tighter, we will -- we'll be considered
9 essential workers for energy production. So just wanted
10 to assure the Council that we are putting a lot of
11 energy towards that -- those plans right now.

12 CHAIR DREW: Thank you very much.

13 Wild Horse Wind Power Project, Jennifer
14 Diaz?

15 MS. DIAZ: Yes, thank you. This is Jennifer
16 Diaz with Puget Sound Energy at the Wild Horse Wind
17 Facility. I have nothing nonroutine to report for the
18 month of February, but we also have closed the site for
19 public access and recreation including the visitor
20 center through April 1st -- or I'm sorry, through the
21 end of April. We are scheduled to open April 1st, but
22 out of a -- out of an abundance of caution, we are
23 closing the entire site to the public through the end of
24 April, and we'll reassess towards the end of April when
25 we will re -- reopen.

1 At all PSE facilities, we are -- employees
2 are to work from home if they can, and we're eliminating
3 large meetings and travel, increasing our worksite
4 cleaning and sanitation, and limiting access to our
5 project buildings to only people who must be on-site.

6 CHAIR DREW: Thank you very much --

7 MS. DIAZ: Is there any questions?

8 CHAIR DREW: Yes, are there any questions
9 from Councilmembers?

10 Thank you, Ms. Diaz.

11 Chehalis Generation Facility, Mr. Miller?

12 MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and
13 Councilmembers and Staff. I'm Mark Miller, the plant
14 manager at the PacifiCorp Chehalis Facility. Not
15 including today's current health and safety concerns
16 we're all experiencing, I have one nonroutine comment to
17 add. As previously committed on March 6th, I submitted
18 to EFSEC Staff the detailed accounting of the status of
19 the carbon mitigation projects that were required as
20 part of Order 836. Are there any questions?

21 CHAIR DREW: Any questions?

22 Thank you, Mr. Miller.

23 Moving on to Grays Harbor Energy Center,
24 Mr. Sherin.

25 MR. SHERIN: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and

1 Councilmembers. This is Chris Sherin, plant manager at
2 Grays Harbor Energy Center. For the month of February,
3 we have no nonroutine items to report, and like
4 everybody else, we are doing a lot of ac- -- actively
5 involved in contingency planning for the Coronavirus.

6 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

7 Moving on to the Title V Air Operating
8 Permit public comment report. Ms. Kidder is going to
9 speak to that.

10 MS. KIDDER: Thank you, Chair Drew. For the
11 record, my name is Ami Kidder. On March 12th, the
12 extended public comment period for the Air Operating
13 Permit was closed. In total, EFSEC received one comment
14 from a member of the public. The content of the comment
15 was outside of the scope of permit regulations. EFSEC
16 Staff in coordination with our ORCAA permit contractor
17 have drafted a comment and response to that effect.

18 On March 16th, the draft permit, technical
19 support document, and the response to comment were all
20 submitted to the Region 10 EPA representative to begin
21 their 45-day review. Following the EPA review, if there
22 are no issues, the next step is to bring the permit to
23 the Council for final issuance. Are there any
24 questions?

25 CHAIR DREW: Any questions from

1 Councilmembers?

2 Okay. Hearing none, thank you for that.

3 We will now move on to Ms. Ramos, WNP-1/4
4 and Columbia Generating Station.

5 MS. RAMOS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew and
6 Councilmembers. This is Mary Ramos reporting for Energy
7 Northwest. Similar to other reports, Energy Northwest
8 is also limiting unnecessary visits to our facilities.
9 We're limiting business travel and continuing to develop
10 staffing plans and telecommuting options in response to
11 Covid-19. There's no other updates to report for
12 Columbia Generating Station or WNP-1/4.

13 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

14 Any questions from Councilmembers?

15 Okay. Next on our agenda, Desert Claim
16 project update -- update, Ms. Moon.

17 MS. MOON: Thank you, Council Chair Drew,
18 and good afternoon, Councilmembers. This is Amy Moon
19 with EFSEC. I am providing an update for the Desert
20 Claim project. EFSEC Staff continues to coordinate with
21 Desert Claim; however, at this time, there are no
22 project updates.

23 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

24 Columbia Solar Project, Ms. Kidder?

25 MS. KIDDER: Thank you. Again, for the

1 record, this is Ami Kidder. EFSEC Staff are continuing
2 to work with the certificate holder to prepare for
3 preconstruction plan review and related efforts. Are
4 there any questions?

5 CHAIR DREW: Any questions from
6 Councilmembers?

7 Hearing none, I have a couple of items for
8 good of the order, and hearing all those great reports
9 from our facilities, I was wondering if Ms. Bumpus would
10 like to give the status of our EFSEC Staff?

11 MS. BUMPUS: Yes. Thank you, Chair Drew.
12 Good afternoon, Councilmembers. For the record, this is
13 Sonia Bumpus. I just wanted to thank the facilities for
14 getting information to us, our -- the reports and things
15 like that in preparation for the Council meeting and
16 being able to adapt to the -- the teleconference, this
17 being our first teleconference -- fully teleconferenced
18 Council meeting. So appreciate that.

19 So EFSEC Staff are all in telecommuting
20 status. The good news is that we have capabilities to
21 basically do our -- our work and essential functions
22 remotely. We are adapting to that, though. And so I
23 think this week is going to take some time to get
24 everybody fully adjusted to teleworking, but we want our
25 facilities to -- and the public to -- to continue to

1 reach out to us as they would. The general main line is
2 being forwarded to Ms. Aitken, and she can ensure that
3 public and facilities can get to the personnel they need
4 to with EFSEC if they need our support.

5 So we just want everybody to know that we
6 are available and that we're working to ensure that we
7 have continuity of operations and minimize disruptions
8 as much -- much as we can.

9 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

10 The other item that we have in our good of
11 the order is a resolution that all Councilmembers signed
12 commending the services of Ecology Councilmember Cullen
13 Stephenson.

14 And I would just personally like to say for
15 the record, that I will personally miss the great work
16 and partnership for -- that Mr. Stephenson has exhibited
17 over his years since I've been Chair of the Council, and
18 I know he is working, among other duties, before he
19 retires at the end of next month. So we will miss you,
20 and I am going to read into the record the Council
21 resolution.

22 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson faithfully served
23 the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council with great
24 distinction as the Ecology Council representative from
25 May 1, 2013, until January 31, 2020; and,

1 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson accepted his
2 appointment to the Council serving with distinction as
3 Ecology Councilmember; and,

4 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has listened to
5 approximately 822 minutes of public comment, land use,
6 permit comment, 8,075 minutes of adjudicative hearings;
7 and,

8 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has attended 119
9 Council meetings accumulating 4,430 minutes of Council
10 meetings; and,

11 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has been prepared
12 and actively engaged in Council business, even applying
13 pro-tennis maneuvers, such as the "backhand," to
14 facilitate productive Council deliberation
15 discussions -- deliberative discussions, dutifully
16 bringing his ever-trusted water bottle and genuine smile
17 to every Council event he attended; and,

18 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has been ever
19 thoughtful of his responsibility to represent the
20 interests of the citizens of the state of Washington at
21 a time when the Council was faced with siting the
22 largest, most controversial and complex energy proposal
23 in the Council's recent history; and,

24 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson thoughtfully and
25 seriously considered over 319,000 documents, and

1 actively listened during hours of public comment with
2 hundreds of participants, including commenters adorned
3 in chicken attire and comments delivered in-song; and,

4 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson thoughtfully
5 considered information proffered through multiple public
6 meetings and hearings in Lacey, Olympia, Spokane,
7 Vancouver, and Ellensburg, Washington, including holding
8 five weeks of adjudicative hearings in Vancouver and
9 Olympia; and,

10 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has faithfully
11 and respectfully worked with and in support of four
12 Chairs, 24 Councilmembers, six AAGs, and 18 Staff
13 members; and,

14 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has dutifully
15 represented the interests of the citizens of the state
16 of Washington by providing insight into the energy
17 industry and showing sincere concern for the safety and
18 prosperity of Washington's most elusive wildlife species
19 (often of the feathered variety); and,

20 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson has written
21 beautiful songs in short periods of time, personally
22 serenaded his colleagues into retirement, lending his
23 unique humor and comed- -- comedic support to
24 celebrations for retiring Chairs, Councilmembers, and
25 Staff; and,

1 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson provided the
2 thoughtful and technical input needed to assist his
3 fellow Councilmembers and Chair in completing the
4 Vancouver Energy Project recommendation to the governor
5 in December 2017; and,

6 Whereas, Cullen Stephenson provided
7 exemplary service on the Council and meaningfully
8 engaged with EFSEC Staff, fellow Councilmembers, and the
9 Chair to efficiently and expeditiously site EFSEC's
10 first solar energy project application, resulting in a
11 recommendation of approval to the governor in August
12 2018.

13 Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the
14 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council hereby
15 recognizes Cullen Stephenson's outstanding, unwavering,
16 and faithful contribution to the Council's siting and
17 regula- -- regulatory activities and gratefully
18 expresses its sincere gratitude for his commitment,
19 dedication, effort, humor -- humor, and consideration he
20 has shown over the past six years and eight months.

21 Dated this 12th date of March, 2020.

22 And we have that signed below.

23 So thank you to Cullen. We will miss you,
24 and we appreciate all you have done on behalf of EFSEC.

25 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you, Chair Drew and

1 Council. It has been an honor and a privilege to work
2 with you, the EFSEC Staff, and also with our partners of
3 the regulated community. They have been wonderful, and
4 they work with us really well to do the job that we're
5 supposed to do. And it's just been -- it's just been a
6 special privilege to -- to be here. Thank you.

7 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

8 And since there's no other business to come
9 before the Council, our meeting is adjourned. Thank you
10 very much, everyone.

11 (Adjourned at 1:51 p.m.)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

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

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

