WASHINGTON STATE
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
Tuesday, March 20, 2021

Telephonic Monthly Council Meeting
Verbatim Transcript of Proceedings

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CCR, CRR, RDR, FAPR

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Council members:

KATHLEEN DREW, Chair
STACEY BREWSTER, Utilities and Transportation Commission
MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish and Wildlife
KATE KELLY, Department of Commerce
ROB DENGEL, Department of Ecology
LENNY YOUNG, Department of Natural Resources

Local Government and Optional State Agencies:

BILL SAURIOL

Assistant Attorney General:

JON THOMPSON

EFSEC Staff:

AMI KIDDER
SONIA BUMPUS
AMY MOON
PATTY BETTS
KYLE OVERTON

Also in attendance:

JENNIFER GALBRAITH, Puget Sound Energy
CHRIS SHERIN, Grays Harbor Energy
MARY RAMOS, Columbia Generating Station
BILL SHERMAN, Counsel for the Environment
BLAKE BJORNSON, Wenatchee Renewables
DEREK SANDISON, Department of Agriculture
MARK MILLER, Chehalis Generation Facility
MAGGIE DOUGLAS, Association of Washington Cities
TIM MCMAHAN, Stoel Rives
KAREN MCGAFFEY, Perkins Coie
JUDGE TOREM
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

1:31 P.M.

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CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon, everyone.

This is Kathleen Drew, chair of the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, and I'm calling this meeting to order.

This is our first council meeting using the Microsoft Teams, so we think it all will work well, but bear with us should we have any technical issues, which I'm not expecting.

Ms. Kidder, will you call the roll.

MS. KIDDER: Thank you, Chair Drew.

Department of Commerce?

MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, present.

Department of Ecology?

MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, present.

Department of Fish and Wildlife?

MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, present.

Department of Natural Resources?

MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young, present.
MS. KIDDER: Utilities and Transportation Commission?

MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, present.

MS. KIDDER: Local government and optional state agencies for the Goose Prairie project, Bill Sauriol?

MR. SAURIOL: Bill Sauriol, present.

MS. KIDDER: And for the Horse Heaven project, Department of Agriculture?

MR. SANDISON: Derek Sandison, present.

MS. KIDDER: And Benton County?

Assistant Attorney General?

MR. THOMPSON: Jon Thompson.

MS. KIDDER: Council staff. Sonia Bumpus?

MS. BUMPUS: Sonia Bumpus is present.

MS. KIDDER: Amy Moon?

MS. MOON: Amy Moon, present.

MS. KIDDER: Kyle Overton?

MR. OVERTON: Kyle Overton, present.

MS. KIDDER: Patty Betts?

MS. BETTS: Patty Betts, present.

MS. KIDDER: Stew Henderson?

Council for the Environment?

MR. SHERMAN: This is Bill Sherman.
MS. KIDDER: And now I'll -- Chair, there is a quorum for both the Horse Heaven project and the Goose Prairie project, as well as the EFSEC Regular Council.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Would you please call the facilities (inaudible).

MS. KIDDER: Yes. Kittitas Valley, Mr. Melbardis?

Wild Horse Wind Facility, Jennifer Diaz?

MS. GALBRAITH: Yes, Jennifer Diaz, present.

MS. KIDDER: Chehalis Generation Facility, Jeremy Smith.

MR. MILLER: This is Mark Miller, plant manager for the Chehalis Generation Facility, participating today.

MS. KIDDER: Thank you.

Columbia Generating Station and WNP-1/4, Mary Ramos?

MS. RAMOS: Mary Ramos, present.

MS. KIDDER: Chair Drew, that is the representatives for all of our facilities.

CHAIR DREW: I didn't hear Grays Harbor Energy Center.
MS. KIDDER: Oh. I apologize. Grays Harbor Energy Center, Chris Sherin?

MR. SHERIN: This is Chris Sherin, for Grays Harbor Energy Center.

MS. KIDDER: Thank you. I apologize for that, Mr. Sherin.

CHAIR DREW: Is there anyone else on the line who, for the record, would like to introduce themselves, please do so now.

JUDGE TOREM: This is Judge Torem, administrative judge for the -- where are we? In the Tri-City project. The Horse Heaven project.

CHAIR DREW: Horse Heaven.

Thank you, Judge Torem. You should be on our list. We'll remember to do that.

MS. DOUGLAS: This is Maggie Douglas, from Association of Washington Cities.

MR. BJORNSON: This is Blake Bjornson, from Wenatchee Renewables, for the Goose Prairie Solar project.

MR. MCMahan: Tim McMahan here, Stoel Rives law firm, on behalf of Goose Prairie and Horse Heaven.

MS. McGAFFEY: Karen McGaffey, Perkins Coie.
CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

We'll now move into our proposed agenda.

Council members, you have before you the proposed agenda for this meeting. Is there a motion to approve the agenda?

MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel. Motion to approve the agenda.

CHAIR DREW: Second?

MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly --

MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young, second.

CHAIR DREW: I think we'll give it to Lenny. Thank you, Kate.

All those -- any discussion about the agenda?

All those in favor of approving the general -- proposed agenda, please say "Aye."

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR DREW: Opposed?

The agenda is approved.

For the -- next on our agenda is the approval of the monthly meeting minutes for March 16th. You have had them for review. Is there a motion to approve the meeting minutes for March 16th?

MR. LIVINGSTON: This is Mike Livingston. I'll move to approve the minutes from March 16th.
CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Second, Kate Kelly?

MS. KELLY: Second. Kate Kelly.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Any comments?

MS. BREWSTER: Chair Drew, this is Stacey Brewster.

CHAIR DREW: Yes.

MS. BREWSTER: I did notice one minor correction. On Page 15, Line 3, the public meeting was referred to as occurring at 5:00 a.m. It should read 5:00 p.m.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Yes. I don't believe any of us were there at 5:00 a.m.

So any other changes to the minutes? Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the minutes as amended from 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., please say "Aye."

COUNCIL MEMEBERS: Aye.

CHAIR DREW: Opposed?

The meetings are approved.

Moving on to the March 16th Goose Prairie special meeting minutes, is there a motion to approve those minutes?

MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey Brewster.
I'll move to approve the meeting minutes from the Goose Prairie meeting.

MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel. Second the motion.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Are there any amendments or changes to those Goose Prairie special meeting minutes?

Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the March 16th Goose Prairie special meeting minutes, please say "Aye."

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR DREW: Opposed?

The meeting minutes are approved.

We'll now move on to our operational updates. Kittitas Valley Wind project.

MR. OVERTON: This is Kyle Overton, site specialist for the Kittitas Valley project.

For the month of March, Kittitas Valley has no nonroutine items to report.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Moving on to the Wild Horse Wind Power project. Ms. Diaz?

MS. GALBRAITH: Yes. Thank you, Chair Drew.

For the record, this is Jennifer
Galbraith, formerly Diaz, with Puget Sound Energy, for
the Wild Horse Wind Facility.

I have no nonroutine updates for the
month of March other than that my last name has
changed from Diaz to Galbraith.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you. We'll make note
of it.

MS. GALBRAITH: Thanks.

CHAIR DREW: Appreciate it.

Chehalis Generation Facility.

MR. MILLER: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,
EFSEC Council, and staff. This is Mark Miller, the
plant manager, representing the Chehalis Generation
Facility.

I have one nonroutine note in the
submitted report from the month of March. We received
a letter -- deviation closeout letter from EFSEC staff
determining that no further action was required
regarding the December 2020 emissions deviation
related to a failed generator breaker.

And that's all I have.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Grays Harbor Energy Center. Mr. Sherin?

MR. SHERIN: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,
Council members. This is Chris Sherin, the plant
For the month of March, the only nonroutine items to report is we did send EFSEC staff a notification of physical operational change for installation of AGB on both units, and just also noted that we're in the process of updating our CO2 mitigation plan annual payments. And it says in my notes I sent in for PSD No. 5. That should actually be per the site certification agreement. Correction.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

And do you have a date on when the advance gas plant work is going to be completed or started, I guess?

MR. SHERIN: Yes, we actually -- it will be reported in next month's operational notes, but we actually -- yesterday I sent letter of notification of construction -- physical or operational change --

Excuse me. I'm looking at the wrong one.

We sent the notification of commencement construction and PSD prior notice of start-up yesterday. So we started our spring outage on the 15th, Thursday. Last week. And we're still estimating approximately 31st of May operation.

CHAIR DREW: Great. Thank you for the update.
MR. SHERIN: You're welcome.

CHAIR DREW: Columbia Generating Station.

Ms. Ramos?

MS. RAMOS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, outside Council members and staff. This is Mary Ramos reporting for Energy Northwest.

For the month of March, Energy Northwest reviewed and provided comments on a state waste discharge notice of temporary permit for Columbia Generating Station, and we're scheduled to meet with Ecology and EFSEC staff to discuss our comments this week.

No other updates for the month of March.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Desert Claim, project update?

MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Council, Chair Drew, and Council members. For the record, this is Amy Moon, providing an update on the Desert Claim project.

EFSEC staff continued to coordinate with Desert Claim; however, currently there are no other project updates.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Columbia Solar project update?

Mr. Overton.
MR. OVERTON: Yes, thank you. This is Kyle Overton, the EFSEC site specialist for Columbia Solar.

The -- no real major updates. EFSEC staff continue to coordinate with the facility and our contractors on the preconstruction plan review in anticipation for the beginning construction shortly.

Are there any questions?

CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions for Mr. Overton?

Okay. Thank you.

Goose Prairie Solar project.

Mr. Overton.

MR. OVERTON: Thank you. This is Kyle Overton, the site specialist for the Goose Prairie project.

For the update this month, the staff continue to coordinate with the applicant and our contractors on the review of their application materials. An initial data request was sent to the applicant at the end of March seeking additional information regarding the project proposal.

We are continuing to work with -- work through the SEPA process and are working closely with the applicant, WFW, and Ecology in preparation of
developing a SEPA threshold determination and
associated staff memo for review by the SEPA official.

Also, on May 4th a site visit has been
scheduled in coordination with the Department of
Ecology to conduct on-site wetlands review.

A SEPA determination is needed prior to
making a decision regarding the applicant's request
for expedited processing. WAC 463-43-050 requires a
decision on expedited processing 120 days after
receipt of a request or such later time as is mutually
agreed by the applicant and the Council.

EFSEC received the request for expedited
processing on January 21st, making May 21st the
120-day mark. While we have made and continue to make
significant progress in the SEPA process, there may
still be a need for further review. This would be to
ensure a thorough SEPA review is completed and all
aspects of the project have been addressed.

In order to accommodate this further
review and the planned site visit in May, a SEPA
threshold determination may not be feasible prior to
the May 21st deadline date.

Prior to the expiration of the date,
during the May Council meeting, EFSEC staff may
propose to the Council a new decision date for the
expedited processing application.

Are there any questions?

CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions from Council members?

Thank you --

MR. OVERTON: Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: -- for the very thorough update.

Horse Heaven Wind Farm. Ms. Moon.

MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Council, Chairman Drew, and Council members. For the record, this is Amy Moon, providing an update on the Horse Heaven Wind project.

EFSEC staff continue to process the Horse Heaven Wind project application for site certification -- the acronym is ASC -- that was received in February. The project proponent, Scout Clean Energy, submitted a letter on March 29th, 2021, withdrawing their request for an expedited process.

EFSEC plans to issue a State Environmental Policy Act determination -- the acronym for that is SEPA -- SEPA determination of significance and request for comments on the scope of an environmental impact statement that is otherwise known as an EIS. The scoping process will identify the
topics for detailed analysis to evaluate potential significant impacts because of the proposed project.

Benton County appointed Ed Brost to the EFSEC Council for the Horse Heaven Wind project on March 16th, 2021. A public informational meeting and land use hearing were held virtually within 60 days of the application receipt on March 30th, 2021, as required by WAC 463-43-040. Oral and written comments were accepted at the informational meeting. Benton County and the project applicant presented testimony at the land use hearing.

Comment letters received from Washington state agencies have been posted to the EFSEC public project website. Comments received from the public have also been posted to the project website.

Does the Council have any questions?

CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions for Ms. Moon?

JUDGE TOREM: Amy Moon, this is Judge Torem. Do you know when we expect a transcript of those hearings to be posted on the website?

MS. MOON: Ami Kidder may be able to answer that. I have not been updated on that expectation.

MS. KIDDER: I have not yet -- and I have
not -- Judge Torem, I have not yet seen the draft, and so what will happen is the draft will come to Council members, and we will review that probably before our next meeting, and I would think that you would get them at that time as a draft.

Ms. Bumpus?

MS. BUMPUS: That's correct, Chair Drew.

MS. KIDDER: If I can jump in here for the record. This is Ami Kidder. Typically we receive drafts within about 30 days.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Ms. Kidder.

Okay. Any other questions?

Okay. That concludes our project updates.

We now move on to the fourth quarter cost allocation. Ms. Bumpus.

MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair Drew. For the record, this is Sonia Bumpus. Good afternoon, Council, Chair Drew and Council members.

As we do at the end of each quarter, we have a updated -- a nondirect cost allocation. I'm going to go through the allocation percentages for fourth quarter fiscal year 2021. This covers April 1, 2021, to June 30, 2021.

For the Kittitas Valley project, seven
percent; Wild Horse, seven percent; Columbia Generating Station, 24 percent; Columbia Solar, nine percent; WNP-1, three percent; Whistling Ridge, three percent; Grays Harbor 1 and 2, 10 percent; Chehalis 12 percent; Desert Claim Wind Power project, five percent; Goose Prairie Solar, 10 percent; and Horse Heaven Wind Farm, 10 percent.

And that concludes my updates on the fourth quarter cost allocation.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

We've completed our agenda, and since there is no more business to come before the Councils today, we will make sure and provide you any updates between meetings. On any SEPA determination that may be made, as you heard, it may certainly occur in terms of starting the scoping session before our next meeting, but that will be determined by the EFSEC manager, and so you will receive notification, certainly, when that happens.

And other than that, our meeting for today is adjourned. Thank you very much.

(The proceedings were concluded at 1:52 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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