



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 30, 2022

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EFSEC to Become an Independent State Agency

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) will become an independent state agency on June 30, 2022. The 2022 Washington State Legislature passed E2SHB 1812 to authorize the change as an important step to achieve Governor Inslee's carbon neutral goals by 2045. This landmark legislation also ensures greater public transparency on planned energy production sites through public comment periods and forums. It also provides for a greater level of engagement for Federally recognized Tribes, local governments, and overburdened communities.

The current legislation also promotes a streamlined application review by adding a preapplication process to boost the completeness of submitted applications. In addition, it allows the Council to review applications for new project types such as green hydrogen, clean energy product manufacturing facilities, and storage facilities. This legislation, which becomes law on June 30, 2022, also includes methods for increased protection of cultural resources and environmental justice.

Sonia Bumpus has been appointed as the first EFSEC agency director to oversee operations and perform the administrative work of the Council. She will assume this position on June 30, 2022. Kathleen Drew will continue as the Council Chair.

The Council body consists of a governor-appointed Chair and State agency representatives from the Department of Commerce, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources (Commissioner of Public Lands), Utilities and Transportation Commission. Optional membership is extended to local governments, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and the Military Department on a project-by-project basis.

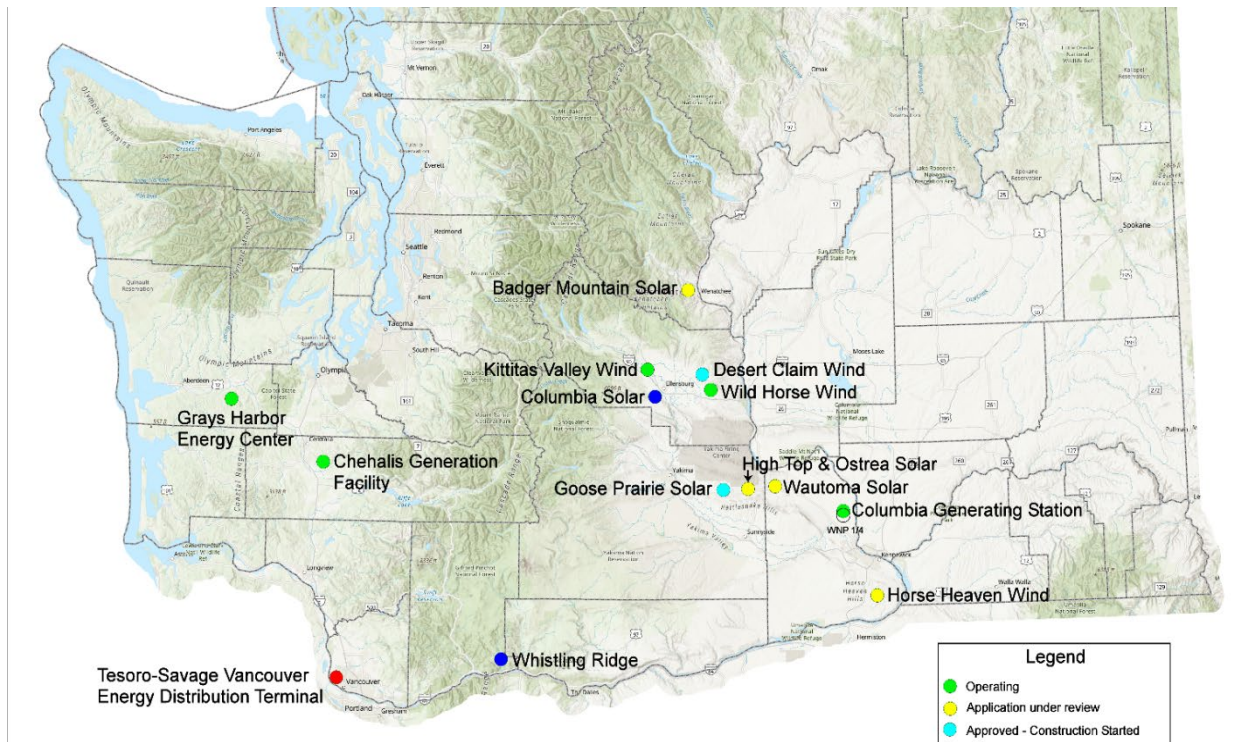
We encourage you to visit our website at www.efsec.wa.gov to learn more about the Washington EFSEC Agency and plans for implementation.

BACKGROUND:

In 1970 the Washington State Legislature created the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) as a “one stop” permitting entity at the time when critical and potentially imminent energy shortages were occurring on a statewide scale. State lawmakers recognized the need for increased numbers of energy facilities. However, the selection of sites for new, large energy facilities would potentially have a significant impact upon the welfare of the population, the location and growth of the industry, and the use of the natural resources of the state. Location and operation of greater numbers of energy facilities also required policy and procedural guidance to produce minimal adverse effects on the environment, and on the ecology of the land and state waters. The EFSEC was created to bring together multiple state agencies in one body to review and make recommendations to the Governor on proposed energy generating facility sites located within our state.

CURRENTLY

Below is a map of all current and proposed energy production sites under EFSEC’s jurisdiction.



If you have additional questions, please submit them to Cynthia Smith, Interim Media Liaison at efsec@efsec.wa.gov.