

# Verbatim Transcript of Monthly Council Meeting

## Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

February 15, 2022



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WASHINGTON STATE  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2022  
1:30 P.M.

Virtual Council Meeting  
Verbatim Transcript of Proceedings

DATE TAKEN: FEBRUARY 15, 2022

REPORTED BY: CARISA KITSELMAN, RPR, CCR 2018

A P P E A R A N C E S

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Councilmembers:  
KATHLEEN DREW, Chair  
ELI LEVITT, Department of Ecology  
KATE KELLY, Department of Commerce  
STACEY BREWSTER, Utilities and Transportation Commission  
MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish & Wildlife

Local Government and Optional State Agencies:  
BRIAN MALLEY  
ED BROST, Benton County

Assistant Attorney General:  
JON THOMPSON  
Administrative Law Judge:  
ADAM TOREM

Council Staff:  
SONIA BUMPUS  
AMI HAFKEMEYER  
AMY MOON  
JOE WOOD  
SEAN CHISHOLM  
LINDSAY REMFREY  
STEW HENDERSON  
ANDREA GRANTHAM  
JOAN OWENS  
KYLE OVERTON  
ERIC MELBARDIS, Kittitas Valley Wind  
JENNIFER GALBRAITH, Wild Horse Wind Power Project  
CHRIS SHERIN, Grays Harbor Energy Center  
STEFANO SCHNITGER and STACY LaClair, Chehalis Generation  
Facility  
MARY RAMOS, Columbia Generating Station  
OWEN HURD, TUUSSO Energy  
BILL SHERMAN, Counsel for The Environment  
MEGAN SALLOMI, Counsel for The Environment  
JORDYN GIULIO, Douglas County

1 February 15, 2022

2 1:30 P.M.

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P R O C E E D I N G

5

6 CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon. This is Kathleen  
7 Drew, chair of the Washington State Energy Facility Site  
8 Evaluation Council. Calling our February meeting to  
9 order.

10 Ms. Galbraith, will you -- sorry.

11 Ms. Grantham, will you please call the roll?

12 MS. GRANTHAM: Yes. No problem.

13 Department of Commerce?

14 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, present.

15 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Ecology?

16 Department of Fish & Wildlife?

17 MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, present.

18 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Natural

19 Resources?

20 CHAIR DREW: Excused.

21 MS. GRANTHAM: Utilities and Transport --

22 excuse me.

23 Utilities and Transportation Commission?

24 MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, present.

25 MS. GRANTHAM: Local government and optional

1 state agencies for the Horse Heaven Project, Department  
2 of Agriculture?

3 CHAIR DREW: Excused.

4 MS. GRANTHAM: Benton County?

5 MR. BROST: Ed Brost is here.

6 MS. GRANTHAM: For the Badger --

7 MR. MALLEY: Brian Malley is here.

8 MS. GRANTHAM: Oh. Thank you.

9 For the Badger Mountain Project, Douglas County?

10 MS. GIULIO: Jordyn Giulio, present.

11 MS. GRANTHAM: The assistant attorney general?

12 MR. THOMPSON: Jon Thompson, present.

13 MS. GRANTHAM: Administrative Law Judges,  
14 Johnette Sullivan?

15 Adam Torem?

16 JUDGE TOREM: This is Judge Torem, present.

17 MS. GRANTHAM: Laura Bradley?

18 For EFSEC Council Staff, Sonia Bumpus?

19 Ami Hafkemeyer?

20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Ami Hafkemeyer, present.

21 MS. GRANTHAM: Amy Moon?

22 MS. MOON: Amy Moon, present.

23 MS. GRANTHAM: Kyle Overton?

24 MR. OVERTON: Kyle Overton here.

25 MS. GRANTHAM: Joe Wood?

1 MR. WOOD: Joe Wood, present.

2 MS. GRANTHAM: Sean Chisholm?

3 MR. CHISHOLM: Sean Chisholm, present.

4 MS. GRANTHAM: Patty Betts.

5 Lindsay Hemfrey [sic]?

6 MS. REMFREY: Lindsay Remfrey, present.

7 MS. GRANTHAM: Sorry. Stew Henderson?

8 MR. HENDERSON: Stewart Henderson, present.

9 MS. GRANTHAM: Joan Owens?

10 MS. OWENS: Joan Owens, present.

11 MS. GRANTHAM: And is our court reporter on  
12 the line?

13 THE REPORTER: Carisa Kitselman, present.

14 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.

15 For the operational updates, Kittitas Valley  
16 Wind Project?

17 MR. MELBARDIS: Eric Melbardis, present.

18 MS. GRANTHAM: Wild Horse Wind Power Project?

19 MS. GALBRAITH: Jennifer Galbraith, present.

20 MS. GRANTHAM: Grays Harbor Energy Center?

21 MR. SHERIN: Chris Sherin is present for Grays  
22 Harbor.

23 MS. GRANTHAM: Chehalis Generation Facility?

24 MR. SCHNITGER: Stefano Schnitger and Stacy  
25 LaClair present for Chehalis.

1 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Generating Station?

2 MS. RAMOS: Mary Ramos, present.

3 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Solar?

4 MR. HURD: Owen Hurd, present.

5 MS. GRANTHAM: For the counsel for the  
6 Environment, Bill Sherman?

7 MR. SHERMAN: Present.

8 MS. GRANTHAM: And Megan Sallomi?

9 MS. SALLOMI: Present.

10 MS. GRANTHAM: Chair, there is a quorum for  
11 the regular council and for the Horse Heaven and Badger  
12 Mountain -- Badger Mountain Council.

13 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

14 And in the chat, Eli Levitt from Ecology is  
15 present as well. Thank you.

16 Moving on to the proposed agenda. You see it  
17 before you. Is there a motion to adopt the proposed  
18 agenda?

19 MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey Brewster. I'll  
20 move we adopt the proposed agenda.

21 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Second?

22 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, second.

23 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. All those in favor,  
24 please say "aye."

25 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

1 CHAIR DREW: Opposed?

2 The agenda is adopted.

3 Moving on to the meeting minutes. We only have  
4 one set of minutes from this month. It's January 18th,  
5 regular meeting minutes.

6 Is there a motion to approve the minutes from  
7 January 18th?

8 MR. LIVINGSTON: It's Mike Livingston. I'll  
9 move to approve the meeting minutes from January 18th.

10 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And second?

11 MR. LEVITT: Eli Levitt --

12 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly --

13 CHAIR DREW: Go ahead, Eli.

14 MR. LEVITT: I'll second.

15 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

16 I do have a couple of corrections for the  
17 minutes. On page 26, line 13, the word "determined"  
18 should be "determine," no D on the end.

19 On page 29, line 20, the word weather,  
20 w-e-a-t-h-e-r, should be whether, w-h-e-t-h-e-r.

21 And on page 31, line 10, citing, c-i-t-i-n-g  
22 should be siting, s-i-t-i-n-g.

23 Anyone else have any corrections from the  
24 January 18th meeting minutes?

25 Hearing none. All those in favor of approving



1 the minutes as amended, please say "aye."

2 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

3 CHAIR DREW: Opposed?

4 Minutes as amended are approved. Thank you.

5 Moving on now to our operational updates, our  
6 projects.

7 Kittitas Valley Wind Project, Mr. Melbardis?

8 MR. MELBARDIS: Good afternoon, Chair, EFSEC  
9 Staff. This is Eric Melbardis with EDP Renewables for  
10 the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

11 We had nothing nonroutine to report during the  
12 period.

13 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

14 Wild Horse Wind Power Project, Ms. Galbraith?

15 MS. GALBRAITH: Yes. Thank you, Chair Drew,  
16 Councilmembers, and Staff. This is Jennifer Galbraith  
17 with Puget Sound Energy for the Wild Horse Wind Facility.

18 I have no nonroutine updates for the month of  
19 January.

20 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

21 Chehalis Generation Facility, Mr. Schnitger?

22 MR. SCHNITGER: Good afternoon, everyone.

23 This is Stefano Schnitger, the operations manager for the  
24 Chehalis Generation Facility.

25 Nothing new to report on environmental

1 compliance. No issues or updates.

2 Safety, plant is with zero injuries for the  
3 reporting period. We're at a total of 2,376 days without  
4 a loss time accident.

5 Nothing to report for any current or upcoming  
6 projects.

7 We do have a personnel change that occurred in  
8 January. Mark Miller, the plant manager, retired on  
9 January 21st.

10 And that is all I have to report.

11 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

12 Moving on to Grays Harbor Energy, Mr. Sherin?

13 MR. SHERIN: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,  
14 Councilmembers, and EFSEC Staff.

15 The month of January, Grays Harbor Energy Center  
16 does have a couple nonroutine items to report.

17 January 28th, Grays Harbor Energy Center, we  
18 received and submitted our winter source compliance  
19 testing results. All the emissions were analyzed to be  
20 within the permitted limits. However, we requested to  
21 EFSEC that the results of the sulfuric acid be invalid  
22 and also retest it based on the reasoning that -- the  
23 measured values for the sulfuric acid and the resulting  
24 sulfuric acid SO2 ratios, or sulfur dioxide ratios, are  
25 higher than what we had expected based on OEM literature

1 and past experience.

2 Retesting will allow us to establish a new  
3 sulfuric acid to sulfur dioxide ratio for each unit.

4 And we also requested to continue using the --  
5 the existing sulfuric acid and sulfur dioxide ratios from  
6 2016's stack testing, compliance stack testing. Until  
7 additional tests can be completed. Then we did complete  
8 that retesting for both the sulfur dioxide and the  
9 sulfuric acid compliance tests last week.

10 Compliance with the Grays Harbor Energy  
11 Center's, PSD, and they're operating permit is dependent  
12 upon unit-specific rations of sulfuric acid to SO2 -- or  
13 sulfuric acid to sulfur dioxide.

14 Based on the past test results and OEM  
15 literature, we expect a ratio to be less than one.  
16 However, the results in source test reported to equate to  
17 ratios of 33.3 for unit -- gas turbine one, or unit one.  
18 And 10.7 for gas turbine two, or unit two.

19 Using these ratios to calculate the compliance  
20 with the 2.17 pounds of sulfuric acid per hour rolling  
21 annual average limit results in gas turbine one exceeding  
22 the limit by over 100 pounds of sulfuric acid per hour.  
23 And for gas turbine two exceeding the limit by over  
24 30 pounds of sulfuric acid per hour, based on recent  
25 operations data.

1           So, ultimately, the short answer is we don't  
2 believe our test results are accurate and requested to  
3 retest.

4           Also on January 13th, Grays Harbor Energy Center  
5 submitted follow-up correspondence regarding the high CO  
6 emissions during past startups reported in November. We  
7 believe we've identified the root cause of this issue and  
8 have a solution. The solution is modifying our operating  
9 procedures to achieve higher CO catalyst temperature  
10 earlier in the startup and increasing our initial load  
11 hold. The combination will increase combustion  
12 temperature, which will result in a more complete  
13 combustion of natural gas and decrease the amount of time  
14 before the CO catalyst is heated to an ideal performance  
15 temperature for reducing CO emissions.

16           We're currently in the process of verifying  
17 these changes will be effective to mitigate the high CO  
18 under all operating conditions during startups.

19           And that is all I have unless there's any  
20 questions, Chair Drew.

21           UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair Drew, I believe  
22 you are muted.

23           CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

24           Are there questions for Mr. Sherin?

25           So you said you completed the tests, but do you

1 have the results yet from those completed? When do you  
2 expect to have the results?

3 MR. SHERIN: If I remember right, we have  
4 30 days for -- to get the results back and to EFSEC. So  
5 we're waiting on the results from the testing company.

6 CHAIR DREW: And are the two related, what you  
7 found in terms of looking at how you -- you activate the  
8 startup is related to -- or you also said that your --  
9 you don't believe that the test results were accurate.

10 MR. SHERIN: That would be my simplistic  
11 answer is, correct, we do not believe the test results  
12 were accurate. We --

13 CHAIR DREW: Okay.

14 MR. SHERIN: To be blunt, I question --  
15 question our original testing process.

16 CHAIR DREW: Okay. So we'll know by next  
17 month whether or not those are accurate.

18 And, in addition, you have a procedure to more  
19 completely combust on startup; is that correct?

20 MR. SHERIN: Yes. We're -- yes. We're --  
21 essentially, we need to go through a few more iterations,  
22 startups under different conditions to verify what  
23 we're -- our belief. So far every startup we've  
24 conducted since modifying our startup procedure has  
25 proven successful.

1 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Well, we look forward to  
2 additional information.

3 Was there something else you wanted to say?

4 MR. SHERIN: No. And I believe you started to  
5 ask if the two are related. And, no, they're not.

6 CHAIR DREW: Okay. I did start to ask that.  
7 Thank you. Two separate. Okay. I appreciate that.

8 Any other questions from Councilmembers?

9 Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sherin.

10 Moving on to Columbia Generating Station and  
11 Washington Nuclear Project 1 and 4.

12 I believe I heard Mary Ramos was on for this  
13 report.

14 MS. RAMOS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew, EFSEC  
15 Council, and Staff. This is Mary Ramos reporting for  
16 Energy Northwest.

17 For the month of January, I have two items to  
18 report.

19 The first, Energy Northwest is continuing to  
20 address comments that we received from EFSEC and Ecology  
21 regarding the annual Columbia Generating Station Air  
22 Emissions Source Registration.

23 Energy Northwest has requested an extension for  
24 the submittal of the registration. Earlier this month we  
25 met with Ecology and discussed our progress on the

1 report. And at the meeting, Ecology stated that Energy  
2 Northwest's progress and ongoing discussions with Ecology  
3 would be sufficient to demonstrate good faith compliance  
4 efforts by Energy Northwest.

5 The second item I have to report is regarding an  
6 amendment that we're working on on the diesel generator  
7 run time report, which is to update information for the  
8 last reporting period. The report is required under  
9 EFSEC Order 873.

10 Energy Northwest recently discovered that the  
11 run time meter for a diesel generator three at Columbia  
12 Generating Station was malfunctioning. And we have  
13 replaced that run time meter. The new run time meter is  
14 working as intended, and Energy Northwest is continuing  
15 to monitor its function.

16 That's all I have to report for both Columbia  
17 Generating Station and WNP-1/4.

18 Are there any questions for me?

19 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

20 Councilmembers, are there any questions?

21 Okay. Hearing none, thank you for your report.

22 Moving on to Columbia Solar. Mr. --

23 MR. HURD: Good afternoon, Chair Drew.

24 CHAIR DREW: -- Hurd. Go ahead.

25 MR. HURD: Hi. Good afternoon, Chair Drew,

1 Councilmembers, and EFSEC Staff. This is Owen Hurd from  
2 TUUSSO Energy reporting on the Columbia Solar Project.

3 On Penstemon, we're working through final  
4 testing procedures prior to substantial completion. And  
5 PSE is working through some final communication issues on  
6 the interconnection.

7 On Camas, most of the remaining modules have  
8 been delivered. We're still waiting on one container.  
9 But this was -- these are the containers that we've been  
10 waiting on for a while.

11 Module installation has resumed this week. And  
12 we're shooting for mechanical completion some time in  
13 March.

14 On Urtica, the remaining modules will be  
15 delivered in late February. We're still working on pile  
16 remediation. And mechanical completion is pushed out to  
17 probably late April.

18 Environmental compliance, Golder, and Northwest  
19 code inspections are ongoing. No change there.

20 And we're working through specific plant mixes  
21 for the mitigation areas. And we have our first TAC  
22 meeting scheduled this Friday.

23 CHAIR DREW: Great.

24 Are there any questions for Mr. Hurd?

25 Thank you.



1 Desert Claim Wind Power Project, Ms. Moon?

2 MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Council, Chair  
3 Drew, and members of the Council.

4 For the record, once again, this is Amy Moon  
5 providing the Desert Claim update.

6 EFSEC Staff continued to coordinate with Desert  
7 Claim. However, currently there are no project updates.

8 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

9 And, Ms. Moon, update for Horse Heaven Wind  
10 Farm?

11 MS. MOON: So good afternoon, Chair Drew, and  
12 Councilmembers.

13 Again, this is Amy Moon providing the update for  
14 the Horse Heaven Wind Project.

15 In January, EFSEC Staff continued to work on the  
16 preparation of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
17 or DEIS. The work has included the review of our  
18 contractor Golder's work on drafting the DEIS, as well as  
19 coordinating chapter reviews with Washington state  
20 agencies, such as the Department of Fish & Wildlife,  
21 Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Natural  
22 Resources.

23 EFSEC Staff has continued work on wildlife and  
24 habitat mitigation in coordination with the Washington  
25 Department of Fish & Wildlife and the Horse Heaven

1 applicant.

2 Habitat and wildlife mitigation discussions have  
3 included impact analysis, as well as opportunities for  
4 impact avoidance and minimization of impacts that are  
5 supporting the application -- or supporting the  
6 applicant, excuse me there -- in development of an  
7 updated mitigation plan.

8 EFSEC received responses to some recent data  
9 requests from the applicant regarding water resources and  
10 transportation. The information received from the data  
11 request is being used to inform the DEIS preparation.

12 Additional noise baseline measurements near  
13 residential areas have been scheduled for mid-February,  
14 and that's part of a data request.

15 Does the Council have any questions?

16 CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions from  
17 Councilmembers?

18 Okay. Thank you, Ms. Moon.

19 Our next update is for Goose Prairie Solar,  
20 Mr. Overton?

21 MR. OVERTON: Yes. Thank you.

22 This is Kyle Overton, the EFSEC site specialist  
23 for the Goose Prairie Project.

24 No real major updates. Staff continued to  
25 coordinate with the certificate holder on preparing for

1 construction and reviewing some early preconstruction  
2 submittals. Ami Hafkemeyer does have an update directly  
3 after me regarding an ~~SEA~~<sup>SCA</sup> transfer that's being proposed  
4 currently.

5 Are there any questions?

6 CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions?

7 Thank you.

8 Ms. Hafkemeyer?

9 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you. Good afternoon,  
10 Chair Drew, and Council.

11 For the record, my name is Ami Hafkemeyer. And  
12 I wanted to alert the Council that the certificate holder  
13 for Goose Prairie has approached EFSEC with regards to an  
14 ~~SEA~~<sup>SCA</sup> transfer. We have met with the certificate holder to  
15 talk about what that request should look like and what  
16 that process would entail. And the certificate holder is  
17 working on preparing that. We would anticipate seeing a  
18 request to do an ~~SEA~~<sup>SCA</sup> transfer to a new project owner  
19 sometime in the coming months.

20 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And that's the  
21 transfer of ownership which is an amendment process and  
22 then has all the steps associated with that including the  
23 public meet -- public comment meeting as well, correct?

24 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Correct.

25 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Okay. We look

1 forward to an update on that.

2 Badger Mountain, Sean Chisholm. Mr. Chisholm?

3 MR. CHISHOLM: Thank you. Good afternoon  
4 Chair Drew -- Council, Chair Drew, and Councilmembers,  
5 and EFSEC Staff.

6 For the record, this is Shawn Chisholm providing  
7 an update on Badger Mountain Solar Energy Project.

8 EFSEC -- EFSEC Staff continues to work on the  
9 project with the project proponent Avangrid Renewable to  
10 process the Badger Mountain Solar Energy Project  
11 application for site certification, or ASC. That was  
12 received October 7th of 2021.

13 EFSEC Staff continues working with the -- with a  
14 contractor and state agencies reviewing the ASC.

15 Today, February 15th, EFSEC Staff received a  
16 letter from the applicant agreeing to proceed with the --  
17 with a declaration of significance, or DS. And the  
18 preparation of an environmental impact statement, or EIS.

19 EFSEC Staff will now proceed with the next  
20 steps, which is to issue the determination and -- and  
21 scoping and the associated public comment period.

22 Staff anticipates that this will happen within  
23 the next few weeks.

24 Staff also coordinate -- are also coordinating  
25 with the administrative law judge, Judge Bradley, on

1 drafting an order setting land use consistency for  
2 adjudication as directed by the Council at the  
3 January 18th Council meeting. That will be available for  
4 the Council review at the March 15th Council meeting.

5 We're continuing to reach out to Fish &  
6 Wildlife, or WDFW, Department of Natural Resources, or  
7 DNR, Colville Confederated tribes, Spokane tribes, and  
8 Yakima Nation for the interest dealing with this project.

9 Does the Council have any questions so far?

10 CHAIR DREW: Are there questions from  
11 Councilmembers?

12 No questions. Thank you.

13 So if that concludes our reports for today, then  
14 we have nothing further. And our meeting is adjourned.  
15 Thank you all.

16 (Hearing adjourned at  
17 1:54 p.m.)  
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25

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF KITSAP

I, Carisa Kitselman, a Certified Court Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript on FEBRUARY 15, 2022, is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28th day of February, 2022.



CARISA KITSELMAN, RPR, CCR #2018



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