



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

March 31, 2025

Dear Interested Party:

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) is **pleased to announce the release of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for electrical transmission facilities** with a nominal voltage of 230 kilovolts (kV) or greater. This Programmatic EIS was prepared in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) under Chapter 43.21C.405 of the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Chapters 197-11 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).

**EFSEC invites public review and comment** on the Draft Programmatic EIS. A 30-day public comment period begins on March 31, 2025, ending on April 30, 2025, at 5:00 pm PDT.

EFSEC will hold a **public informational meeting on April 8, 2025**, featuring a presentation of the Draft Programmatic EIS materials. This meeting will provide an overview of the proposal, outline key findings, and offer an opportunity for the public to ask questions and learn more about the proposal before submitting formal comments. No comments will be taken at the public informational meeting, but **two public comment hearings will be held on April 22 and April 24, 2025**, during which comments will be taken. Furthermore, written comments can be submitted via the mail or online throughout April.

We welcome comments that are as specific as possible addressing the adequacy of the Programmatic EIS, impacts, methodologies, and identified mitigation measures. Following the public comment period, all comments received will be reviewed and considered in the preparation of the Final Programmatic EIS. The final document will include written responses to comments received.

**PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMMATIC EIS:** Assessing the potential environmental impacts of high-voltage transmission facilities is the primary focus of this Programmatic EIS. It evaluates the construction, operation, maintenance, and modification of these facilities across Washington state. The Draft Programmatic EIS also identifies avoidance, minimization, and other mitigation measures to address probable significant adverse environmental impacts, as directed by the Washington State Legislature. It would serve as the first phase of SEPA-phased review for future high-voltage transmission facilities [WAC 197-11-060(5)]. Additional SEPA review would be required for any project-specific application.

**HOW THE PROGRAMMATIC EIS WILL BE USED:** The use of this Programmatic EIS for specific projects is unique. RCW 43.21C.408 mandates that a SEPA lead agency for a transmission facility covered by this Programmatic EIS must consider this document in its environmental review. Furthermore, when the recommendations (mitigation measures) identified in this Programmatic EIS are implemented for site-specific proposals, those proposals “are considered to have mitigated the probable significant adverse project-specific environmental impacts under this chapter for which recommendations were specifically developed.”

## DETAILS ABOUT HOW TO COMMENT AND PARTICIPATE IN THE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public Informational Meeting:

- Tuesday, **April 8, 2025**, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT
- Microsoft Teams: <https://bit.ly/TransmissionPEIS-InfoMtg>
- Phone: +1 (253) 372-2181
- Conference 365 313 874#

Comments may be submitted through the following methods:

- **Online:** <https://comments.efsec.wa.gov/>
- **By mail:** P.O. Box 43172 Olympia, WA 98503-3172
- **In-Person:** During the open virtual public comment hearings:

Tuesday, **April 22, 2025**, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT

- Microsoft Teams: <https://bit.ly/TransmissionPEIS-PubCmt1>
- Phone: +1 (253) 372-2181
- Conference ID: 642 414 255#

Thursday, **April 24, 2025**, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm PDT

- Microsoft Teams: <https://bit.ly/TransmissionPEIS-PubCmt2>
- Phone: +1 (253) 372-2181
- Conference ID: 251 028 216#

For further details on the Draft Programmatic EIS and how to access it, please refer to the following information sources.

### Information:

Draft Programmatic EIS

- Available on EFSEC's project website
- Library locations for public review

### Contact:

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/transmission-programmatic-eis>

Questions about:

- Public meetings/hearings
- Accessing this Draft Programmatic EIS
- Requesting a copy of the Draft Programmatic EIS
  - Printed or digital copies will be provided at the cost of production

Phone: (360)-664-1345

Email: [efsec@efsec.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@efsec.wa.gov)

Questions about the Draft Programmatic EIS

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Your valuable input will enable EFSEC to produce a more complete and accurate Programmatic EIS.

Sincerely,



Sonia E. Bumpus  
EFSEC Executive Director