

From: [Mike Lauman](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 5:28:22 PM

Public Comment #0251
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sirs,

I am a 44 year resident of the Tri Cities. I am retired but never worked in a capacity that had anything at all to do with the production of electricity. This Horse Heaven Wind Project bothers me and I want to go on record with my opposition.

We already have a huge amount of power from our hydroelectric dams and the Columbia Generating Station as well as the Nine Canyon Wind Farm. It is my understanding that if this Horse Heaven project goes through, BPA will be forced to buy their power even though we may at that time have a surplus of power from the sources we already have. Not only will BPA be forced to buy it but will have to pay a higher price for the power than they can generate using existing sources. I've heard a lot of grumbling about the wind farm spoiling our view and I concur with that.

In closing, I believe the company that wants to build the Horse Heaven Wind Project knew they would face heavy opposition and likely rejection of their project if they pursued approval through the Benton County Commissioners. To avoid that possibility they did an end run around the Commission by going straight to the state level for approval.

If the approval for this unneeded project is given we will have this thing jammed down our throats and will have to live with it for decades. Please do not approve this wind farm.

Respectfully,

Michael Lauman
Pasco, WA

From: [Chris wright](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Re: Horse Heavens Hills Windfarm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 5:54:14 PM
Attachments: [Real Estate Values.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0252
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

An additional comment. Scout claims no loss of property value from the project in their application. There is some evidence that this is incorrect. Please see attached

Chris Wright
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2021, at 2:38 PM, Chris wright <cswakw@frontier.com> wrote:

I'd also like to add a comment:

Scout provided an estimate of public support in their application of 61% of the tri cites population in favor of the wind farm. At the March 15 public meeting opinion was about 85% against the project. Scout seems to have a significant data disparity with an informed public or scout is cherry-picking their questions. Either way the ASC should be denied until this is resolved

Chris Wright
Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 28, 2021, at 11:21 AM, cswakw@frontier.com wrote:

Attached are comments on the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Windfarm in Benton County
Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Chris Wright,
West Richland, WA
<EFSCE Comments on Hores Heaven Wind Farm.docx>

Do Wind Projects Adversely Affect Proximate Residential Property Values?

The most basic law of economics is that things are valued based on the “Law of Supply and Demand.” It is exceedingly obvious, all things being equal, that many people (due to view, sound, flicker, etc) would choose NOT to buy a home where there are industrial wind turbines close by. (Whether they are right or wrong in their reasons is irrelevant.)

These beliefs would **reduce demand**, which clearly would have **some** negative impact on the price of such a property. Any report that concludes that there are zero negative property value effects related to wind projects simply can not be considered seriously. The only real question is *how much of an impact?*

This list is intended to identify just some of the more objective studies and commentary about the adverse effects of wind energy projects on home values near wind projects.

1 - Here are some more detailed analyses about wind project effects on property values, by *independent professionals*:

A 2013 [Study](#) of over a million homes by the *London School of Economics*, concluded that properties near turbines will decline in value.

[Searchlight wind farm could reduce property values by 25-60 percent, suggest studies.](#)

A 2012 study by Lansink Appraisers: [Diminution in Price.](#)

A 2012 Study by E.ON Energy Research Center (German Utility company): [The Impact of Wind Farms on Property Values.](#)

2012 [testimony](#) in Lee County, Illinois, by appraiser Michael McCann.

A 2011 study [Values in the Wind: A Hedonic Analysis of Wind Power Facilities](#) by Clarkson economics professor, Dr. Martin Heintzelman.

A 2011 [Study](#) by appraiser Michael McCann on property value impacts in Cape Vincent, New York.

A 2011 [Report](#) by appraiser Michael McCann on property value impacts in Brewster, Massachusetts.

[Testimony](#) of appraiser Michael McCann on property value impacts in Adams County, Illinois.

A [study](#) done by Metropolitan Appraisal, regarding the Forward Wind Project (Wisconsin).

“A [Wind Turbine Impact Study](#)” by appraisers: Appraisal Group One, and a [later version](#).

A valuable [report](#): “Impact of Wind Turbines on Market Value of Texas Rural Land” by Gardner Appraisal Group.

“Living with the impact of windmills” [presentation](#) by Real Estate broker Chris Luxemburger, is an analysis of some 600 sales over a three year period.

[Testimony](#) of Maturen & Associates, Real Estate Appraisers, concerning the effects of wind projects on home values.

In addition to being an excellent noise and health effects report, this [document](#) has a twenty page appendix on property values.

Wind Power Siting Issues: [Overview](#)” (by energy expert Tom Hewson): cites several studies.

Appraisers report property value [losses](#) near turbines.

Government Agency [agrees](#) that turbines do devalue property!

Property assessments [reduced](#) near turbines.

Property assessment [lowered](#) for home near wind project.

[Grafton Vermont Property Values Forum](#) (1 / 17 / 14): Mike McCann

[Council tax cut for homes near wind farms.](#)

2 - These are some other analyses and commentary about wind project effects on property values:

[Wind farm 'blight' cutting value of homes by up to a third.](#)

[“How do wind turbines affect property value?”](#)

[Property values are the new front line in the war over wind turbines
32 Lawsuits against wind developer — including property value loss](#)

[Falmouth Real Estate - “The Turbine Effect”](#)

[Turbines complicate sales of abutting homes.](#)

“Wind Industry [Big Lie](#): Your Property Value Will Not Be Affected.”.

[Vermont Wind Developer buys neighboring property after lawsuit](#)

“A new slant on wind projects” offers a very helpful [idea](#) as to put some of the economic benefits of wind projects into perspective.

This [site](#) has a fine collection of property value articles.

“Property Values decrease by 40% if view of wind turbines” is an [analysis](#) of a real estate broker on turbine impacts on residential values.

An excellent [discussion](#) by the Wisconsin Realtor Association about the adverse effects of wind development.

An [analysis](#) by an Illinois Realtor about effects of wind projects.

A [survey](#) by a Wyoming Realtor concluded that properties nearby a wind project were virtually unmarketable.

“Property values blowing in the wind” is a [report](#) done by a local Realtor about wind project effects in her area of northern NY.

See [here](#) and [here](#) where two Realtors make formal testimony about the effects of wind turbines on property values.

[Landowners say Turbines have Hurt their Property Values.](#)

[Wind turbines have reduced property values, court says.](#)

[Wind Turbine Compensation Stirring Discontent](#) (Denmark).

“How Industrial Wind Projects Affect Property Values” is a worthwhile [commentary](#) by Chuck Ebbing.

A nice [presentation](#) “Turbine Effects on View Shed” by engineer Chuck Ebbing.

“[Impact of wind farms on the value of residential property and agricultural land](#)” an RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) Survey.

“Farm couple [fights](#) wind turbines”.

A newspaper [article](#): “Critics say wind turbines hurt land values.”

“Wind turbine homes threat” is a news [report](#).

“I predict a series of rural ghettos of abandoned, unmaintained homes” [says](#) an experienced appraiser.

The [Better Plan](#) website has a good example of a real estate problem, plus some good recommendations.

Here is a good news story about homeowners holding out for the wind developers to buy their property — and succeeding [very well](#).

This [article](#) says: “Horizon, opponents debate effects on property”.

“U.S. wrestling with property values and setbacks for its wind turbines” touches on several related [matters](#).

This UK site [site](#) lists several other sources regarding property values.

“Giant blades are slicing home prices” an [article](#) about experiences in England.

“An Ill Wind Blowing” is a [story](#) about an English family’s experiences with a wind project depreciating their home value.

Ontario Parliament member calls for a provincial home value [study](#) about another English family’s experiences with a wind project depreciating their home value.

“Windfarm Blows House Value Away” is a [story](#) about another English family’s experiences with a wind project depreciating their home value.

“Wind farm property sells at sheriff’s [sale](#).”

3 - This is specifically directed at landowners who are considering signing a wind lease:

[“Know The Facts BEFORE You Sign”](#) by the *Informed Farmers Coalition*.

4 - Here are some sample Property Value Guarantee agreements:

Note that despite the wind energy proponent’s continued claims that their projects have no adverse effects on property values, Iberdrola officially [told](#) this NNY community that they would not construct a project there if they were required to compensate land owners for property value losses. Most people would see that as being very hypocritical.

*In my view this brings up a KEY point. Wind developers often get approval based on specious claims (regarding jobs created, CO2 saved, etc.). They get away with this as there is no real penalty for exaggerations or stretching the truth. One of the best ways to counter this is to require that **all** these claims be legally guaranteed, in writing. Just like what happened in the above case, you will see an immediate back-tracking. This will reveal to citizens the accuracy and sincerity of the developer’s assertions.*

The Carteret County (NC) [Tall Structure Ordinance](#) includes an excellent property value guarantee. This was passed in February of 2014.

The Town of Newport (NC) also has a similar property value guarantee that was included in their wind law ([Article IX](#)), in late 2013.

This basic real [Property Value Guarantee](#) agreement was based on a plan drafted by Illinois lawyers.

DeKalb County (Illinois) Property Value Guarantee [Agreement](#). Some good [commentary](#) on the DeKalb Property Value Guarantee.

Property Value Guarantee [Agreement](#) from Adams County, Illinois.

An explanation of the fine Property Value [Agreement](#) created in Hammond, NY, and a later [version](#). [Wind developer for Hammond says [they will leave](#) if there is a Property Value Guarantee.]

Montville Maine [Wind Ordinance](#) includes a Property Value Guarantee.

[New Hampshire Town passes 3 mile Property Value Guarantee](#) (2014)

A [Property Value Guarantee](#) proposed for the entire state of Maine.

In March 2014, the New Hampshire Senate passed a bill ([SB281](#)) requiring:
“The use of best available mitigation measures to avoid or minimize aesthetic, ecological, health, and **property value impacts** as a condition for a certificate, and the establishment of a methodology to evaluate and **mitigate negative impacts on property values.**”

[“Wind turbines constitute a ‘taking’ of private property value.”](#)

[Sumner Maine PVG](#) — note they propose a condition that the developer must enter into separate agreements with proximate property owners.

[This](#) is the “Fenner, NY: Canastota Wind Power LLC: Property Value Assurance Plan”.

This is Denmark’s [federal wind energy law](#), which (among other things) says:

“An erector of a wind turbine has a duty to pay compensation for loss of value.”

Proposed [Property Value Guarantee](#) for Riga, Michigan (2011).

Proposed [Property Value Guarantee](#) for Town of Knox, NY (2013).

[“Developers seek elimination of property value guarantee”](#) (2013) and [“BZA limits property value guarantee testimony”](#) (same project).

A town meeting [video](#) where a wind developer (and his ally) is quizzed about providing a Property Value Guarantee. Note they refuse to offer one.

5 - These are some critiques of the Hoen/Wiser report:

[Debunking](#) of Hoen’s latest turbine property value missive (8/13).

“Wind Farms, Residential Property Values and Rubber Rulers” - is [commentary](#) by appraiser Albert Wilson.

[“Critique](#) of The Impact of Wind Power Projects on Residential Property Values in the US: A Multi-Site Hedonic Analysis” by Wayne Gulden.

“DOE study says wind farms don’t affect property values, but...” is a [report](#) by The Acoustical Ecology Institute.

A detailed [critique 1](#) by appraiser Mike McCann, and a second one about a later Hoen report [critique 2](#).

“Turbine Effects on View Shed” are [observations](#) by engineer Chuck Ebbing (starts on page 20).

“False conclusions based on flawed real estate studies” are some fine commentaries [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#) by WindAction.

=====

A good [critique](#) of two earlier studies (similar to Hoen/Wiser) by Michael J. Miller, FCAS, MAAA.

[The Proposed Prairie Breeze Wind Project Will Harm the Property Values of Non-participating Owners.](#)

6 - Some Other Options:

In my view we should be piggybacking on ideas currently being employed by environmental groups to stop hydrofracking. Here is an example: [Sue Your Neighbor](#). Make sure to look at the part about an “anticipatory nuisance.” *Constructive condemnation* is another possibility, but appears to be a subset of the “anticipatory nuisance” legal definition.

Here is a relevant [case](#) where a Canadian homeowner sued to have his property assessment lowered due to nearby noise from a power station. He won the lawsuit and received a significant reduction.

If you know of other good material, or there are errors of omission or commission here, please email these to John at: “aaprjohn at northnet dot org”.

Rev 11/29/14

From: [Ken Gano](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scout clean energy wind farm in TriCities
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 8:05:23 PM

Public Comment #0253
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please do not allow Scout Clean Energy to get away with destroying the viewscape of the entire Tri City area. This project is ill conceived and will not provide any benefits to the local area. It will significantly impact migratory bat populations and lead to their extermination as well as impact migratory bird species and raptors. Have they applied for and been granted a take permit from the USFWS for migratory birds? They will kill hawks and eagles as well as Sandhills cranes (an endangered species in Washington state) that migrate through the Tri Cities.

The migratory hoary bat is a “ **Species of Greatest Conservation Need**” in **Washington state**. Have they assessed the impact on this species? What kind of mitigation measures have they proposed to reduce the impacts to hoary bats and silver haired bats (another migratory species common to this area)?

The fact that Scout is coming to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for approval rather than the impacted county should tell you that they know they are not welcome here and would not be approved if they ask the people that are impacted most. What would the reaction be if the east side of the State was allowed to approve such an environmental disaster and massive eyesore to be constructed on 24 miles of skyline surrounding Seattle or Olympia? Do the right thing and shut this project down. Don't make it an issue of the West Side jamming an unwanted project down our throats!

Ken Gano
Retired Environmental Scientist
Kennewick, Washington

Sent from my iPad

From: [Pat Loera](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 8:15:14 PM

Public Comment #0254
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

We strongly believe this wind farm project is of NO benefit to our beautiful local community! The specialists and scientists have provided significant amounts of literature on this topic and very clearly state that this project does not belong in our community. In our research we have not come across any reason to support this. It will not add any more energy, only displace current sources. Furthermore our local energy companies are not in favor of this.

We hope that objective minds will not be swayed by short term promises or the opinions of the west side residents. The only benefit will be to line the pockets of the out of state company pushing this project.

Thank you for reading this.

Respectfully.

Joe and Pat Loera

Sent from my iPad

From: [Dennis C. Collins](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scout clean energy wind farm in Tri-Cities
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 9:18:17 PM

Public Comment #0255
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To Whom it may concern,

I wish to express my consternation at the plan to put these windmills near the Tri-Cities. I think it is a poorly planned operation. Seems to be of very little benefit to the local economy, with a significant environmental impact.

The fact that this is a west side plan, I wonder how they would act if the tables were turned. East side idea sent to the west side with no benefit to the west side.

This is a terrible plan. Please reject it.

Dennis C. Collins
Retired Science teacher
Kennewick, WA

Sent from Samsung tablet

From: [Red 23](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Support
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 6:10:56 AM

Public Comment #0256
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hey I'm a Benton county resident and I support the wind mill project!--
E.Redmond

From: [desmond.gullette](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 6:29:15 AM

Public Comment #0257
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Good morning!

My name is Desmond and I've been a local resident and labor here for some years now. I am here to show my report for the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project!

Thank you!

From: [dwanebateman](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Windfarm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 6:50:05 AM

Public Comment #0258
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am a resident of Benton County and am in full support of this project. I believe that windmills benefit the environment by providing renewable energy. They also benefit the community by providing jobs, and the possibility of better wages for farm workers.

Sent from my Galaxy

From: [Jennifer Hockett](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind farm question
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 6:55:58 AM

Public Comment #0259
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hello and thank you for your efforts to collect public feedback.

I have a question: where will the power generated by the wind farm/solar/battery be managed and used?

I heard it will be exported, and not used in Benton County or Washington. The news article does not address this.

Thank you,
Jennifer Hockett

503-718-8069
2229 Harris
Richland WA 99354

From: [Steve Ghan](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills wind farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:10:45 AM

Public Comment #0260
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Compromising on the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm

The Scout Energy proposal to install wind turbines with 1150 MW capacity in the Horse Heaven Hills (HHH) has encountered stiff local opposition that spans the political spectrum. Is there an alternative to a winner-take-all resolution of this controversy? I believe there is.

Much of the opposition is focused on the impact of the wind turbines on [migratory birds](#) and the [view scape](#).

Rather than oppose the HHH wind farm for the sake of birds, why not negotiate with Scout Energy to work with Audubon, which [supports properly sited wind power](#), to choose turbine sites that minimize turbine impacts on migratory birds? And use the findings of recent [controlled studies](#) that have found bird deaths from turbines are reduced 70% by painting one blade black.

Rather than deprive the HHH land owners of thousands of dollars per turbine in rent royalties each year, and Benton County of an estimated [\\$20 million in annual property tax revenue](#) (7.6% of current county property tax revenue, and \$100 per resident), why not negotiate with Scout Energy to choose turbine sites and heights that eliminate the visual impact to the bulk of the residents in the Tri-Cities?

In 2014, a Benton County Conservations Futures initiative was on the ballot. It would have used a modest property tax to raise revenue to preserve land through purchase or conservation easements. The tax amounted to \$12 per year on a median priced home. If it had passed, the revenue could have been used to compensate the HHH land owners for wind energy royalties lost from preserving the view scape. But it failed.

You can think of HHH wind farm property tax revenue as compensation for the remaining visual impact. That revenue could be used to purchase and preserve our beloved ridges from housing developments. Or perhaps you have other ideas for how to spend that much tax revenue.

Consider the case of humble [Sherman County](#), Oregon. Before wind power was installed there, it had been one of the poorest counties in Oregon. Now it has a new library and two new city halls, a sewer system, new schools, and a new senior citizens center. Every resident is paid \$590 per year by the wind energy industry. Maybe we can learn something from them.

Steve Ghan
Richland, Washington

From: [Shawni Gargano](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:12:39 AM

Public Comment #0261
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

In Tricities we have a beautiful hill scape. I recently moved into a new home closer to these hills. We will not support a venture in our backyard designed to solve a problem in the West side ; we do not accept the notion that sending energy value to our west-side neighbors is worth forfeiting the economic and environmental health of our own community. Furthermore these windmills will drive off all wildlife on the hills and is a huge danger to the local ecosystem.

Shawni Gargano

From: [Tom George](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:15:43 AM

Public Comment #0262
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am in favor of the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm. Any argument against is far outweighed by the global need for low carbon energy. The long term consequences of climate change must be considered.

Tom George
PhD Engineering

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From: [Diahann Howard](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Summers Miya](#); [David Billetdeaux](#)
Subject: Scout HHWP -letter to Gov
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:24:50 AM
Attachments: [Ltr to Gov Scout proposal 3-29-2021.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0263
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Attached is our letter concerning this proposed project.

Thank you,

Diahann

Diahann Howard, PPM® | Port of Benton, Executive Director

3250 Port of Benton Blvd. | Richland, WA 99354

509. 375. 3060 | Office

509. 375. 5287 | Fax

Email: dhoward@portofbenton.com

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March 29, 2021

Governor Jay Inslee
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Via email and mail correspondence

RE: Scout Wind Energy Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project

Dear Governor Inslee,

Ports in Washington State were formed to support economic development and tourism. The Port of Benton was formed in 1958, represents approximately two-thirds of Benton county from Richland to Prosser, and is primarily engaged in furthering development and economic expansion of clean energy, value-added agriculture, and advanced manufacturing. We and our regional Ports, Cities, and Counties are steadfast proponents of clean energy, producing 97% clean, carbon-neutral energy for 40% of the entire State of Washington's energy needs.

Concerning the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project, we are deeply concerned that stakeholder engagement has been wrested from local involvement by eliminating the typically required state mandated SEPA environmental review at the local level. If this project were considered at the local level, you would hear reservations from local utility providers about project efficiency and need, distress about sightline viewshed impacts, concern about output capacity during peak energy demand, and detriment to the local tourism economy that leads the Washington Wine Industry.

Without further assurances and time to review recently released environmental studies on the height, scale, and efficiency of this project the Port of Benton cannot support this project at this time. From board meetings, local utility involvement, and presentations to the community many factors remain to be discussed and information provided to the most-impacted constituents in the state.

We therefore request that the State not support Scout Clean Energy's proposal to exempt itself from local environmental scrutiny by advancing regulatory oversight to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. Additional input and stakeholder involvement is necessary, and the community should have more time to review the three-year environmental studies just now released. Again, we are in full support of clean energy, but believe a better balance for this project can be derived from community input.

Sincerely,

Diahann Howard, PPM®

Executive Director

CC: Port of Benton Commission
Benton County Commissioners
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

From: [Tom Harper](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Opposed to Proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Turbine Project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:39:54 AM

Public Comment #0264
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

EFSEC,

I have been a long term resident of the Tri-Cities since 1975 living in Kennewick and Richland.

I am adamantly opposed to this proposed Wind Turbine Project on the Horse Heaven Hills.

My rationale for opposition is as follows :

- Blight on the Landscape
- Natural beauty of our views will forever be destroyed by the number and outrageous height of the turbines
- We have embraced clean energy with our nuclear plants and hydro power dams which more than adequately supply enough power for our areas.
- If Seattle and the west side need additional power then locate the wind turbines on the West side of WA State and /or move forward with other clean energy options like nuclear.
- Tourism will be impacted especially for the burgeoning wine industry
- The height of these turbines has to be a threat to birds and our beloved Sandhill Cranes who annually migrate twice through our area

Your thoughtful consideration of my strong opposition to the wind turbine project is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Thomas Harper
2598 Tilden Court
Richland, WA. 99354
(509)554-7116

From: [Cheryl Nickola](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:40:08 AM

Public Comment #0265
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

PLEASE STOP THIS PROJECT!!! I am against it!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [mitch.newell](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:57:49 AM

Public Comment #0266
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear EFSE Council, I am not in favor of Scout Clean Energy Project. They should have taken their application before Benton County, for land use, zoning ordinance and environmental impact. Benton County Commissioners held a town hall meeting where all the issues were addressed and why we were not in favor of this project. The Commissioners will be sharing this with the Council. Please listen to our concerns. Thank You Mitch & Colleen Newell

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From: [Jody Macomber](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 7:59:43 AM

Public Comment #0267
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

As residents of Kennewick, WA, we vehemently OPPOSE this project. Our community and beautiful ridges need not be spoiled for us nor future generations. It makes NO sense other than for the personal gain and greed of those who support it. We do NOT BENEFIT and it is akin to a RAPE of the land.

The recent statement by the head of the Democratic Party on the “west side” was appalling and divisive. Though we (as Democrats) are in a minority on the “east side,” this should not be a political issue. It is about our land, our future growth, our environment and wildlife, our economics and beautiful wine country, and so much more as well as the legacy we safeguard for future generations.

Please hear our voices as we have no other strength to fight against this.

JoEllen & Douglas Macomber
Kennewick, WA

Sent from my iPhone

From: [cnickola](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: HORSE HEAVEN HILLS WIND FARM PROJECT
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:20:05 AM

Public Comment #0268
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

PLEASE STOP THIS PROJECT!! I am against it!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Staci Cheatham](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse heaven hills wind farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:25:48 AM

Public Comment #0269
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please stop the wind farm project at horse heaven hills.

Staci Cheatham
103 Fairwood Court
Richland Wa

From: [Scott Siefken](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse heaven wind farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:31:54 AM

Public Comment #0270
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I'm totally against the location of the proposed wind farm. Locate the wind farm to the west out of site of the tricity . Thank you

Sent from my iPad

From: [joseph brothers](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [joe brothers](#)
Subject: Comments on horse heavens wind/solar proposal
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:34:13 AM

Public Comment #0271
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

My vote is NO. Visual Impairment, reliance on non-continuous power, lack proof of long term support from operator, availability of hydro/nuclear, effect on taxpayer, minimal employment improvement, adversely impacted property values, dependence of farmers on non-farm income are all good reasons to not approve this project.enough of my native homeland has been ruined already.

From: [Molly King](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Molly King](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:46:06 AM

Public Comment #0272
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear committee members,

As a Benton county tax payer and resident, I do not support the implementation of the proposed HHH wind farm.

Molly King
Sent from my iPad

From: [Robert King](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Robb King](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:46:18 AM

Public Comment #0273
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to voice my opposition to the creation of this wind farm project in Benton County. I am a resident and tax payer in Benton county.

Sincerely, Robert King

Sent from my iPad

From: [Randy Hayden \(Port of Pasco\)](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Lori French](#)
Subject: Written Comment for Scout Clean Energy-Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project – EFSEC Docket No. EF-210011
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 8:49:15 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Res 1550.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0274
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

We request that the attached Resolution passed by the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners opposing the Scout Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project be entered into the public record for both the Public Information Meeting and Land Use Consistency Hearing to be held March 20, 2021.

The text of the Resolution is also copied below.

Thank you,

Randy Hayden
Executive Director
1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd, Ste 201
Ph 509.547.3378 | PO Box 769
Fx 509.547.2547 | Pasco WA 99301
Email: rhayden@portofpasco.org

RESOLUTION NO. 1550

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT COMMISSION OF THE PORT OF PASCO
OPPOSING THE PROPOSED SCOUT WIND ENERGY
HORSE HEAVEN WIND FARM PROJECT

WHEREAS, Scout Wind Energy, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, dba Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC, has proposed a large scale wind turbine farm south of the Tri-Cities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will stretch over an area of about 24 miles from south of Finley to the south of Benton City; and

WHEREAS, one option will install 244 turbines almost 500 feet tall and another option will install 150 turbines at 670 feet tall, which is taller than the Seattle Space Needle at 605 feet tall; and

WHEREAS, the visual simulations show that the turbines would be visible along the southern skyline of the Tri-Cities during the daytime; and

WHEREAS, no simulations have been prepared showing the visual impacts of flashing airspace lights during the night time; and

WHEREAS, the wide open spaces and largely unobstructed ridgelines are iconic features of the Tri-Cities ice-age flood formed landscape; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the wind-energy developments in Washington State are being concentrated in the southeast portion of the state and almost none in Western Washington or coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, the fair treatment goal of environmental justice means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies; and

WHEREAS, meaningful involvement of environmental justice means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
 - The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
 - Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
 - Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected;
- and

WHEREAS, Scout Clean Energy has chosen to file its application with the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council rather than seek local approval through Benton County; and

WHEREAS, Scout Energy has determined that the limited wind conditions at the Horse Heaven Hills wind project will reduce the capacity factor to only 30% of the turbines' maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS, wind energy developed in Washington state only displaces hydropower, another renewable power source, thus having no effect on carbon emissions or climate change; and

WHEREAS, wind energy developed in midwest states has capacity factors closer to 50% and is helpful in replacing carbon based energy such as coal power; and

WHEREAS, the project proponent has not prepared an airspace study to determine the impacts of the project on operations at the Tri-Cities Airport;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners finds that:

- 1) The proposed Scout Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project will damage unique and scenic vistas in the Tri-Cities area thereby degrading the quality of life and tourism and economic development opportunities in the Port District.
- 2) The project sites a disproportionate share of wind energy structures in a single area of the state and circumvents the local approval process thereby failing the goals of environmental justice.

- 3) The project displaces existing, renewable hydropower production and therefore offers no net gain of either power production or carbon reduction.
- 4) The project could have adverse impacts to flight operations at the Tri-Cities Airport operated by the Port.

In recognition of these findings, the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners opposes the Scout Wind Energy Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project and strongly encourages the project proponents to shift project approval from the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to Benton County so that local decision makers and the public can determine what is best for their community; and further that the State of Washington provide sufficient funds to the County to support this local decision making process and directs the Executive Director to enter these comments into the project record.

ADOPTED this 25 day of March 2021,

PORT OF PASCO COMMISSION

Jim Klindworth, President

Vicki Gordon, Vice-President

Jean Ryckman, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. 1550

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT COMMISSION OF THE PORT OF PASCO OPPOSING THE PROPOSED SCOUT WIND ENERGY HORSE HEAVEN WIND FARM PROJECT

WHEREAS, Scout Wind Energy, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, dba Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC, has proposed a large scale wind turbine farm south of the Tri-Cities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will stretch over an area of about 24 miles from south of Finley to the south of Benton City; and

WHEREAS, one option will install 244 turbines almost 500 feet tall and another option will install 150 turbines at 670 feet tall, which is taller than the Seattle Space Needle at 605 feet tall; and

WHEREAS, the visual simulations show that the turbines would be visible along the southern skyline of the Tri-Cities during the daytime; and

WHEREAS, no simulations have been prepared showing the visual impacts of flashing airspace lights during the night time; and

WHEREAS, the wide open spaces and largely unobstructed ridgelines are iconic features of the Tri-Cities ice-age flood formed landscape; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the wind-energy developments in Washington State are being concentrated in the southeast portion of the state and almost none in Western Washington or coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, the fair treatment goal of environmental justice means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies; and

WHEREAS, meaningful involvement of environmental justice means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected; and

WHEREAS, Scout Clean Energy has chosen to file its application with the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council rather than seek local approval through Benton County; and

WHEREAS, Scout Energy has determined that the limited wind conditions at the Horse Heaven Hills wind project will reduce the capacity factor to only 30% of the turbines' maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS, wind energy developed in Washington state only displaces hydropower, another renewable power source, thus having no effect on carbon emissions or climate change; and

WHEREAS, wind energy developed in midwest states has capacity factors closer to 50% and is helpful in replacing carbon based energy such as coal power; and

WHEREAS, the project proponent has not prepared an airspace study to determine the impacts of the project on operations at the Tri-Cities Airport;

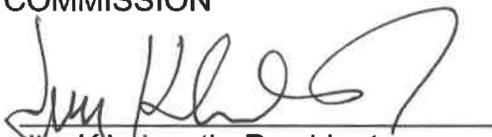
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners finds that:

- 1) The proposed Scout Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project will damage unique and scenic vistas in the Tri-Cities area thereby degrading the quality of life and tourism and economic development opportunities in the Port District.
- 2) The project sites a disproportionate share of wind energy structures in a single area of the state and circumvents the local approval process thereby failing the goals of environmental justice.
- 3) The project displaces existing, renewable hydropower production and therefore offers no net gain of either power production or carbon reduction.
- 4) The project could have adverse impacts to flight operations at the Tri-Cities Airport operated by the Port.

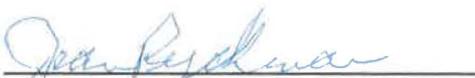
In recognition of these findings, the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners opposes the Scout Wind Energy Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project and strongly encourages the project proponents to shift project approval from the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to Benton County so that local decision makers and the public can determine what is best for their community; and further that the State of Washington provide sufficient funds to the County to support this local decision making process and directs the Executive Director to enter these comments into the project record.

ADOPTED this 25 day of March 2021,

PORT OF PASCO COMMISSION


Jim Klindworth, President


Vicki Gordon, Vice-President


Jean Ryckman, Secretary

From: [Owens, Joan \(UTC\)](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 9:33:21 AM

Public Comment #0275
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

Thanks,

~Joan Owens

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Secretary Supervisor

Email: joan.owens@utc.wa.gov

Phone number: (360) 664-1920

EFSEC Email: efsec@utc.wa.gov

EFSEC phone number: (360) 664-1345

Address: 621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey WA 98503-3172

Mailstop/P.O. Box: 43172

www.efsec.wa.gov

From: John Love <johnlove610b@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 29, 2021 9:32 AM
To: Owens, Joan (UTC) <joan.owens@utc.wa.gov>
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm

External Email

As a resident of rural Benton County I am AGAINST the Scout Energy wind farm being built on the hills above my residence.

The energy produced by this project is not needed in this area. It should be built where it is needed instead of where they think they can run it through the permitting process with the least regard for the people that live in the area.

These windmills will kill many birds and also be a fire hazard in an area that is a tinderbox in summer. Property values in the area would also plummet.

This project would benefit a handful of people in this area but most of the benefits of it would go out of the state.

John Love
Benton City, Wa

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Eric Meyer](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: TriCities Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 9:37:56 AM

Public Comment #0276
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please receive this comment for the record AGAINST the wind farm proposed in the Horse Heaven Hills, WA. I don't believe they should be placed in that area due to all the factors mentioned by the experts.

Thank you. NO on the wind farm.

Eric Meyer, MIM
208-310-5230
meyer7b@gmail.com

From: [Jessica Percifield](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: EFSEC Committee. We Oppose the Horse Heaven Wind Project.
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 9:49:32 AM

Public Comment #0277
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear EFSEC Committee,

Just a few days ago, my son and husband walking home from school caught sight of a Bald Eagle migrating along the Pacific Flyway. It was the first Bald Eagle my son has ever seen. The flyway where the proposed 244 wind turbines will be if approved by your committee outside our city and outside our county's consideration.

When we purchased our geothermal home on Thompsen Hill, we had clean energy and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels in mind, but we were also moving back to where I grew up. Where the Horse Heaven Hills dominate the skyline, and where wineries have cropped up with one naming their winery after the Horse Heaven Hills. We paid a premium for the view of the hills and our joy was cut short when we heard about this proposed project by Scout energy.

We love watching the many migratory birds that stop and hunt along the flyway, and we love the south facing view that all the other houses on Thompsen Hill that are also geothermal homes enjoy. We care about clean energy, but we also care about the natural beauty of this area. We are invested in it and purchased our home because of it. The spectacular lightning storms in the the summer can be treacherous, but beautiful. Last year, one lit a wildfire as we watched. I can't imagine what it will be like for wildfires with a wall of metal stretched all along our ridgelines. I suppose we thought the Horse Heaven Hills were protected from development already.

Scout Clean Energy is not from this area. They do not understand the importance and appreciation we have for the Horse Heaven Hills from hiking to its defining beauty in South county. The proposed wind turbines are just too close to this growing side of Kennewick, and there are many established homes and communities so much closer to where the turbines will be looming overhead. This will hurt property values. I can appreciate farmers wishing to diversify their portfolios, etc. but so many homeowners, like ourselves, will likely see our property values tank because of view obstruction and proximity to the turbines themselves. Property taxes will take the hit, which means the State will take a hit. Imagine if you saved, and sacrificed to build a home or buy one with a view to have your equity and value tanked by an out of town corporation who is tone deaf to local sentiment and the value we place on our migratory birds, recreation and beauty of our physical features, like our Horse Heaven Hills. I grew up hiking these hills.

Scout is tone deaf to the value of these hills to local tax payers, voters, and land owners. This area is experiencing unprecedented growth, and the project is too close to existing residential development. There is simply so many other places these turbines could go. There is not a lack of open space further out that will not muck up the beauty of the Horse Heaven Hills. Nor be a problem for our migratory birds already endangered as it is. Scout is tone deaf because they

propose to not just put a small group of turbines, but wish to have them stretch the length of all the hills.

There are many of us on the side of clean energy, and WA has a praise worthy record with only 3% dependency on fossil fuels. It should matter what people invested in our community think. Please do not remove our ability to have a place at the table in the look and feel of our own community; many of us are for clean energy, but this outside company has purposely chosen a political route that leaves us out of the due process necessary to deprive a person of the value and enjoyment of their property.

I'm an independent voter that leans democrat and progressive, and it is plain wrong to deny local people a place at the table in deciding how their community should grow, and look. The Horse Heaven Hills are a valued physical feature and the impacts in terms of fire safety and proximity to existing residential areas that are growing, is unacceptable. All we are asking is choose another open space. There's lots to choose from with back roads that will not dominate our skylines, harm migratory birds because it is outside the pacific flyway, and will allow Scout what they want. Everyone can win, but we strongly oppose this project at the scale and height proposed in our backyard, literally for some of us.

We ask that you oppose this project in its entirety or scale back the proposed area significantly as South Kennewick Grows. I'm joining a group dedicated to making the Horse Heaven Hills protected open space from development in our community as it should have been done a long time ago. It's reactive, but we just became part of this community less than a year ago. It is what's right, and I only wish this community had been more proactive, so we wouldn't have to fight so hard now to save our Horse Heaven Hills.

Please, help us protect the defining natural beauty of this area as fellow washingtonians, we hope that you will side with us, and if you haven't driven around this area to see the beauty we are speaking of, please make an effort to understand what such a blanket of turbines will do to our county and city. We are not opposed to clean energy, we are already invested in it by moving back to WA, and buying a geothermal home. We hope you will buy us the time to help protect our Horse Heaven Hills by opposing this project or setting restrictions high for this area.

Respectfully,

Jessica Percifield Henry
Isaac Henry

--

Jessica Percifield Henry
Direct: 858-768-1786

From: [Jesse arriaga](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse heaven hills wind farm project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 10:06:39 AM

Public Comment #0278
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Good evening, my name is Jesse Arriaga and I'm a local resident and have been for 47 years. I am a member of the Labors local 348 and proudly work in Benton county area. I am here to support the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project.

Thank you

From: sjme@frontier.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 10:51:25 AM

Public Comment #0279
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear EFSEC staff:

I am writing in regards to the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm proposal. The area in which the Farm is proposed to be built is in a Main Viewing area of the Tri Cities. The Horse Heaven Hills is an area known for the amazing views, hiking and biking trails and high end housing. Installing massive windmill turbines would degrade the views tremendously and also devalue homes. My husband and I specifically chose this area to live due to the beautiful natural surroundings and amazing sunsets. Allowing an obtrusive Farm of wind turbines would do nothing but decrease land and home value in this area. We are all for green energy however the area proposed is the worse place possible for maintaining the beauty of our area. This area has historical value as well. All you need to do is climb our local Badger Mountain which overlooks the gorgeous valley of Horse Heaven Hills and you would be able to read about how the glaciers formed this beautiful area we call home.

It's easy to make a decision site unseen, where you don't speak directly with those involved. This is just a "deal". However, if you took the time to actually drive this area and observe those you would be affecting, by just a stroke of a pen, I believe you would select another area to build the Farm.

Please consider the ramifications.

Thank you,
Sharon Harrell

From: [B. Griggs](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:24:27 AM

Public Comment #0280
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in opposition to the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm. We do not want, nor need these wasteful, inefficient turbines littering our beautiful hillsides, killing our birds and bats, and making people in Colorado, California, and wherever else rich. These turbines will take up an area 5 times as large as Manhattan Island, produce a fraction of their advertised output, and create an unsightly environment that closes the Horse Heaven Hills to this community. These turbines are maintenance intensive, inefficient, and will just end up filling in landfills when or if they are ever taken down. If we want to explore efficient, green energy production, let's look at nuclear power. The new reactors are safe, clean, and produce twice the power of fractions of a percent of land as these wind farms. If California and Colorado are so eager for wind energy, they can put these in their state. Don't destroy our region in false pursuit of green energy.

-Ben Griggs

From: [Diane Yorgason-Quinn](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:31:07 AM

Public Comment #0281
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

In all the talk about whether this is a good project for the area, I have never heard serious consideration of NEED. Washington has abundant and affordable clean energy (hydro), and there's really no need for this project. Is the real reason that federal subsidies are available for wind power, and they don't want to leave those on the table? Current wind farms have to be turned off frequently for lack of room on the grid for more energy or for weather reasons. These wind machines would have the same or more such situations, so would not fill the gap.

Also, this tract stands in a migration flyway for many birds of all kinds, especially for large raptors who can't reproduce themselves rapidly, who can't survive impacts with blades. I am a birder who has birded the area a number of times and am well aware. You are probably aware that we have lost a third of all birds recently on this planet.

I cannot attend due to the stay-at-home recommendations. Thanks for considering these issues.

Diane Yorgason-Quinn
8412 Granite Dr NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98329
avosetta2@gmail.com



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Tom Schaffer](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:31:11 AM

Public Comment #0282
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

For the conversation on placing a wind farm on the ridge of the horse heaven hills. I live on the north side of Old Inland Empire highway and have a direct view of the horse heavens, we have lived here since 1988. County taxes on this property include view property assessment.

We often ride quad runners on the ridge of the horse heavens and we are not looking forward to essentially turning this public property into private for profit industry. I am definitely opposed to the placement of windmills along the ridge of the horse heaven hills. These structures would absolutely ruin the natural beauty of the area and block access for recreation.

Tom Schaffer
19002 west OIE hwy
Benton City WA 99320

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Clark S](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Horse Heaven Hills Windfarm - Benton County
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:34:27 AM

Public Comment #0283
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To: EFSEC
From: Clark Stolle, Kennewick, WA
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Windfarm Proposal

My name is Clark Stolle, I am a resident of Kennewick and I am opposed to the Scout Clean Energy windfarm project and request it be denied. Below is my statement.

Scout Clean Energy, a Colorado based company and their partner WPD, headquartered in Germany, have represented the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project as being in the best interests of the greater Tri-Cities community. Many of us believe it is not and feel it should be denied. Rather than submit the project to Benton County for review, they have circumvented the existing land use process and have requested that the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and Governor Inslee make this decision. This effectively removes our community and its decision makers from providing equitable input and conducting a thorough evaluation on a county land use action.

Scout's application and attached studies claim the project will have minimal impact, if any, and they are asking for the project to be fast-tracked. Think about that for a moment. Why should Washington State be inclined to fast-track a project of such an enormous size? One proposal puts 244 turbines at almost 500 feet tall over about 10 square miles. The other option would be to install 150 turbines at 670 feet tall. In either case they are as tall or taller than the Space Needle. The leased farmland for the project stretches along the Horse Heaven Hills ridgeline, about 24 miles from south of Finley to the south of Benton City. That is the equivalent of extending from the Capital Building in Olympia, south to Centralia or east almost to Tacoma. This is both significant and impactful.

I believe it is fair to say that if this project were proposed to be located on federal or state-owned land, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required before proceeding further. Scout contracted to have various studies prepared to justify the project, that repeatedly cite minimal or no impact to land, humans, birds, animals, tourism, property values, etc. These studies appear to be strongly biased toward the project and warrant more analysis. A commercial project with such an extensive footprint and massive structures should be required to perform an EIS before rendering a final decision.

Although I have not seen it published, it is highly likely all power generated will be sold to California. There would be no clean energy benefit to Washington. Be aware

that several California counties including Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Bernardino, have been pushing back hard on new wind farms and have passed restrictions discouraging or banning development of large-scale commercial wind farming. This is largely due to the strong backlash of negative community sentiment and environmental impacts. As a result, wind farm developers are now looking to project friendly states. I am sure Scout and WPD are aware of this.

My family has been in Benton County over 70 years and like many others, feel the Horse Heaven Hills are a special scenic area to be enjoyed by the local community and its visitors. Why should it be valued any less than other notable sites in our state? The wind towers proposed are gigantic structures that will be seen from miles away. They are not being placed in obscure locations away from our highly populated and growing community. They will be along our prominent ridgelines where the topography cannot hide them. The negative impacts to our view shed and the scenic vistas that are so important to our quality of life, will be lost if this project is approved. In the end, what are the long-term advantages to our community? It would appear to be temporary jobs and land leases for a few. The trade-off is a legacy of negative aesthetic and environmental impacts our community lives with forever. I respectfully ask that you deny a permit for this application. Thank you.

From: [Glen](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Wind Farm Town Hall Comments
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:43:03 AM

Public Comment #0284
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear Sirs,

The proposal to build the Horse Heaven Wind Farm is outrageous and disgraceful; it is simply an attempt to steal money from the public through increased power rates and crony-capital raids via counterproductive subsidies. It would degrade the power grid and endanger the health, safety, and economy of the region. The entities behind this proposal should be prosecuted for fraud and attempted extortion.

Glen Correll
1324 Hazelwood Avenue
Richland, WA 99352
509 628 1724

From: [Judith Mosebar](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Windmill farms
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 11:56:52 AM

Public Comment #0285
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

It is an abomination to consider placing wind turbines in the Horse Heaven Hills! A, They are not needed ! They will only detract from the natural beauty of this region.

B. Our state & the Pacific N.W. has more than enough clean energy. We're selling much of this to other States.

C. I belong to another Washington State PUD, THEY are befuddled that we would consider use of wind turbines. Especially to replace existing Hydro Power.

D. The wind in our area averages 4 MPH. There are too many days you will not be able to use them for a significant energy source.

E. These turbines are only good for 25 years. The blades aren't recyclable.

F. Why hasn't anyone put the turbines along the Pacific Coastline? Lots of reliable wind.

I write this knowing my concern is going to fall on deaf ears, however, I feel compelled just the same. The State has put too many restrictions on public meetings and the general public will be ignored!

Joseph Mosebar
Kennewick, WA 99336
Sent from my iPad

From: [Dave Sharp](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project Public Comment
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:01:07 PM
Attachments: [Public Comment #1-Section 1.3.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0286
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Public Input-Reference ASC General Information, Section 1.3
Input provided in the PDF attached to this email.

March 29, 2020

Public Comment-Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project-General Information-Section 1.3

David Sharp #1-Resident of Benton County

General Information-Section 1.3 COUNCIL RECOGNIZES PRESSING NEED FOR ENERGY FACILITIES

WAC 463-60-021: RCW 80.50.010 requires the council to "recognize the pressing need for increased energy facilities." For that reason, applications for site certification need not demonstrate a need for the energy facility

Discussion-The applicant's input to this General Information Section is troubling. The applicant appears to combine these two citations to a conclusion that the ASC "*need not demonstrate a need.*" Facility utilization and operation are also part of the equation. It does not seem plausible that the legislature would intend that energy facilities be sited and certified under the EFSEC process without considering project utilization and operation and whether the facility would meet the needs of the state and the broad interests of the public.

The applicant's commentary for Section 1.3 indicates the "*project would supply renewable energy to help* (commenters emphasis) *the state of Washington meet its goal of making its energy supply carbon neutral by 2030*", but no indication of how much "**help**". Most of their commentary, however, is about Corporate and Industrial(C&I) purchases of renewable energy to meet C&I corporate goals.

It is the commenters understanding that there are two upcoming needs: the state renewable energy goal mentioned above by the applicant, and providing power during peak demand periods. The applicant has not shown how the project will be utilized or operated to meet either those two needs.

The applicant does not provide information regarding disposition of both the Renewable Energy Credits (REC's) and the actual generated power if a C&I has, or will, purchase the renewable energy. The applicant mentions several times in the ASC that the project may be sold to another party, but one cannot ascertain if it would be a C&I buyer or a utility serving Washington state customers. Those are two different utilization scenarios with two very different outcomes. The first scenario would leave the benefits, including ownership of the REC's and tax incentives to the C&I buyer, with no assurance that Washington would receive any renewable energy, and no certainty that the project would provide power during peak demand periods, or any period. * The second scenario would largely leave the benefits in the state, with REC's helping to meet the state goal, and with customers eventually benefiting with lower rates from the tax incentives. There would still be no certainty that the project could provide power during peak demand periods*, but a utility would own the power output and use it to meet customer needs as other successful EFSEC sited utility owned wind projects have demonstrated.

*The applicant has not indicated how the wind, solar, battery storage projects would be integrated, and power marketed, so it is unclear how much power, if any, may be provided with certainty during peak demand periods or if it would be available to Washington customers.

Requested Action-EFSEC should require that the applicant provide necessary documentation to show how the project will be utilized and operated to meet the needs of the state. The commercial intent of the project should be disclosed by the applicant including the disposition of the REC's and power generated by the project.

From: [Ryan Wright](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project comments
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:01:59 PM

Public Comment #0287
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hi there,

I am 100% IN FAVOR of the Horse Heaven Wind Project.

I live in Kennewick on the edge of the city limits. I love the clean energy provided by wind turbines. I think the turbines are beautiful and I enjoy them very much.

You should know that local opposition to this project is largely based on hyperbole, unscientific nonsense and outright lies. People are all over Facebook saying "The ground under the turbines will be littered with dead bird carcasses covered in oil! They'll leak oil everywhere and contaminate the ground water! They'll cause lots of wildfires!"

They seem to be confusing clean wind energy with the failures of the petroleum industry. How can we even have a civil discourse on this topic when its detractors are spreading lies?

Ryan
Kennewick, WA
509-531-9464

From: [Ryan Siefken](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:09:41 PM

Public Comment #0288
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Voicing my concern over the project.

This is drawing a boundary for future growth of the area. Imagine your local community being draw a hard line for future housing, commercial, or industrial land. This is too close to our community and will limit growth in the future.

This choice should have local input as part of the decision.

Ryan Siefken

From: [tburn](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: No to Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:10:54 PM

Public Comment #0289
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To whom it may concern,
I am a lifelong resident of eastern Washington and oppose the approval of the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm.

Please fully consider the negative impact a project like this would have on the way of life we currently enjoy in this area and weigh that against the potential benefits and it will be evident that the project should not be allowed to move forward.

Wind farms have their place and reducing fossil fuel dependence is important, but this project does not reduce significantly any use of fossil fuels. Our area already supports many wind farms, another is not needed or beneficial.

Thank you,
Teresa Thorburn
Benton City WA

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S8+.

From: [Loren Oakes](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:22:22 PM

Public Comment #0290
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear Committee Members;

I live in Benton County and am against Scout Energy proposed wind farm for the following reasons.

We already have a wind farm that produces less than 30% of the projected energy production.

Our winds are not consistent enough to support full energy production. In the winter when demand is high we often have inversions that do not have winds speeds to move the windmills we currently have.

Eastern Washington is prone to wind storms of winds greater than 40mph on the proposed ridge this would be to high a wind to allow the wind mills to operate.

Look at the energy sources for Washington and you will notice that most of them are on the east side of the state. I feel that it is unwise of the state to place all of the energy sources in one area. A natural disaster could put the greater Seattle metro area without an energy source.

The west side of the state benefits from the westerly winds coming off the Pacific Ocean a much more consistent wind source than eastern

Washington has. Western Washington is closer to the Seattle metro area and a wind farm on the west side of the state would save on transmission cost, power lost in long transmission lines, and spread energy production across the state.

Scout Energy bypassed the local commissioners to keep the residents of Benton County from having any say in this project, the excuse that the cost would be too great for the commissioners was wind up our skirts, we have a nuclear plant with a much more complicated siting process that was handled by the local commissioners .

We have over 300 days of sunlight in eastern Washington a more viable project would be a solar farm of the same size. The solar farm would not impact the view of the hills and would give the farmers an alternate income source for their land.

Please do not grant Scout Energy a expedited permit. I have a saying follow the money! Scout Energy has tried to bribe the Horse Heaven Hills

farmers and bypass the local residents that will be affected by this ill thought out projectl. My recommendation is that the EFSEC committee require

Scout Energy to come up with a solar farm only plan for the hills and site the wind farm in western Washington.

As a side bar people in eastern Washington find our landscape beautiful and resent the attitude of western Washington residents that our area is

ugly and so who cares if you have big windmills blighting our views and vistas. Projects of this scope should be weighted to the feelings of the

residents that will be most affected by the project.

Sincerely;
Myra Oakes

From: tembro4@gmail.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: FW: Scout clean energy wind farm in TriCities
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:33:38 PM

Public Comment #0291
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear Sir:

I worked for over 20 years on the Hanford Site with Ken Gano. I respect and stand with his statements regarding bats and migratory birds since their protection was one of his main tasks on Hanford. Please reconsider this project.

Thomas Marceau
Retired Archaeologist
West Richland, Washington

From: Ken Gano <kengano@frontier.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 28, 2021 8:05 PM
To: efsec@utc.wa.gov
Subject: Scout clean energy wind farm in TriCities

Please do not allow Scout Clean Energy to get away with destroying the viewscape of the entire Tri City area. This project is ill conceived and will not provide any benefits to the local area. It will significantly impact migratory bat populations and lead to their extermination as well as impact migratory bird species and raptors. Have they applied for and been granted a take permit from the USFWS for migratory birds? They will kill hawks and eagles as well as Sandhills cranes (an endangered species in Washington state) that migrate through the Tri Cities.

The migratory hoary bat is a “ **Species of Greatest Conservation Need**” in Washington state. Have they assessed the impact on this species? What kind of mitigation measures have they proposed to reduce the impacts to hoary bats and silver haired bats (another migratory species common to this area)?

The fact that Scout is coming to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council for approval rather than the impacted county should tell you that they know they are not welcome here and would not be approved if they ask the people that are impacted most. What would the reaction be if the east side of the State was allowed to approve such an environmental disaster and massive eyesore to be constructed on 24 miles of skyline surrounding Seattle or Olympia? Do the right thing and shut this project down. Don't make it an issue of the West Side jamming an unwanted project down our throats!

Ken Gano
Retired Environmental Scientist
Kennewick, Washington

Sent from my iPad

From: [Mark Ingalls](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Support for the Scout Clean Energy Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:48:41 PM

Public Comment #0292
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hello,

I am sending this email in support of the proposed wind farm in the Horse Heaven Hills in Benton County. I didn't have strong feelings before the NIMBYs around the Tri-Cities got riled about this for no good reason. The landowners are good people who should have the right to allow this wind farm on their property. It will help with economic development in the region and will diversify our electrical grid.

I suspect your organization is leaning toward approving it, and this is the right thing to do. Please don't let irrelevant people who use the Horse Heaven Hills as a dumpster while at the same time crying about the "natural beauty" persuade you from approving the project.

--

Mark Ingalls
Kennewick

From: [J LAW](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scout Energy Wind Farm compromise
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 12:59:54 PM

Public Comment #0293
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

EFSEC,

Although it is my opinion that the Scout Energy wind farm not needed, especially based on BENTON PUD's prospective report, I believe that a reasonable compromise could be made. I concur, even though I do not support the project, that the EFSEC could, and should consider restrictions and limitations of the projected wind farm. I concur with the Benton PUD reports, but here are some considerations and restrictions to scale down this projected windfarm:

1. Limit the size of the projected windmill size and height. -The height of the projected windmills to be constructed are too big and tall and should be limited to no taller than 380 ft tall (height from the ground to the tip of the blade).
2. Limit the amount of land that the windmill farm takes up and scale the project down at least by 50%.- The size of the project takes up too much land that could be used for future growth and development for the Tri-Cities area of outstanding current growth. The wind farm is too close to the city and some current residential structures. It is my suggestion that the wind farm development should be limited to only east of I-82. The project should only be about 25-33% of the currently projected land usage if projected wind turbines if it were to be approved, but at the least cut in half to 50%.
3. Restrict windmills being developed that would be in the view of from the Tri-Cities area -The windmills should have limited visibility from the Tri-Cities area. Also, the view of the flashing red warning lights on the windmills at night should be limited to where they could be seen from. The current projected areas of the development would be too close to the city.
4. Restrict the windmills to be developed near the areas of the Columbia River, National Scenic Areas, and recreation areas. -The windmills have a visual impact on these areas and would be visually intrusive in certain natural areas. You should not be able to see windmills that would further hamper the views in the areas.
5. Restrict the windmills from being developed that would affect the views of current residential development- These windmills may cause significant annoyance to the residences due to possible noise, flickering, and the red lights at night. This may cause a property devaluation which would not be appropriate. The residential structures were zoned and built first. Residential development outside the urban growth line will be needed with the shortage of housing in the area. There would be limitations on future development near the city if the windmills were to take up the land.
6. Restrict windmills being built that would have an environmental impact on habitat - The

- project where the windmill is placed should not have any impact on wildlife in the area.
7. Restrict the project if it has future economic consequences- The Scout Energy project should have no economic impact on future energy rates in the area. The Tri-Cities already has a responsible energy portfolio to help keep energy reliable and economically low for Washingtonians in the area and the areas that use the power generated in the region.
 8. Restrict the distance the windmill farm will be to Kennewick, WA - The further away the windmill farm is from the city, the less the impact, the buffer zone should be increased away from the city and changed.
 9. Significant input from the area of the Tri-Cities should be used in forming an objective consideration of the project. The input from local officials and residents should be weighed in on this project moving forward.
 10. Expedited granting of the Hores Heaven Windmill Farm application should not be granted until new plans are to include the agreed-upon restrictions and offered for the public to review.

Thank you,

Mr. Jason Lawrence
PO Box 525
Richland, WA 99352

From: bjorn99352@yahoo.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Jim Gaston](#); [Elinor Kasza](#); [Greg Kasza](#); [David Harvey](#); [Karen Nelson](#); [Diana Moeller](#); [Diana Moeller](#); [Dan Tyler](#); [Dan Tyler](#); [Bruce Bjornstad](#)
Subject: Against SCOUT Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 1:18:52 PM

Public Comment #0294
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

EFSEC,

As a resident of the Tri Cities I strongly object to the building of hundreds of GIANT wind turbines on our beautiful Horse Heaven Hills. Here in eastern Washington we already produce our fair share of energy via existing nuclear, hydroelectric and solar-energy production. Adding wind turbines will accomplish nothing except produce a glut of energy and unnecessary competition among existing energy providers, while destroying our natural beauty we all love and share.

We have an abundance of sunshine here in eastern Washington. If we really needed to produce more energy wouldn't solar farms (e.g., on decommissioned Hanford Site) provide a cheaper, more-constant and reliable source of energy without marring the visible landscape? Hundreds of giant wind turbines on the HH Hills will only benefit SCOUT Energy and local farmers while ruining the natural environment for everyone else.

Bruce Bjornstad
Richland, WA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Mike Ragland](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 1:21:22 PM

Public Comment #0295
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am a strong supporter of alternative energy, but strongly oppose the Horse Heaven Wind farm project that is proposed and waiting a decision from the state of Washington. The project simply does not make sense, nor do wind farms in general.

The project, in addition to being an eyesore on the landscape of Washington and Benton County in particular, will produce at a maximum production only about 1150 Megawatts of total power, but will take a total of 112 square miles of land. This yields just over 10 MW of power per square mile (1 section of land), while a properly designed solar project with batteries, will produce approximately 150 MW per section with approximately the same MW hours of production per year. The initial investment is much smaller and the useful life of this project without any replacement of solar panels is about 25 years, at which time the trackers can be re-paneled and the project last for another 25 years of useful life. The re-paneling of the entire project will cost less than changing the blades on one wind tower. In addition the rapid evolvement of the technology of solar panels is rapidly decreasing the cost per watt for power production, and thus less expensive power to supplement the Columbia River Dam System which currently has production capacity of just over 22,000 MegaWatts of hydro-electric power that is not enough to meet future demand, not to mention the cost of refurbishing the power houses and turbines.

Most of the land required will have to be taken out of production by farming or grazing and will destroy a good bit of natural habitat, especially for birds.

I have studied this issue for several years now with the idea of constructing a solar farm and in the process have researched the cost/benefit ratio of solar over wind with people with far more knowledge than I have. Because of the cost per MegaWatt for this project, the sale of power will entail higher prices per MW hour leading to price increases for the cost of that power to industrial users as well as the general public.

Please do not approve this poorly conceived project.

Michael K. Ragland
1216 Birch Avenue
Richland, WA
mragland@comcast.net
206-931-3527

From: [John Bender](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse heaven wind farm comments
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 1:41:36 PM

Public Comment #0296
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Comments for meeting:

NO! A big NO on the proposed wind farm. No one within eye sight of these nasty, ugly, site line destroying, view pollution wind turbines, want these things within a hundred miles of their city, or rural property! The benefits are near zero for the majority of the people that have to see these horrific looking behemoths. Am I also understanding that the power generated is being sent out of our region?

The people of this area do not want this bad project, cancel all permits! NO to this mess!

John Bender

From John's iPhone

From: [Amy Cole](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm project: Amy Cole opinion
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 1:55:35 PM

Public Comment #0297
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Six reasons why the Horse Heaven Wind Farm project should not be approved (Number 7 in my list is merely voicing my frustration):

- 1) The citizens of Benton County should be the ones making the decision whether this project is beneficial to our community. Currently, we are invited to comment, however the decision making power rests with a committee residing outside of our geographic area. I believe Scout Clean Energy expected pushback from our community and found a convenient loophole to bypass Benton County residents's thoughts and opinions in the hopes of passing this gigantic project. If this proposal is rejected, Scout Clean Energy will need to bring the approval process to the citizens of Benton County which is what should have happened in the first place.
- 2) Benton County residents will not receive any of the power generated by this facility. Our local PUD has already stated they will not support this new wind/solar project. Our public utility (Benton County PUD) currently has a power supply that is already 93% non-emitting. We are being asked (by the State of Washington) to invite this project into our community, alter our natural landscape, and receive no energy benefit from it.
- 3) Most of the temporary jobs created by this project will likely be filled by skilled labor hired from outside of the Tri -Cities. This is simply the way labor unions fill large-scope jobs. Permanently sacrificing our beautiful natural landscape for some short-term temporary jobs, most of which will be filled by tradesmen from outside of our area, is not in our best interest.
- 4)The Tri-Cities has historically passed zoning rules forbidding development of our ridgelines. Badger Mountain and Candy Mountain are two examples of this. Instead of allowing the development of these ridgelines, we created parks and hiking trails in order to maintain the natural beauty of this rare shrub-steppe land. The Horse Heaven Hills are uniquely magnificent and the silhouette of these ancient ridgelines should be protected.
- 5) The citizens of Benton County have historically been asked to sacrifice our individual needs for the greater good of our Country. We had no say in the establishment of Hanford. Similarly, today we are being asked to accept this gigantic project without any input into its scope or whether it benefits our community. Frankly I am growing weary of other folks telling me what is best for me and my community. Rural land is NOT 'available' land. It is the foundation of a viable and valuable way of life which is too often mis-understood.
- 6) The Tri-Cities region has been developing long range growth plans for decades. Part of our planned growth will be very close to this project. It's impact on our master plan will be significant and should not be approved without the input of our elected officials and citizens.
- 7) We already have the Nine Canyon wind farm. How many more of these 400+ foot skyscrapers do we have to look at each and every day?

Respectfully,
Amy Cole
29404 N 118 Pr NW
Benton City, WA 99320
(317) 201-0934

From: [Gary Hall](#)
To: ef-sec@utc.wa.gov; [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Application for Wind mill farm near tri-Cities
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:00:07 PM

Public Comment #0298
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Honorable Pane Members –

This email is to urge you to **deny** the current application for a wind mill farm near the Tri-Cities by Scout Energy.

In the first place Scout couldn't even show the decency to make the application locally. They have made it to the State without any regard for the wishes of the local community.

These windmills are extremely dangerous to birds. Eagles and hawks are making a comeback in the Mid-Columbia – please protect that comeback.

Their appearance is grotesque so we in Benton County are made to suffer their ugliness while we are trying to promote the area for tourism. Look up the wind farm near Banning, California and try to imagine yourself stopping for wine sampling there.

Wind mills are only 30% efficient at producing power – very poor. They are not self-supporting. The only way they can be proposed seriously is with heavy government subsidies. A better place for investing resources in energy is in the small nuclear reactors being developed at Hanford. They are the only real answer to coming energy crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

Thank you,
Gary Hall, PE

Hall Engineering Associates

10 South Auburn St
Kennewick WA 99336

(509) 582-2200
halleng@owt.com

From: adavidmaughan@gmail.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: adavidmaughan@gmail.com
Subject: Comments for Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Benton Co.
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:05:11 PM
Attachments: [Comments to deny the wind farm 29Mar21 sent.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0299
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please add my **written comments** to those **AGAINST construction of the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm** in Benton County, WA.

Thank you, David Maughan

David Maughan lists some reasons for NOT allowing the proposed Horse Heaven Hills wind farm.

509-222-9180, Richland Washington, retired Battelle scientist, 29Mar2021

NOTE after attending the March 16th hearing in Kennewick, it became apparent that a giant problem with allowing the wind farm is that it will halt major population expansions for the Tri-Cities. Agricultural lands rightfully curtail major developments to the north. Hanford restricts development to the west, and the wind farm will restrict southern development. It cannot be allowed.

Wind Farm warming of US surfaces. If wind farms are built in the US to meet current goals, surface temperatures across the continental US will warm by 0.24 deg C beating the heat-rise for the use of coal according to David Keith, in the journals Environmental Research Letters and Joule. His calculations show that wind farms are also significant detrimental factors for climate change.

Documented Health effects. Many citizens in communities with wind turbines report experiencing sleep deprivation, headaches, noise problems, and heart complications related to wind turbines placed near their residences. Law suits have followed but in every case the complainants were paid off just before the court to eliminate negative publicity for the wind farm industry.

Land use loss happen with wind farms. Bulldozers and graders create wide roads across owner's properties. Rocky subsurface materials are mixed to the surface and then highly compacted to render the soils near the towers unproductive for future crops. Erosion follows on sloped land. If the land owner uses aerial crop spraying, it will be limited in the future and will become more expensive. Since crop insurance will not cover the farmer in cases of insects or plant disease where damage is "due to insufficient or improper application of pest control measures or disease control measures", crop loss could lead to significant financial losses for farmers.

David Keith at Harvard reports that the rate of energy generation divided by the total area of the wind farm is up to 100 times lower than reported by energy experts. In other words, wind farms will require up to 20 times more land to meet proposed US renewable green energy targets. The reason is that the "wind shadow" behind each tower, where air has been slowed down by the turbine's blades, results in decreased output. Most of the estimates failed to consider this turbine-atmosphere interaction. For an isolated wind turbine, interactions are not important. But once the wind farms are more than five to 10 kilometers deep, these interactions have a major impact lowering the power density of the whole farm.

Leased land – easements. The land owners sign leases/easements for access roads and plots under the towers that turn into whole farm easements. Easements usually include giving the developer the right to lay cables that connect the turbine to substations and the power grid, and the right to use non-leased land in order to access the leased land to build, operate, and maintain the turbine. AND they prevent landowners from doing anything on their property that may block the wind, such as planting a tree or building a shed. Easements also give the developer the right to "produce noise, shadow flicker, radio interference, vibrations or other impacts" relating to a turbine's operation. In effect the land owner is surrendering use of his/her property. It is probable that farm land owners will favor wind farms because they will earn more no longer farming.

Set-backs. Some counties are implementing best practices in setbacks, which commonly state that turbines should be set back 110 percent of the total tower height from the property line or road. Setbacks determine

how much noise from the turbines is audible to those nearby, and whether they get shadow flicker, which is a pulsing light effect caused by shadows from the blades of a turbine rotating in front of the sun. One man in Primghar, Iowa (<https://slate.com/technology/2017/08/why-farmers-in-iowa-hope-wind-energy-will-blow-over.html>) said the blade noise for low wind speeds at night keeps him awake, even with relatively new windows. Energy workers came to the turbine and didn't hear anything. Without further recourse, he could either put up with it or move.

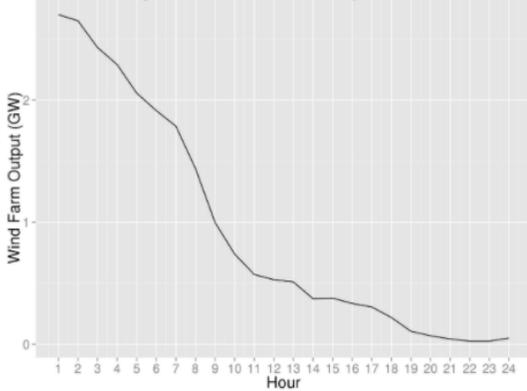
Disposal of old blades. Cold to hot Tri-Cities weather, lightning strikes, and vibrations give the blades about a 10-year lifetime before being sent to local landfills, considering transport costs. The current materials used are not easily combustible and materials recovery is very expensive. The large size of the blades is also an issue. Where will these blades be disposed of in this area?

Buying Chinese. I'm not sure if this applies to the Horse Haven Hills wind farm being proposed, but if gearless (direct drives without gearboxes) turbines are planned, for increased efficiency, noise reduction, longer lifetime, etc., gearless drives have an absolute requirement for neodymium (Nd) in the magnets. The magnets in the turbines produce the electricity. Ninety-five percent of the world's Nd comes from China so Scout Clean Energy turbine suppliers would have to buy Chinese.

Who will get the new wind farm power? The Columbia Generating Station produces direct current (DC) and connects to the Bonneville's high voltage DC power line into The Dalles Oregon where DC/AC conversion can occur. From there, it's directed mainly into California. The generating station provides no AC power for local use other than to operate the plant. It's probable that Scout Clean Energy (SCE) will direct its MW output onto Bonneville transmission lines for transfer south, none of which will be used in the Tri-Cities. Quinbrook, the SCE funding source, is diversified in 'smart grid' projects in the US, UK and Australia; I believe there is no local funding so there is no obligation for power to remain in the Tri-cities or Washington.

Has a proposed wind farm been denied and why? Examples: ● In 2020 North Dakota regulators rejected a permit for a proposed wind farm in Ward and McLean counties, because of a 2017 state law that prevents all-night blinking red lights on new plants. ● In 2018 American Electric Power canceled its 2 GW Wind Catcher proposal, the largest single proposed renewable energy project in the United States, after Texas utility regulators unanimously rejected it, saying it did not provide enough benefit to customers. Private investors financed that project but asked for \$4.5 billion of taxing authority. US wind farms are publicly funded but the companies provide only minimal adverse (financial) information. ● Doraville, N Ireland plans North Ireland's largest ever wind farm rejected in 2020 where 33 wind turbines would cause "considerable harm" which outweighed the economic and environmental benefits. ● The Drum Hollistan 2 development in Scotland, seven turbines at 35 megawatts was rejected because of the visual impact and because it would be detrimental to an area designated as wild land. The vote was 87 against and 76 for it. ● In 2019 in Australia 23-turbines were not added near Crookwell to nearly 300 turbines already there and close to eight nearby properties. The Independent Planning Commission stated the "visual impacts of the project are unacceptable given the significant visual impacts on multiple residences." ● The 2020 Plan to build nine large wind turbines in Northern Israel with an electricity producing capacity of 32 megawatts was scrapped after appeals due to damage to the landscape, risk to several rare birds and possible noise hazards.

On 16th June 2013, Britain's wind farm output was 100 times higher at the start of the day than at the end of it



Wind farm real output in watts. In

<https://energycentral.com/c/ec/why-wind-farms-can-be-relied-almost-zero-power>

Dr Robert Wilson states that wind farms cannot provide reliable power, as coal and natural gas power stations do. For the UK's peak-power day in **all 2013**, June 16th, Briton's wind farm output was 100 times lower at the end of the day than at the start. Wind farms have to be backed up on a daily basis while coal and gas plants have scheduled outages. The real mega-watt output of the proposed plant will be only a small fraction of 600 MWs.

Advocating wind farm expansions while opposing gas/coal/nuclear plants is a display of ignorance of basic engineering realities. The UK is perhaps Europe's windiest area.

New in wind farm technology. 200-foot towers are coming which will boost the blades higher where the wind blows more consistently. However, this will bring more blade noise, equipment vibration, shortened lifetimes, and visibility.



Cost – benefits. Without knowledge of operation and maintenance (perhaps \$50K/year per turbine), repairs, lease rates, installation costs, insurance, power costs, lightning/hail storm strikes, use of public funds, overall costs (about \$1.3 million per megawatt power production), its difficult to estimate real costs.

in reality, **wind turbines don't come close to producing their rated capacity** because of changing wind speeds—the wind is never constant. Because the wind dies down, changes direction, etc., overall averages will be much lower, usually in the 30-40% range. The power is sold back to the electrical grid of utility companies. According to *Dan Blewett-Duke University* <https://weatherguardwind.com/how-much-does-wind-turbine-cost-worth-it/> the yearly revenue from a 2.5 megawatt turbine [at a 35% of capacity where \$0.02 per KWh = \$50/hour x 24 hours x 365 days] could be \$153,300 in income per year per tower. The UK study and the Harvard “wind

shadow” information noted above however, infer that production in reality may be a small percentage of the “producer” stated output capacity. US Wind farms have relied on tax reductions and government incentives.

These production tax credits are changing and depend on public opinion. Without public funding and some job opportunities, wind farms would be minor fixtures on the US landscape.

The Texas case, February 2021.



From: [Chuck Hamack](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:13:46 PM

Public Comment #0300
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To whom it may concern,

Most Wind projects start approaching local folks about the desire to have a wind farm located in ones back yard. While this would seem a reasonable request by going to the state rather than local government groups it is a slap in the face of our local governments and people. Building a wind farm that is not supported by the local government and its people is divisive.

This community has already given back to the state having it only operating nuclear plants and hydroelectric dams. The impact already from Hanford has kept this community nervous about the consequences having a nuclear site in its front yard. Now the state wants to have a wind farm, which is a short term solution to energy, and a long term eye sore. We have no confidence that government can require the clean up once the wind farm is abandoned. Like Hanford our community will have to pay the price due to a company playing shell games with who will pay for the clean up once this company sell or whatever to avoid paying for the demolition of the farm.

Our community has given, already, to the state. This wind farm company can build in other places that have not already given to the energy community. The bad faith already created by this company's approach to this construction should not be supported. In these times of divisiveness this could be one more example of people not listening or doing the right thing.

Please send this company away from us by redirecting them to other communities who have not sacrificed and are better suited to a wind farm location.

Please give this serious attention,
Chuck Hamack