

From: [Vicky Keller](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: AGAINST Scout Energy Wind Farm
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 7:13:47 PM

Public Comment #0201
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am AGAINST Scout Clean Energy siting a 6500 acre wind project along the southern section of the towns spanning from Benton City to Kennewick. These are my reasons that I hope you will consider thoughtfully to deny this project.

1) Scout Energy has applied directly with the state, deceitfully circumventing our county government and the local citizens, who they know are against this project. They instead are hoping that EFSEC, and our Governor, will give them permission for this project because of Washington's goal to be carbon free by 2045. This under-handed maneuver proves to me that they are not committed to my community nor will be an honest and trustworthy company I want in my community.

2) According to their own data the majority of homes in the Tri-Cities and surrounding areas will see a minimum of 50 windmills from their home windows. Not only is this a disgusting thought but it will destroy any property value growth for our region. Would you want to look out at your view and see these monstrosities?

3) Kennewick's growth management plan will be impacted to the point that Kennewick will become stagnant since growth can only occur on the property this project has identified to construct the 250 wind turbines. Property values will decrease overnight and our tourism economy will be affected because who wants to drink wine while staring at rusting wind turbines.

4) The wind turbines will be in direct flight of migrating birds killing and maiming hundreds of thousands over the lifetime of the project.

5) This is the wrong state to construct wind farms. According to Scout Energy, this farm's installed capacity will be 1,150 megawatts, but in reality they are operating at a capacity factor of only 30%, thus they will only actually generate 345 megawatts operationally. And, wind turbines in this area of the state have a proven average capacity factor of only 27%. This in itself should determine this is not the appropriate location for this project.

6) The Tri-Cities has two sources of renewable and clean energy power generation. The Snake River dams and the Columbia Generating plant. Each of these run circles around wind energy and generate consistent energy at more than 95% capacity even if the wind does not blow. Instead of wind maybe the state should consider more nuclear.

7) Scout's claim that this wind farm will offset 3.5 million tons of CO2 is not true. There is little fossil fuel in Washington State, and this wind power will only displace hydro, which again is a reliable and consistent renewable, and will have not effect on carbon emissions, no matter where this energy ends up.

8) The employment numbers, although robust in the building of the project, drops off exponentially when the turbines are operational. The project does not produce enough economic viability for this community, the power grid and the fact that they are unreliable and unsightly are more reasons to deny this project.

Protect my community and DENY Scout Energy's certification to build an unwanted, unsightly and energy deficient project in my backyard.

Thank you

Vicky Keller

Kennewick, WA

From: [Brent Strecker](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: EFSEC Committee. Oppose the Horse Heaven Wind project
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 7:09:42 AM

Public Comment #0202
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

EFSEC Committee,

As a Benton County taxpayer since 1971 who loves this area I am **TOTALLY OPPOSED** to the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm being pushed on us by Scout Energy. **The residents of Benton County do not need and cannot use the unreliable power from this project.**

The nameplate 1150 MWs of unpredictable power from this project will only have a capacity factor of 27% in reality. That means it will only net 310 MW's of unpredictable power. Is it worth stopping Kennewick's growth of our vineyards, business, and homes to the south? Not according to the people that live here.

I witness hundreds to thousands of sandhill cranes almost daily fly directly into the path of the proposed wind turbine area year around. The seemingly thorough "Horse Heaven Wind Farm Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy" does not adequately address this with regards to the massive 500 foot high, 100 mph blades. This is a much different situation in location and size than the Nine Canyon turbines. It will be a meat grinder.

This area is arguably the most GREEN Carbon Free area in the **WORLD** already. Our community says no to this senseless, enormously, negatively impacting project. Please do not ram it down our throats.

Supporting Documents to cite a few:

-

Conventional Wind Energy – A Design Deadly for Birds, American Eagle Foundation. This article refers to wind turbines 212' high with blades at 116'. Scout Clean Energy is proposing 500' towers with commensurate blades. I find it interesting that their website makes this statement: ***"From sponsoring local events to protecting wildlife, we've formed happy, win-win relationships with the communities that are home to our wind farms"***. They have done nothing to involve the community – in fact, it is in their best interest to keep this as quiet as possible to avoid public uproar when word gets out. I want to make sure this project will not be permitted.

And as for protecting wildlife - the proposed site is in the migration path of thousands of geese and sand hill cranes, not to mention the plethora of hawks and other birds of prey that live in our area.

- [Category Archives: Wind Turbine Noise Issues](#), MasterResource, a free-market energy blog
- [The True Cost of Wind Turbine Fires and Protection](#) , Windpower Energy Development, by Angela Krcmar, Global Sales Manager, Wind, [Firetrace International](#), September 8, 2020
- [Wind Turbine Blades Can't Be Recycled, So They're Piling Up in Landfills](#), Bloomberg Green, February 5, 2020, and the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business, October 2020, vol 19, issue 10.
- [Save Our Ridges](#), July 2020
- [Wind Power Development Questioned](#), Benton PUD, September 3, 2020. Our own public utility districts, PUD, Franklin, and Benton REA all say we do not need this power here and that all of it will be delivered to other parts of our beautiful state. Why would you allow our pristine skyline and landfills be polluted forever to send the power elsewhere?
- [What's Wrong with Wind and Solar?](#), Prager University, September 14, 202 Michael Shellenberger
- "Do We Have to Destroy the Earth to Save It? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rc5AIFo3zTk>
- Mark Mills, Senior Fellow at the Manhattan Institute "What's Wrong With Wind and Solar?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RqppRC37Ogl>
- Alex Epstein of the Center for Industrial Progress "Can We Rely on Wind and Solar Energy?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObvdSmPbdLg>

D. Brent and Karen Strecker

35401 S. Valley Vista PRSE

Kennewick Wa 99338

Ph 509 528-3000

From: [Sarah Cawley](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: HHWF Comment Submission
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 7:45:59 AM
Attachments: [Horse Heaven Wind Farm LCTHF.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0203
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept the attached letter as our comment from the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

If there are any questions or comments, please let me know. Thank you for your time in advance.

-Sarah

--

Sarah Cawley
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Executive Director
406.204.7504





Keepers of the Story ~ Stewards of the TrailSM

We preserve, promote and teach the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark for the benefit of all people

March 25, 2021

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop P.O. Box 43172,
Olympia, WA, 98504-3172

RE: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project

Dear Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council:

Thank you for providing the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF) information on the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project (HHWF). We are interested in submitting our comments on this matter, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Project process.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF) is a national organization established in 1969 and dedicated to preserving the historic accuracy of the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and protecting the cultural and historic integrity of the landscapes through which the Expedition traveled from 1803-1806. We currently have about 1,000 members organized in 22 local chapters across the country. Our membership comes from all walks of life who share a common passion for passing along the lessons that can be learned from this important era of our nation's history to future generations. This includes preservation of the landscape through which the Expedition traveled.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in the National Trails System Act, (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009 and the succeeding John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act signed on March 12, 2019). It is 4,900 miles long and is officially recognized from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Fort Clatsop, Oregon. The trail is one of 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails in the collection of long-distance trails in our National Trails Systems.

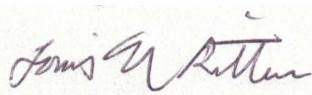
We have been provided information that indicates the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project would have a significant and negative effect on the viewshed of the Columbia River, Snake River and portions of the Yakima River that are within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Our organization has inspected the area of the proposed encroachment of the Columbia River/Snake River/Yakima River viewshed, and we agree that the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project will have a detrimental effect on the viewshed of the rivers that are within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

This portion of the Columbia River, Snake River and Yakima River is, of course, an integral part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and as such is entitled to certain protections. Significant Expedition locations and campsites in the 10 mile buffer zone include: campsite of October 16-17, 1805 at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center at the mouth of the Snake River; Captain William Clark's view of the Yakima River on October 17, 1805; campsite of October 18, 1805 near Spring Gulch; campsite of April 26, 1806 at Fourmile Creek; campsite of April 27-28, 1806 at Yellepit; campsite of April 29, 1806 near Wallula, and campsite of April 30, 1806 on the Touchet River. There are also several area locations described by the Expedition involving rapids, Native American settlements and other unique features.

In addition, the visual effect at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center would be significant and in a negative manner, with approximately 200 of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project's 244 towers visible. Also at that site is the Confluence Project site installation by acclaimed designer Maya Lin, just a few feet from the water's edge where the Snake River and Columbia River meet. The significance and importance of the integrity of Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center and its environs cannot be overstated.

Because the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project will clearly have a negative effect of the viewshed of significant locations on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, we feel that any and all efforts to mitigate the effect of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project, including the project not being authorized or approved, should be undertaken.

Sincerely,



Louis N. Ritten
President, LCTHF



Sarah Cawley
Executive Director, LCTHF



Robert Heacock
Chairman, LCTHF Trail Stewardship Committee
LCTHF Washington Chapter Officer

From: [Leslie Hauer](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scout Clean Energy Project near Tri-Cities
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 8:39:59 AM

Public Comment #0204
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please accept these comments for the record on this project that proposes to ruin our skyline:

1. The impact on the visual environment has no doubt been covered at length by others, so I will not discuss this issue in any detail, other than to note that the folks in the Denver area had the foresight to protect their ridgelines along the Front Range to preserve their viewshed. We should have the foresight to do the same here.
2. Wind power is not consistent, therefore is unpredictable and not reliable as a replacement for other generation sources. If it's not reliable, it's really not a worthwhile investment of public resources of any sort including tax breaks of any kind.
3. Where is the energy generation to be used? Is the power for local needs or in support of green good intentions in other locations where the visual blight and general nuisance are undesirable?
4. I understand that the project is largely intended for private land and that some farmers will benefit from land leases. However, a careful review of costs and benefits should be undertaken and should consider the loss of agricultural land from the tower pads and associated roadways, potential jobs after construction, and impact on the power grid of unpredictable surges or equally unpredictable lack of generation. In short: how does this project benefit the area that will be most impacted?
5. The Horse Heaven Hills is on a major migratory bird flyway. Wind farm operators don't like to talk about the impact on birds, especially raptors, and in some cases, are allowed to hide the bird kill as proprietary information (I reviewed wind projects in my professional career as a land use planner and planning consultant). The impact here could be massive. Just this morning, for example, there are hundreds of Sandhill Cranes browsing across a recently plowed irrigation circle. Hawks pass here regularly. We even, occasionally, see Snowy Owls whose usual habitat is much further north. Do not lightly dismiss the impact that these tall bird-killers will have!
6. The Tri-Cities area is unusual in Washington State, having a highly educated, technically adept workforce, an entire "area" that already has one nuclear generating facility, and ready access to the power grid because of that facility and the network of dams along the Columbia and Snake Rivers. If this state--and indeed, the country-- was in fact serious about moving away from carbon-based fuels for electricity generation, the obvious choice is nuclear. The nuclear generating plant here is safely operated and reliably keeps the lights on in Seattle. Until EFSEC and the Governor support nuclear energy, the whole "green energy" push reveals it's true nature as a massive boondoggle and giveaway to people and firms that really don't care about sustainability or the impact on local people or the environment.

Leslie Hauer
6100 Collins Road
West Richland, WA 99353
509-967-9101

From: [Richard Yrjanson](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Brown, Sharon](#); [Klippert, Brad](#); [Boehnke, Matt](#)
Subject: Scout Application for Site Certification Wind Farm please add the following information into application process.
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 10:13:10 AM

Public Comment #0205
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Members of Site Approval for Scouts application:

In case the following information was not forwarded to you I would like to enter this into the application process.

The complete lack of concern of “we the People” who you represent to approve such a project with so many negatives it represents, unreliable peak supply, excess cost for rate payers, complete disregard for degrading the country side, impedes farm land, use of state lands, kills large and small birds, noise both heard and unheard health problems possible, excess cost for production of power / megawatt, prairie land loss that we enjoy here in the mid-state, being built on the hills where the “Goose Gap” has been hunted for years for geese. I could go on but this project is so “not needed” but is nothing more than the promise for more money on the backs of the rate payers. It is like approving Marijuana the only ones addicted to it are the users and the ability to collect taxes or receive funds. We pay for something that may leave the state both citizens and electricity. The truth is self evident wind, solar, and battery storage are no longer needed, build small nuclear reactors whose foot print is small instead of the “SPIKED BOOT PRINT OF THE SCOUT WIND FARM”

Richard Yrjanson
5207 W. 14th Ave
Kennewick, WA 99338

509-783-2994 dyrjanson@hotmail.com

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



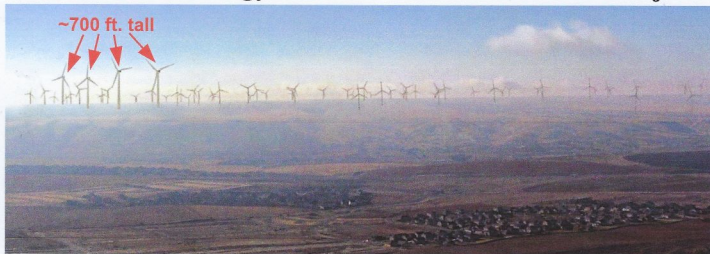
MUTTERINGS...

Keeping Benton County Voters Informed



March 24, 2021 Vol. 7 Special Edition

Scout Clean Energy-Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project



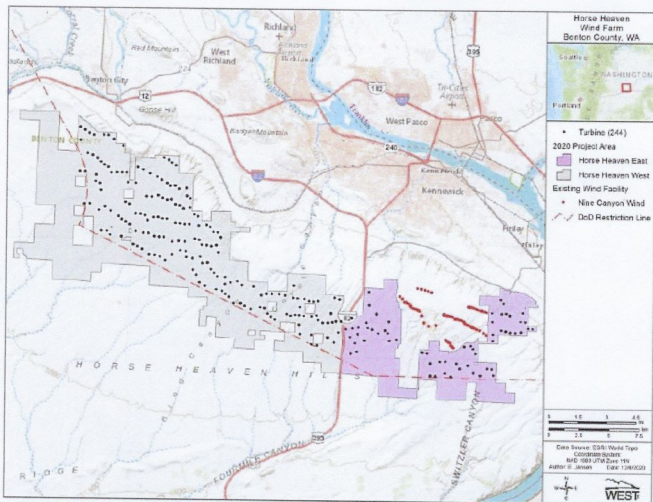
Here is a simulation from Scout Clean Energy. However it is phony for two reasons.: 1)There are only about fifty towers shown; whereas the project "includes up to 244 turbine locations and two solar arrays," plus two battery energy storage systems." Further, the elevation difference from the valley floor to the front ridge tops is approximately 500 feet. Scout mentions 500 foot towers with a second option with wind turbines of 657 to 671 feet tall. The planned turbines will be two to three times taller than those shown in the picture and matching the elevation change of the hills as shown. The added four towers at the left better demonstrate the height and demonstrate the towers won't fade into the background quite like shown because the hills under the back rows of turbines are 200 to 600 feet higher than the front rows of hills. For a very complete overview of the project go to

Save Our Ridges at http://save-our-ridges.org/?page_id=16

This Mutterings is dedicated to providing information concerning the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project so that readers can be informed of the nature of the project, it's status, various impacts on adjoining environment, population and habitat, and the opportunities for public input. The following will serve to guide the reader to the page where information of interest is to be found,

Map and siting of wind turbine farm	2
Impact on county economy, and uselessness of wind turbines	3
County comprehensive plan, poor wind efficiency	4
Poor soils for building will add to upkeep costs	5
Things we won't be told	6
Letter from EFSEC	7&8
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This newsletter is published and distributed by Karen Batishko, the current precinct committee officer for Benton County Precinct 1365. It's purpose is to keep PCOs and voters informed of legislative activity, and how their own elected officials are representing their interests. Karen may be contacted by email at BigLouie@pocketinet.com, or by phone at 509-628-8442.



Save Our Ridges

http://save-our-ridges.org/?page_id=20 also found at

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2021/03/08/wind-turbines-on-washingtons-horse-heaven-hills-how-not-to-pursue-a-green-new-deal/?sh=7eb49a6c508d>

Please note: Talk to your County Commissioners. I (Karen) talked to the Planning Commission. They tell me they are not welcome to voice an "opinion." Support your County Commissioners in standing against this proposal.

Will.McKay@co.benton.wa.us
Jerome.Delvin@co.benton.wa.us
Shon.Small@co.benton.wa.us

At first the public is told: "The Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is a project planned by Scout Clean Energy of Boulder Colorado. The wind farm will be on 60,000 acres of farmland consisting of up to 244 wind turbines, each one from 500 foot to 671 feet tall. The turbines will be in up to 6 rows along 24 miles of our Western [Southern] skyline.

"EFSEC [Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council] is the state board charged with the siting of major energy facilities, and will review the application for environmental, **social and fiscal impacts** [these words disappear in any further communications]. The review process will ensure robust public involvement opportunities and participation by Benton County, who will also review the application for consistency with local land use and zoning laws."

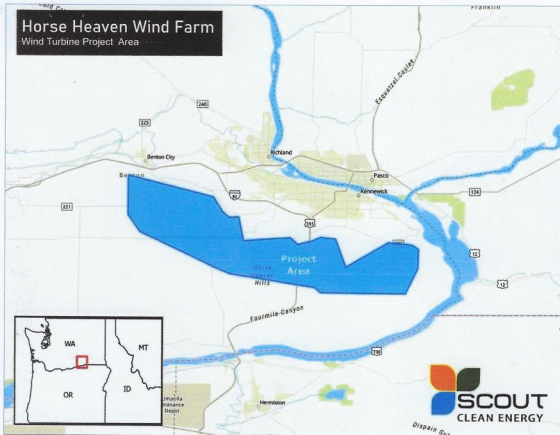
(Please, see page 4 & 5 discussing Benton County Comprehensive Plan.)

Then we are told: State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

"The State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC or Council) provides a "one-stop" siting process for major energy facilities in the State of Washington. EFSEC coordinates all evaluation and licensing steps for siting certain energy facilities in Washington. EFSEC specifies the conditions of construction and operation. **If approved, a Site Certification Agreement is issued in lieu of any other individual state or local agency permits.** EFSEC also manages an environmental and safety oversight program of facility and site operations."

Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Wind Turbine Project Area



**Horse Heaven
Wind Farm
destroys 60,000
Acres of farm land.**

**60,000 acres
equals one tenth of
Benton County
Farm Land Acres.
(613,530 acres)**

**The Market
value of the
agricultural
products sold
in 2017 was over
one billion dollars,
\$1,005,288,000.**

**It is a major part
of our economy.**

Mr. Christian is a commissioner of the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates the state's oil and gas industry.

"Regardless of your thoughts on climate change, last month's storm made painfully clear that climate catastrophists have an oversize influence on public policy. An obsessive focus on reaching the unattainable goal of zero carbon emissions led to decades of poor decisions that prioritized and subsidized unreliable energy sources (wind and solar) at the expense of reliable ones (natural gas, coal and nuclear). Texans now know that reliable energy is essential to our everyday lives.

"The catastrophists' oversize influence has produced a dangerous hypocrisy. Greens say that wind and solar can replace natural gas and coal to meet our energy needs while reducing carbon emissions. But when "renewables" fail, greens claim they aren't to blame. "Wind power was expected to make up only a fraction of what the state planned for during the winter," according to the Texas Tribune. Which is it?

Ratepayers and taxpayers don't have unlimited funds to invest in energy infrastructure. One choice always comes at the expense of another. The problem with wind and solar power is that investment in unreliable renewable sources has displaced investment in electricity generation from reliable energy sources. Worse, these investment decisions weren't made voluntarily by individuals in the free market. They were forced on Texans by politicians in Washington.

"According to the nonprofit Texas Public Policy Foundation, for every 39 cents the oil-and-gas industry received in federal taxpayer subsidies from 2010 to 2019, the wind industry received \$18.86, 48 times as much, and the solar industry received \$82.46, 211 times as much.

Credit: By Wayne Christian
The Wall Street Journal March 19, 2021: [www.wsj.com](https://www.wsj.com/articles/The-Grid-Nearly-Failed-Because-Of-An-Energy-Mix-Weighted-2021-03-20/texas-blackouts-blew-in-on-the-wind/)
"The Grid Nearly Failed Because Of An Energy Mix Weighted ..."
See <https://www.wind-watch.org/news/2021/03/20/texas-blackouts-blew-in-on-the-wind/>

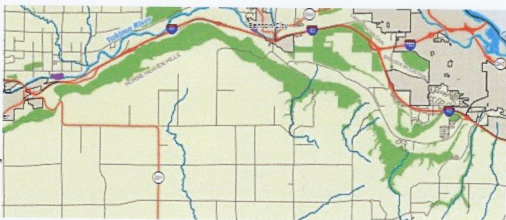
By 2029 Texans will have spent \$2.5 billion subsidizing wind and solar farms through local property-tax abatements and \$14 billion building the Competitive Renewable Energy Zone's transmission lines through their electricity bills. While most businesses must pay to bring their product to market, wind and solar get a free ride from Texas taxpayers.

If you add it all up, Texas taxpayers and ratepayers will shell out an estimated \$36 billion by the end of the decade to subsidize wind and solar energy. These subsidies have tripled wind and solar capacity in the Lone Star State in the past 10 years, but as Texans learned first-hand during the storm, there is a huge difference between capacity and generation.

"Instead of seeking solutions that increase reliable generation, several Democrats in Congress have suggested the answer lies in connecting ERCOT, Texas' independent electricity grid, with the rest of the nation. As someone who lives in East Texas, one of the few parts of the state not served by ERCOT, I can tell you first-hand this wouldn't have prevented the blackouts—we lost power too. "Having a grid that could have drawn more power from other states would have done little to ease the crisis," Loren Steffy wrote in Texas Monthly. "With most of the country also facing bitterly cold temperatures, the rest of the U.S. wouldn't have had much to spare anyway.

"Texas can't afford to come within minutes of total system failure ever again, and the only way to ensure it never happens is to reverse policy choices that have tilted the state's energy mix in favor of inefficient and unreliable sources. The mix needs to be rebalanced, with an emphasis on cheap, plentiful and reliable sources such as natural gas, coal and nuclear."

Benton County Comprehensive Plan Update 2018



LU [land use] Goal 2: Follow controlling Law and constitutional Requirements, both state and federal, to ensure the appropriate protection of private property rights. **Policy 1:** Prevent regulations that create undue adverse economic impacts, or unnecessarily restrict the use of private property.

LU Goal 5: Identify the location, site planning, and density of new non-farm development outside of UGAs [Urban Growth Area] to protect existing agriculture from incompatible adjacent land uses. **Policy 1:** Establish compatible land uses adjacent to areas designated as GMA Agriculture to minimize conflicts associated with farm activities such as spray, dust, noise, odors, and liability.

NR Goal 1: Conserve and maintain agricultural land of long term commercial significance as the local natural resource most essential for sustaining the County's agricultural economy. **Policy 1:** Conserve areas designated "GMA Agriculture" in the Comprehensive Plan for a broad range of agricultural uses to the maximum extent possible and protect these areas from the encroachment of incompatible uses.

Policy 2: In the event of a conflict between residential uses and normal and routine practices of commercial agriculture on lands designated as GMA Agriculture, support the agricultural use where it is evident that the agricultural practice is consistent with or equivalent to recognized Best Management Practices.

ED Goal 3: Provide areas for the location of light and environmentally acceptable heavy industrial uses, while minimizing impacts on surrounding rural uses. **Policy 1:** Establish industrial sites on lands designated for industrial use to protect from incompatible uses by using performance and/or site design criteria. **Policy 2:** Do not locate non-agricultural related industry on "GMA Agriculture" designated land.

Soils and Agricultural Resources Benton County has highly productive agricultural soils with over \$900 million generated by Benton County crops and livestock per year (BERK Consulting 2017). Designated agricultural resource lands make up a majority of the County. (See Appendix A: Map Folio, Figure 4 and 5 for existing and proposed Land Use Designations Maps and Appendix L Agricultural Resource Land Reclassification Memo.) The soils in Benton County are generally suitable for both agriculture and structural development, with localized constraints relating to slope, geology, and pockets of sandy soils and fines. **Soils in the region are very susceptible to wind and water erosion once stripped of their natural cover. However, in undisturbed condition, the indigenous shrub-steppe and bunch grass vegetative cover has adapted to hold basin soils in place. When stripped of natural cover, prevention of erosion requires the application of deliberate and aggressive management techniques.**

Priority Habitats and Species

There is no plan from Scout that will mitigate the losses to Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas!



bpa.gov/transmission

According to Dr. Jim Conca, **the real problem is that Scout Clean Energy is building this wind farm in the wrong state.**

Tornado Alley is the optimal place for wind turbines in the United States (where average wind speeds exceed 6.5 m/s), pushing capacity-factor-a-measure-of-reliability to > 50%, and has made wind the second largest generator of electricity in Kansas, South Dakota and Iowa, where they actually displace coal power.

The capacity factor is the percentage of the time a system is supplying its nameplate or installed capacity. The nameplate capacity times the capacity factor equals the actual output of the generating system. According to the Scout Clean Energy plan the new farm's nameplate capacity will be 1,150 MW. **Since the capacity factor for this wind farm is only 30%,** the generation will actually be only 345 MW operationally. Wind turbines in this area have an average capacity factor of only 27%.

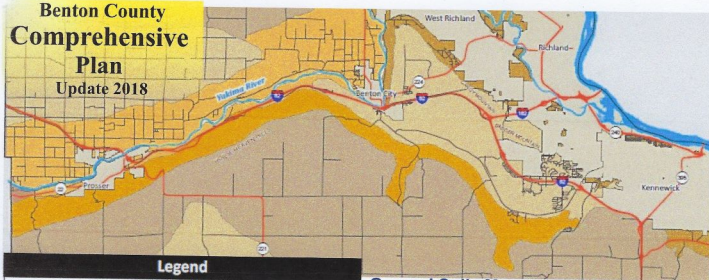
In comparison, the capacity factor for the Columbia Generating Station, our local nuclear power plant, is 98%. With a nameplate capacity of 1,207 MW, it's producing about 1,180 MW continuously, over 3 times that of the similarly-sized proposed wind farm.

This new Scout Clean Energy wind power will only displace hydro, another renewable, thus having no effect on carbon emissions, no matter where the energy ends up. We know this because it's what happens all the time in this state. The [mentioned] figure below is an example of a weekly electrical load map from the Bonneville Power Administration, who is the main system operator in the Pacific Northwest.

Every megawatt of electricity generated by windmills in the Mid-Columbia must be backed up with dispatchable generating sources to ensure electricity when the wind is not blowing but demand is high during the hottest days or coldest nights of winter. Wind energy is not a reliable energy resource until we have the capacity to store huge amounts of electricity.

The Generation diagram from BPA is at: <https://transmission.bpa.gov/Business/Operations/Wind/ba1twg.aspx>

Benton County Comprehensive Plan Update 2018



General Soils Map - Benton County Comprehensive Plan Update Appendix A: Map Folio / February 2018 MainDocApxA129020130020718PM- 1.pdf. 4.3.2 – 4.3.4 Soil Construction Limitations

The ordinance requires that developments avoid or maintain setbacks from potentially unstable areas or adequately assess the degree of instability and locate, design, and engineer the development to address the level of hazard.

Soil ratings developed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service are used to indicate the potential degree of limitations for different types of development on different soil types. For example, a soil type might be rated as having slight, moderate, or severe limitations for the development of roads or dwellings. A variety of criteria are used in making such determinations, including such factors as depth to bedrock, shrink-swell potential, permeability, and slope.

It should be noted that even a "severe" rating does not preclude construction from occurring. Rather, it means that the potential limitation should be recognized and that the construction techniques employed may have to take the special soil conditions into consideration. In all cases, Natural Resources Conservation Service emphasizes that an on-site inspection or soil survey would be necessary before it can be determined for certain if such soil characteristics are present.

Agricultural production is expected to continue to be a major activity and to play a vital role in the Benton County and Washington State economies. Population growth in the region will require proper management of soils and agricultural resources to protect them from development-induced erosion, contamination, and other impacts.

Because of their importance to the local and state economy, agricultural lands of long-term commercial significance should continue to be protected from future development, while promoting agricultural viability, will encourage conservation practices such as erosion control measures that will protect and enhance agricultural soils.

<https://bentoncounty.municipalcms.com/files/documents/2017CompPlanUpdate-Feb2018MainDocApxA129020130020718PM.pdf>

There is no plan from Scout that mentions gaining an understanding of which soils and where will be safe building sites. Building on unstable and particularly easily wind-borne soil will be 5 thoughtless negligence for future endangerment.

<https://bentoncounty.municipalcms.com/files/documents/2017CompPlanUpdate-Feb2018MainDocApxA129020130020718PM.pdf>

How Long Do Wind Turbines Last?

The cost of operation and maintenance (also known as O&M costs) make up a sizeable proportion of the total annual costs of a wind turbine. These costs vary depending upon the age of the asset, but average out at around 20-25% of the total levelised cost per kWh produced over the lifetime of the turbine. For a new turbine, these costs may be only 10-15%, but can increase to 20-35% towards the end of the turbine's lifecycle.

How long do Wind Turbines Last?

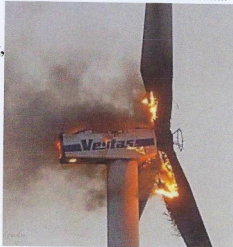
<https://www.twi-global.com/technical-knowledge/faqs/how-long-do-wind-turbines-last>

They may have planned for Decommissioning,

but there are NO plans so far for disposing of 732 turbine blades 200 feet long.

The blades, which are mostly made of fiberglass, carbon fiber, resin, and balsa wood, can't be melted down and remanufactured like recycled

aluminum cans or glass bottles. Blades get "recycled" by being shredded and mixed into construction materials or burned for cement production. Otherwise, they get hauled off to landfills. (Burning oils and epoxy are also toxic.)



Things we won't be told

Effects of "Ice Throw" and "Shadow Flicker" are addressed in this paper **Turbine Health Impact Study**
<https://puc.sd.gov/commission/dockets/electric/2018/EL18-003/testimony/dakotarange/rExhibit7.pdf>
Notice the EFSEC paper of Mar 17 "Appendix O, Baseline sound Survey" makes absolutely no comment on the noise that will be created by putting a wind turbine on top of Horse Haven Hills. See:
<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/horse-heaven-wind-project>

These resources mostly out of Europe expose the truth: Wind turbines appear to be at the apex of producing human discomfort, annoyance, and harm, in particular, infrasound and low-frequency noise (ILFN) harm because of impacts unique to this concoction of noise.
<https://stopthesethings.com/2019/05/07/far-out-german-study-finds-pulsing-wind-farm-infrasound-20-kilometres-from-turbines/>
<https://www.masterresource.org/wind-power-health-effects/infrasound-growing-liability-windpower/>

Industrial wind turbine infrasound is not the best weapon, but it is a weapon. This German video documents the harmful effects of the infrasound produced by industrial-sized wind turbines.

The dangers of infrasound have been known since the 1980s when the U.S. military heavily invested in infrasound (below 20 Hz) as a weapon. It looked like it had great promise, according to Col. John B. Alexander who was involved in weaponizing it.

The military gave up on infrasound as its effects on people were too random: some potential targets were seriously debilitated; others not so much. This video presents various studies by acoustical engineers and other scientists showing infrasound's affect on the ear, the heart, the brain and other organs.

A component of the cacophony of low-frequency, amplitude modulated noise generated by these things occurs in frequencies meant to be below what humans can ordinarily hear. But that does not mean that they can't sense what's referred to as 'infrasound.'

The evidence proving the unnecessary damage done to wind farm neighbours by the noise generated by giant industrial wind turbines is mounting by the day: Germany's Max Planck Institute has identified sub-audible infrasound as the cause of stress, sleep disruption and more (see our post here); and a Swedish group have shown that it's the pulsing nature of low-frequency wind turbine noise ('amplitude modulation') that is responsible for sleep problems in those forced to live with it (see our post here.)

Refer to this for entire transcript.

(continue top-right column)

... evidence of wind noise harms accrue. A recent Finnish assessment, scientifically valid and reproducible, found that infrasound (IS) only began to really attenuate after 15-20 km.

The pilot study does not show any significant reduction in damage caused by infrasound until over 15 kilometers from wind farms

The pilot study carried out in Satakunta and Northern Ostrobothnia in Finland shows that the damage caused by infrasound from wind power plants will only decrease significantly more than 15 kilometers away from wind turbines. The study was carried out by the Finnish Association for Environmental Health (SYTe) in the spring 2016.

It has been noticed from experience that after the construction of wind power plants, usually within a few months, people in the surrounding area have begun to get a wide range of symptoms, says Markku Mehtätalo, Chairman of the Finnish Association for Environmental Health.

<https://www.masterresource.org/wind-power-health-effects/infrasound-growing-liability-windpower/>

All bats and some birds interpret sounds surrounding them using their ears, and emit ultrasonic sounds of such high frequencies, that a human ear can't even hear them. Scout tells us in their survey of bats and birds that they inventoried eight different species of bats in their project area by using two frequencies of ultrasound which would call the bats to them for counting. What Scout didn't tell us is that these same ultrasound frequencies are among the mechanical sounds emitted from their wind turbine structures.

Before destroying more cropland Spend your Energy Money to Get Texas Cleaned Up There were 14,000 dead, standing wind turbines in the USA before the Storm

I did notice these comments about the hazardous materials used at the HHWF which need special handling:

During decommissioning, hazardous materials will be temporarily stored and utilized. These hazardous materials may consist of fuel, lubricating oil, hydraulic oil, propylene glycol, and other materials required for the decommissioning. Also, decommissioning will require the removal of pad-mounted transformers that contain large quantities of cooling fluids, likely consisting of mineral oil. BESS components may contain hazardous materials such as lithium. Due to the presence of hazardous materials during decommissioning, there is the potential for spills and/or leaks. The primary concerns associated with these spills and/or leaks are the potential

impacts to surface and ground water resources and the potential for soil contamination. A Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC) will be created for decommissioning. The SPCC Plan will detail the appropriate storage, cleanup, and disposal of hazardous wastes to ensure potential impacts are avoided. Any wastes generated will be handled and disposed of in accordance with state and local rules and regulations, and the site-specific SPCC Plan. Any monitoring, transportation, or handling of materials will be conducted by trained and qualified personnel utilizing established procedures and proper equipment.

**State of Washington
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**

Scout Clean Energy-Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project – EFSEC Docket No. EF-210011

**NOTICE OF INFORMATIONAL PUBLIC MEETING AND LANDUSE
CONSISTENCY HEARING MARCH 30, 2021**

**5 PM
Virtual Meeting**

Description of Proposal: On February 8, 2021 Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC (Applicant) submitted an Application for Site Certification (ASC) to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to develop, construct and operate the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project (Project). The proposed Project location is in Benton County south of Kennewick and will have a maximum generating capacity of 1,150 Megawatts (MW). The Applicant has requested review under EFSEC expedited process for the ASC. **An ASC may be eligible for expedited review when the EFSEC Council finds (1) the environmental impacts of the proposed project are not significant or can be mitigated to non-significant levels and (2) the Project is consistent and in compliance with city, county, or regional land use plans.**

The ASC and other materials are posted on the EFSEC website: www.efsec.wa.gov. Copies of the ASC will also be provided to the Washington State Library and to local libraries.

Proponent: Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC, 5775 Flatiron Parkway, Suite 120, Boulder, CO, 80301.

State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Lead Agency: EFSEC

SEPA Threshold Determination Required: A threshold determination is required to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required. The threshold determination will be made based on the probable project impacts identified in the information presented in the ASC. A threshold determination of non-significance (DNS) may be issued if the SEPA responsible official (EFSEC Manager) determines there will be no probable significant adverse environmental impacts. An EIS is not required if a DNS is issued.

Public Comment –Public Comment will be accepted during the Public Information Meeting and Land Use Consistency Hearing. If you are unable to attend the meeting please send your comment in writing to efsec@utc.wa.gov or at the mailing address below.

Meeting Location – The Public Information Meeting and Land Use Consistency Hearing will be held virtually due to public health concerns related to the spread of the novel corona virus (COVID-19). We appreciate your participation and thank you for your patience and understanding.

You may attend the meeting via Skype online or via phone at:

- <https://lync.wa.gov/utc.wa.gov/meet/joan.owens/DPSH9WFT>
- 1 (360) 407-3810 ID: 6702140#

[continued on page 8]

To facilitate this remote meeting, EFSEC would like to invite speakers to sign up ahead of the meeting. Anyone wishing to speak during the public meeting please notify EFSEC by phone at (360) 664-1345 or email at efsec@utc.wa.gov before 5:00 pm on March 30, 2021.

Open House – March 30, 2021, 5:00 – 5:30 PM: The Applicant and EFSEC staff will be available to answer questions about the Project and the EFSEC review process.

Informational Public Meeting – March 30, 2021, 5:30 – 7:30 PM or last speaker, whichever comes first: As required by RCW 80.50.090 (1) and WAC 463-26-025 EFSEC will hold a Public Informational Meeting. At this meeting, the Applicant and EFSEC staff will make presentations. Also, at this meeting, Counsel for the Environment, an Assistant Attorney General appointed by the Washington Attorney General will be introduced and will explain the duties of this position. Public comment will be taken during this meeting. To sign up to speak at this meeting please send an email to efsec@utc.wa.gov or call EFSEC staff at (360) 664-1345 before 5:00 pm on March 30, 2021.

Land Use Consistency Hearing – March 30, 2021, 7:30 – 9:00 PM or last speaker, whichever comes first: As required by RCW 80.50.090 (2) and WAC 463-26-050 and 463-26-060 subsequent to the informational public hearing, at approximately 7:30 PM EFSEC will hold a Land Use Hearing. During this hearing, the public will be given an opportunity to provide testimony regarding the proposed Project's consistency and compliance with land use plans and zoning ordinances. To sign up to give testimony at this hearing please send an email to efsec@utc.wa.gov or call EFSEC staff at (360) 664-1345 before 5:00 pm on March 30, 2021.

Note: The Land Use Consistency Hearing will begin no later than 30 minutes after the conclusion of the Informational Public Meeting, which may end before 7:30 PM.

For information regarding the Project please contact Amy Moon, EFSEC Site Specialist at (360) 664-1362. If you have special accommodation needs or need language translation services to provide your comment, please contact EFSEC staff at (360) 664-1345 or send an email to efsec@utc.wa.gov.

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager
621 Woodland Square Loop P.O. Box 43172,
Olympia, WA, 98504-3172

March 9, 2021

In Summary

THREE EVENTS

Application for Site Certification (ASC)
EFSEC Docket No. EF-210011

The Public Information Open House

March 30, 2021, 5:00 – 5:30 PM
EFSEC staff will be available to answer questions about the Project and the EFSEC review process.

Informational Public Meeting

March 30, 2021, 5:30 – 7:30 PM or last speaker, whichever comes first:
Also, Counsel for the Environment, an Assistant Attorney General will be introduced and will explain the duties of this position.

Public comment will be taken. To sign up to speak at this meeting please send an email to

efsec@utc.wa.gov or
call EFSEC staff at (360) 664-1345
before 5:00 pm on March 30, 2021.

Land Use Consistency Hearing – March 30, 2021,
7:30 or last speaker, whichever comes first:
UNTIL – 9:00 PM.

NOTE for those unable to attend: If you are unable to attend the meeting please send your comment in writing to efsec@utc.wa.gov or at the mailing address below.

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager
621 Woodland Square Loop P.O. Box 43172,
Olympia, WA, 98504-3172

For more information submitted by
Scout Clean Energy-Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project:
<https://tinyurl.com/yzxht7mn>

This page includes links to the following and more

Read about how many roads and corners will have to be rebuilt at our expense:

<https://apiproxy.utc.wa.gov/efsec/GetDocument?docID=31&year=EFSEC&docketNumber=210011>

Appendix A – Decommissioning Plan

Appendix E – Turbine and Access roads Permanent disturbance acreage for: 1) maximum potential number of Turbines (244 total, each with a tower base of 5,278 square feet (73x73)), 2) associated Turbine access roads (104.5 miles total of 16-ft wide access roads), 3) met tower sites (all 13 possible locations with a base of 1,764 square feet), and 4) access roads to the met towers (2.8 miles total of 16-foot-wide access roads). The acreage per parcel accounts for spatial overlap of features. Pursuant to Benton County Code 11.17.070(t)(11), “wind turbine(s) and all associated service roads may not displace more than five (5) percent of the area of that parcel(s) on which they are located.” [The above four items **DO NOT** include: proposed solar arrays, battery storage, transmission (lines, transformers, etc.) or maintenance, management and/or storage facilities.]

Appendix L - Habitat Mitigation Plan

Appendix O additional information - Baseline Sound Survey

Appendix M – Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy

“An Application for Site Certification (ASC) may be eligible for expedited review when the EFSEC Council finds (1) the environmental impacts of the proposed project are not significant or can be mitigated to non-significant levels and (2) the Project is consistent and in compliance with city, county, or regional land use plans.”

See informational materials posted at
<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>

It would appear obvious that environmental impacts will be significant for wildlife, migration, loss of fertile soil, human living conditions, loss of agriculture productivity, tourism. It will be interesting to see how 60,000 acres of “slowing the wind down” will change the local micro-climates and resettle the blowing sand. It is not plain that the towers will stand up well to the electrical storms common in our area or that they can stay upright without bedrock under their platforms.

The contract has already been issued:

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>

“It is our belief that a competitive contractor with experience would not have the level of knowledge of the EFSEC siting and permitting processes, unique design features of the project and experience with the Washington Administrative Procedure Act (APA) necessary to complete this work in a timely manner, so an intent to Sole Source is being sought.

The contract will be issued on or about March 19, 2021. The dollar value is estimated at \$100,000.

Offerors contemplating the above requirements are required to submit capability statements detailing their ability to meet the state’s requirements by March 11, 2021. In the absence of other qualified sources, it is the state’s intent to make a sole source award of the contract.”

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Ferruginous Hawks are in Decline
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 10:03:37 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[fs_hawk_safe_updated_may2017 \(2\).pdf](#)

Public Comment #0206
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sonia,

Please see the attached document.

The area that is proposed by Scout Clean energy is a safe space for the Ferruginous Hawk. The state of Washington has spent a significant amount of money to save the hawk. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently considering downgrading the classification of the hawk to endangered. Will EFSEC be considering this as part of the decision making process?

Barry A. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA. 99336
(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Kennewick City Council Meeting
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:04:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Public Comment #0207
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sonia,

This is a video link to a video presentation that was done for the City of Kennewick Council this past week. The Presenter is Rick Dunn, who is the Benton PUD General Manager. Rick is an electrical engineer with over 30 years of industry experience.

The presentation starts at 28:30.

<https://kennewickwa.new.swagit.com/videos/116705>

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709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA. 99336
(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

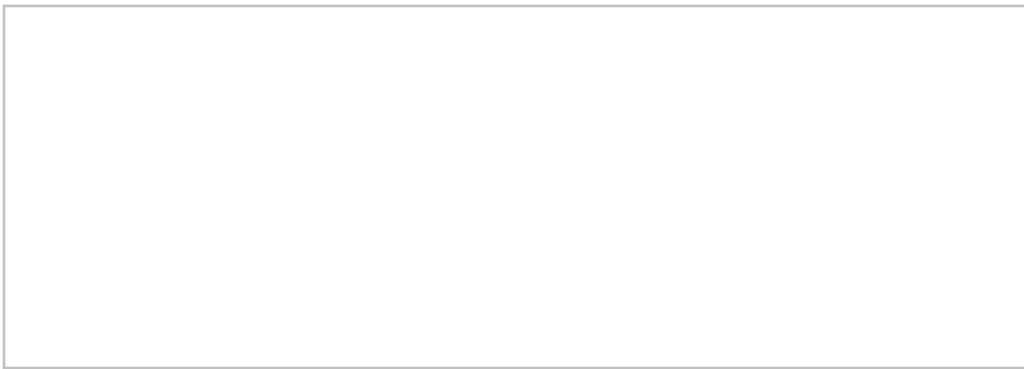
www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind Power and Clean Energy Policy Perspectives (Benton PUD)
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:01:27 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Public Comment #0208
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sonia,

Please include this wind paper from Benton PUD into the record for the upcoming Horse Heaven Hills Meeting on March 30, 2021. Benton PUD is the service territory in which the turbines and solar panels will be installed. The PUD is opposed to this project.

<https://www.bentonpud.org/getattachment/Safety-Education/Safety/Wind/Wind-Power-and-Clean-Energy-Policy-Perspectives-Report-Benton-PUD-FINAL-July-14-2020.PDF.aspx?lang=en-US>

Barry A. Bush
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(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Kennewick Irrigation District
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:14:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[20210316 L Governor Inslee.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0209
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sonia,

Please see the letter from the Kennewick Irrigation District. It was sent via certified mail to the Governor and EFSEC this afternoon.

Barry A. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA. 99336
(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?



2015 South Ely Street
Kennewick, WA 99337
Phone 509-586-9111
FAX 509-586-7663
www.kid.org

March 16, 2021

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

Dear Governor Inslee,

On behalf of the Kennewick Irrigation District's Board of Directors, I write to express serious concerns about the Horse Heaven Hills ("H3") Wind Project. Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC ("HHWF") is the project component of the H3 Wind Project, a project of Scout Energy, which is an electricity broker based in Colorado and owned by foreign investors.

The Kennewick Irrigation District ("KID") delivers irrigation water to over 20,200 acres in the Tri-Cities area. KID serves both a productive agricultural community, and a growing, dynamic residential base.

Over the last several years, Scout Energy has approached KID on multiple occasions with proposals to purchase KID lands to construct the first transmission line segment to interconnect their project to the Bonneville Power Administration transmission grid at the Red Mountain Substation. KID considered HHWF's proposal in good faith, but could not come to an agreement that would be to the benefit of KID ratepayers and our community.

As you know, on February 8, 2021, HHWF submitted an application for site certification ("ASC") to the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council ("EFSEC") to develop, construct, and operate the H3 Wind Project. The ASC proposes the construction of a massive wind, solar, and battery storage facility in Benton County. HHWF proposes to construct hundreds of wind turbines with heights exceeding 500 feet across 6,500 acres of the Horse Heaven Hills above the Tri-Cities.

KID appreciates efforts to advance a diverse renewable energy portfolio in Washington State. Fortunately, however, central Washington already benefits from such a portfolio. The dams along the Snake and Columbia Rivers, and the Columbia Generating Station generate reliable, carbon-free electricity, the baseloads of which enable the integration of the following intermittent sources of electricity into the region's grid: the Nine Canyon Wind Project, which includes 63 wind turbines south of Kennewick; the Horn Rapids Solar Project; and the White Bluffs Solar Station.

Right now, there is a proposal in the U.S. Congress to remove the Snake River dams. KID relies on the region's inexpensive, clean electricity to run its pump stations. KID has serious concerns about the introduction of a large amount of intermittent power into the local grid, when at the same time, a large of amount of the region's reliable baseload may be removed. While the H3 Wind Project has been in works for some time, it is hard not to see the opportunism in HHWF's filing of the ASC on the heels of the dam removal proposal.

HHWF has requested review under EFSEC expedited process for the ASC. KID opposes an expedited process. The EFSEC needs to fully investigate the implications of introducing intermittent sources of electricity into our region at the expense of reliable, carbon-free hydropower.

Scout Energy and its foreign investors no doubt see the H3 Wind Project as an opportunity to exploit the U.S. tax code to ensure a significant return on their investment. That investment, however, may not provide such a return to our community here in the Tri-Cities.

KID respectfully requests a full and thorough investigation into long-term effects of this project on our community's environment and electrical grid.

Sincerely,



Gene Huffman
KID Board President

C: KID Board of Directors
Charles Freeman, District Manager

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Columbia Irrigation District
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:13:13 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[IMG_20210325_0005.pdf](#)

Public Comment #0210
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sonia,

Please see the attached letter regarding the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm. The letter is from the Columbia Irrigation District. This letter was sent via certified mail today. Copies were sent to the Governor and EFSEC.

Barry A. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA. 99336
(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Letter to the Governor and EFSEC
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:05:12 PM
Attachments: [image012.png](#)
[HHH signature page.docx](#)
[Horse Heavens Hills Wind Project letter with edits made 2-15-21.docx](#)

Public Comment #0212
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sonia,

This letter was sent via registered mail yesterday. It was sent to both the Governor and the EFSEC committee. It I signed by all of the representative and senators from the 8th, 9th, and 16th except for one. Retires US Congressman Doc Hastings has also signed on to the letter. Please submit this as part of the record for the EFSEC Committee.

Barry A. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA. 99336
(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind

Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?

February 15, 2021

Honorable Jay Inslee
Governor, State of Washington
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project

Dear Honorable Jay Inslee:

Benton County is the home of Columbia Generating Station; the states only nuclear plant. It is also the home of McNary Dam, Nine Canyon Wind Farm, White Bluffs Solar Station, and Horn Rapids Solar, Storage and Training Project. These projects combined create enough energy to power the Puget Sound area.

Benton County is the home of the most contaminated nuclear site in the United States. The Hanford nuclear reservation continues to be cleaned up after its land and water were contaminated in order to help win World War II. This is the location in which the plutonium for the nuclear bomb "Fatman" was created. This bomb was later dropped on Nagasaki, which ended World War II and saved millions of lives.

Just to the south of Benton County the Umatilla Chemical Depot is visible. This location has 1,000 concrete igloo bunkers that protrude from the ground. This was the location in which tons of VX and nerve agents were stored for the World War II effort. At one point 12 % of the countries chemical weapons were stored at this one location. This location has finally been cleaned up and now remains a federally owned eyesore.

Benton County has always stepped up when our country and our state needed us. We understand that in order to meet the states clean energy mandate that wind projects will be built in this state. We just do not believe that a wind project of this magnitude should be built near such a large population center. We do not believe that just because you are able to build a wind project on this location that you must build one. This project would destroy twenty-four miles of naturally beautiful hilltops overlooking the Tri-Cities.

The Horse Heaven Hills are some of the most beautiful hills in our state. They are the home of bald eagles, burrowing owls, Canada geese, and the recently re-introduced prong horned antelope. They are also located in the middle of the Pacific Flyway, which is one of the nation's

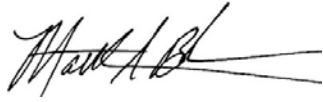
largest bird migration flyways. It is not unusual to see flocks of geese and ducks that number in the thousands fly through the proposed wind site heading south for the winter.

Benton County is also the home of the Hanford Reach National Monument that includes Rattlesnake Mountain. The Columbia, Yakima, and Snake Rivers also intersect in Benton County. Benton County is truly an amazing place to live. This location has long been paradise for outdoorsman. The hiking trails are abundant and growing and the hunting and fishing is world class. More recently wine was introduced into this region. Within an hour's drive, the Tri-Cities is home to two hundred wineries. Wine tourism has become a major economic boost for the region. We believe constructing two hundred and thirty-five wind turbines in the middle of this region would be detrimental for tourism.

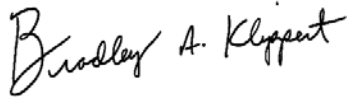
None of the four electrical utilities that are located in the Benton County area have expressed any interest in this project. Local utilities need energy when it is coldest and hottest during the year. The wind does not blow during those times of the year at this location and these turbines will not create the needed energy. We support President Biden's effort to build more offshore wind sites. Generally, these sites are not visible from land and they are much closer to the population centers where the energy is needed.

Scout Clean Energy submitted its application to EFSEC to build two hundred and thirty turbines in the Kennewick area on February 9, 2021. These turbines are not the normal sized turbines that stand 350 feet. These are the massive 500 feet variety. Once considering the issues outlined in this letter, we hope you agree that this is not an appropriate site for this project. Please reject the EFSEC application and ask Scout Clean Energy to build a project in a location closer to the population centers that need the energy.


Sincerely,



Rep. Matt Boehnke
8th Legislative District



Rep. Brad Klippert
8th Legislative District



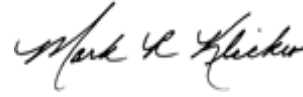
Sen. Sharon Brown
8th Legislative District



Sen. Perry Dozier
16th Legislative District



Rep. Skyler Rude
16th Legislative District



Rep. Mark Klicker
16th Legislative District



Rep. Joe Schmick
9th Legislative District



Rep. Mary Dye
9th Legislative District



Doc Hastings, Retired U.S. Congressman

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Bumpus, Sonia \(UTC\)](#); [Drew, Kathleen \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Kidder, Ami \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Tetra Tech Lawsuit (Falsified Soil Samples)
Date: Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:41:12 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Public Comment #0213
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

EFSEC Chair,

I respectfully ask that all documents provided by Tetra Tech concerning the Horse Heaven Wind Farm be disallowed. Tetra Tech is currently embroiled in a massive lawsuit with the Federal Government involving falsified soil samples. We have no way of knowing if Tetra Tech has also submitted false documentation for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm. We ask that the state require Scout Clean Energy, to pay for the state to conduct new studies. Please review the attached link to review the details of the lawsuit.

<https://www.courthousenews.com/developer-sues-tetra-tech-and-feds-over-hunters-point-project/>

Barry A. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
Kennewick, WA. 99336
(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

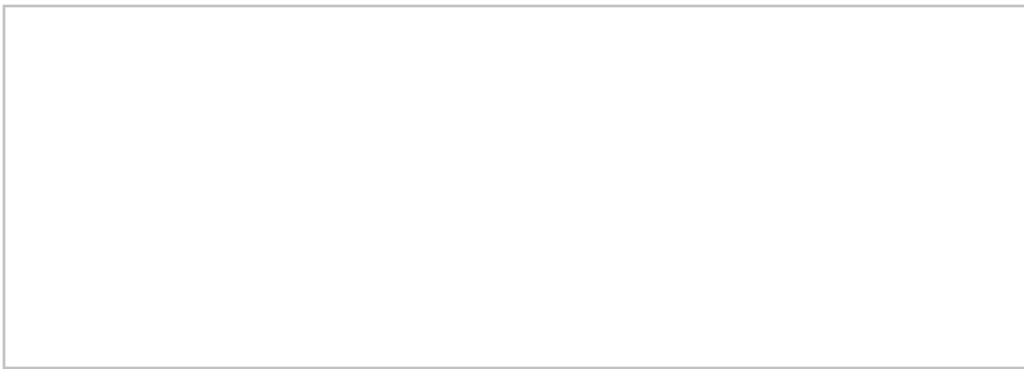
www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?

From: [Hailey Caprio](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Windmills
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 1:30:38 PM

Public Comment #0214
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Good afternoon,

I oppose the horse heaven hills wind project proposed by scout clean energy. It will ruin our views for Finley, Bubank, Pasco, Kennewick, Richland, West Richland, Kiona and Benton City.

Thank you

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Tony L. Waldo](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind Turbines
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 2:50:16 PM

Public Comment #0216
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am against wind farms until a thorough investigation is made.

Benton county in WA state is considering the installation of wind turbines for a power source. I feel strongly that this should be looked into by all parties. Here is why. In the 1990's I was driving back to WA from Los Angeles. I'm not sure where in CA that I saw dozens and dozens of abandoned windmills and in an ugly state of disrepair. Our economy had tanked and they had simply been abandoned. Here is what we need to ask of our government. Who is going to take care of them if our economy tanks.

As a side question what happens to existing turbines and blades? I have recently read that they salvage what they can but the rest goes to landfill. Especially so for the blades. Also who builds them and who installs them?

Again there are many unanswered questions that first need answering.

From: [Owens, Joan \(UTC\)](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Comment received as voicemail on the EFSEC main line
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 3:01:18 PM

Public Comment #0217
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

Dennis Sinlake is against the project.

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: [Owens, Joan \(UTC\)](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Comment received as voicemail on the EFSEC main line
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 3:02:08 PM

Public Comment #0218
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

Marcy Landers lives in Richland/ Tri-Cities. She does not approve of Scout/Horse Heaven, doesn't think it will help WA and will hurt property values, believes people in the eastern WA area don't want that. Hopes that Governor Inslee will take that into consideration to bring more peace between Eastern WA and Inslee.

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: [Marleen Lechelt](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Horse Heaven Windmill project
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 3:46:46 PM

Public Comment #0219
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

From Randy and Marleen Lechelt
34203 S Cantera St
Kennewick, wa 99338

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marleen Lechelt <jtcj@me.com>
Date: March 15, 2021 at 11:46:21 PM PDT
To: >EFSEC Committee
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Horse Heaven Windmill project

Comments

From: [Marleen Lechelt](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Comments on Horse Heaven Windmill project
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 3:51:13 PM

Public Comment #0220
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

From Randy & Marleen Lechelt
35203 S Cantera St
Kennewick, Wa. 99338

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Marleen Lechelt <jtcj@me.com>
Date: March 15, 2021 at 11:44:01 PM PDT
To: commissioners@co.benton.wa.us. And EFSEC
Subject: Comments on Horse Heaven Windmill project

We respectfully oppose the Horse Heaven Windmill project for the following reasons:

1. This large windmill farm with 500 to 600ft. + tall windmills is unprecedented in Benton County , there is no simulation that can give the surrounding residents a realistic idea of how tall these units are and how devastating the effects of these windmills will be, and on top of this add a wall of blinking red lights , it's unimaginable.

2 Scout Energy has chosen to bypass the Benton County Conditional Use Permit process which is designed to protect business and homeowners property values. While applying to the EFSEC Is legal, it is our opinion that it disenfranchises the residents of this community. We are listing the 5 conditions Benton County requires for this permit and our answers . Will EFSEC require the same conditions?

3. Under Benton County code (see bcc 11:50:040) Scout Energy would be required

To apply for a Conditional Use Permit , this process allows the Hearings Examiner to review the location and design of certain proposed uses including the potential impacts on the surrounding area.

(D) A conditional use permit shall be granted ONLY if the Hearings Examiner can make findings of fact based on the evidence presented sufficient to allow the Hearings Examiner to conclude that as conditioned, the proposed use:

1. Is compatible with other uses in the surrounding area. (our answer to this is no, a sea of 500 to 600 ft windmills planted every 1 1/2 acres with a wall of blinking

red lights at night with loud whooshing like sounds would be incompatible to any neighborhood.

2. Will not materially endanger the health, safety, and welfare of the surrounding community to an extent greater than that associated with any other permitted uses in the applicable zoning district. (our answer to this is yes, it will endanger our health and welfare , as the noise of the windmills and blinking lights so close to our resident will cause sleepless nights and mental anguish.)

3. Would not cause the pedestrian and vehicular traffic associated with the use to conflict with existing and anticipated traffic in the neighborhood. (our answer is yes, the construction of these windmills will require an unimaginable amount of cement for the bases which will result in hundreds of cement trucks traveling on clodfelter where we have bicyclers, school busses, and residential traffic.)

4. —

5. Would not hinder or discourage the development of permitted uses or neighboring properties in the applicable zoning district as a result of the location, size or HEIGHT

of the buildings, structures, walls or required fences or surrounding vegetation to a greater extent than other permitted uses. In the applicable zoning district. (our answer is yes, all surrounding properties in our neighborhood would lose value, be hard to sell, and discourage any new residential building and growth. The Height of these windmills are so overpowering, the blinking lights at night, no one would want to live in our residential community.)

In closing, how can we allow a large corporation like Scout Energy who will receive millions in energy credits to come in our community and ruin our property values, ridge views, birds and serenity of life , just so they can make a big profit ?

Sent from my iPad

From: [Jim Conca](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Comment on the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 4:52:07 PM

Public Comment #0221
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear EFSEC,

I would like to comment on the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Project here in Richland, Washington.

Wind Turbines On The Horse Heaven Hills – How Not To Pursue A Green New Deal

A company out of Boulder, Colorado called [Scout Clean Energy](#) has applied for a permit to build a massive turbine [wind farm](#) in Washington State on the Horse Heaven Hills, extending from the town of Benton City, through the Tri-Cities, to the town of Finley. The wind farm will have upwards of 250 turbines that are 500 feet tall and cover about 6,500 acres (over 10 square miles).

But the Pacific Northwest is a lousy place to build wind turbines for two very good reasons. The power will not displace any [fossil fuels](#) but will only displace [hydro](#), another [renewable](#). And wind in this region just doesn't produce much energy, only 30% of its total capacity.

There is a growing [opposition to this project in the region](#), just for these reasons.

Interestingly, Scout Clean Energy has applied for [Site Certification](#) by going straight to the State authorities, circumventing the county government, knowing that the [locals do not want this](#) project and hoping that the state's goal of 100% non-fossil fuel by 2045 will push this through against them.

The real problem is that Scout Clean Energy is building this wind farm in the wrong state.

[Tornado Alley](#) is the optimal place for wind turbines in the United States, pushing [capacity factors](#) to 50%, and has made wind the second largest generator of electricity in Kansas, South Dakota and Iowa, where they actually displace coal power.

The capacity factor is the percentage of the time a system is supplying its [nameplate or installed capacity](#). The nameplate capacity times the capacity factor equals the actual output of the generating system.

According to [the Scout Clean Energy plan](#), the new farm's nameplate capacity will be 1,150 MW. Since the capacity factor for this wind farm is only 30%, the generation will actually be only 345 MW operationally. Wind [turbines in this area](#) have an average capacity factor of only 27%.

In comparison, the capacity factor for the [Columbia Generating Station](#), our local nuclear power plant, is 98%. With a nameplate capacity of 1,207 MW, it's producing about 1,180 MW continuously, over 3 times that of the similarly-sized proposed wind farm.

Scout Clean Energy claims that this wind farm will offset 3.5 million tons of CO2, but that's not true either. There is little fossil fuel in Washington State, which is 70% hydro, 8% nuclear, 13% renewables (mostly wind), 5% gas and 4% coal, the latter from a single coal plant scheduled to be

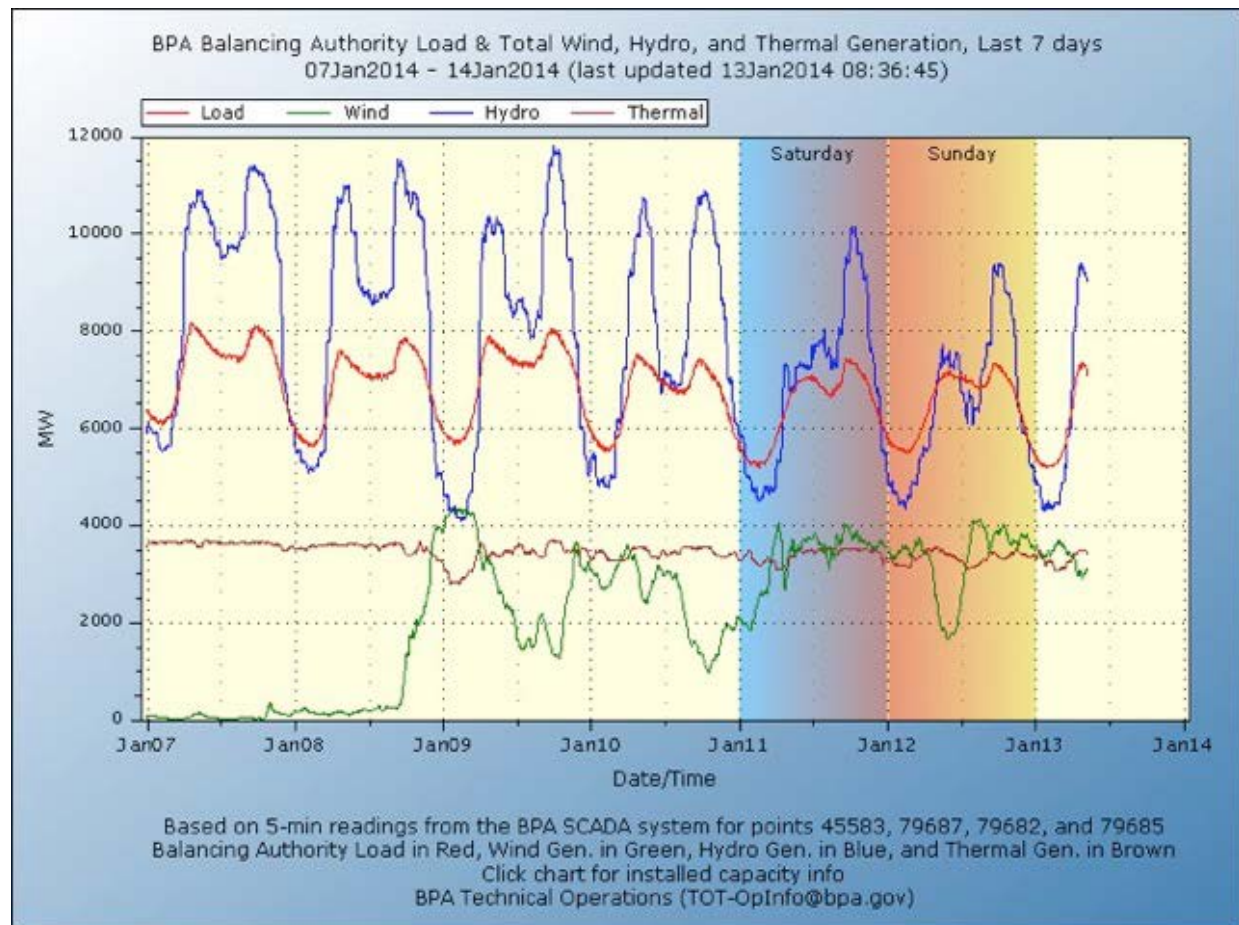
retired in 2025.

This new Scout Clean Energy wind power will only displace hydro, another renewable, thus having no effect on carbon emissions, no matter where the energy ends up. We know this because it's what happens all the time in this state. Just look at weekly electrical load maps from the [Bonneville Power Administration](#), who is the main system operator in the Pacific Northwest.

The grid must be closely balanced between load, or power draw off the grid, and the power coming onto the grid from all energy sources. Hydro is used almost exclusively to load-follow and balance the grid (figure below). When load goes down, or more energy comes onto the grid like wind, hydro drops. When load goes up or wind dies away, hydro increases.

This wind farm will have no effect on climate change or carbon emissions, will not replace fossil fuel at all, will mar the beautiful vistas of this area, and provide a trivial number of temp construction jobs. But it will make Olympia feel good.

And it definitely will make someone out of state a lot of money.



I have a longer version of this published in [Forbes.com](#) where I am a Science Contributor on energy issues.

Wind Turbines On Washington's Horse Heaven Hills – How Not To Pursue A Green New Deal

A company out of Boulder, CO called Scout Clean Energy has applied for a permit to build a massive turbine wind farm in Washington State on the Horse Heaven Hills, circumventing the local government. But they're building it in the wrong state for the wrong reasons and the people of this area are not happy about it.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2021/03/08/wind-turbines-on-washingtons-horse-heaven-hills--how-not-to-pursue-a-green-new-deal/>

I appreciate all your efforts and hope you hear from many residents in Benton County.

Sincerely,

Jim

Dr. James Conca, Trustee
Herbert M. Parker Foundation
2801 Appaloosa Way
Richland, WA 99352
509-205-7541
jim@ufaventures.com
Forbes.com Science Contributor
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/>

From: [Donna White](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 5:38:00 PM

Public Comment #0222
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

This wind farm doesn't belong in the Tri-Cities! It only benefits the out of state owners. For residents it will create an eyesore. I ask Governor Inslee to say no to this project.

From: [sangwon shin](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: HHH Wind Project Opposition
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 7:15:34 PM

Public Comment #0223
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To whom it may concern in the EFSEC Committee:

Greetings,

Our family of second-generation immigrants moved from Seattle last year to live in a beautiful, serene, prime wine country and agricultural valuable land with mountainous territorial views. Also, there are tourists that come from all over the world to enjoy this area for those exact reasons.

We live in Tripple Vista which has a natural paramount view of the skyline with extinct migratory birds flying every season with wheat growing fields all around the terrain hills.

But with the projected HHH Wind Farm Project of Scout Clean Energy's plan to install enormous 500-foot wind turbines on our gorgeous views of the Horse Heaven Hills to the south of us will destroy all the skyline territorial hill ridges and also kill various extinct migratory birds that live around here and also birds that fly over every season. Considering environmental and property devaluation is a great concern to our family, when we invested so much of our finances and physical hardships to move here.

When we lived overseas, we didn't have these vast and natural beautiful territorial views and agricultural land values like we see here. This state of Washington and in America in general, we don't have that in other parts of the world. There is no other nation that equals what American land and soil produces, not one. Sometimes we have to live in other parts of the world to truly see what a blessed land we have and not destroy it further.

For these few reasons and many other reasons, too many to name here, our family is unanimously OPPOSED to this HHH Wind Farm with Scout Clean Energy's plan to destroy the natural beauty of the last frontier of Northeast Washington.

Please consider to preserve the natural beauty of this area of Horse Heaven Hills and for the future sake of the next generation of children who will come after us and to preserve the legacy of this beautiful and great state of Washington in the United States of America.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Youngki & Sangwon Chung

104305 Tripple Vista Dr
Kennewick, WA 99338

From: [Mark Tudor](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm.
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 8:19:34 PM

Public Comment #0224
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear EFSCE Committee,

I am a resident of Richland Washington and also a Apple an Wine grape grower. I am totally against placing a wind farm on the proposed Horse Heaven Hills site.

The unsightly machines will have a negative effect on our tourism industry, our native birds, and long term they will become a ecological problem when it comes to disposing of the blades, removing the obsolete towers and concrete pads. There are abandoned wind farms back east that have become an issue for the local areas adjacent to these farms.

The out of state company that is proposing this project has no vested interest in the local area. The power generated is schedule to be sold out of our local area.

In closing it is my hopes that the committee will really listen to the concerns of the local people that live here as there is a lot of opposition by Tri-City residents.

Thank you for your attention
Mark Tudor

Sent from my iPad

From: [Adam Miller](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Haven Wind Farm
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 9:43:59 PM

Public Comment #0225
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am strongly opposed to these windmills. They will negatively affect our community with very little to any positive gain. Benton PUD's report on why these are not in our best interest says it better than I could. There is also a Forbes article about how this is a prime example of how to NOT do green energy. Thanks.

Adam Miller

From: [Mark Morton](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: NOT ONLY NO - Horse Heaven Hills Wind project
Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 10:19:56 PM

Public Comment #0226
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

While there are a few minor positive impacts to this project, the negative visual impacts far outweigh any positives for our local area. WA and eastern WA have some of the lowest energy costs in the country and additional energy is not needed locally - where ALL of the negative impacts are concentrated.

Put me firmly in the "WE DON'T NEED OR WANT THIS PROJECT" camp and having the west side politicians ram it down our throats is not the way to ingratiate anyone on the east side to the project or any government sponsored green energy projects.

Mark Morton
3262 Mt Adams View Dr
West Richland, WA

From: artisticportraits@charter.net
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 11:26:13 AM

Public Comment #0227
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I would like to state that I am fully against this project for many reasons.

Firstly, the wind turbines are not environmentally friendly. They have approximately a 20-25 year life and when decommissioned or need complete overhauls they are not biodegradable . The blades alone must be buried somewhere and will not break down over time.

Secondly, the components are made from non-environmental alloys. Lithium is a horrible product and most comes from strip mining in China. Cobalt is mined in the Congo of Africa and they utilize a lot of child labor. Steel is horrible for the environment do to how it's manufactured.

Thirdly, the subsidies that are spent to even have a place for them to go are ridiculously high costs to the taxpayers of America.

Fourth, they do create some high paying jobs but only for a short time during construction and setup. The amount of concrete necessary to hold them up is also a long term issue for the environment.

Fifth, Economic impact of the travel industry to wine country and small local businesses. How many of these wind farms are in the CA wine country? Or the OR wine country?

Lastly, they destroy the views of the natural landscape.. How many of these are in the Cascades or Olympic Forest? Just imagine that is the legacy you choose for the children of WA and the tourists.

I strongly encourage you to look at working towards building more Nuclear Energy as it is truly the most efficient and environmentally friend energy source in the world!

Sincerely, Robert Di Piazza Concerned Citizen of Kennewick for 26 years. Also, 26 year owner of a small business in Kennewick.

3416 S, Huntington Loop
Kennewick, WA 99337

From: [Arleen Miller](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 11:27:51 AM

Public Comment #0228
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

windmill farms

--I have a question. What is their purpose and who is benefitting from the power the windmills generate? I don't see my power bill going down, only up.

Arleen Miller

From: [jon.crawford](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 12:13:37 PM

Public comment #0229
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

As a resident of the Greater Tri-Cities area I would like to express my adamant opposition to the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm. Scout Clean Energy has taken the underhanded route of bypassing local consideration and approval for a state forum where the climate is much more likely for approval given the present political climate where if something is sold as "green energy" it is okay even if it is not truly green. The decision should be in the hands of those who will be involved and directly affected.

Take a drive down the classified "Wild and Scenic" Columbia River Gorge and see the blight the turbines are that have been allowed to destroy its beauty. There are numerous economic, environmental and moral negatives that are present in opposition to this project which are too lengthy to fit in this format.

The bottom line is Scout Clean Energy is looking for a big payday at the expense of those of us who live here. Once this is started there is no turning back. It does not make esthetic, monetary or environmental sense for our region. The only sense it makes is to fill Scout Clean Energy's pocket.

The negatives far outweigh the positives!

Dr. Jon Crawford

From: [Barry Bush](#)
To: [Legislative Affairs \(DFW\)](#)
Cc: [Director \(DFW\)](#); [Public Affairs \(DFW\)](#); [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Ferruginous Hawk In Columbia Basin
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 2:20:16 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[fs_fhawk_safe_updated_may2017 \(2\).pdf](#)

Public comment #0230
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear sir,

Scout Clean Energy is proposing a massive wind farm that appears to be in the middle of the Ferruginous Hawk habitat. This project is due to go in front of the EFSEC committee on March 30, 2021. I believe his project will be detrimental to the SAFE initiative. I believe that the population of the Ferruginous Hawk will decline if 244 wind turbines that are as tall as 671' tall are installed South of Kennewick in the Horse Heaven Hills. The proposed project also includes miles of solar panels that will also be detrimental to the Ferruginous Hawk population.

The Ferruginous Hawk: It appears that its status is about to be changed from threatened to endangered.

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/feb/07/washington-department-of-fish-and-wildlife-recommends-endangered-status-for-ferruginous-hawk/>

https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Washington/programs/fs_fhawk_safe_updated_may2017.pdf

Barry A. Bush
709 S. Hawaii St.
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(509) 460-1051
atomicbt@charter.net

www.gofundme.com/f/save-our-horse-heaven-hills

<https://m.facebook.com/SaveOurRidgesTC/?tsid=0.1271890715724434&source=result>

<http://save-our-ridges.org/>

<https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/just-say-no-to-the-horse-heaven-wind-farm.html>

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/>



This is a picture of what our view to the South will look like if the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm is approved by the state. Is this what we want for the Tri-Cities and our Horse Heaven Hills?



Washington Fact Sheet

State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) Washington Ferruginous Hawk

Updated May 2017

Overview

The Ferruginous Hawk SAFE is a new initiative of the familiar Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Like traditional CRP, SAFE is a voluntary program that pays eligible landowners and operators to address priority natural resource concerns. Unlike traditional CRP, SAFE signup is non-competitive and offers more financial benefits. Landowners, including those with previous CRP, in Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties may be eligible to participate in this initiative.

The ferruginous hawk is the largest hawk species in North America and is reliant on shrub-steppe habitat for both nesting and foraging. Due primarily to habitat loss, ferruginous hawk populations are declining. They are a species of federal special concern and are threatened in Washington.

Ferruginous hawks primarily forage in territory around their nesting sites. Hawks are also sensitive to disturbance near the nest. Therefore, land enrolled in SAFE must be near potentially active nests and planted to grass, broadleaf forbs and shrubs that provide quality wildlife habitat.



Ferruginous Hawk Project SAFE Area

Benefits

Landowners will benefit from reliable annual income. SAFE provides a way to enroll land in CRP on a non-competitive basis. Removing difficult to farm or low productive areas can increase the average profit on remaining cropland. Landowners familiar with CRP will find many similarities. Because SAFE is a CRP initiative, contracts will look familiar. The main difference is the program has more cost-share dollars, a signing incentive for land not previously in CRP and an option for a longer contract. Also, SAFE permits a 2-stage planting scenario to allow for chemical broadleaf control the first growing season. Landowners may also just enjoy increased wildlife on acres enrolled in SAFE.

(continued on next page)

SAFE will increase the amount of foraging and nesting habitat available for ferruginous hawks. Also, it will help provide habitat for numerous other wildlife species. Ferruginous hawks feed on small mammals, such as cottontail rabbits and ground squirrels, which will benefit from additional habitat. SAFE acres will provide important nesting and brood-rearing habitat for at-risk species, such as migratory songbirds. Also, new habitat will benefit game species, such as ring-necked pheasant and mule deer.

Goals

The goal of the Ferruginous Hawk SAFE is to enhance foraging habitat and buffers around ferruginous hawk nests in Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties of eastern Washington by:

- establishing shrubs, grasses and broadleaf forbs on cropland to provide quality habitat
- buffering and expanding upon remnant native shrub-steppe and grassland habitat near ferruginous hawk nests.

Eligible Areas and Land Eligibility Requirements

The project area includes portions of Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties in eastern Washington. Eligible land must:

1. Have been planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity, including CRP or rotational crops, during 4 of the 6 crop years from 2008-2013; **and**
2. Be within the designated project boundaries (see map). To find out if your operation is located within the project area, contact your Farm Service Agency office in Adams, Benton, Franklin, or Walla Walla counties.

Approved Conservation Practices

The following conservation practices may be eligible for land enrolled into the Ferruginous Hawk SAFE:

1. CP38E Grass
 - Minimum 7 total species: 3 grasses, 3 forbs (1 may be introduced), and big sagebrush (by seed).
2. CP38A Buffers
 - Forested riparian buffers typically 50-180 feet wide on cropland or pastureland bordering perennial or seasonal streams that will support trees and shrubs.

Sign-up and Payments

SAFE enrollment is on a continuous basis starting May 13, 2013. Landowners can sign up at their local FSA office in Adams, Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties for 10- to 15-year SAFE CRP contracts. Enrollment is approved on a first-come, first-served basis. FSA will stop approving contracts when the acreage cap of 20,000 acres is reached.

Hawk SAFE participants are eligible for four types of USDA payments:

- Signing Incentive Payment – a one-time payment of \$75 per acre for land not previously enrolled in CRP
- Practice Incentive Payment – equal to about 40 percent of establishment costs
- Cost-share assistance – 50 percent of establishment costs (same as traditional CRP)
- Annual rental payment – same as traditional CRP.

(continued on next page)

Payment Limitation

Annual rental payments, including the incentives, are subject to a payment limitation of \$50,000 per person, per year. The limit applies collectively to all CRP contracts the producer has throughout the U.S. There is no limit on the cost-share payments.

Contract Requirements

Participants entering into a SAFE contract are required to have in place, or plant, specific seed mixes for wildlife food and cover that are similar to those required for traditional CRP. Weed control is required on SAFE acreage just like with traditional CRP. A list of seed mixes is available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

A 2-stage planting scenario to allow for chemical broadleaf control the first growing season is an option for SAFE seedings. Grasses may be planted the first year and forbs the second year. Native vegetation may take several growing seasons to fully establish. The potential of invasion by non-native weedy species makes staged plantings much more successful. A planting and maintenance schedule will be developed as part of a conservation plan with NRCS.

Access

Hunting or other public access to land enrolled in the SAFE program will be at the landowner's discretion just like with traditional CRP.

Additional Information

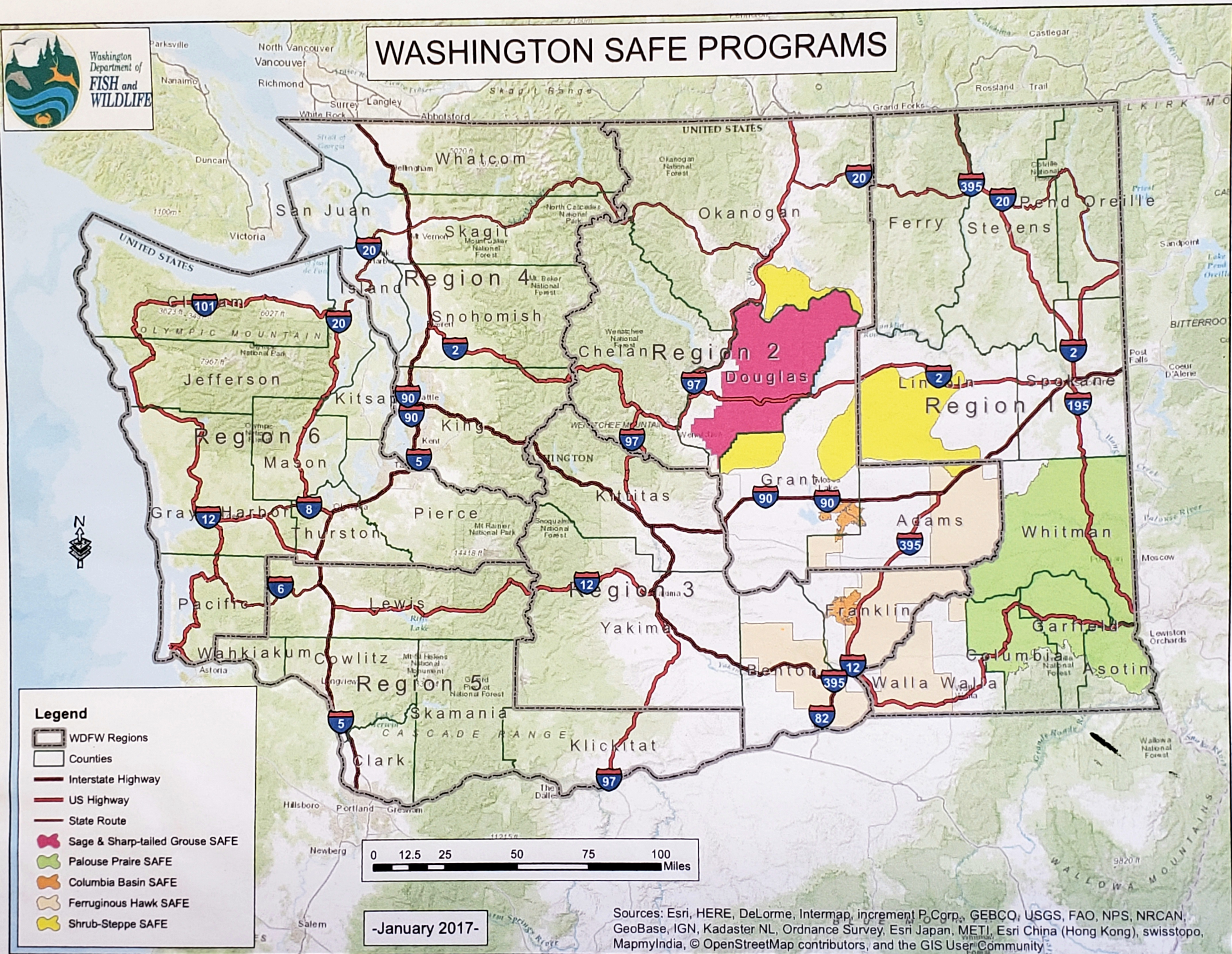
For more information about SAFE, contact your local USDA Service Center or Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) biologist.

This fact sheet is a summary of the SAFE program and is not intended to cover all situations and program provisions.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



WASHINGTON SAFE PROGRAMS



Legend

- WDFW Regions
- Counties
- Interstate Highway
- US Highway
- State Route
- Sage & Sharp-tailed Grouse SAFE
- Palouse Prairie SAFE
- Columbia Basin SAFE
- Ferruginous Hawk SAFE
- Shrub-Steppe SAFE

-January 2017-

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, Intermap, increment P, Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoBase, IGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swisstopo, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

From: [Jeannie Frieauf](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Comment
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 3:46:55 PM

Public Comment #0231
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To whom it may concern,

I would like to comment on the proposed wind farm in the Horse Heaven Hills. I am opposed, as well as appalled, at this 'so-called' green energy project. I have lived in this beautiful community my whole life of 57 years. I love this land and have seen many changes and I believe this one is not for the good. I have to ask myself, "At what expense are they proposing to do this for the sake of employing people?" Do we, as stewards of this majestic land, realize the huge environmental footprint this project would leave? I believe there are far better ways to create energy and jobs with less expense to our world. I look at this proposed wind farm as a complete flop.

We must stand taller as a people united, taller than these proposed wind turbines, and not let a project of this catastrophic magnitude be implemented.

Thank you for serving in this capacity and for taking the time to read my letter. I know this is a big decision you have to make. I pray you make the right choice.

Sincerely,

Jeanette (Jeannie) A. Frieauf
2528 Falconcrest Loop
Richland, WA 99352

(509) 735-2227

From: [Gary Yager](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 4:06:41 PM

Public Comment #0232
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Hello:

We do not want our beautiful local scenery ruined by another ugly wind farm. Our local area will not benefit from an energy produced; it will all be sold to other states like California at very high rates and the only one profiting from this high energy rate is the company running the utility. Wind is not a predictable, dependable energy source, particularly in our area and the cost to remove this equipment will be very expensive, and likely will be abandoned in place, permanently scarring our local scenery. If California, or Seattle, need energy, build utilities in these areas and don't make us look at these ugly, distracting spectacles every day.

Sincerely,

G. Yager
1216 Richmond Blvd.
Richland, WA 99354

From: [R Birney](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC - AGAINST!
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 5:04:00 PM

Public Comment #0232
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

The mere fact this LLC would not take the issue to the LOCAL voters indicates they know how well accepted this BAD idea would be.

The facts are the tax payers are already paying wind farm operators to NOT produce energy during times such as peak spring run off and we have NO methods of storing the energy such systems might produce on a very unpredictable and undependable manner. If it were not for tax breaks and political favoritism, there would be NO wind farms in the US as they are not sustainable. Not to mention the waste created by them, such as not being able to recycle the blades when they fail.

If the State wants these UGLY monstrosities, put them on the West side! Then that population can deal with the adverse effects and learn about noise, vibration, uncontrolled killing of wildlife, etc.

By now you should have caught on I am AGAINST these UNSUSTAINABLE pipe dreams. Let someone else be hampered with these albatrosses.

Robert Birney
Richland, WA. 99352

From: [Chris Sloan](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 5:53:28 PM

Public Comment #0234
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To : EFSEC Committee

Please preserve the current status of the Horse Heaven Hills lands and views south of the Tri-Cities and **VOTE NO** on approval of the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm

Proposed by Scout Energy. Local residents believe this proposal will create a permanent Mechanical Ugliness to the area and harm the environment with

construction, noise from wind machines I have been around a lot of them they are very noisy, blinking red lights not very attractive let alone the sight of them all over a hillside, harm to wildlife and birds, and limited mechanical lifetime of inefficient energy production requiring tax payer subsidies there is a reason California has abandoned them due to maintenance costs.

Respectfully,

Chris Sloan

Richland, WA

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Samuel Dechter](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Wind Turbine Farm Project near the Tri-City-Cities
Date: Saturday, March 27, 2021 11:30:41 PM

Public Comment #0235
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Sir,

I am submitting my comments to you regarding the Scout Clean Energy proposed Wind Turbine Farm in the Horse Heaven Hills just south of the Tri-Cities.

I am opposed to the proposal for several reasons. The wind turbine farm is not needed for our area of Washington state since there is already an abundance of power produced by the hydroelectric dam facilities and the existing nuclear plant. This power is green energy and meets or exceeds all expectations for non-polluting power production. Wind turbines are very inefficient producers of power in that they cannot operate when there is no or low wind and when there are high winds. Wind turbine power generation is not cost effective and must be subsidized by the government to be profitable for the parent companies.

The wind turbines will be detrimental to wildlife, especially birds—a well-known consequence from existing wind turbine farms. This aspect of the wind turbines is of real concern since many species of birds have a migration flyway path right through the Tri-Cities and since the McNary Wildlife Refuge is so close.

The wind turbines will degrade our beautiful scenery in the Horse Heaven Hills and once it is gone, it will be gone forever. Scout Clean Energy does not care about our environment here in Washington. It is a Colorado-based company with no roots in Washington. Perhaps they can build their wind turbine farm in Colorado and ship their power to California from there instead of sacrificing Washington for their profits.

Local employment for construction will be short-lived at best and the size of the continuing maintenance workforce will be very small (only a handful of employees). Any promises of continuing good high-paying jobs are false promises.

From my point of view, the negatives far outweigh any positives the wind farm may offer. No doubt this is why the proposal is being submitted to a state agency not residing in eastern Washington instead of going directly to Benton County. We in Eastern Washington can see the overwhelming negatives and the lack of any benefit to be gained from constructing the wind turbine farm.

The proposal should either be sent to Benton County for resolution or should be denied.

Thank you very much for this opportunity to state my concerns.

Samuel J Dechter
113 Bebb Ct
Richland, WA 99352
509-627-0950

From: [Steve Lorence](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 8:46:04 AM

Public Comment #0236
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

To EFSEC:

We are writing you to express our opinion that the developers of the Horse Heaven Wind project are attempting an end around the local county permitting process. Our opinion is that the developer needs to work with the local county and its citizens for the project.

Thanks for listening.

Steve and Janal Lorence
2858 Crosswater Loop
Richland, WA 99354

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Mike & Joanne Simmons](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heavens Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 9:01:23 AM

Public Comment #0237
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

This project is unwanted and unneeded as well as being a blatant end run around the residents of Eastern Washington. Please respect the rights and wishes of your constituents in this area by rejecting this project.

Michael and Joanne Simmons
Richland

From: [Steve Gomez](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm - Please Reject !!!
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 9:26:43 AM

Public Comment #0238
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Greetings: I am writing you to let you know of my strong objection to the establishment and installation of up to 244 wind turbines along the ridge lines of Horse Heaven Hills. Not only is this project unnecessary but we currently have sufficient energy in the Tri-Cities from Hydro Electric and Nuclear Power plants. I currently live in West Richland, Washington and each time I open my front door, I look out over Horse Heaven Hills and enjoy that view each and every time. I would hate to see that ridge line marred by the view of 244 wind turbines, which would be the last thing I would want to see. It's visual pollution of our beautiful landscape and an unnecessary inclusion of an inefficient energy source. One of the main reasons I moved to Washington from Mississippi was because of the beautiful mountains, hills, rivers and forests that Washington has and I would hate to see that ruined by installing wind turbine along that beautiful ridge line of Horse Heaven Hills. Numerous wineries thrive in that area and attract thousands of visitors every year along with the agriculture which thrive there as well. So please, I strongly encourage those in a position to approve or reject this project to deny any further consideration of installing a wind farm on our precious Horse Heaven Hills.

Thank You,

Steve Gomez

From: [Linda Redding](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 10:55:56 AM

Public Comment #0239
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I don't want these noise making, bird killing windmills above my home. Build them in your own backyard Scout!
Stop this project Inslee.

From: [Don Rives](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm Project
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 11:12:11 AM
Attachments: [Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Questions and Comments.docx](#)

Public Comment #0240
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Council Members,

Please submit this letter into public record during the hearing on March 31st 2021.

Thank you,

Don Rives

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Good afternoon Governor, Commissioners, Council Members, Legislative Members and fellow residents, my name is Don Rives and I have a few questions and some comments and suggestions regarding the Wind Farm proposal for the south Horse Heaven Hills.

- Where are the impact statements for this project so that they can be reviewed and analyzed?
- What is the current status of the existing farms in our area? Are they performing at maximum?
- What is the downtime for wind farms?
- What are the maintenance costs? How are those costs layered in this proposal? Who manages those costs?
- When a turbine fails, what is done with the turbine? Is it complete replacement or repair? If it is a repair who is managing the costs of repairs?
- If there is a replacement, who funds the deconstruction, transport and disposal of waste?
- Is there a recycling program for failed/replaced turbines?
- What is the amount of energy stored per farm? How is the energy stored? Who maintains the storage facility?
- What is the amount of energy used per farm?
- Who uses the energy? Is it locally used or is it allocated/sold to somewhere else?
- If it is sold/allocated elsewhere, how does that help our local area? Who benefits?
- What is the current Cost/Benefit analysis of the current farms?
- Has there been consultation with Energy Northwest and also Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy to determine what is working in our area and what is not?

It is my opinion that until All of these questions are answered and answered with a significant pro to con ratio, I do not believe this is the project for our community. There needs to be public input for this is to become reality. I do not agree with nor accept the idea that only the WA State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council and the Gov are the only ones to make a decision as to what happens in our area. This is an overreach of powers. If there is a need for such a project, it must be done with public input. I am sure there is a better way to use that land than for this project. We are also asking that there is an Environmental

Determination (SEPA) Checklist packet completed so that there is a complete understanding of the Project.

I would also like to propose that our priority for this be a focus on Storage and Usage locally, before planting anymore Turbines. We can still create jobs in the process by constructing Storage Facilities and Infrastructure for Power Distribution to the local Public Utility Districts. We would be able to enhance and build upon the current locally administered programs such as Pacific Northwest Center of Excellence for Clean Energy, which is a Community Technical College Program. Energy Northwest has relationships with the local colleges to help students with job placements after completing their degrees. These are the types of solutions that are wanted in this community. We want to improve and enhance the quality of life through education and job placement here locally. The proposed funding can also be used for Research and Development in Green Energy as well as the advancement in cutting edge technology and the Infrastructure that goes with it.

We already have Hydro, Nuclear, Wind, and Solar let's figure out a Power Distribution System that incorporates all that we are producing here locally and make that as efficient as possible instead of throwing more money at and destroying the landscape that we prefer to keep as native as possible. We all believe in the future advancement of our society, but we want it done with common sense and intelligent decision making on All those involved, including, and not limited to the resident stakeholders as well as local and State government. Our community is requesting to be included in the decisions that are made in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Signed:

Don Rives – Benton County resident

Bill Mager – Benton County resident

Marvin Miese – Benton County Resident

From: cswakw@frontier.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heavens Hills Windfarm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 11:22:07 AM
Attachments: [EFSCE Comments on Hores Heaven Wind Farm.docx](#)

Public Comment #0241
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

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

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop P.O. Box 43172,
Olympia, WA, 98504-3172

March 28, 2021

Dear Council Members:

I strenuously oppose Scout Clean Energy's (Scout) proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm. EFSEC should not approve Scout's Application for Site Certification (ASC) on the proposed windfarm.

At the March 30th, 2021 public meeting, and in the Tic City Herald, Scout stated that the reason they chose to use EFSEC for permitting was "the project was too complex for the local government to handle. This appears to be a lie. Benton County permitted the 9-Canyon windfarm in the early 200's with no issues, and the county currently works with a potato processing plant, an airport, a uranium reprocessing facility, a nuclear power plant, a hydroelectric dam and a nuclear waste site. In a March 28, 202 editorial Scout is now stating the reason behind going to EFSEC is "because they cannot get a fair hearing in Benton County". I believe Scout is going to EFSEC is to avoid input from the 285,000 residents of the Tri Cities, approximately 150,000 to 175,000 of whom will be visually impacted by the Project. Scout is making a despicable end run around the residents of the Tri Cities, and for that reason alone the ASC should be rejected.

On the project webpage in November, Scout listed the permanent jobs created by the windfarm as 8. Not 80 or 800 but 8. 23 miles of 500-foot towers visible to 175,000 people to create 8 jobs? This does not seem to be a fair trade for the people of Washington. I understand it's up to about ~50 jobs if they can get the solar farm to work.

Scout is vastly overstating the power production from the Wind Farm. The listed output of wind power is ~600 megawatts. However, the planning paperwork states the farm will only produce power 27% of the time. This makes it about a ~162-megawatt facility impacting nearly 7000 acres in direct line of sight to about 175,000 residents. The solar component seems somewhat dubious. At the last minute, in what appears to be an attempt to address the massive inefficiency of the project, Scout threw into this project "energy storage capacity" in the form of lithium batteries, and they added massive solar arrays. What the local experts are telling me, is that there is no current (or affordable) battery technology for batteries that could effectively store even a fraction of the total energy they say they can generate. Given the dismal efficiency of this project and the dubious technical basis for the solar and battery component, I suggest this project is more of a tax subsidy farm than a solar or wind farm.

What is the justification of need? Washington State ranks 3rd in the country for lowest electricity cost and in 2017 3rd in the country for renewable energy production at 80%. We have met or exceeded all renewable energy government mandates. The Benton County PUD issued a position paper in July that it will no longer connect wind power to its grid; the unpredictable electricity generation forces the PUD to have equivalent backup power generation which is costly. Is there truly a need for this project? Or is this an out of state (Colorado) power brokerage company and Louisiana land investor creating a business opportunity for themselves which may be needed where there are not hydroelectric dams, nuclear energy, solar energy and potential geothermal energy available.

Scouts Application discussed limited visitor impacts at places like Hover Park and Badger Mountain. What Scout does not address is that these areas are not where we get visitors. We get them at area wineries, golf courses, and along the Columbia River. All of which will have visual impacts from this project. The proposed project lies within the viewshed of West Richland and Tri-Cities residential neighborhoods and new real estate development communities, and Rattlesnake Mountain tribal vistas. The project is too big and too close to residential areas. It will hurt the wine industry and hurt tourism.

I worked for Washington Department of Natural Resources from 2012-2014 in the State Lands office. I worked on two windfarm projects, Nine Canyon and Wildhorse. From that experience I can guess that Scout is planning on selling pollution credits for this project to a coal fired power plant, probably in the four corners area, to allow that plant to continue to pollute. More smog in the Grand Canyon. In addition, Scout will not own the windfarm, neither will a power company. It will be owned by an LLC in Delaware. At the end of the project, Benton County will be left holding the bag for cleanup and disposal of and over 200 windmills 24 miles of land reclamation. The 732 blades from the windfarm, assuming no replacement, amount to 6,000,000 to 9,000,000 pounds of waste every 10 years that cannot be recycled and probably need to go to a hazardous waste facility. Scout will be long gone, leaving a 23-mile-long turd for Benton County to deal with.

Lastly, this project will fill the western horizons of Richland, West Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco with a sea of blinking anti collision lights every night for the next 30 years. Using Scouts estimates, the project will be visible to about 175,000 residents that get no benefit. Scout benefits, about 60 landowners who already get a lot of farm subsidies benefit, the rest of us get to look at this abortion of a project for the rest of our lives.

Given these issues, and the deliberate lack of local input into the project, the state should reject Scout's Application for Site Certification (ASC) on the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Windfarm.

Thanks for your consideration of this matter.

Chris Wright
5502 Astoria Road
West Richland, WA 99353
509-531-7638

From: [Jim Redding](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 11:51:46 AM

Public Comment #0242
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I don't want these noise making, bird killing and red light blinking wind mills right above my home.
Scout, put these monstrosities in your own backyard!
Inslee, do the right thing and stop this environmental tragedy.

From: [Tara Hansen](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Please STOP Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 12:40:21 PM

Public Comment #0243
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Please understand I am for clean energy, I support wind and solar and detest that we still need to use fossil fuels. I need you to understand how important Horse Heaven Hills are to this area. I have traveled across the US many times and I've never seen any other place like it. Literally, the only reason my husband and I live here right now is because we plan to build closer to the Hills because that is my happy place.

From: [Dan](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#); [TCH](#); [KNDO](#) (DOHI); newsroom@keprtv.com
Cc: [DOR Benton County Leg Authority](#); [Cynthia Jackson-de Leur](#); [Klicker, Mark](#); [Dozier, Perry](#); [Rude, Skyler](#); [Brad Klippert](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Wind Project
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 1:18:57 PM

External Email

As a union member, I'm writing to OPPOSE this project!

Bypassing the local communities to develop this project is blatant evidence the developers have no interest in what the community desires, no matter what they (Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC) may assert in any publication! In seeking to bypass the local community, it leads me to wonder and ask why? If the developer was honest and sought to work with its neighbors, then there would have been no need to seek a go-around-them solution!

I'm not against turbines per se. What I am against is the path this developer has taken to hopefully ram this project through. I've tried to get straight answers as to how this will affect the power output and loads from our current sources IF this project is allowed to proceed. But no luck so far and it's certainly NOT AVAILABLE on or by the information the developer is distributing! Why is that? Variable winds change power output so our current suppliers have to ramp up or down on an increased basis? Yes? No? How does that affect those sources financially? What types of issues does this force onto them? What about the different times of the year when these turbines aren't of any value? As in no wind(s)? Who/whom is paying the subsidies these units are getting? If this project is indeed making money, then why does it need or deserve any subsidies?

It's a fact our area doesn't require this 'new green power' so it has to be sold somewhere. How does that affect the future rates for power from our "already green" power providers? When this excess power is sold, who/whom receives the money? I'd bet a dollar to a donut the local community isn't reaping 100% of the rewards. Yet the community is forced to unwillingly 'host' this boondoggle by individuals that don't live/work or play here?

How about locating this project in Boulder, Co. where the company is located? According to [noaa \(https://psl.noaa.gov/boulder/wind.html\)](https://psl.noaa.gov/boulder/wind.html) there's wind enough to power their turbines down there! They may not even require units as tall and blades as big so money saved. Don't forget, these blades aren't yet recyclable so less hazardous waste that's a boon to a green environment!

The temporary Union & non-union jobs pale to the long term economic/visual/development impacts this will impart onto the community.

I equate this endeavor as: The horrible neighbor that moved in, made everyone's life around them miserable for a few years while they were making money, then packed up in the middle of the night and left their mess for others to clean up.

I don't believe for a minute the developer is showing/addressing both sides of what the impacts will be and deliberately being misleading. The mere fact they're bypassing the locals and seeking outside

approval is indicative of them hiding some facts/issues they don't want the public to see. That alone is cause for the immediate termination of allowing this to proceed.

Misleading information or the lack of information in my book is the same as lying and I won't tolerate it, nor should anyone that's reviewing or residing next to this project!

Dan Deckert
206 Alma
Benton City, WA 99320
509-588-8842/Home
509-460-8991/Cell



From: [Chris wright](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Re: Horse Heavens Hills Windfarm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 2:39:12 PM

Public Comment #0245
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

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>

From: [Carl Holder](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Cc: [Carl G Holder](#)
Subject: OPPOSE Scout - EFSEC Docket No. EF-210011
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 3:43:35 PM

Public Comment #0246
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Scout Clean Energy-Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project – **EFSEC Docket No. EF-210011**

COMMENT via email: efsec@utc.wa.gov

OPPOSE – Scout Clean Energy – Horse Heaven Hills (SCOUT) project.

The Northwest and the West Coast face increasing vulnerability in RESOURCE ADEQUACY. (see NW Council, 7th Power Plan, Mid-term Assessment, 2019.) I am a proponent for the construction of FIRM or BASELOAD of electricity. I am very concerned that supply is inadequate. Many professionals agree.

SCOUT does NOTHING to alleviate the supply crisis probability. In fact, this HUGE WIND PROJECT can further destabilize the NW grid. RESOURCE ADEQUACY is not improved by SCOUT.

In the Mid-Term Assessment, the BPA is directed to “help mitigate generation over-supply conditions.” SCOUT will exacerbate “generation over-supply conditions.” <https://www.nwcouncil.org/reports/midterm-assessment-seventh-power-plan> p.14

In a recent RESOURCE ADEQUACY seminar, 35% was the number highlighted for 2025. The MAXIMUM supply RESOURCE ADEQUACY limit is 5% for planning. Coal fired power plants are being retired faster than planned. In very cold conditions, hydroelectric generation is constrained and wind is non-existent. (The recent Texas adequacy disaster is a harbinger of climate crisis intersecting with failed renewable resources.) In very hot summers, wind energy is variable, fish require dumping water, and low-flow years are possible.

Variable electricity is not needed, and SCOUT is not wanted.

New study: EU parliament members shows nuclear power to be the best CO2-reducing solution. Advocates for wind and solar electricity ignore integration costs reaching US 5 cents/kWh, even at low 30% penetration. <https://lnkd.in/evQBEXy>

Power Density: “Because wind and solar require so much land and air, they expand the impact of energy production, reversing recent global trends that allow us to use less land for food and energy production in order to leave more for nature. In addition, seasonal variation guarantees that a fossil fuel backbone will always be necessary, as the leading wind and solar countries in the world have long known and prepared for...”

<https://environmentalprogress.org/energy1>

OPPOSE SCOUT

Carl Holder
1503 Desert Springs Ave
Richland WA 99352

From: [Steve Yerian](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 3:48:52 PM

Public Comment #0247
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Visual pollution is an aesthetic issue and refers to the impacts of pollution that impair one's ability to enjoy a pleasant view. Visual pollution disturbs the visual areas of people by creating harmful changes in the natural environment. Visual pollution is you can say anything unattractive or visualization damaging to nearby landscapes.

This type of pollution is an aesthetic issue and refers to impacts of pollution that impair one's ability to see or enjoy a natural view.

Protests are increasingly heard from many countries concerning visual pollution from tall wind turbine towers and it is indeed true that most modern megawatt-size models with tower heights of 50–70 meters certainly stand out in the landscape. "Scout Clean Energy" realizes they only have to win one battle to win this war declared on the Tri Cities. They only need to get the State of Washington's approval one time, and then once they start construction there is no way out for us, the residents of the Tri Cities.

I'm sure I echo a lot of citizens' thoughts when I say I'm more than a little concerned with the visual pollution this proposed windmill project will impose on the Tri Cities.

"Scout Clean Energy" - what a nice wholesome name; they will give us a relative few construction jobs on a short term basis - and we in turn, as residents of the Tri Cities will get up to 244 obnoxious wind turbines, which will stand 500 feet or more tall, and will dominate the landscape from Benton City to Finley. Keep in mind these windmills will be with us for decades if not generations. History shows in many similar cases if you own property near this spectacle, that property will be devalued and difficult to sell.

Raising awareness of the benefits of wind farms and increased public acceptance is half of the battle in getting projects like this approved; and folks "Scout Clean Energy" is trying to play us for a bunch of country

bumpkins. The Tri Cities will get literally nothing positive out of this.

If you think about the stench of a paper mill, or a meat processing plant, and what it does to your sense of smell; then think about what 244 bright white, 500 foot tall windmills will do for your eyes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for the next 50 years, when you look towards what use to be the natural view of the Horse Heaven Hills.

I believe I speak for most Tri City residents when I say, We are all for sustainable energy; but put it where it belongs - about 250 miles west of here.

We don't want it, we don't need it, and we do not want to see it.

Sincerely,

D. Steve Yerian

19503 South Finley Road

Kennewick Washington 99337

From: [Jeff Schatz](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heavens Wind Farm Project
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 4:02:51 PM

Public Comment #0248
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I have been a resident of Benton County for the past 16 years. We recently bought 5 acres outside of Benton City, and invested all we had to build our dream/forever home here. We purposely bought this property and designed our home for the beautiful view of the Horse Heavens ridgeline. So on a personal note, this project will ruin the beautiful view we enjoy now, if in the future we have to look at the monstrous ugly wind towers and turbines during the daylight hours, and then also at night rather than just enjoying all the stars, we'll have the obnoxious blinking lights to view. The wide open views of the Horse Heavens ridgeline, and other ridges are some of the beautiful landscapes we have in this wide open country. Please don't let them destroy that for us. It would make this area a real eye sore, and take away much of the desire and reason to live here, in my opinion. Our property values can do nothing but drop if this goes through and the wind farm is built.

As I understand it, the energy created by this wind farm project would go to other parts of the country like; Seattle, Portland, California, etc., but not benefit us here locally. We have plenty of power here locally with our renewable energy hydro-electricity produced by our dams, and clean nuclear generated electricity from Energy Northwest. If this wind farm is built here the only things we'll get out of it is the ugly eye sore we have to look at every day & night, and higher energy prices in the end. I know for a fact that Scout Energy would never be allowed to build one of these in Boulder County where they reside. I lived in Boulder County 25 years, before moving here to eastern Washington. The environmentalist and people of Boulder County would never allow it. That's why they're here trying to push this through on us! If places like Seattle, Portland, Olympia, etc., want these wind farms so badly, then put them in their back yard or in the Gorge on the Columbia between OR & WA. There is plenty of wind available there too. The thing is that they don't want them there, because they're too ugly. Well we don't want them here either!

All the research I've done on wind farm power points to a real inefficiency in cost, verses production of energy. I've even talked to craft who have worked on building these wind farms, and even they say they can't possibly be worth what it costs to build and maintain them. The jobs created by this project would mainly be temporary and many of the trades will come from out of state for this. The local trades will not benefit much from this project, and those that do will be short lived. Also these taller towers would be placed in a migratory bird flyway, which will kill waterfowl, hawks and eagles, and many other birds. Contrary to some comments I have read, all the farmers who own land where the wind farms would go don't want them here either, despite the "easy money" either. Some of the farmers are also fighting this and getting strong armed to give in. This is all wrong. You know it's not good when they bypass the permitting process here in Benton County, and go around us to Olympia to try and get the OK without our input. This is as wrong as it gets. Olympia shouldn't be deciding what happens in our county. We don't decide what happens in theirs!

Please keep this wind farm project out of Benton County. It will have a very negative impact

on our area and overall economy in so many ways over the long run.

Sincerely,

Mathew J. Schatz
51806 N Evert Rd
Benton City, WA 99320
509-554-0577

From: jorose331@aol.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 4:41:16 PM

Public Comment #0249
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

My husband and I first visited the Tri-Cities in Nov. 2012, visiting some friends and escaping our cold and powerless home in NJ just after Superstorm Sandy. We were awed by the spectacular sunrises over the Columbia. We spent the week visiting wineries on Red Mountain and Walla Walla. The following spring we returned and while enjoying the sunrise, we thought, "We should retire here." In 2015, we bought a lot in Richland and began building our retirement home.

When asked why we chose Eastern WA. we highlighted the beautiful sweeping views, cheap, renewable energy, lower cost of living, a governor who believes in green energy...essentially, WA is everything NJ isn't. We made the move in Sept. 2019. Our daughter and her family followed us in June 2020.

We are supporters of renewable energy, including wind farms, when they make sense. Our concerns about the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm are:

- If wind energy were not subsidized, would it make economical sense to build this farm? The subsidies are not forever.
- Will Scout be required to bear the cost of dismantling turbines that have reached the end of their operation and pay to have them disposed of properly, or will local and state tax revenue be required? If the latter, that should be considered in the cost assessment of the project.
- Are the financial benefits to WA Scout is proposing realistic?
- Are the 500ft and 600ft giant turbines necessary?
- Are 244 turbines necessary?
- If wind farms are an eye-sore on the west side, why are they acceptable here?
- Is the energy produced serving WA or being exported to other states? If it is exported, why aren't those other states building wind farms in their own state?
- Will the effects on bird migration be considered in the process?

Clearly this is not the EFSEC's first windfarm proposal and there is a clear process to evaluate these proposals. We respectfully request our concerns be considered in that evaluation process.

Thank you,

Joan and Evan Rosenberg

From: [Jim Gaston](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Sunday, March 28, 2021 5:28:15 PM

Public Comment #0250
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

I am against the SCOUT project to develop a wind farm in the Horse Heaven Hills.

Jim Gaston

7 Lavender Ct

Pasco, WA 99301

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Mike Lauman](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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 enviromental 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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

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 tri-cities . 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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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 Thompspon 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 Thompson 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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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 counter productive 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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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
mragsland@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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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

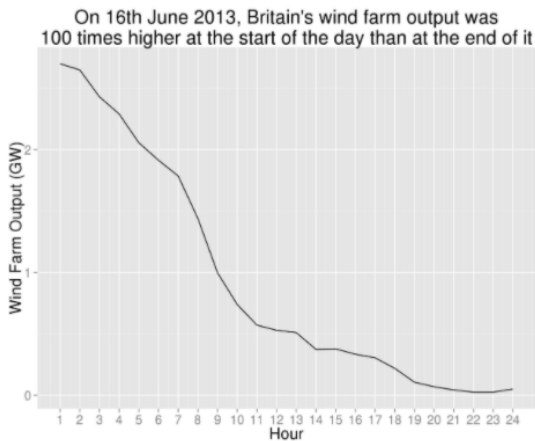
how much noise from the turbines is audible to those nearby, and whether they get shadow flicker, which is a pulsing light effect caused by shadows from the blades of a turbine rotating in front of the sun. One man in Primghar, Iowa (<https://slate.com/technology/2017/08/why-farmers-in-iowa-hope-wind-energy-will-blow-over.html>) 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. ● 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.



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: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
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

From: [Steven Luksic](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scout Windfarm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:20:53 PM

Public Comment #0301
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Dear Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

As a Tri City homeowner with a south-facing view, I was very moved by Chris Wiley's opinion piece in Tumblewied explaining his perspective on wind farms in the Horse Heaven Hills. It seems the community there would benefit from the selection of that location for a wind project, and I'd like to voice my support for it as well.

Yours,

Steven Luksic

From: [Stephen Potter](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: NO Wind Farm!!
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:27:42 PM

Public Comment #0302
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

Worse idea yet. What a horrid landscape you would create!
No! No! No, thank you!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Mike Bender](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse heaven wind farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:32:35 PM

Public Comment #0303
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

As a life long (56 year) resident of the TC, I am against this project. I believe this area would not see any energy benefits from this and our views, beautiful skyline and property values would be destroyed. I am against building on skylines in general and this would be affecting miles of skyline.

Mike Bender
Kennewick, WA

From: [Robin Holloman](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Monday, March 29, 2021 2:35:34 PM

Public Comment #0304
Horse Heaven Wind Farm
Docket #210011

External Email

There is not enough benefit to Washington State to endure such an eyesore on our beautiful landscape

Robin