



Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
Established by the Treaty of June 9, 1855

Post Office Box 151
Toppenish Washington 98948

Amy Moon
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO BOX 43172
Olympia WA, 98504-3172

May 19, 2021

RE: Horse Heaven Wind Facility; EIS Scoping

Dear Ms. Moon,

The Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program (CRP) appreciates EFSEC's decision to allow for further consideration of impacts that may be caused by the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Facility. Based on your recent notice, provided May 11th, we understand that EFSEC has identified wildlife/habitat has an element that will require detailed analysis. Yakama Nation CRP concurs that wildlife and habitat should be addressed, as we have stated in our previous comments.

EFSEC has indicated that elements of *energy and natural resources*, as well as *historic and cultural resources*, require additional information before EFSEC will choose to have them included in the EIS process. We feel strongly that these elements should be included:

- Energy production in our region is directly tied to our hydroelectric grid, for which careful analysis is greatly needed. Wind and solar energy require an alternative stable power source on the grid. Increased wind and solar development will eventually compel the need for more hydroelectric, nuclear, or coal power. Oversupply of energy within our region directly impacts the manner in which hydroelectric power is managed within our Columbia River system. This has dire consequences for Columbia River salmon and other fish species upon which the Yakama Nation depends culturally. We believe the need for each new proposed facility should be addressed, and the impact of new grid supply should be evaluated cumulatively. We are aware that Benton County PUD has raised these same issues and has provided detailed information. EFSC should have ample data to compel them to consider these concerns in an EIS.
- The Horse Heaven Wind Facility may impact culturally valued Traditional Cultural Properties associated with spiritual sites, traditional use sites, and the specific geographic availability of foods and medicines. This culturally valued and sensitive information has been passed down through oral traditions since time immemorial. Further, this area is known to the Yakama Nation as a historic site, having associations with historic events of our region. We ask EFSEC to allow impacts to these invaluable resource to be considered.

Thank you,

Casey Barney
Interim Program Manager, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program

Cc:

George Selam, Yakama Nation Tribal Council Cultural Committee Chairman

Gerald Lewis, Yakama Nation Tribal Council Cultural Committee Secretary

Delano Saluskin, Yakama Nation Tribal Council Cultural Committee/Tribal Council Chairman

George Meninick, Yakama Nation Tribal Council Cultural Committee

Jerry Meninick, Yakama Nation Deputy Director of Cultural

Jessica Lally, Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program Archaeologist

Ethan Jones, Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel

Sonia Bumpus, Manager, EFSEC

Sydney Hanson, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation