1 BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL 2 In the Matter of the Application of: DOCKET NO. EF-210011 Scout Clean Energy, LLC, for Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC, SCOUT CLEAN ENERGY, LLC'S 5 MOTION TO SUPPLEMENT THE Applicant. TESTIMONY OF BRYNN GUTHRIE 6 7 I. INTRODUCTION 8 Fewer than 16 hours before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council ("EFSEC" or 9 "Council") was to hear live testimony from visual experts in the adjudication, Tri-Cities 10 C.A.R.E.S. ("TCC") submitted EXH-5906 R, a new, comprehensive visual analysis from 11 TCC witness Dean Apostol. The Administrative Law Judge ("ALJ") admitted the new 12 analysis, over the objection of Scout Clean Energy, LLC, for Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC 13 ("Applicant" or "Scout") and the Council for the Environment. Mr. Apostol was permitted to provide extensive live testimony about the new materials, materials Scout's counsel and visual expert had not had time to review or analyze. Since that time, Scout visual expert Brynn Guthrie has reviewed the new materials from Mr. Apostol and prepared additional, narrow testimony responding to them. Importantly, her testimony identifies serious flaws in 18 the Apostol exhibit that are critical for EFSEC to consider. Applicant therefore respectfully 19 requests to supplement the record with additional rebuttal testimony of Brynn Guthrie 20 (provided as Attachment A) in the above-captioned proceeding. This request is consistent 21 with and supported by the Washington Administrative Procedure Act ("APA"), EFSEC's 22 adjudicative hearing regulations, case law, and the ALJ's prior rulings in this matter. 23 24 25 26

¹ Even though Applicant is requesting the admission of supplemental testimony, it maintains its objection to the admission of EXH-5906_R.

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II. ARGUMENT

| 2 | A. TCC's New Visual Analysis, EXH-5906_R, Constitutes Late, New Evidence |
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| 3 | Necessitating Rebuttal Evidence from Scout's Visual Expert. |
| 4 | Under the APA, the presiding officer over a hearing "shall afford to all parties the |
| 5 | opportunity to respond and submit rebuttal evidence, except as restricted by a limited |
| 6 | grant of intervention or by the prehearing order,"2 to facilitate "full disclosure of all relevant |
| 7 | facts and issues." RCW 34.05.449(2). Admission of rebuttal evidence is particularly |
| 8 | appropriate, and important, when an opposing party submits new evidence late in a case. |
| 9 | See, e.g., State v. White, 74 Wash.2d 386, 394, 444 P.2d 661 (1968) (affirming trial judge's |
| 10 | admission of rebuttal evidence that was "in reply to new matters presented" by the opposing |
| 11 | party, noting a party "is not allowed to withhold substantial evidence in order to present |
| 12 | this evidence cumulatively at the end of [it]s case"). The ALJ in this case applied these same |
| 13 | authorities earlier in the adjudication when he permitted rebuttal testimony from County land |
| 14 | use witness Michelle Cooke, despite that Ms. Cooke had already testified earlier in the |
| 15 | hearing. After testimony from Scout witness Chris Wiley raised new agricultural impact |
| 16 | issues, Ms. Cooke was given the full opportunity to respond. See also Order Granting SCE's |
| 17 | Motion to Submit Supplemental Testimony of Kobus, Docket EF-210011 (Aug. 16, 2023) |
| 18 | (allowing supplemental testimony on new fire suppression standards because it was "helpful |
| 19 | to EFSEC Councilmembers and assist them in more fully understanding" that issue). |
| 20 | EFSEC's rules of evidence for adjudicative hearing provide that evidence "offered |
| 21 | during the hearing be submitted to the presiding officer and to the other parties |
| 22 | sufficiently in advance to permit study and preparation of cross-examination and rebuttal |
| 23 | evidence." WAC 463-30-310(2)(a) (emphasis added). Despite that rule, at 5:30pm the day |
| 24 | before Scout's visual expert, Brynn Guthrie, was scheduled to testify at 9:00 am, TCC |
| 25 | submitted to the presiding officer and parties EXH-5906_R, which provides a completely |
| 26 | ² Here, no prehearing order or limited intervention grant restricts Scout's ability to present rebuttal testimony. |

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1 new visual analysis, including a detailed map and quantitative table, purportedly intended to

2 evaluate visual mitigation. The exhibit contains extensive technical analysis, all of which

- 3 could have been submitted weeks earlier, but was not.³ These documents are the type of
- 4 material that require careful expert review to determine their validity. Submitting the
- 5 material less than 16 hours before the visual testimony was not "sufficiently in advance to
- 6 permit study and preparation of cross-examination" or rebuttal related to the new visual
- 7 analysis and precluded Ms. Guthrie or Scout's counsel from having adequate time to respond
- 8 to the material.
- 9 This, despite that Dean Apostol had ample opportunity to perform such an analysis
- 10 and submit it as part of his written pre-filed testimony. Dean Apostol submitted multiple pre-
- 11 filed testimony documents responding to the methodology in the Visual Impact Assessment
- performed by the Applicant. See EXH-5102_T (describing the purported deficiencies of the
- 3 SWCA Environmental Consultants analysis prepared for the DEIS); EXH-5103 R
- 14 (responding to direct testimony filed by Brynn Guthrie); EXH-5104 R (criticizing the
- 15 application of the BLM VRM methodology used by the Applicant in the Application for Cite
- 16 Certification). In none of those submittals did Mr. Apostol conduct an additional
- 17 independent visual impact analysis like the one provided in EXH-5906 R, despite having
- 18 clear opportunity to do so.
- Over Scout's strong objection during the hearing, EXH-5906 R was admitted, and
- 20 Mr. Apostol testified at length about the new analysis. But absent sufficient time to review
- 21 and analyze the materials, Scout's attorneys were unable to meaningfully cross-examine Mr.
- 22 Apostol about the materials, and Ms. Guthrie was unable to provide live rebuttal testimony
- 23 about its accuracy or relevance. Under the APA, EFSEC adjudication rules, and established
- 24 case law, Scout respectfully requests the ability to submit supplemental rebuttal testimony

TCC's attempt to defend its late submission by arguing the new analysis responds only to turbine location changes discussed in the Aug. 9 "Moon Memo," is belied by the exhibit itself, which clearly analyzes the *entire* project layout, not just the 13 turbines addressed in the memo.

- 1 from Ms. Guthrie to respond to the new visual analysis in EXH-5906_R and to disclose to
- 2 the Council all relevant facts and issues related to the project's visual impacts and mitigation.
- 3 RCW 34.05.449(2); WAC 463-30-310(2)(a); White, 74 Wash.2d at 394.
- 4 B. The Supplemental Testimony of Ms. Guthrie Responds Directly and Narrowly to EXH-5906 R and is Relevant Information That Should Be Provided to the
- 5 Council.
- 6 Supplementing the record with the attached testimony will provide the Council with
- 7 the best information regarding analysis and mitigation of visual impacts and allow it to
- 8 appropriately weigh EXH-5906 R. As described in her pre-filed direct testimony, EXH-
- 9 1000 T, Ms. Guthrie is the Applicant's visual expert who sponsored the visual and aesthetic
- 10 portions of the ASC. She has conducted numerous visual impact assessments, under various
- 11 methodologies, and thus, is best positioned to address the new information provided by
- 12 EXH-5906 R. Specifically, if admitted, Ms. Guthrie's supplemental testimony identifies
- 13 methodological problems and factual inaccuracies in the exhibit, and highlights what the
- 14 industry best practices are for mitigating visual impacts, including the Applicant's proactive
- 15 mitigation by removing 13 turbines as described in EXH-4014 X (Moon Memorandum).
- 16 This technical rebuttal is critical for the Council to be able to accurately assess the value and
- 17 relevance of EXH-5906 R, which, as Ms. Guthrie testifies, is low.

18 III. CONCLUSION

- The visual impact of the project and appropriate mitigation for that impact is a key
- 20 issue for the Council to consider in this adjudication. The late-filed new visual analysis in
- 21 EXH-1065 R gets to the heart of that issue. Were Scout not able to provide supplemental
- 22 rebuttal testimony to respond to that analysis, the Council would be denied disclosure of all
- 23 relevant facts, and Scout would be severely prejudiced as a result. Accordingly, Applicant
- 24 respectfully requests that the Council supplement the record with Attachment A, the
- 25 supplemental testimony of Scout visual expert Brynn Guthrie. If added to the record, the
- 26 exhibit can be labeled EXH-1065 R. In addition, while the Applicant does not request

additional live examination, Ms. Guthrie is available to sit for live cross-examination if the

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