



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

December 19, 2022

Dear Reader:

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) is pleased to present the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm project (the Proposed Facility). The proponent, Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC (the Applicant), is indirectly owned by Scout Clean Energy, LLC, a renewable energy development company headquartered in Boulder, Colorado. The Applicant has applied for a Site Certification Agreement with EFSEC to construct and operate a renewable energy generation facility that would have a nameplate energy capacity of up to 1,150 megawatts. The Proposed Facility would consist of a combination of wind and solar facilities, as well as battery energy storage systems, and would be located approximately 4 miles south/southwest of the city of Kennewick and the larger Tri-Cities urban area along the Columbia River in unincorporated Benton County.

Under Washington State law, EFSEC is responsible for siting and licensing the construction and operation of major energy facilities in Washington State. EFSEC is conducting its review process as outlined in Chapter 80.50 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and Title 463 of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) for the Proposed Facility.

As the state lead agency, EFSEC has prepared the Draft EIS in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The purpose of the Draft EIS is to evaluate the potential impacts of constructing and operating the Proposed Facility.

During EFSEC's SEPA scoping phase, areas of concern associated with the Proposed Facility were identified and subsequently addressed in this Draft EIS. The Draft EIS was prepared with information received from agencies, stakeholders, and members of the public.

The Draft EIS evaluates impacts from the construction, operation, and decommissioning stages of the Proposed Facility, including a cumulative environmental impact analysis. In addition to the Proposed Facility, the Draft EIS evaluates a no-action alternative.

The following resource areas were evaluated in the Draft EIS:

- Earth Resources
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Vegetation
- Wildlife and Habitat
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Land and Shoreline Use
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Visual Aspects, Light and Glare
- Noise and Vibration
- Recreation
- Public Health and Safety
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Socioeconomics

Key issues identified in the Draft EIS Executive Summary are associated with the following resources: vegetation, wildlife and habitat, cultural, visual, and recreation.

Significant unavoidable impacts are those impacts that remain significant, even after all mitigation measures committed to by the Applicant or recommended by EFSEC have been applied. The Draft EIS identified recommended mitigation measures to address potentially significant adverse environmental impacts from the Proposed Facility. In some instances, the identified mitigation would reduce but not completely eliminate the significant adverse impact. These impacts are identified as unavoidable and significant adverse environmental impacts.

A minimum thirty-day comment period is required by SEPA. However, in anticipation of requests for an extension, an additional fifteen days have been added to the comment period, the maximum allowed by SEPA, when the proponent does not agree to a longer comment period (WAC 197-11-455(7)).

The Draft EIS is available on EFSEC's project website at www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/horse-heaven-wind-project/horse-heaven-sepa. For further information regarding this proposal or to request a physical copy of the Draft EIS, you may contact the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council at (360) 664-1345 or efsec@efsec.wa.gov. Printed copies will be provided for the cost of printing, and an electronic version will be provided for the cost of the USB drive or CD.

Sincerely,



Sonia E. Bumpus
EFSEC Director