BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON ENERGY FACILITY SITING EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of the Application of:

Scout Clean Energy, LLC, for Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC,

Applicant.

DOCKET NO. EF-210011

REPLY TESTIMONY OF LESLIE MCCLAIN ON BEHALF OF SCOUT CLEAN ENERGY, LLC

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JULY 12, 2023

1	Q.	Please state your name, occupation, and where you live.
2	A.	My name is Leslie McClain. I reside in White Salmon, Washington.
3	Q.	Where are you employed?
4	A.	I am employed at Tetra Tech, an environmental consulting, engineering, and
5		permitting firm, which, among other things, serves the energy industry. I have
6		described my professional experience in prior testimony.
7	Q.	Please describe the purpose of your testimony.
8	A.	I am providing clarifying testimony regarding the ability of Scout Clean Energy to
9		safely operate the Horse Heaven Energy Facility ("Project") without measurable fire
10		safety risk. I am testifying in response to the pre-filed direct testimony of Greg Wends
11		and Michelle Cooke, both of whom work for the Benton County Planning
12		Department, as well as rebuttal testimony from Ms. Linda Lehman, expressing
13		concerns regarding safety for aircraft during fire suppression work. My testimony
14		speaks to the ability of the Project to be constructed and to operate subject to typical
15		practices, conditions, and requirements imposed as conditions at operating wind
16		energy projects in Oregon and Washington.
17	Q.	Are you able to answer questions under cross examination regarding your testimony?
18	A.	Yes.
19	Q.	Do you have specific expertise regarding fire prevention and control?
20	A.	No. However, in my experience in permitting Northwest energy facilities, I am
21		familiar with typical conditions imposed on wind and solar energy facilities in order
22		to minimize the risk of fire associated with these facilities. Wind turbine fires in the
23		Northwest are a remote risk; I am aware of only one incident since the advent of

Northwest wind energy facilities where a fire was attributed to a malfunctioning wind

turbine generator.

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1	Q.	Are you familiar with fire conditions at other wind energy facilities imposed by
2		permitting entities?

- 3 A. Yes, I am.
- 4 Q. Is it common practice in energy facility permitting for the permitting agency to impose conditions to minimize and avoid fire safety risks?
- Yes. To my knowledge, in every major wind and solar energy facility pending or approved by either Washington EFSEC or Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council ("EFSC"). EFSC, the permitting agency, has imposed conditions to address fire safety risks. The same is true for most wind farms permitted at the county level in Oregon and Washington.
- 11 **Q.** Are you familiar with these conditions, and able to explain them?
- Yes, I am. In my testimony below, I include conditions from other permitted and operational wind and solar energy facilities that were imposed by Washington EFSEC or Oregon EFSC to minimize and avoid risks associated with the extremely rare event of a fire associated with wind and solar energy facilities. These example conditions from other facilities show that on similar landscapes as this Project, decisionmakers have crafted well understood requirements to ensure public safety.

Washington EFSEC

The following table lists some of the wind and solar facilities that have received Site Certificate Agreements ("SCA") from Washington EFSEC. All of the below listed facilities were required to prepare a Fire Control Plan and have this plan approved by EFSEC prior to commencement of the construction and operation phases. The Fire Control Plan is typically developed in consultation with the County Fire District and other appropriate agencies. The plan would detail measure for onsite fire suppression and prevention, offsite fire suppression support, and safety plan in the event of a fire.

EFSEC coordinates with the relevant agencies regarding review and approval of this plan. The Project anticipates that EFSEC would require a similar condition for a Fire Control Plan as with these other facilities.

In addition to a Fire Control Plan, all of the example wind facilities listed below have conditions that required execution of a fire protection service agreement with the local fire service providers. As noted in the Whistling Ridge Energy Project SCA condition, the cost of fire protection was to be borne by the certificate holder. Special training to the fire district personnel on how to respond to fires related to wind turbines, solar arrays, or battery energy storage facilities can be provided by the certificate holder to fire district personnel. Furthermore, the facilities are typically required to provide detailed maps to fire service providers detailing the location of infrastructure and access roads and provide keys to the master lock system that would enable emergency personnel to unlock gates that would otherwise limit access to the project. Before beginning construction, the certificate holder would submit a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") identifying the proposed final locations of turbine towers and meteorological towers.

The Project anticipates that EFSEC will include a similar condition as it has done with other facilities, requiring an approved Fire Control Plan prior to project commencement, and requiring a fire protection service agreement with the local fire service providers.

WA EFSEC	Fire Control Plan Condition	Fire Protection Services Agreement
Facility	of ASC?	Condition of ASC?
Desert Claim	Yes, for both construction and	Yes, see SCA conditions below.
Wind Power	operations. See SCA conditions	
Project	below.	SCA condition:
		Prior to commencing Site
	SCA condition:	Preparation, the Certificate Holder
		shall verify continuing protection

WA EFSEC	Fire Control Plan Condition	Fire Protection Services Agreement
Facility	of ASC?	Condition of ASC?
	The Certificate Holder shall	through DNR for Desert Claim
	develop and implement a Fire	facilities on land leased from that
Desert Claim	Control Plan in coordination	agency and shall execute a fire
Wind Power	with state and local agencies to	protection services agreement with a
Project (cont.)	minimize risk of accidental fire	fire services provider such as Kittitas
	during construction and to	Valley Fire and Rescue for the
	ensure effective response to any	Project site to ensure that adequate
	fire that does occur on the	fire protection services are in place
	Project Site at any time. The Certificate Holder shall submit	during the construction and
	the Fire Control Plan to EFSEC	operations of the Project.
	for review and approval at least	SCA condition:
	sixty (60) days prior to Site	The Certificate Holder shall maintain
	Preparation and provide a copy	fire protection services agreement(s)
	to WDFW, DNR and Ecology	for the entire Project, for the life
	for comment. The Certificate	of the Project or until and to the
	Holder shall not begin Site	extent that the Project site is annexed
	Preparation prior to obtaining	into a Fire District or other municipal
	Council approval of the Fire	entity that provides fire protection
	Control Plan.	services.
	SCA condition: The Certificate Holder shall develop an operations phase Fire Control Plan in consultation with WDFW and WDNR and in coordination with other state and local agencies to minimize risk of accidental fire during operation and ensure effective response to any fire that does occur. No later than sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of Commercial Operation, the Certificate Holder shall submit the Plan to EFSEC for review and approval.	
Kittitas	Yes, for both construction and	Yes, see SCA conditions below.
Valley Wind	operations. See SCA conditions	
Power Project	below.	SCA conditions:
		The fire protection services
	SCA conditions:	agreement that the Certificate Holder

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of ASC? **Condition of ASC? Facility** 2 The Certificate Holder shall has executed with Kittitas County Fire District #1 for the Project assures develop and implement a Fire 3 Control Plan in coordination that suitable fire protection services with state and local agencies to are in place during the construction Kittitas 4 Valley Wind minimize risk of accidental fire and ongoing operations of the 5 Power Project during construction and to Project. A fire protection services ensure effective response to any agreement shall be maintained for the (cont.) 6 fire that does occur on the life of the Project, or until the Project Project Site. The Certificate site is annexed into a Fire District or 7 Holder shall submit the Fire other municipal entity that provides fire protection services. Control Plan for review and 8 approval at least sixty (60) days 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000, Portland, OR 97205 Main 503.224.3380 Fax 503.220.2480 9 prior to Site Preparation. The Certificate Holder shall not 10 begin Site Preparation prior to obtaining Council approval of 11 STOEL RIVES LLP the Fire Control Plan. 12 SCA conditions: 13 The Certificate Holder shall develop and implement an 14 operations phase Fire Control Plan in coordination with state 15 and local agencies to minimize 16 risk of accidental fire during operation and ensure effective 17 response to any fire that does occur. No later than sixty (60) 18 days prior to the beginning of Commercial Operation the 19 Certificate Holder shall submit 20 the Plan to EFSEC for review and approval. 21 Whistling Yes, for both construction and Yes, see SCA conditions below. 22 Ridge Energy operations. See SCA conditions Project below. **SCA** conditions: 23 Prior to commencing Site 24 SCA conditions: Preparation, the Certificate Holder The Certificate Holder shall shall verify continuing protection for 25 develop and implement a Fire Whistling Ridge Energy and shall

Fire Control Plan Condition

Fire Protection Services Agreement

execute a fire protection services

agreement with fire services

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Control Plan in coordination

with state and local agencies to

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WA EFSEC

Fire Control Plan Condition

of ASC?

Fire Protection Services Agreement

Exhibit G of Attachment 4 to this

Condition of ASC?

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EFSEC and the County for

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WA EFSEC

Facility

	2	Facility	of ASC?	Condition of ASC?
	2		review at least sixty (60) days	Agreement, assures that suitable fire
	3		prior to Site Preparation. The	protection services are in place
			Certificate Holder shall not	during the construction and ongoing
	4	***** 1 **	begin Site Preparation prior to	operations of the Project. A fire
	5	Wild Horse	obtaining Council approval of	protection services agreement shall
	3	Wind Project, Cont.	the Fire Control Plan. SCA condition:	be maintained for the life of the
	6	Cont.	The Certificate Holder shall	Project, or until the Project site is
	7		develop and implement an	annexed into a Fire District or other
	7		operations phase Fire Control	municipal entity which provides fire
	8		Plan in coordination with state	protection services.
5	0		and local agencies to minimize	
9720	9		risk of accidental fire during	
3R 80	10		operation and ensure effective	
nd, (response to any fire that does	
LP ortla	11		occur. No later than sixty (60)	
STOEL RIVES LLP Avenue, Suite 3000, Portls 03.224.3380	12		days prior to the beginning of	
300 Fa			Commercial Operation the	
, R Suite 80	13		Certificate Holder shall submit	
JEI ue, S 4.33	14		the Plan to the County for	
TO ven	14		review and to EFSEC for	
STOEL RIVES LLP 760 SW Ninth Avenue, Suite 3000, Portland, OR 97205 Main 503.224.3380 Fax 503.220.2480	15		review and approval.	
/ Nir Mai	16	Goose Prairie	Yes, see SCA conditions below.	No.
SW (10	Solar	,	
)9/	17		SCA conditions:	
	18		The Certificate Holder shall	
	10		develop and implement a	
	19		Construction Fire Control Plan	
	20		in coordination with state and local agencies to minimize the	
	20		risk of accidental fire during	
	21		construction and to ensure	
	22		effective response to any fire	
	22		that does occur on the Facility	
	23		Area at any time. The	
			Certificate Holder shall submit	
	24		the Fire Control Plan to EFSEC	
	25		for review and approval at least	
			ninety (90) days prior to Construction and provide a	
	26		copy to WDFW, and Yakima	
			C F D' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' ' '	

Fire Control Plan Condition

Fire Protection Services Agreement

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County Fire District #4. The

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WA EFSEC

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WA EFSEC	Fire Control Plan Condition	Fire Protection Services Agreement
Facility	of ASC?	Condition of ASC?
	Certificate Holder shall not	
	begin Construction prior to	
	obtaining EFSEC approval of	
Goose Prairie	the Fire Control Plan.	
Solar (cont.)		
	SCA condition:	
	The Certificate Holder shall	
	develop an Operations Fire	
	Control Plan in coordination	
	with state and local agencies to	
	minimize the risk of accidental	
	fire during operation and ensure	
	effective response to any fire that does occur. The Fire	
	Control Plan must consider and	
	address potential wildfire risk	
	minimization and response.	
High Top	Yes, see SCA conditions below.	No.
Solar Project	res, see SCA conditions below.	140.
Solai i loject	SCA conditions:	
	Construction Fire Control Plan:	
	The Certificate Holder shall	
	develop and implement a	
	Construction Fire Control Plan	
	in coordination with state and	
	local agencies to minimize the	
	risk of accidental fire during	
	construction and to ensure	
	effective response to any fire	
	that does occur on the Project	
	Footprint at any time. The	
	Certificate Holder shall submit	
	the Fire Control Plan to EFSEC	
	for review and approval at least	
	ninety (90) days prior to	
	Construction and provide a	
	copy to Yakima County Fire	
	District #4. The Certificate	
	Holder shall not begin	
	Construction prior to obtaining	
l l	LLVII OMMOTIOL OF the Live	I .
	EFSEC approval of the Fire Control Plan.	

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WA EFSEC Facility	Fire Control Plan Condition of ASC?	Fire Protection Services Agreement Condition of ASC?
<u> 1 uciiity</u>	SCA Condition:	
	Operations Fire Control Plan:	
	The Certificate Holder shall	
C D		
Goose Prairie	develop an Operations Fire	
Solar (cont.)	Control Plan in coordination	
	with state and local agencies to	
	minimize the risk of accidental	
	fire during operation and ensure	
	effective response to any fire	
	that does occur. The Fire	
	Control Plan must consider and	
	address potential wildfire risk	
	minimization and response.	
Ostrea Solar	Yes, see SCA conditions below.	No.
Project		
	SCA conditions:	
	Construction Fire Control Plan:	
	The Certificate Holder shall	
	develop and implement a	
	Construction Fire Control Plan	
	in coordination with state and	
	local agencies to minimize the	
	risk of accidental fire during	
	construction and to ensure	
	effective response to any fire	
	that does occur on the Project	
	Footprint at any time. The	
	Certificate Holder shall submit	
	the Fire Control Plan to EFSEC	
	for review and approval at least	
	ninety (90) days prior to	
	Construction and provide a	
	copy to Yakima County Fire	
	District #4. The Certificate	
	Holder shall not begin	
	Construction prior to obtaining	
	EFSEC approval of the Fire	
	Control Plan.	
	SCA Condition:	
	Operations Fire Control Plan:	
	The Certificate Holder shall	
	develop an Operations Fire	

WA EFSEC	Fire Control Plan Condition	Fire Protection Services Agreement
Facility	of ASC?	Condition of ASC?
	Control Plan in coordination with state and local agencies to	
	minimize the risk of accidental	
Ostrea Solar	fire during operation and ensure	
Project (cont.)	effective response to any fire	
	that does occur. The Fire	
	Control Plan must consider and	
	address potential wildfire risk	
	minimization and response.	

Oregon EFSC

The following solar and wind facilities have been permitted through the Oregon Department of Energy and Oregon EFSC. The below list includes site certificate conditions that are relevant to the topic of fire risk/fire safety.

Montague Wind Power Facility – Site Certificate Hazardous Materials, Fire Protection & Public Safety Conditions

- o 58. The certificate holder shall install and maintain self-monitoring devices on each turbine, linked to sensors at the operations and maintenance building, to alert operators to potentially dangerous conditions, and the certificate holder shall immediately remedy any dangerous conditions. The certificate holder shall maintain automatic equipment protection features in each turbine that would shut down the turbine and reduce the chance of a mechanical problem causing a fire.
- 59. During construction and operation of the facility, the certificate holder shall ensure that the O&M building and all service vehicles are equipped with shovels and portable fire extinguishers of a 4A5OBC or equivalent rating.
- o 60. During construction and operation of the facility, the certificate holder shall develop and implement fire safety plans in consultation with the North Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District to minimize the risk of fire and to respond appropriately to any fires that occur on the facility site. In

developing the fire safety plans, the certificate holder shall take into account the dry nature of the region and shall address risks on a seasonal basis. The certificate holder shall meet annually with local fire protection agency personnel to discuss emergency planning and shall invite local fire protection agency personnel to observe any emergency drill or tower rescue training conducted at the facility.

- o 61. Upon the beginning of operation of the facility, the certificate holder shall provide a site plan to the North Gilliam County Rural Fire Protection District. The certificate holder shall indicate on the site plan the identification number assigned to each turbine and the actual location of all facility structures. The certificate holder shall provide an updated site plan if additional turbines or other structures are later added to the facility. During operation, the certificate holder shall ensure that appropriate fire protection agency personnel have an up-to-date list of the names and telephone numbers of facility personnel available to respond on a 24-hour basis in case of an emergency on the facility site.
- 62. During construction, the certificate holder shall ensure that construction personnel are trained in fire prevention and response, that construction vehicles and equipment are operated on graveled areas to the extent possible and that open flames, such as cutting torches, are kept away from dry grass areas.
- o 63. During operation of the facility, the certificate holder shall ensure that all on-site employees receive annual fire prevention and response training by qualified instructors or members of the local fire districts. The certificate holder shall ensure that all employees are instructed to keep vehicles on roads

1		and off dry grassland, except when off-road operation is required for
2		emergency purposes.
3	0	64. Before beginning construction, the certificate holder shall submit a Notice
4		of Proposed Construction or Alteration to the Federal Aviation Administration
5		("FAA") and the Oregon Department of Aviation identifying the proposed
6		final locations of turbine towers and meteorological towers. The certificate
7		holder shall promptly notify the Department of the response from the FAA
8		and Oregon Department of Aviation.
9	• Nolin	Hills Wind and Solar Project - Proposed Order Public Service Conditions
10	0	Recommended Public Services Condition 6 ("PRO"): Prior to operation, the
11		certificate holder shall contact the Echo Rural Fire Protection District
12		Umatilla County Fire District #1 ("UDFD #1") to schedule an on-site
13		orientation to review facility layout and safety procedures.
14	0	Recommended Public Services Condition 7 ("PRE"): Prior to construction of
15		the facility, or facility component, the certificate holder shall:
16		a. Finalize and submit to the Department a Fire Prevention, Suppression and
17		Emergency Management Plan which shall include at a minimum the
18		provisions included in Attachment U-2 of the Final Order on ASC.
19		b. Submit copies of the Final Fire Prevention, Suppression and Emergency
20		Management Plan to the Echo Rural Fire Protection District ("Echo
21		RFPD") and UDFD #1.
22	0	Recommended Public Services Condition 8 ("OPR"): During operation, the
23		certificate holder shall operate the facility consistent with the provisions in the
24		Final Fire Prevention, Suppression and Emergency Management Plan, as
25		approved in Public Services Condition 7. If substantive updates or changes are

1		made to the plan, submit copies of the updated plan to the Department and to
2		the Echo RFPD and UDFD #1.
3	Q.	Based on the conditions you referenced from other wind and solar projects in
4		Washington and Oregon, do you anticipate the Project will present a material safety risk
5		to fire suppression aircraft as referenced in Ms. Lehman's testimony?
6	A.	I am not an expert in firefighting or wildland firefighting aviation so I cannot answer
7		that question directly, but based on my expertise in land use, I would say that many of
8		Ms. Lehman's concerns could be addressed by implementation of appropriate conditions
9		similar to those required at other wind and solar projects in Oregon and Washington and
10		referenced earlier in this testimony. Some example conditions could include the
11		following:
12		o Example Condition #1: If available from the selected manufacturer at the time
13		of the wind turbine order, the certificate holder shall install and maintain self-
14		monitoring devices on each turbine, linked to sensors at the operations and
15		maintenance building, to alert operators to potentially dangerous conditions,
16		and the certificate holder shall immediately remedy any dangerous conditions
17		The certificate holder shall maintain automatic equipment protection features
18		in each turbine that would shut down the turbine and reduce the chance of a
19		mechanical problem causing a fire.
20		o Example Condition #2: The Certificate Holder shall develop and implement a
21		Fire Control Plan in coordination with state and local agencies to minimize
22		risk of accidental fire during construction and to ensure effective response to
23		any fire that does occur on the Project site at any time. The Certificate Holder
24		shall submit the Fire Control Plan to EFSEC for review and approval at least
2.5		sixty (60) days prior to Site Preparation and provide a copy to Benton County

Fire Districts #1 and #2, WDFW, DNR, Southwest Region and other local and

state service providers for comment. The Certificate Holder shall not begin Site Preparation prior to obtaining Council reasonable efforts to achieve approval of the Fire Control Plan.

- o Example Condition #3: The Certificate Holder shall develop and implement an operations phase Fire Control Plan in coordination with state and local agencies to minimize risk of accidental fire during operation and ensure effective response to any fire that does occur. No later than sixty (60) days prior to the beginning of Commercial Operation the Certificate Holder shall submit the Plan to the County for review and to EFSEC for review and approval.
- Example Condition #4: In developing the Fire Control Plans, the certificate holder shall take into account the dry nature of the region and shall address risks on a seasonal basis. The certificate holder shall meet annually with local fire protection agency personnel to discuss emergency planning and shall invite local fire protection agency personnel to observe any emergency drill or tower rescue training conducted at the facility.
- o Example Conditions #5: The Fire Control Plan will outline protocols for communication between the during operation, the certificate holder shall ensure that appropriate fire protection agency personnel have an up-to-date list of the names and telephone numbers of facility personnel available to respond on a 24-hour basis in case of an emergency on the facility site. In the event of a wildland fire occurring in the Project area, the Project's O&M staff will work with Benton County Fire District #1 and other inter-agency fire response personnel to ensure the Project's turbines can be shut down as needed to ensure the safety of firefighting personnel and equipment.

- O Example Conditions #6: Prior to commencing Site Preparation, the Certificate Holder shall verify fire protection for the Project and shall execute a fire protection services agreement with fire services providers for the Project site to ensure that adequate fire protection services are in place during the construction and operation of the Project. The Certificate Holder shall maintain fire protection services agreement(s) for the entire Project, for the life of the Project, with local fire districts (Benton County Fire Districts #1 and #2) that provide fire protection services. Prior to construction, the Certificate Holder will work with EFSEC and the local fire districts to ensure sufficient funding for fire prevention and response.
- Example Conditions #7: Upon the beginning of operation of the facility, the certificate holder shall provide a site plan and final turbine locations and heights to the Benton County Fire District 1. The certificate holder shall indicate on the site plan the identification number assigned to each turbine and the actual location of all facility structures. The certificate holder shall provide an updated site plan if additional turbines or other structures are later added to the facility.
- Example Conditions #8: Before beginning construction, the certificate holder shall submit a Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration to the FAA identifying the proposed final locations of turbine towers and meteorological towers.
- Example Conditions #9: During construction, the certificate holder shall ensure that construction personnel are trained in fire prevention and response, that construction vehicles and equipment are operated on graveled areas to the extent possible and that open flames, such as cutting torches, are kept away from dry grass areas.