

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of the Application of:

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

Docket No. EF-210011

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
GEORGE SELAM

**CONFIDENTIAL & PROTECTED FROM
DISCLOSURE UNDER: RCW 42.56.300**

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GEORGE SELAM

Q Please state your name and tribal affiliation.

A My full name is George Selam. I am an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (“Yakama Nation”).

Q What is your position with Yakama Nation?

A Former General Council Officer, former Tribal Council, current TERO [Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance] compliance officer.

Q What does your position entail?

A Enforcement adherence to our Yakama Nation TERO Ordinance, monitor work sites and payroll records to guarantee employer and contractor are in compliance with the Indian preference guidelines within the exterior boundaries and Ceded Territories of the Yakama Nation as described in our Treaty.

Q During what time period did you serve on the Yakama Nation General Council?

A I was elected in December 6th, 2011 and served until 2014.

Q During what time period did you serve on the Yakama Nation Tribal Council and what were your primary duties?

A I was elected to the Tribal Council on January 21st, 2016 and served until October 13th, 2022. Consistent to the 1944 Resolution makes Tribal Council responsible for the day to day business, and assigned to committees as listed according to T-10-61 as oversight to all the programs and enterprises to the Yakama Nation.

Q What family groups or bands are you a part of?

A Palouse, Klickitat, Columbia River- Paterson, Alderdale, and Amtilla.

Q Who has passed down traditional knowledge to you?

A My grandparents on my father's side and my father.

Q How is your family connected to the area where the Horse Heaven Hills Wind and Solar Project ("Project") is proposed to be located?

A Because my family would cross over Horse Heavens to Prosser where there are existing family fishing sites and food gathering areas.

Q Would you say that most of what you know about the Horse Heaven Hills area is what you were taught by your father?

A By both my grandparents of my father and my father.

Q Can you explain the significance of the Horse Heaven Hills area?

A [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] In this testimony this is very difficult to talk about, written down and in public. I wish we could address this without writing it down, in consultation with the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (“EFSEC”) and Governor. To convey what I really would like to say, I could testify in my language, but they will never understand it. I know this has been done in a court of law before.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Q Are there any wildlife species that are of specific concern to you or your family members due to their historic presence in this area?

A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] There is nothing that proves that wind tower and solar farms are less harmful or damaging than the dams.

Q What is your reaction when you see the footprint of the full Project on a map?

A It's very disheartening to see and know the carelessness of developers and the counties within the Yakama Nation's Territories continuing to be disingenuous always making it hard to preserve and protect areas that are being threatened with development with which the Treaty reserves that protection. The Yakama Nation through this Treaty with the United States Government reserved rights to these sacred places. But companies turn to other government entities or other tribes whom do not carry the same reservation of rights or the land base as described in the Treaty with the Yakamas to get permission to do this on our lands/territories. One of the biggest frustrations is that these proposals just keep coming throughout our Ceded Lands without consideration or with disregard to acknowledge what truly is reserved to the Yakama people.

Q Have you reviewed the professional report created by Archaeologist Jessica Lally regarding the Project's potential impacts to cultural resources?

A Yes.

Q Did you participate in some of the interviews that form the basis of Ms. Lally's professional conclusions regarding the Project's potential impacts?

A Yes.

Q Is there any part of Ms. Lally's professional report that you disagree with?

A No.

Q Is there any additional information that you believe EFSEC should have when evaluating the potential impacts of the Project?

A I wonder if we have received all the data regarding the true impacts to these types of facilities. How does the electricity effect the environment? Does this contribute to global warming? They claim it helps with this, but have never offered any true proof. Does this contribute to the warming of the river? Will the wildlife be impacted like our roots have been? I have been affected by underground [transmission] wires when digging roots before. I wonder if this will be the same here. I want to know who at the political level has analyzed this to determine if there is a net gain of replacing the natural environment with black panels and turbines.

Q If EFSEC were to agree to conduct a site visit to this area with you and other Yakama Nation members, are you open to sharing additional information in order to convey the importance of the landscape that will be impacted by the Project?

A Not sure if I would be willing to share at a site visit. We have already shared a lot of information as reflected in Jessica Lally's report.

Q How would you summarize the impact of having wind turbines or solar arrays directly within or in close proximity to sacred areas?

A [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I declare under penalty of perjury that the above testimony is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



George Selam



Date