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TCC  
Pre-Filed Testimony  
J. Polehn  
EXH-5619\_T

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENERGY FACILITY SITING EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of the Application of:

DOCKET NO. EF-210011

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

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF TCC  
WITNESS J. POLEHN

Q: Please state your name, employer (if relevant) and home address.

A: J. Polehn, Retired, 220 Rachel Rd., Kennewick, WA.

Q: Please briefly describe your work experience and qualifications.

- Emeritus Certified Health Physicist as of 2008 – 2023
- Certified Health Physicist (1996 - 2008)
- National Registry of Environmental Professionals (2001 - 2009)
- MS in Health Physics (Georgia Institute of Technology, 1988)
- BS Nuclear Engineering Technology (Oregon State University, 1976)

I made sure radiation and radioactive materials were used safely in the workplace and the environment for the Tennessee Valley Authority (1980 - 1988), the Dept. of Energy in Oak Ridge, TN (1988 - 1995), and the Hanford Reservation, Richland, WA (1995 - 2008). This included performance of audits, writing audit reports, overseeing the audit

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF TCC WITNESS

J. POLEHN - 1

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1 team, reporting the audit results to government and contractor management. Also  
2 included in my experience were reviews and input to preliminary and final  
3 environmental impact statements. Scope of projects included active nuclear power  
4 plants, mining, and milling facilities, as well as decontamination and decommissioning  
5 for fuel processing and reprocessing sites that included hazardous chemicals as well  
6 uranium, plutonium, & cesium contaminated sites.  
7

8 Q: Please state the address of your home and the name of the neighborhood in which  
9 it is located.

10  
11 A: The address of my home is 220 Rachel Rd, Kennewick, WA 99338. My home is  
12 located in the El Rancho Reata subdivision.

13  
14 Q: Please state how long you have lived at this address and why you chose to live  
15 here.

16 A: I have lived in the Tri-Cities over 28 years and came here because of my work on  
17 the Hanford Reservation for the Dept. of Energy and to get back to the Pacific  
18 Northwest where I grew up.

19  
20 Q: Please describe your opinion on the effect this project will have on the property  
21 value of your home and other homes in the area.

22  
23 A: This project will have a very negative impact on the financial and esthetic value of  
24 my home, my neighbors' homes, and the surrounding neighborhood homes.  
25  
26

1 The proposed project, based on my environmental experience and research, will  
2 damage valuable farmland and surrounding farms, will damage property values of  
3 surrounding homes and farms, will damage protected wildlife and wildlife habitat, will  
4 damage rare vistas, will worsen the Tri-Cities air quality (i.e., potentially hurt the health  
5 of Tri-Cities residents), as well as weaken the stability of our electrical grid system.  
6

7 Further, the project is not cost effective and taxpayer funding is being inappropriately  
8 used for the project (i.e., the project cannot make money on its own business model  
9 without a taxpayer crutch) and the majority of local Benton County taxpayers do not  
10 want the project. In addition, the total environmental damage of the project is not  
11 being considered (i.e., cradle-to-grave aspects of the project are not being  
12 considered).  
13

14 Specifically, the environmental damage done at out-of-U.S. locations of rare earth  
15 material excavations used in the wind turbines and solar panels is not being  
16 considered. Contaminating other countries' land resources and misusing the country's  
17 human work force is not being considered. Nor is the project considering that the  
18 taxpayers and farmers renting out their land will be stuck with the decontamination  
19 and decommissioning bill since there is no evidence the company has put up sufficient  
20 collateral to perform these activities at end of life for the wind turbines and the solar  
21 panels.  
22

23 In short: no objective evidence has been provided for justification of the Horse Heaven  
24 Hills Wind and Solar project nor the missing cradle-to-grave evaluations.  
25  
26

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF TCC WITNESS

J. POLEHN - 3

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1 Q: Please describe your opinion of any other issues or concerns you have about the  
2 project.

3  
4 A: The Washington State government (i.e., our employees) is going against the will of  
5 the local Benton County inhabitants for a project they (i.e., the WA State employees  
6 involved) would not have in their neighborhood or their back yard. Basically, this is a  
7 "not in my back yard" project where the WA State employees want the money coming  
8 in from the project but don't want the downside in their areas.

9  
10 Further, WA State employees took an oath of office to protect and defend the  
11 Constitution. They are not adhering to that oath of office. This project violates the  
12 Constitution's Amendment IV: "The right of the people to be secure in their ..., houses,  
13 ....against unreasonable.... seizures, shall not be violated,...."

14  
15 The project violates the Constitution's Amendment V: "No person shall... be deprived  
16 of .... property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for  
17 public use, without just compensation."

18  
19 In essence WA State is allowing this project to take private property without just  
20 compensation and is allowing the misuse WA State taxpayer monies to benefit one  
21 industry over another.

22  
23 I am voluntarily supporting and coordinating with the local community non-profit  
24 organization Tri-City CARES, I am here to share my concerns about the impacts the  
25  
26

PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF TCC WITNESS

J. POLEHN - 4

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1 Horse Heaven Hills Project will have on my home, property values, and the other  
2 homes in my neighborhood and other similarly situated neighborhoods in Tri-Cities.  
3

4 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that  
5 my testimony and reports are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
6

7 Signed this \_\_12\_\_ day of June, 2023, in \_\_\_\_Kennewick\_\_\_\_.

8 \_\_\_\_\_ J. Polehn \_\_\_\_\_ /s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
9

10 Printed Name  
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PRE-FILED TESTIMONY OF TCC WITNESS

J. POLEHN - 5

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