



Commissioner Amanda McKinney

District 1

May 22, 2025

Sonia E. Bumpas
EFSEC Executive Director
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98503-3172

RE: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm SEPA Addendum


Dear Ms. Bumpas

We have reviewed the staff memo and the environmental checklist submitted by Scout Energy for inclusion of the proposed water source in the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project.

We note that EFSEC Staff is following the EFSEC, SEPA, and Water Code rules for the identification and disclosure of the proposed water source for this project, and we hope that EFSEC requires this kind of specificity for future projects at the time of application, as required by the EFSEC rules.

Specific to the SEPA addendum, the staff memo claims that the lease of the land and water is consistent with the lease rules for DNR. We disagree with this conclusion in regards to the process that occurred for transfer of portions of DNR water rights to a new Point of Withdrawal, place of use, and purpose. There are currently no rules specific to the leasing of water rights, and the process used in this case to transfer water rights from one DNR parcel to another, and to allow those rights to be used on both DNR owned and non-DNR owned lands is well beyond any guidance in the WACs or in DNR's Uplands Leasing Program guidelines. We are unable to find any correspondence from DNR in the record specific to the consistency of the water transfer and leasing process as consistent with the DNR's statutory financial trust responsibilities or to subsume those responsibilities to foster private projects under EFSEC review. In addition, without knowledge of the actual bidding and appraisal process results which are required by the DNR Leasing Rules, such a conclusion of consistency in the checklist and staff memo is pre-decisional and would be in violation of both the SEPA and DNR rules.

We thank you for this opportunity to comment.



Amanda McKinney
Commissioner, District 1