



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

October 31, 2023

Dear Reader:

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) is pleased to present the Environmental Impact Statement (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 EIS in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The purpose of the 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 EIS. The EIS was prepared with information received from agencies, stakeholders, and members of the public.

The 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 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

The Draft EIS was issued on December 19, 2022. The comment period began on December 19, 2022 and concluded on February 1, 2023. A public hearing on the Draft EIS was held virtually on February 1, 2023. The event was attended by members of the public, representatives of governmental agencies, tribal governments, nongovernmental organizations, private individuals, and representatives of Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC.

Significant impacts are understood to be those with a reasonable likelihood of more than moderate adverse effects on environmental quality. The 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 significance of the adverse impact. These impacts are identified within the EIS as unavoidable significant adverse environmental impacts.

The 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 EIS, you may contact the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council at (360) 664-1345 or efsec@efsec.wa.gov.

Sincerely,



Sonia E. Bumpus
EFSEC Director