



STATE OF WASHINGTON

## ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

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### MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **EFSEC council votes to recommend approval of Horse Heaven Wind Farm project**

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) voted 5-2 to recommend approval of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm project at today's monthly council meeting.

EFSEC will transmit their recommendation, adjudicative order, and Site Certification Agreement (SCA) to Governor Inslee.

Governor Inslee has 60 days to take one of the following actions:

1. Approve the council recommendation and execute the SCA
2. Reject the application
3. Direct the council to reconsider certain aspects of the project and SCA

According to EFSEC Chair Kathleen Drew, "By partially approving the Horse Heaven Wind and Solar project, EFSEC is balancing the need for renewable, clean energy with potential impacts on tribal cultural resources, wildlife, and surrounding communities. We thank the hundreds of community members who took the time to participate and share their opinions on this project."

All information and documents regarding this project can be found at:

<https://www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/horse-heaven-wind-project>

### About EFSEC:

EFSEC was created in 1970 to provide "one stop" siting and permitting for large energy projects. By establishing the council, the state legislature centralized the evaluation and oversight of large energy facilities within one state agency. The legislature cited the necessity of balancing the need for new energy facilities with the broad interests of the public. As part of the balancing process, the council must take into account protection of environmental quality, the safety of energy facilities, and concern for energy availability.

EFSEC became an independent state agency on June 30, 2022. The 2022 Washington State Legislature passed E2SHB 1812 to authorize the change as an important step to achieve Governor Inslee's carbon neutral goals by 2045. The council's responsibilities are listed in chapter 80.50 RCW (Revised Code of Washington). These responsibilities include siting large natural gas and oil pipelines, thermal electric power plants that are 350 megawatts or greater and their dedicated transmission lines, new oil refineries or large expansions of existing facilities, green hydrogen, battery storage, clean energy manufacturing, and underground natural gas storage fields. Energy facilities of any size that exclusively use alternative energy resources (wind, solar, geothermal, landfill gas, wave or tidal action, or biomass energy) can opt-in to the EFSEC review and certification process as with certain electrical transmission lines.

For facilities under its jurisdiction, EFSEC has been delegated authority by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to issue permits under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Federal Clean Air Act. EFSEC also ensures that effective and coordinated nuclear emergency response plans are in place and satisfactorily tested for the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant.

The council body consists of a governor-appointed chair and state agency representatives from the Department of Commerce, Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources (Commissioner of Public Lands), Utilities and Transportation Commission. Optional membership is extended to local governments, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Transportation, and the Military Department on a project-by-project basis.