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### Transcript of Proceedings

*February 01, 2023*

**EFSEC Horse Heaven Wind Farm v.**

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

Public Comment Meeting

February 1, 2023

held via Teams Video Conferencing

Reported by: ANN MARIE G. ALLISON, CCR  
Certified Court Reporter #3375

A P P E A R A N C E S

KATE KELLY, Department of Commerce

ELI LEVITT, Department of Ecology

MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish and Wildlife

LENNY YOUNG, Department of Natural Resources

STACEY BREWSTER, Utilities and Transportation  
Commission

DEREK SANDISON, Department of Agriculture

1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Wednesday,  
2 February 1, 2023, 5:00 p.m., the following proceedings were  
3 held before Ann Marie Allison, Certified Court Reporter  
4 residing in Pierce County, Washington.

5 (All parties present via Teams)  
6

7 \*\*\* MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 5:00 p.m. \*\*\*  
8

9 CHAIR DREW: Good evening, this is Kathleen  
10 Drew, chair of the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council.  
11 Welcome to tonight's public meeting for the Horse Heaven  
12 Wind Project, and thank you for joining us this evening.

13 Ms. Grantham, will you call the roll for the Horse  
14 Heaven Council members for the EFSEC.

15 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes. Department of  
16 Commerce.

17 SPEAKER KELLY: Kate Kelly present.

18 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Department of Ecology.

19 SPEAKER LEVITT: Eli Levitt present.

20 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Department of Fish and  
21 Wildlife.

22 SPEAKER LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston present.

23 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Department of Natural  
24 Resources.

25 SPEAKER YOUNG: Lenny Young present.

1                   SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Utilities and  
2                   Transportation Commission.

3                   SPEAKER BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster present.

4                   SPEAKER GRANTHAM: For the Horse Heaven  
5                   Project, Department of Agriculture, Derek Sandison.

6                   SPEAKER SANDISON: Present.

7                   SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Benton County, Ed Brost.

8                   (No response)

9                   And that is everyone, Chair.

10                  CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

11                  Welcome again to the public meeting tonight. It  
12                  is to receive comments on the draft environmental impact  
13                  statement for the Horse Heaven proposal per SEPA that state  
14                  environmental policy act rules in WAC, Washington  
15                  Administrative Code 197-11. EFSEC publicly noticed  
16                  invitations to review and comment on the Horse Heaven Draft  
17                  Environmental Impact Statement or DEIS.

18                  The DEIS comment period runs from December 19th,  
19                  2022, to February 1st, 2023, 45 days. Public comments  
20                  submissions will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. tonight.  
21                  After close of the comment period, EFSEC will review the  
22                  comments and these will inform the preparation of a final  
23                  environmental impact statement or FEIS.

24                  EFSEC will not be giving presentations or  
25                  answering questions this evening. This evening the council

1 is here to listen.

2           Reminder to all of you is that the EFSEC staff are  
3 available during regular business hours to answer questions  
4 about the project proposal. Information about the Horse  
5 Heaven proposal and copies of the draft EIS are available on  
6 the EFSEC website [www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov).

7           Each speaker tonight will be allotted two minutes  
8 to allow for as many speakers as possible. When your name  
9 is called, please identify yourself and begin by spelling  
10 your name for the court reporter.

11           There will be a timer on the screen for those  
12 joining via computer, and I will let you know when the end  
13 of the two minutes is up. Any comments that exceed this  
14 time should be submitted online. The information to do so  
15 can be found on the Horse Heaven Project website and has  
16 been on this screen this evening.

17           We will be taking a break for five minutes every  
18 hour. We will be concluding the meeting at 8 p.m. or  
19 following the last speaker, whichever comes first.

20           So with that, we will have our first speaker.

21           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Certainly. So our first  
22 speaker we have is Dave Kobus from Scout Clean Energy.

23           SPEAKER KOBUS: Thank you for the opportunity  
24 to present comments. This is Dave Kobus -- D-A-V-E,  
25 K-O-B-U-S -- and I'm speaking for the applicant as well as a

1 local resident.

2 So this DEIS demonstrates that sufficient analysis  
3 has been conducted by the applicant and EFSEC to confirm  
4 that with appropriate mitigation, the project's  
5 environmental impact does not pose significant detriment and  
6 is compatible with the agricultural character of the county,  
7 as it is located in the land use types specifically  
8 recommended by the Washington Department of Fish and  
9 Wildlife wind power guidelines. And the analysis didn't  
10 stop with our application, as the applicant has continued to  
11 analyze special species impacts and has provided the best  
12 available science to justify development plans.

13 The applicant's comments on the DEIS generally  
14 identify where corrections must be made, comments to improve  
15 clarity and recommendations for enhancements, and we have  
16 submitted those comments in writing. However, several  
17 concerns have been highlighted for consideration that we  
18 believe do not meet reasonableness and attribution of  
19 impacts, tests in SEPA or reasonably align with the wind  
20 power guidelines.

21 In general, the applicant believes that some of  
22 the mitigation measures exceed established precedent and  
23 several must be reconsidered. We provide justification for  
24 those we feel should be removed for the reasons I just  
25 noted.

1           The applicant appreciates the effort that was  
2       provided by EFSEC staff and independent consultant to, in my  
3       view, leave no stone unturned in the DEIS preparation and  
4       review activity. The need for clean energy projects such as  
5       this is recognized nationally by the state and by the  
6       region.

7           CHAIR DREW: Thank you --

8           SPEAKER KOBUS: The Northwest Power --

9           CHAIR DREW: -- for your comments. The two  
10      minutes has been -- is up.

11          SPEAKER KOBUS: Thank you.

12          CHAIR DREW: Thank you very much.

13          Go ahead.

14          SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Bill  
15      McKay, Kennewick, mayor.

16          SPEAKER SCRIMSHER: Hello.

17          SPEAKER MCKAY: Hello. Are you ready?

18          SPEAKER SCRIMSHER: I'm ready. Is it my  
19      turn?

20          CHAIR DREW: Please go ahead, yes.

21          SPEAKER SCRIMSHER: My name is Michael  
22      Scrimsher. I live in the Tri-Cities.

23          SPEAKER GRANTHAM: No. Michael -- Michael,  
24      it is not your turn. Once it is your turn, your name will  
25      be called. Right now we have Bill McKay, over in Benton



County, ready to speak. Apologies.

SPEAKER SCRIMSHER: I'm sorry. Okay. I'll wait.

CHAIR DREW: Oh, I'm sorry. I mixed up who was sitting in front of me and who was speaking -- or sitting in front of me on the video.

Go ahead, Mayor.

SPEAKER MCKAY: Thank you.

Scout requested that Kennewick supply water to them and was later notified by the City of Kennewick that they would not be providing water to them. They were denied because they were out of -- outside city limits and also the urban growth area. Because of the vast amount of water requested, in a year of drought, there was a high possibility that water would have to be limited to city residents to fulfill the commitment to Scout.

Since the City of Kennewick's notification to Scout they have not modified their application, nor notified the public of what their source of water would be. As far as we have been able to determine, they still have not revealed what their source of water will be.

Governor Inslee's comment including -- excuse me. Let me back up.

While attending a UN climate conference in Egypt in November 2022, Governor Inslee was quoted as saying:

1 Governments will have to overcome nimbyism,  
2 including in Washington, to achieve clean energy goals.

3 He went on to say:

4 Regulatory reforms are needed to prevent local  
5 opponents from delaying projects. We've got to make  
6 decisions, and this will be controversial. We have to  
7 confront it. We have to succeed. Unquote.

8 However, it's important to note that Governor  
9 Inslee's words are the polar opposite in what was promised  
10 in the Washington 2021 State of Energy Strategy, SES, which  
11 states:

12 Public and community participation is important to  
13 ensure energy policy is informed by local knowledge, meets  
14 local needs and is viewed as legitimate by the local  
15 community. Additionally, community and community members  
16 must have a seat at the table in designing programs and  
17 selecting projects.

18 CHAIR DREW: Mayor, your time is up; if you'd  
19 like to submit the rest in writing, appreciate it.

20 SPEAKER MCKAY: Okay. Will do.

21 CHAIR DREW: Thank you very much.

22 SPEAKER BUMPUS: Chair Drew, this is Sonia.

23 CHAIR DREW: Yes, go ahead.

24 SPEAKER BUMPUS: I just wanted to ask  
25 Ms. Grantham if she could start the timer after the speakers

1 spell their name.

2 CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Sonia.

3 SPEAKER BUMPUS: No problem.

4 CHAIR DREW: That would help, few more  
5 seconds. That would be great. Thank you.

6 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Okay. Our next speaker is  
7 John Cowling.

8 SPEAKER COWLING: Good evening. John  
9 Cowling, J-O-H-N, C-O-W-L-I-N-G.

10 Good evening. I am the deputy public works  
11 director for the City of Kennewick. And just following up  
12 on the mayor's comments, I've been the primary contact with  
13 Scout Clean Energy as it relates to the use of Kennewick  
14 water for this project.

15 As Mayor McKay indicated, Kennewick will not be --  
16 or cannot provide water for this project. Specifically, the  
17 Kennewick Municipal Code prohibits provision of water  
18 outside the city limits or urban growth area.

19 I'd like to add that this information, as well as  
20 a section of code, was provided to Scout Clean Energy in May  
21 of last year. So we felt it's important that EFSEC know and  
22 the draft EIS did not identify Kennewick as a potential  
23 water source for construction and ongoing operations of this  
24 project due to our inability to provide water with our  
25 current municipal code.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Our next speaker is Greg  
4 Wendt.

5 SPEAKER WENDT: Good afternoon. Excuse me.  
6 My name is Greg Wendt. I'm the director of community  
7 development for Benton County. On January 31st, the board  
8 of county commissioners --

9 CHAIR DREW: Excuse me. If you can wait just  
10 a second. If you could spell your name for the record, and  
11 then we'll start your time. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER WENDT: G-R-E-G. Last name is  
13 W-E-N-D-T.

14 On January 31st, the board of county commissioners  
15 did submit written comments regarding this draft DEIS for  
16 this project. And while the DEIS has many inadequacies, the  
17 county is deeply concerned that in its current form, the  
18 DEIS does not meaningfully discuss or disclose impacts to  
19 our county agricultural lands of long-term commercial  
20 significance.

21 Specifically, the project will result in a  
22 conversion of ag lands of long-term commercial significance  
23 without disclosing the environmental impacts of the  
24 conversion. The GMA imposes on Benton County requirements  
25 for the conversion on natural resource lands, which includes

1 the county's ag lands of long-term commercial significance.  
2 Benton County is required to designate these ag lands,  
3 assure the conservation of these ag lands, assure that the  
4 use of adjacent lands do not interfere with their continued  
5 use of agricultural lands, conserve agricultural land in  
6 order to maintain and enhance the agricultural industry and  
7 discourage incompatible uses.

8 The conservation of agricultural lands of  
9 long-term commercial significance is a State of Washington  
10 mandate that Benton County must and will continue to follow.  
11 The county has met this mandate and properly designated it  
12 agricultural lands. These ag lands cannot be de-designated  
13 or allowed non-agricultural uses in these areas without  
14 issuing a determination that the lands are no longer meeting  
15 the long-term commercial insignificant status.

16 Approval of this project would undermine GMA's ag  
17 lands conservation mandate and allow the permanent  
18 conversion of 6,869 acres of a temporary conversion of 2,957  
19 acres of (inaudible) terms commercially significant ag land.

20 This results in long-term removal of commercially  
21 significant ag lands, and in turn, the Horse Heaven Hills  
22 farming area will suffer irreversible losses as a viable ag  
23 area of agricultural resource lands. The impacts from the  
24 loss of ag lands and long-term commercial significance as a  
25 result of this project must be thoroughly analyzed and

1 discussed before a final EIS. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is  
4 Michelle Cooke.

5 SPEAKER COOKE: Michelle Cooke.  
6 M-I-C-H-E-L-L-E, C-O-O-K-E.

7 Thank you for the time.

8 First of all, Benton County is concerned that the  
9 conversion of agricultural lands of long-term significance  
10 will have a high cumulative impact. The DEIS is required to  
11 meaningfully disclose and discuss the impacts of permanently  
12 converting almost 7,000 acres of agricultural lands to new  
13 land uses.

14 These new uses will replace and eliminate not only  
15 these agricultural lands, but also the function and values  
16 that these lands provide as a type of natural resource land.

17 Additionally, the DEIS fails to discuss the  
18 economic impacts to the overall agricultural community, and  
19 further, does not disclose the economic impacts for the life  
20 of the project.

21 The DEIS does not support its own conclusions when  
22 it states that the proposed action does not contribute to a  
23 cumulative impact on agricultural productivity,  
24 profitability, or farm operations within a project area.

25 This conclusion is misleading because it implies

1 that Benton County conditional use criteria will prevent or  
2 mitigate any project impacts. The project impacts will  
3 clash with, rather than meet the tests laid out in the  
4 Benton County code.

5 Secondly, the proposed mitigation measures are  
6 inadequate to appropriately mitigate the environmental  
7 impacts of the conversion of agricultural land's long-term  
8 commercial significance. The mitigation measure, LSU5  
9 requires that the applicant submit a site restoration plan  
10 to EFSEC. The DEIS identifies that this plan is to be  
11 submitted and it's not an actual part of the SEPA record;  
12 therefore, it cannot be evaluated and does not constitute an  
13 effective mitigation measure.

14 Lastly, there's no discussion of the introduction  
15 and integration of a large-scale non-agricultural industrial  
16 use onto the Horse Heaven Hills landscape. Changes to the  
17 facilities and roads and power lines will impact existing  
18 grazing and farming activities.

19 In closing, the impacts mean a loss of  
20 agricultural lands with long-term commercial significance.  
21 As a result, this project must be thoroughly analyzed and  
22 discussed before a final EIS can be issued. Thank you for  
23 your time.

24 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker we have  
25 is Jerome Delvin.

1                   SPEAKER DELVIN: It's J-E-R-O-M-E, Delvin, D  
2 as in David, E-L-V-I-N.

3                   Thank you, Madam Chair, and I want to thank EFSEC,  
4 too, for holding this meeting so we can -- our community can  
5 have comments.

6                   I'm the Benton County Commissioner. You just  
7 heard from Benton County staff about the DEIS and some of  
8 their concerns, and we share those, the commissioners share  
9 those.

10                  I've spent a lot of time in this community, born  
11 and raised here, and I've always enjoyed the views in this  
12 area when I hike. What these windmills will do is destroy  
13 that, in my mind, destroy those views.

14                  You'll hear from a lot of passionate citizens here  
15 that really have concerns about what those windmills will do  
16 to our natural landscape.

17                  I think you can put it to what -- it would ruin  
18 our view shed and our views in this area. If you put these  
19 windmills, say, on the hills around Issaquah or if you put  
20 them in the Puget Sound or off the coast of Washington,  
21 there would be a lot of outcry.

22                  Well, we've been hearing a lot of outcry today  
23 about this, We don't want those here. There's better places  
24 for those. If you really want to do those, a lot of people  
25 may speak about the inefficiency of those windmills.



1 There's a lot of data that supports that view.

2 So I just ask EFSEC to really give it an honest,  
3 honest, and not be pressured by all the Go Green and those  
4 type of -- type of statements because, you know, we just  
5 don't want to be the dumping ground for all the green  
6 energy.

7 We have hydro, which, unfortunately, is not  
8 considered a renewable energy in this state, the only state  
9 in the country, and also, we have nuclear power here. We  
10 encourage more nuclear power. They don't affect the view  
11 shed like these windmills.

12 So urge you to say "no" to this project, and  
13 appreciate your time.

14 Thank you.

15 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Our next speaker is Ken  
16 Spencer.

17 SPEAKER SPENCER: Thank you. K-E-N,  
18 S-P-E-N-C-E-R.

19 Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment  
20 on the Horse Heaven Wind Farm. You, as a committee, have  
21 given approval for the project despite our county and  
22 citizens' objection.

23 I have a couple points to make regarding the  
24 approval over the objections of the citizens of our county.  
25 You have bypassed the urban growth act giving approval for

1 an industrial development. If you look back a few years  
2 ago, the City of Kennewick in Benton County had applied to  
3 that body for an increased area of industrial development  
4 south of the I-82 corridor, saying it would not be part of  
5 the current growth plan. Well, Horse Heaven Wind Farm is  
6 south of I-82 corridor, and by your authority, you have  
7 created something that could -- that we could not do. This  
8 may create some intended -- some unintended consequences.  
9 If you were the city -- if I were the City of Kennewick, I  
10 would start developing that area south of the I-82 corridor  
11 based on your decision.

12 No. 2, what is a plan for decommissioning these  
13 large towers and wind turbines? I have reviewed, as I  
14 could, some of the cost studies that have been done on that  
15 topic, and it looks like the estimated useful life of this  
16 project is between 20 and 30 years. And at the end of the  
17 useful life, what is the plan to dispose of these, either by  
18 salvage or disposal at a hazardous waste site?

19 The best report and with the most complete details  
20 was done in 2017 out in South Dakota. At that time, the  
21 estimate of the cost of decommissioning was \$2 million per  
22 turbine. If we apply inflation over the last six years,  
23 that cost has risen to over 2.2 million. Now, who is going  
24 to cover that cost? The taxpayers of Benton County?  
25 Because we are the ones who are not profiting from this

1 project, so I feel there needs to be a funds setup or some  
2 other reasonable means to pay for the estimated cost to  
3 return the site to its present condition.

4 As has been seen in other developments where the  
5 subsidies sometimes end at the end of the project and the  
6 developer or the companies that develop it, they have run  
7 these developments, disappear when it's time to clean up or  
8 dispose of the site. They are no longer --

9 CHAIR DREW: Thank you for your comments.

10 SPEAKER HERKE: They are no longer --

11 CHAIR DREW: Your time is up.

12 SPEAKER SPENCER: -- have submitted this in  
13 writing. Thank you.

14 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

15 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Lisa  
16 Smith.

17 SPEAKER SMITH: Hi. My name is Lisa Smith  
18 L-I-S-A, S-M-I-T-H.

19 And I live in the Summit View neighborhood of  
20 Kennewick, which is in Southwest Kennewick. I am a  
21 proponent of clean energy, but am extremely opposed to this  
22 massive wind turbine project.

23 We already provide efficient, clean energy through  
24 nuclear power and also the hydroelectric power in our area.  
25 I don't understand why we'd let an out-of-state company come

1 in and completely destroy our natural landscape and ridges  
2 with these wind turbines. We do have some wind turbines  
3 already that are visible from my house, and I can see that  
4 they are idle the majority of the time. We do get wind  
5 here, but it's actually quite infrequent. It seems crazy to  
6 forever change a huge part of our landscape to have massive  
7 wind turbines sitting idle.

8 I also don't understand why these wind turbines  
9 have to be right at the top of our ridges where they are the  
10 most visible to thousands of people in Finley, Tri-Cities,  
11 and Benton City. There's a lot of land even just south of  
12 here, you know, between our cities and Oregon with almost no  
13 population where these turbines could be and not have so  
14 much impact on our people.

15 Thank you.

16 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Our next speaker is  
17 Margaret Hue.

18 Do we have Margaret Hue present?

19 SPEAKER HUE: Yeah, I am.

20 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: There she is. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER HUE: I was trying to find where I was  
22 going to speak. You caught me by surprise.

23 Okay. It's Margaret, M-A-R-G-A-R-E-T. Last name  
24 is Hue, H-U-E. I'm a resident from Badger Canyon. The  
25 location where some of these turbines are going to be is

1 within a mile and a half of our location, directly above it.  
2 I've lived in Badger Canyon for 40 years, so I've seen a lot  
3 of things and know the land and the terrain and so forth.

4 But what people don't understand is all of these  
5 big canyons that drain off of Horse Heaven, they bring wind  
6 turbulence down. The DEIS refers to Badger Canyon as kind  
7 of sloping hills, whatever. It is very complex. And all  
8 these canyons that feed in are -- pull air down, they cause  
9 wind turbulence, but the wind farms that are coming up,  
10 there are 150, six rows deep, directly above Badger Canyon  
11 or to Kiona for nine miles.

12 And with that, we have some of the most pristine  
13 farm ground in Badger Canyon, Red Mountain, Kiona, but also  
14 down to Finley, but this area here is going to receive all  
15 of the warm air that's going to damage our diversified  
16 agriculture. The wind turbulence can be carried up to 15 to  
17 20 miles, causing chaos on our diversified ag. This will go  
18 way into Pasco and North Franklin County.

19 The other thing is with the warming temperatures,  
20 most from the wind farms, most of these are in the evening  
21 or in the afternoon to 10 in the morning. If you're a  
22 cherry grower, you go out to pick your cherries and the  
23 orchard is warm, you're not going to be able to pick your  
24 cherries. That is an economic loss to our community.

25 I was concerned because some growers brought out

1 small cherries. We found out WSU IAREC is releasing a  
2 study. It is not out yet, but it will be. And it shows  
3 that damage from warm temperatures can affect the quality,  
4 the size of the fruit, which is tonnage. That's money, and  
5 then also the color on the apples, color on the --

6 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

7 SPEAKER HUE: -- economic loss.

8 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Your time's up.

9 Thank you.

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Our next speaker is Rita  
11 Porter.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello.

13 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: If you are not Rita  
14 Porter, please make sure your mic is muted. She is our next  
15 speaker.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How do I mute that?  
17 I'm sorry.

18 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Chair Drew, do you  
19 remember what the code is for phone?

20 CHAIR DREW: Star 6 or pound 6.

21 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Pound 6. That mutes  
23 me?

24 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes.

25 SPEAKER PORTER: Hello. My name is Rita

Porter, R-I-T-A, P-O-R-T-E-R.

One of the things that has not been addressed so far is the blinking red lights, and I'm concerned about the blinking red lights. They'll be visible from my home by, at times, probably 50 or 60. I live in Badger Canyon, and I'm vehemently against the intrusion of the windmills for all the reasons that's been addressed and the reasons that are yet to be addressed. I don't -- I don't -- I think it's a huge show of disrespect of the residents of the Tri-Cities not even to give them a voice until after the fact. And I didn't really have anything to prepare, but I just wanted to show up and give my support to people of the United States -- or people of Tri-Cities and voice my opinions.

Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

And just for everybody's knowledge since it's been brought up twice, EFSEC has not made a decision to approve this project. We are still in the middle of our process. That's why we have the draft environmental impact statement in front of you tonight. There is an adjudication yet to happen, and so this project has not received approval from EFSEC at this point in time.

If you'd call the next speaker, please.

SPEAKER GRANTHAM: No problem, Chair Drew.

The next speaker is Karen Richardson.

1                   SPEAKER RICHARDSON: Good afternoon. My name  
2 is Karen Richardson, K-A-R-E-N, R-I-C-H-S-O-N (sic).

3                   This has been the culmination of an over two-year  
4 journey. I've sent EFSEC pictures of animals: Burrowing  
5 owls, sandhill cranes, the red tail fox, and the pronghorn  
6 antelopes that graze on our steppe shrub. As endangered  
7 animals, they've been reintroduced by the Central Washington  
8 Chapter of the Safari Club. I've sent pictures of  
9 landscapes, sunsets, vast open -- vast, wide-open spaces.  
10 I've sent pictures of broken turbines; turbines on fire,  
11 like the ones in Williamsburg, Iowa, but the people in  
12 charge don't seem to care.

13                  US Fish and Wildlife Department with help from the  
14 Department of Defense just granted a 2.4 million REPI, which  
15 is a readiness and environmental protection program for  
16 butterflies, gophers, and horned larks on acreage adjacent  
17 to the Joint Base Lewis-McChord property.

18                  The Tri-City Herald just reported that  
19 Washington-based wind power provides the lowest effective  
20 capacity in winter compared to surrounding regions.

21                  According to western resource advocacy programs, a  
22 quote from a utility planning company: Washington-based  
23 wind farms should be low on the list of alternatives if  
24 you're trying to balance CO2 emission reductions, grid  
25 reliability, and land-use impacts in the most cost-effective



1 manner possible. The draft study is lacking a failure to  
2 analyze proposed wind projects impact on residents.

3 With Horse Heaven Hills high pressure inversions,  
4 cold freezing weather, and windless days, this makes no  
5 sense to place the wind farms in this area.

6 Thank you.

7 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Tammy  
8 Wolfslack.

9 SPEAKER WOLFSLACK: Hello. My name is Tammy  
10 Wolfslack, T-A-M-M-Y, W-O-L-F-S-L-A-C-K. Hi.

11 I am here to talk about a couple articles  
12 Washington Times had. The title of the article is, "Death  
13 by Solar Farm. 71 Species of Birds Killed. Entire Food  
14 Chains Disrupted." This article talks about 800-degree  
15 temperatures above solar fields, and apparently one type of  
16 bird in the study was observed to be smoking of its feathers  
17 as it flew.

18 College of National Sciences article dated January  
19 2021, a 1.6 million DOC grant supports scientists studying  
20 bird deaths at solar facilities. It discusses the  
21 incineration of birds, to the point that in some cases there  
22 was only a puff of feathers remaining. They couldn't even  
23 identify the remains.

24 We are in a wildlife migration route. We are a  
25 major flyway, according to the United Nations Food

1 Agricultural Organization, and I have a lot of photos here  
2 to show different types of birds as some of them were  
3 discussed. And when I read the wind solar table ES-6  
4 discussing special status -- and that means protective  
5 endangered, I'm guessing -- recommended mitigation measures  
6 should read as allowable killing protected status species.

7 In particular, you're talking about eagles. How  
8 many eagles are okay? They're going to be given take  
9 permits, which my understanding is "take" means kill. How  
10 many are acceptable? Five, ten, 100? I have concerns that  
11 these shouldn't even be placed here in a flyway.

12 So there are other options. I think that starting  
13 to create things at a point of use is critical. Do it in  
14 college and a high school. Give them competitions and say,  
15 Hey, can you attach this to a car tire and make the battery  
16 generate itself? Solar cells on top of a car. Other types  
17 of something that can capture the wind on top of a vehicle.

18 There's other ways to look at this. We don't have  
19 to go this way. We should stop jumping out of the airplane  
20 without checking our parachute for holes.

21 Thank you very much.

22 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Gayle  
23 Graves.

24 SPEAKER GRAVES: Good evening. My name is  
25 Gayle, G-A-Y-L-E; Graves, G-R-A-V-E-S, and I reside in

1 Canyon -- or excuse me, Sunrise Canyon. Thank you for  
2 holding this meeting.

3 I am against the project as it's environmentally  
4 devastating. For one example, the diversified agriculture  
5 will be impacted, raising local temperatures four degrees  
6 higher annually. Annually.

7 Diversified agriculture is one of the economic  
8 drivers of the Tri-City area. The project is economically  
9 not sound as it will not create the energy proposed. It's  
10 at taxpayers expense and will not create the employment as  
11 broadcasted by the supporters of the project.

12 The shrub steppe and wildlife in our community  
13 care will be decimated without rehabilitation.

14 How does this affect me and my family? My home is  
15 at the base of the hills. I'll be breathing the herbicides  
16 and pesticides brought down by the winds and the  
17 construction. Living in higher temperatures with higher  
18 utility bills, tolerating red lights, noise pollution.  
19 Missing the wildlife that once flew in the Pacific flyway  
20 that was once ours to enjoy.

21 Thank you for your time.

22 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Karen  
23 Brutzman.

24 SPEAKER BRUTZMAN: Karen Brutzman.  
25 K-A-R-E-N, B as in boy, R-U-T as in Tom, Z as in zebra,

1 M-A-N.

2 I am against this project. Scout Clean Energy  
3 wants you to believe that a small group of vocal residents  
4 is threatening to stop this clean energy project, which  
5 would generate up to 1,000 jobs and millions in tax revenue  
6 to Benton County. Don't be fooled.

7 Those 1,000 jobs will be short-term jobs for wind  
8 turbine installation. Once in place the project will employ  
9 fewer than 50 people. Wear and tear on our roadways will be  
10 immense. Trucks will bring wind turbines to our area in  
11 several sections. Roads will need to be straightened.  
12 There will also be hundreds of concrete trucks traveling  
13 county roads to provide concrete for wind turbine  
14 foundations. Many of our county roads were not designed for  
15 these type of heavy loads.

16 Clean energy is a misnomer. Concrete has a huge  
17 carbon footprint. The environmental impact of concrete, its  
18 manufacture and applications are complex, including CO2  
19 emissions. The cement industry is one of the main producers  
20 of carbon dioxide, a potent greenhouse gas. One reason why  
21 carbon emissions are so high is because cement must be  
22 heated to very high temperatures for clinker to form.

23 The Tri-Cities is already a hot spot for ozone  
24 health risk. The Tri-Cities' ozone precursor study final  
25 report dated December 12, 2017, was prepared by the

laboratory for atmospheric research, the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, and Washington State University. The link is provided in my written comments.

This study was conducted because air quality managers started paying close attention to ozone levels in the Tri-Cities when the daily predictive air quality forecast model, operated by WSU, consistently showed elevated ozone in the Tri-Cities area.

The ozone in this study is attributed to car emissions, but we can't ignore the pollution created by the millions of tons of concrete that will be used to erect these gigantic wind turbines and the emissions from the trucks transporting concrete to the work site. The standard --

CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Your time is up. Thank you for your comments, and please submit it in writing.

SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Christopher Kuperstein.

SPEAKER KUPERSTEIN: Hello. My name is Christopher Kuperstein, C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R, K-U-P-E-R-S-T-E-I-N.

What I say tonight I have to preface by saying that I'm an affected landowner, and it does not reflect my employer or any other organization that I may associate

1 with.

2 I reside, by my calculation, as one of the closer  
3 residences to these wind turbines. The closest four  
4 turbines will be placed approximately three quarters of a  
5 mile to one mile from my house.

6 During the pandemic, great care was taken in  
7 saving the lives of citizens of Washington State. Part of  
8 this care was to listen to experts who were experts in  
9 pandemic and in disease and developing mitigating measures  
10 to protect people from the disease.

11 I submit, for the record, an expert medical  
12 doctor, Dr. Nina Pierpont, who earned her Ph.D studying the  
13 effects of existing wind turbines on existing people. This  
14 book titled Wind Turbine Syndrome details medical impacts of  
15 varying types on real people by real turbines.

16 On page 20, I read the chief recommendation:  
17 Two kilometers or 1.24 miles remains the baseline shortest  
18 setback from residences and hospitals, schools, nursing  
19 homes, that communities should consider. In mountainous  
20 terrain 2 miles, 3.2 kilometers, is probably a better  
21 guideline.

22 My first recommendation is that for this project,  
23 that EFSEC follow her advice. Instead of the turbine  
24 placement being one-half of a mile from a nearest residence,  
25 as the current IEIS suggests, that a buffer of two

1 kilometers or 1.25 miles be placed between turbines and the  
2 nearest residence so as to minimize the health impacts to  
3 those affected residents.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Mary  
6 Cloninger.

7 SPEAKER CLONINGER: Hello. My name is Mary  
8 Cloninger, M-A-R-Y, C-L-O-N-I-N-G-E-R.

9 I am not as eloquent as the people that have  
10 been -- that are previous to me, and I do not have a lot of  
11 information. But I'm a native Tri-Citian, born and raised  
12 in this vicinity, and I am against building the wind farm in  
13 the Horse Heaven Hills. They are a blight and an eyesore on  
14 our beautiful hills. The construction will cause damage to  
15 the ecosystem and cause dust pollution in our air in town.

16 The energy produced is not very much, and it's not  
17 worth destroying our landscape. It is not clean energy. It  
18 uses oil. It leaks oil into the dirt, and it kills birds  
19 and disrupts wildlife. And I don't know if anyone has ever  
20 done a study on what the vibration would do to our basalt,  
21 and I would suggest that something like that happen before  
22 you make any decision.

23 Thank you for your time.

24 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Art  
25 Kelly.

1                   SPEAKER KELLY: Good evening. My name is Art  
2     Kelly, A-R-T, K-E-L-L-Y.

3                   We are very blessed to have sufficient and  
4     reliable power via hydroelectric power and nuclear power  
5     here in our region; therefore, projected amount of massive  
6     land for this project is not warranted at this time for  
7     windmills to be constructed.

8                   There's no guarantee that whatever power that can  
9     be generated will not be sold to California, Oregon, Canada,  
10    or other territories or even benefit the Tri-City area.

11                  What contingency plans are in place if Scout  
12    Energy should by chance go bankrupt, federal subsidies are  
13    depleted, et cetera? Who has the responsibility of removing  
14    all these wind turbines and restoring the land back to its  
15    original status? According to the Manhattan Institute,  
16    windmills provide less than three percent of the world's  
17    energy. Netherlands and Germany have come out with a very  
18    progressive technology, using what they call tulip-shaped  
19    small wind turbines that can be installed on private  
20    property household, business, et cetera. They're extremely  
21    quiet. They provide 20 to 50 percent more efficient energy.  
22    They produce energy to power at least one-third energy of  
23    consumption of a household.

24                  There's also the issue of the recyclability of  
25    windmill blades. I think we need to take advantage and



1 re-evaluate our other forms of progressive technology and  
2 put this on the back burner.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next speaker is Dave  
5 Sharp.

6 SPEAKER SHARP: My name is Dave Sharp,  
7 S-H-A-R-P.

8 The developer has stated that the Nine Canyon  
9 project establishes a precedent for the proposed project.  
10 That is not the case. Each of their turbines can produce  
11 two to three times what an NC turbine can produce.

12 The number of turbines, the height of turbines,  
13 the 25-mile expanse into the project, the amount of  
14 generation, 100-plus miles of road, 110 square miles of the  
15 project, and an apparent lack of respect for wildlife  
16 corridors and habitat disturbance. There is no comparison.  
17 Horse Heaven Project is another dimension.

18 Wind projects have been in Washington since the  
19 early 2000s. Since that time, there have been nearly 2000  
20 turbines installed over 20 projects. In all prior cases,  
21 the developer respected wind industry practices, that sited  
22 wind projects in rural areas away from high population  
23 zones.

24 This project will have approximately five times  
25 the population impacted as all other counties in the state

1 combined. This will be a disparate treatment of Benton  
2 County. And what about the precedent that will be set if  
3 this project is approved with a perceived bias, such as no  
4 alternative builds and no subsidy of mitigation or a lot of  
5 unresolved issues being solved by a team separate from the  
6 main process? Future process -- future projects will  
7 motivate developers to bypass local officials and use EFSEC  
8 for every project with sloppy, nonspecific applications and  
9 expecting approvals with minimal mitigation. Developers  
10 study previous applications, and they study the decisions  
11 that EFSEC makes. Those decisions guide how they approach  
12 and present a new application.

13 We are hopeful that EFSEC does not set a new  
14 precedent with their decisions on this project. This is a  
15 slippery slope. I hope that you recognize that. Since I  
16 have a couple minutes -- or a couple seconds, jobs -- the  
17 real number of jobs from the application is 450 and  
18 approximately --

19 CHAIR DREW: Your time is up. Your time has  
20 been up. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Next, we have Paul Krupin.

22 SPEAKER KRUPIN: Good evening, everyone. My  
23 name is Paul Krupin. That's P-A-U-L, K-R-U-P-I-N.

24 I am a retired environmental protection specialist  
25 with the BAN (inaudible) well-used law degree, over 40 years

1 of work experience in the Pacific Northwest, and I live in  
2 Kennewick, Washington.

3 CHAIR DREW: Can we pause for a second,  
4 please?

5 SPEAKER KRUPIN: Yes.

6 CHAIR DREW: Okay. I'm having trouble  
7 hearing you; if you can, speak more into the microphone.  
8 And if I'm having trouble, probably our court reporter is  
9 too. And slow down just a tad. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER KRUPIN: I did submit my comments, and  
11 I'll -- I'm just going to read from them. Okay.

12 So on Tuesday, yesterday, President Biden said  
13 that climate change is a bigger threat to United (inaudible)  
14 than a nuclear war. And Governor Inslee is on record  
15 committing to (inaudible) on greenhouse gas emissions.

16 I have really serious doubts about the underlying  
17 need for this project and whether it can really contribute  
18 to any of these problems, you know, with meaningful  
19 solutions. What does the best science really tell us? How  
20 are we going to identify the good projects from the bad? In  
21 other words, I cannot -- I respectfully want to cooperate to  
22 following the recommendation of EFSEC with concurrence of  
23 the governor in cooperation with the tribes and the local  
24 counties and cities (inaudible) commission with exceptional  
25 people who are appointed to independently investigate

1 studying (inaudible) difficult and complex problems caused  
2 by climate change.

3 The members of this commission -- community  
4 commission should be selected using the best and the  
5 brightest approach to ensure independence from political  
6 influence and authority. The commission should utilize  
7 their expertise and experience to consider and evaluate  
8 size-based limits and then issue scientific and  
9 project-specific findings and recommendations which can yet  
10 be used by decision makers.

11 The commission should be charged with identifying  
12 (inaudible) and evaluating the validity of the purpose,  
13 meaning and underlying premises of energy projects. The  
14 revision also evaluated project proposals and alternatives  
15 proposed by (inaudible).

16 No formal action should be taken by EFSEC or the  
17 governor until the findings and recommendations regarding  
18 the validity of this purpose, meaning the projects, can be  
19 provided by the commission. This commission should then  
20 prepare a report (inaudible) presentations, take public  
21 comments and then file these findings and conclusions that  
22 protect recommendations for consideration (inaudible)  
23 legislature integrated federal, state, tribal, local  
24 government agencies, tribal governments, public stakeholders  
25 and the public.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Next, we have Clark  
4 Stolle.

5 SPEAKER STOLLE: Good evening. Clark,  
6 C-L-A-R-K; Stolle, S-T-O-L-L-E.

7 Thank you for the opportunity to voice my  
8 opposition to the proposed project. My family's lived in  
9 the Kennewick area for over 70 years. We shared a feeling  
10 of pride with the Horse Heaven Hills, believing that they  
11 should be preserved as much as possible as part of the  
12 heritage of our area.

13 Allowing this project to be built at the proposed  
14 locations has long-term consequences that will cause  
15 significant and irreparable harm to the environment and  
16 overall quality of life for an urban area of over 300,000  
17 people.

18 There are two options proposed for this 25-mile  
19 long project running along Horse Heaven Hills' ridgeline.  
20 244 turbines of up to 500 feet or 150 of up to 670 feet  
21 tall. Both create visual impacts that cannot be mitigated.

22 This is not a visually aesthetic wind farm turning  
23 away in the middle of nowhere. It's an industrial complex  
24 of enormous proportions of many components and impacts.  
25 These towers are going to be taller than a 60-story

1 building. The Space Needle, Statue of Liberty, Washington  
2 Monument. I think you get the picture. They're big, and  
3 they're very visible. If approved, our community will be  
4 forced to live within eyesight of the towers, and no one who  
5 lives here or visits can escape seeing them.

6 I feel the EIS does not perform balance and  
7 serious analysis of the impacts that will be so detrimental  
8 to our community. It glosses over tough economic issues and  
9 impacts on tourism, quality of life, land value, aesthetics,  
10 recreation and future development. It fails to discuss the  
11 backlash wind farms are facing in California and other  
12 states. And there's no discussion regarding alternative  
13 locations in Benton County, Eastern Washington, or other  
14 states. It also appears the project will have no positive  
15 impact on climate change or carbon emissions in Washington,  
16 and any power generated is likely to be sent out of state.  
17 Scout selected a poor location far too close to a large,  
18 growing urban area, and our community should not have to pay  
19 the price for this bad decision. It can and should be  
20 located further from urban areas. Please deny this project.

21 Thank you.

22 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Next, we have Harvey  
23 Faurholt.

24 SPEAKER H. FAURHOLT: Good evening. My name  
25 is Harvey Faurholt. H-A-R-V-E-Y, Faurholt, F as in Frank,

1 A-U-R-H-O-L-T as in tango.

2 I'm a resident of Kennewick, and I've been a  
3 resident of Kennewick for about 50 years now. There was  
4 something humorous, I saw it on -- so serious -- reading on  
5 the news off my iPhone. And they were talking about, they  
6 lost about seven whales on the East Coast. And they're  
7 worried that the wind turbines are causing the death of  
8 whales, and it's getting an awful lot of attention. And I  
9 was thinking maybe if we were whales, we would get more  
10 attention than we're getting here by the State of  
11 Washington.

12 We do not need more intermittent electricity in  
13 Benton County. The electricity we have now is 90 percent  
14 renewable, which is probably the best in the country, if not  
15 the best in the world. When, and if, the wind turbines are  
16 making electricity, the dams have to be shut down to  
17 accommodate the wind turbines, which is not good for the dam  
18 turbines.

19 The wind turbines should be placed where the  
20 electricity is needed. California, the State of Washington  
21 along the ocean, along the beaches, and I'm sure they would  
22 be happy to have them.

23 When the wind turbines's useful life is completed  
24 or something better comes along to make -- for example, if  
25 something happened with -- with the -- without, excuse me --

1 why I stop sometimes -- nuclear energy, then they will have  
2 to be disposed of. But they are not -- they are not  
3 biodegradable and will exist forever in the garbage dumps,  
4 if they make it that far. They're an eyesore that we --  
5 that we will have to live with for the next ten, 20,  
6 30 years, and then -- they have enough money to take them  
7 down forever.

8 As for the unions and people who want to have  
9 these put up, I can certainly understand their position.  
10 They want jobs as long as they -- as long as they're union  
11 jobs.

12 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Thank you. Your  
13 time is up. Appreciate it. Please submit your comments in  
14 writing.

15 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Up next, we have Victoria  
16 Faurholt.

17 SPEAKER V. FAURHOLT: My name is Victoria  
18 Faurholt, V-I-C-T-O-R-I-A, F-A-U-R-H-O-L-T.

19 I am -- my head's just spinning. I listen to all  
20 these people, and they've given so -- all the facts. Here  
21 is an article from Forbes magazine June 15, 2021:  
22 Washington State's Approaching Energy Crisis, Good  
23 Intentions Gone Wrong?

24 The trouble stems from attempts to decarbonize our  
25 society, but just getting rid of them without a realistic



1 plan to replace them can do more harm than good.

2 Wind power, I mean, I don't know who you guys are  
3 talking to, but it is not very effective. In several  
4 studies, it shows there is a projected capacity, but with  
5 wind power, you don't get warmth in the winter -- you don't  
6 get movement in the winter or in the summer when it's really  
7 hot and it's really cold. The actual capacity is  
8 seven percent. That means of 500, you get 500 milliwatts  
9 out of 70 -- 7,100 milliwatts.

10 But what I really don't understand is this push on  
11 us citizens. I mean, we have protections for animals. You  
12 keep your animal in the car and you get a ticket. My cousin  
13 had to go to court. You have -- not here. Doesn't matter  
14 here. All these animals, doesn't matter. We have fines  
15 against noise pollution, all kinds of aesthetic pollutions  
16 doesn't matter here. These things are ugly.

17 We have neighborhoods here with rules and  
18 regulations. Nobody cares here. We have individual,  
19 personal help, like the man who was talking about COVID.  
20 Nobody cares here. They do not care, and that is what is  
21 just upsetting me.

22 And if --

23 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Your time is up. I  
24 appreciate it.

25 SPEAKER V. FAURHOLT: Thank you.

1 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Up next, we have Paula  
2 Nolte.

3 CHAIR DREW: After this speaker, we will take  
4 a five-minute break.

5 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Do we have a Paula Nolte  
6 calling in?

7 And I do hear an echo, so if you are not speaking,  
8 please make sure that you are muted.

9 One more call for Paula Nolte.

10 CHAIR DREW: Let's call her first after our  
11 five-minute break. But let's take a five-minute break, give  
12 our court reporter a little bit of a chance, and we will be  
13 back at 6:03.

14 (Recess 5:58-6:03 p.m.)

15 CHAIR DREW: Ms. Grantham, will you call the  
16 next -- I think we were going to try for the one who didn't  
17 answer right before the break.

18 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Correct.

19 We are going to try and call on Paula Nolte one  
20 more time.

21 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Go ahead to the next  
22 person.

23 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person is Karen  
24 Brun.

25 SPEAKER BRUN: Can you hear me?

1 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes.

2 SPEAKER BRUN: Okay. I'm Karen Brun,  
3 K-A-R-E-N; B as in baker, R-U, N as in Nancy.

4 I'm opposed to this project. The quantity and  
5 height of the proposed turbines and the proximity to a large  
6 metropolitan area, plus smaller communities, is  
7 unprecedented in Washington State, if not the entire  
8 country. At two miles, 52.6 percent more Benton County  
9 residents will be impacted 24/7 by this than the other nine  
10 Washington counties combined where wind projects exist.

11 At four miles, 110 percent more will be impacted.

12 This is extremely disproportionate to the rest of  
13 the state. Tri-Cities residents, including 40 percent who  
14 are people of color, are being asked to sacrifice our  
15 landscape, wildlife, habitat, and our way of life for the  
16 benefit of those on the west side and beyond. This is  
17 social and environmental injustice in the extreme.

18 Governor Inslee publicly stated at the recent  
19 climate change conference in Egypt that he thinks nimbyism  
20 has no place in Washington State. If that is his  
21 philosophy, then why are 11 of the 13 EFSEC projects  
22 completed or in the pipeline located east of the Cascades?  
23 And how many applications did EFSEC reject because they were  
24 to be located on the west side?

25 If Governor Inslee insists that citizens in

1 Eastern Washington accept the ecological disruption and  
2 sacrifice of our lifestyles to forest of industrial wind  
3 turbines and seas of solar panels, he needs to have more  
4 justification than 100 percent clean energy bragging rights.  
5 He needs to follow the science.

6 The Western Resource Adequacy Program has proven  
7 that wind power in Washington has an effective capacity of 8  
8 to 11 percent when it's needed most. What off-taker is  
9 going to sign a contract for so little?

10 This project is going to cost much more  
11 environmentally, socially, and economically than it will  
12 ever return. One just has to follow the money to see who  
13 truly benefits.

14 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

15 Our next speaker is Jeff Banning. Do we have a  
16 Jeff Banning on the line?

17 SPEAKER BANNING: Can you guys hear me?

18 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes. Thank you.

19 SPEAKER BANNING: My name's Jeff Banning. As  
20 a resident of Kennewick for over 20 years, I'm completely  
21 against constructing a wind farm so close to our growing  
22 community. Excuse me. There's no reason that this wind  
23 farm needs to be sited at the southern border of the  
24 Tri-Cities. Eastern Washington has plenty of unpopulated  
25 open space available for these kinds of low density,

1 inefficient energy producers.

2 Appendix Q, Visual Simulations, figure 81 A and B  
3 is what I would see every day as I drive to work, get  
4 groceries, walk the dog, mow my yard, or look out of my  
5 living room windows.

6 Instead of the greens of the wheat fields in  
7 spring slowly fading into hues of yellow and brown over the  
8 summer, my view would be dominated by over 20 spinning,  
9 blinking monstrosities. Part of the Tri-Cities allure is  
10 the open panoramic views of our vast shrub steppe ecosystem.  
11 244 wind turbines would make a mockery of that.

12 If I bought a house within view of a wind farm,  
13 then that would be a choice I made, knowing full well going  
14 into the purchase. Placing the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm  
15 at its proposed location is an insult to the many South  
16 Richland, Kennewick homeowners who chose this area  
17 specifically for the views of Badger Canyon and the feeling  
18 of openness as you look out of your house.

19 I would much rather have a single, small modular  
20 reactor nuclear plant built in the same general location  
21 than hundreds of inefficient wind turbines and solar panels.  
22 And SMR may not have as large a name plate generation value,  
23 but we all know that wind and solar never generate their  
24 name plate values. And a small modular reactor would give  
25 you consistent electrical output, versus a variable nature

1 of wind and solar. In the winter, we can sometimes go weeks  
2 with the low cloud base and no wind. There would be zero  
3 output from the Horse Heaven Hills wind and solar generators  
4 during those weeks.

5 In closing, if the State of Washington feels the  
6 need to install renewable energy devices to meet carbon  
7 emission reduction goals, they need to do it far away from  
8 the major population centers of Eastern Washington.

9 Thank you.

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Please make sure you are  
11 muted if you are not called.

12 The next person is Jim Conka. Do we have a Jim  
13 Conka on the line?

14 I will go on to the next person. Kevin Self.

15 SPEAKER SELF: Yes. Kevin, K-E-V-I-N,  
16 S-E-L-F. Can you hear me?

17 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes.

18 SPEAKER SELF: Okay. Here I go.

19 (Inaudible) draft EIS. The draft EIS lacks  
20 critical information as required by law to inform all  
21 effective stakeholders. This incomplete draft is not  
22 allowed the proper review, which places the opportunity to  
23 comment at a disadvantage.

24 The draft EIS states the applicant would develop a  
25 final restoration plan. By not providing this plan, the

1 stakeholder cannot comment on how it's going to be  
2 implemented.

3 When referring to a requirement or a plan, the  
4 draft uses the non-committal word "would" rather than  
5 "will." It uses it 5,200 times throughout the document.

6 My personal objections to this project: We built  
7 our home in Badger Canyon 12 years ago. We moved here  
8 because of the openness, the country feel with endless views  
9 of rolling hills and unmatched sunsets. We may not have the  
10 trees like the west side, but our rolling hills and  
11 wide-open views are equally as beautiful and irreplaceable.

12 My objection to this project is 100 percent due to  
13 the adverse visual effects. The thought of looking at these  
14 towers on our hilltops and the destruction of the natural  
15 beauty and the surreal settings is unthinkable. Our views  
16 will forever be destroyed by the windmills scattered on our  
17 ridgelines with 600-foot towers will make our views look  
18 like an industrial park, similar to the pumpjacks in  
19 Bakersfield, California.

20 This project is all about politics. EFSEC became  
21 an independent state agency on June 30th, 2022. State  
22 legislature passed the bill to authorize the change as an  
23 important step to achieve Governor Inslee's carbon neutral  
24 goals by 2045.

25 Most of the 7 point 70 million (sic)

1 Washingtonians aren't aware of how or why it was changed.  
2 This new law was requested by the office of the governor to  
3 modernize EFSEC, giving them the authority to preempt all  
4 aspects of certification and regulations of energy  
5 facilities. Our locally elected officials representing our  
6 city and county offices have no authority under this law.  
7 We, the people, have been stripped of our right to be  
8 represented.

9 Now EFSEC has the power to come into any town in  
10 our state and overrule local government. This is a result  
11 of a governor who has an aggressive green agenda that can  
12 only be achieved with radical measures (inaudible) Central  
13 and Eastern Washington are paying the price by forcing these  
14 projects into our backyard.

15 The poorly prepared draft...(pause).

16 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person I have on  
17 the list is Marilyn Dickenson.

18 SPEAKER DICKENSON: Thank you. I'm Marilyn  
19 Dickenson, M-A-R-I-L-Y-N, D-I-C-K-E-N-S-O-N.

20 I am not in favor of this massive, intrusive wind  
21 turbine project. Build nuclear plants, they are clean and  
22 provide consistent, stable energy.

23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person I have on  
25 the list is Pam Minelli.



1                   SPEAKER MINELLI: I am Pam Minelli. P-A-M, M  
2 as in Mary, I-N-E-L-L-I, and I'm a Kennewick resident.

3                   Many are asking, Why does the applicant want to  
4 cover over 100 square miles of the scenic Horse Heaven Hills  
5 with up to 244 whirring and flashing wind turbines as tall  
6 as Seattle's Space Needle? Why here, when wind projects are  
7 usually placed in remote, rural locations?

8                   In chapter 1, page 5 of the DEIS, the applicant  
9 lists commercially viable above-average wind speeds as one  
10 reason for selecting the Horse Heaven Hills.

11                  To the contrary, a study by the Western Resource  
12 Adequacy Program, or RAP reports Washington-based wind power  
13 provided the lowest effective capacity of the Western U.S.  
14 and British Columbia during December into February. And  
15 that during the hottest months, August and September,  
16 Washington wind capacity again declined.

17                  In other words -- cut, the wind doesn't blow  
18 enough here.

19                  The DEIS lists area landowners' willingness to  
20 participate in the project as another reason for selecting  
21 the Horse Heaven Hills, but fails to recognize the objection  
22 of local residents, Benton County commissioners, city  
23 councils, other elected officials, and more.

24                  Despite the science and local opposition, the  
25 applicant is committed to building this inefficient project

1 that is too close, too big, and too tall. It's too close  
2 with 100,000 people living within six miles of the Horse  
3 Heaven turbines. That's compared to about 19,000 people  
4 within six miles for all the other projects in the state  
5 combined.

6 Instead of trees, 150 to 244 Space Needle-sized  
7 wind turbines with red flashing lights will be visible  
8 without the -- throughout the Tri-Cities and by tourists  
9 visiting our famous wineries. It is so big that Washington  
10 Department of Fish and Wildlife fears it is impossible to  
11 effectively mitigate the environmental risks it poses to  
12 sensitive wildlife and some of the last remaining shrub  
13 steppe habitat in the state.

14 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you. Your time is  
15 up.

16 The next person I have is Patrick Grengs.

17 SPEAKER GRENGS: Hello. Can you hear me?

18 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

19 SPEAKER GRENGS: Excellent. My name is  
20 Patrick Grengs, P-A-T-R-I-C-K, G-R-E-N-G-S.

21 Speaking as a 30-year resident of the Tri-Cities  
22 and owner of 40 acres of farmland here in West Richland, I'm  
23 here to make clear my statement against any construction  
24 related to the Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm.

25 First and foremost, wind turbines are not

1 economically viable. Wind power is intermittent, as we all  
2 know. Every watt of power produced by wind must be  
3 supplemented by back-up sources including hydro, nuclear,  
4 and a mix of hydrocarbons. At a minimum, this doubles the  
5 cost of wind power.

6 Second, wind power is neither green nor  
7 sustainable. The wind blades must be replaced every 20 to  
8 25 years as a result of stress-fractured degradation. Most  
9 of the turbines in the Columbia Gorge were installed during  
10 the period of 2005 through 2015, and many of these will need  
11 to be replaced starting in 2030.

12 Recycling is not an economically viable option.  
13 Wind power is simply not sustainable. Instead of  
14 desecrating our beautiful landscape in Eastern Washington,  
15 we should focus our efforts on preserving the fully green  
16 and clean hydropower that's in operation, as well as advance  
17 the build-out of safe nuclear reactors. I submitted  
18 additional comments via email to EFSEC.

19 In summary, I'm opposed to the Horse Heaven Hills  
20 Wind Project. Thank you.

21 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

22 Next, I have Rylan Grimes. Is there a Rylan  
23 Grimes on the line?

24 SPEAKER GRIMES: Yeah. Can you hear me?

25 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can hear you now.

1 SPEAKER GRIMES: Okay. My name is Rylan  
2 Grimes. R-Y-L-A-N, G-R-I-M-E-S.

3 I'm a lifelong resident of the Tri-Cities, and I'm  
4 a representative of the IBW Local 112, and we represent  
5 1,300 electricians in Southeastern Washington that would  
6 greatly benefit from the jobs that will be created by this  
7 project.

8 My brothers and sisters of IBW 112 have been at  
9 the forefront of green energy production, including a recent  
10 repower at the Vansycle Wind Project in Athena, Oregon,  
11 successfully extending the life of the towers down there.  
12 My brothers and sisters built the first wind and solar  
13 project in America that could put power on the grid 24/7  
14 through battery storage in Lexington, Oregon, last year.  
15 Low cost power is the key to attracting new industries to  
16 the area, and we need the supply -- we need the supply in  
17 any form it takes.

18 My brothers and sisters depend on a steady stream  
19 of construction jobs, and denying this project not only deny  
20 them these jobs, but future jobs, as well, as industry turns  
21 away from the area.

22 I understand a desire to build this project far  
23 from view, but I would ask those opposed how long their  
24 commute to work is. Many of my brothers and sisters drive  
25 an hour and a half one way to work every day. This would be

1 a welcome change of pace for many of them.

2 IBW Local 112 and I support this project.

3 Thank you.

4 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

5 Our next person is Darrell Osborn.

6 SPEAKER OSBORN: Yes. Darrell Osborn.

7 D-A-R-R-E-L-L. Last name Osborn, O-S-B-O-R-N.

8 Okay. What I would start with, at the beginning  
9 of this call we took a roll call. What I noticed absent was  
10 anybody representing public health. And I call that to  
11 attention, both the audible and inaudible effects on nearby  
12 locales, and the well-documented cases in other areas in  
13 which they are finding neurological conditions and other  
14 things that have been continued to be researched and trying  
15 to attribute exactly where these seemingly new conditions  
16 are arising from, which just happen to be nearby wind farms.  
17 This has happened in the mainland all over the US and as far  
18 out as Hawaii and the North Shore.

19 Secondly, we talk about some of the goals of the  
20 county and our public lands, kind of designation goal No. 3  
21 is conserve visually prominent, naturally vegetated steep  
22 slopes and elevated ridges at the Columbia Basin landscape  
23 and our nuclear product of the ice age. That's a goal. I  
24 don't believe that this project maintains that goal of  
25 preserving the landscape.

1 Another note in the document is that this is four  
2 miles south of Kennewick. I'm not sure exactly the point  
3 they used in Kennewick, but as Kennewick continues to  
4 expand, as someone already previously noted, this is upwards  
5 of three quarters of a mile from residents. And as we  
6 continue to expand out the Badger Canyon area in helping  
7 developments continue to grow, I'm all for clean energy,  
8 just not at the expense of the residents and the way of  
9 life.

10 I commute a long ways. I don't think a shorter  
11 commute is a good reason for a couple of electricians to  
12 damage our environment and our infrastructure.

13 Thank you for having me.

14 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person on the  
15 list is Jason Lohr.

16 SPEAKER LOHR: Hello, can you hear me?

17 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

18 SPEAKER LOHR: J-A-S-O-N, L-O-H-R. Thank you  
19 all for having me.

20 I think what I'd like to talk about is, I am an  
21 electrician. I've lived here most of my life, and I'm --  
22 it's depressing to hear so many of my fellow citizens  
23 belittle and diminish my profession and those of nine  
24 percent of our citizens here locally. We account for about  
25 nine percent of workers and a heck of a lot more than that

1 of the economy. Construction is a great deal of our economy  
2 out here.

3 I hear a lot about, these jobs are temporary.  
4 Construction is temporary. I build things, and then they're  
5 built, and then I go build something else. My job is  
6 important. All of our jobs are important. I do not think  
7 it is a genuine, viable argument that jobs aren't important  
8 because they won't last for ten years. It is a huge portion  
9 of our economy and is the way myself and an awful lot of  
10 people feed our families. So I really don't like hearing,  
11 Who cares about a couple of electricians, particularly from  
12 elected officials.

13 Now, with the rest of my time I guess I'd like to  
14 bring up a couple of weird things I've heard. I recommend  
15 you Google wind turbine syndrome because all the results are  
16 basically, it doesn't exist.

17 Do solar panels vaporize birds mid flight? No.  
18 That's absurd.

19 I have worked in wind and solar projects. I find  
20 it interesting that there's a bunch of people that looked up  
21 some things that would confirm their bias on the Internet,  
22 and we haven't heard from anybody who is an expert in any of  
23 these fields.

24 I have worked in these places. I haven't seen any  
25 dead birds. I haven't seen any huge environmental impacts.

1 I've seen crops growing right underneath these things, and I  
2 personally think it's unacceptable for a couple of  
3 homeowners to move to the edge of the city and point out  
4 their kitchen window and say, That's it. Nobody ever gets  
5 to build anything there because I bought a house over here.

6 Thank you.

7 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person I have on  
8 the list is Valerie Miller. Do we have a Valerie Miller on  
9 the line?

10 SPEAKER MILLER: Can you hear me okay?

11 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

12 SPEAKER MILLER: Hello? Okay. This is  
13 Valerie Miller. My name is V-A-L-E-R-I-E, M-I-L-L-E-R.

14 I just want to first say I am just so amazed at  
15 the effort that our community members have put in to really  
16 researching and studying what is going to go into this  
17 windmill project. I mean, it takes a lot of time and  
18 resources to do that.

19 I know I've been doing my best, and I'm a busy mom  
20 of four. And I'm very concerned because these are going to  
21 go up in our backyard, and I've never heard of such a big  
22 wind farm ever. So this is very new to everyone.

23 And the gentleman that just spoke, no one -- no  
24 one is downplaying jobs or electricians or diminishing what  
25 they do, but the concern for the rest of the citizens is how



1 sustainable these are, how reliable they are.

2 I mean, everything I have read, there's no -- no  
3 one's been able to recycle these materials, so I don't  
4 understand how they're considered green for energy. I mean,  
5 it doesn't seem like anything about them is green. I mean,  
6 I'm concerned that if we look far enough down the road,  
7 these things are going to become landfills and skeletons in  
8 our community and eventually could create, basically, a  
9 ghost town with all the effects that it creates. I mean,  
10 nobody really knows. Right?

11 And I understand that I don't have the skills or  
12 knowledge about all that goes on with our environment, but  
13 from what I read in the EFSEC study, it sounded like the  
14 study didn't come up with a good reason why the wind farm  
15 shouldn't be in either. And that's a concern to me because  
16 that's what the government is going to be reading. Right?

17 And so I really hope that EFSEC will help us to  
18 help them understand these concerns that we all have and  
19 that we want to create something that's going to be  
20 sustainable for all of us for the future, you know, looking  
21 far enough down the road --

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Your time is up.  
23 Thank you very much.

24 SPEAKER MILLER: Thank you.

25 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person I have on

1 the list is Josh Miller. Do we have a Josh Miller on the  
2 line?

3 SPEAKER J. MILLER: Yes. Hello?

4 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: We can hear you.

5 SPEAKER J. MILLER: So, you know, my biggest  
6 concern on this project is, again, it seems like it's a  
7 project that well may provide some initial short-term  
8 benefits.

9 The long-term repercussions of the project could  
10 be disastrous. You look at some of the projects in other  
11 areas of the country, such as in California and on the east  
12 coast. Many of these states no longer allow these big  
13 projects to even occur because they've seen the detriment of  
14 long-term impacts.

15 I mean, you look in Southern California, these  
16 huge farms that are now wind farms that are now, in a large  
17 part, non-functional, because the long-term implications of  
18 what they were doing were never completely thought through.

19 If you were to do any type of a project like this,  
20 there needs to be a guaranteed -- basically, a  
21 responsibility of the company, where they have to dismantle  
22 these if they don't work or if they're not in use for a  
23 certain period of time. And that money needs to already be  
24 collected, so it's not something they could pay in the  
25 future; it's guaranteed that they will take care of their

1 own waste.

2 Again, as has been mentioned before, the wind  
3 blades are highly toxic, can only be placed in a couple of  
4 different landfills in the country. This is not something  
5 that is easily taken care of.

6 These windmills have a very limited lifespan.  
7 They don't last forever. They last for, usually, a little  
8 more than a decade or two at best based on a lot of the  
9 research. And again, you're going to create large areas  
10 that have significant environmental impact, and that doesn't  
11 even go into some of the impact on the animal species in  
12 this area, the migratory patterns and things along those  
13 lines.

14 So I'm strongly opposed to this project, as I see  
15 the detrimental impact it has on the community, particularly  
16 in the long-term. It is enormous. And particularly on our  
17 environment, these are an environmental disaster; once these  
18 things are no longer functional, trying to figure out what  
19 to do with these toxic blades, these big eyesores, and  
20 basically trying to figure out how to manage them.

21 So thank you very much for your time. I  
22 appreciate everybody's effort.

23 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

24 The next person I have is Cathy Dechter.

25 SPEAKER DECHTER: She is not available this

1 evening.

2 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Okay. Sam Dechter, you  
3 are the next person on the list.

4 SPEAKER DECHTER: That is -- that is me.

5 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Perfect. Go ahead.

6 SPEAKER DECHTER: S-A-M, D-E-C-H-T-E-R.

7 I am opposed to the Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
8 Project. The Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project proposes  
9 construction operation of a combined wind and solar power  
10 renewable energy facility only four miles south of Kennewick  
11 and stretches for 20 miles along the Horse Heaven Hills.

12 The product of this project, electricity, will not  
13 be used in the local area and will, in fact, most likely be  
14 shipped out of Washington. Once construction is complete,  
15 the high-paying jobs will cease. However, the several  
16 hundred huge wind turbines, up to 500 feet or more tall,  
17 will be around for many years negatively impacting the  
18 citizens living nearby and the area's wildlife.

19 Final approval for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm  
20 Project should rest with Benton County and other local  
21 government agencies. This would more appropriately reflect  
22 the desires, concerns, values and priorities of the local  
23 community.

24 Similarly, determination of satisfactory  
25 operational performance to meet permitted conditions and

1 operational parameters should be in the hands of local  
2 agencies and not in the hands of the facility  
3 owner/operator.

4 Second, if the project is allowed to proceed, it  
5 should be moved away from the crest of the Horse Heaven  
6 Hills and relocated southward, several miles toward the  
7 Columbia River, where it will not be visible from the  
8 Tri-Cities and will not present an eyesore to our citizens  
9 and visitors.

10 Remember HD Wells' War of the Worlds when the  
11 martians invaded. I am concerned for the wildlife that will  
12 be displaced by construction and operation of this project.  
13 I am concerned also for the birds that will be endangered  
14 and destroyed by the operating wind turbine blades and will  
15 have their historic flight patterns disrupted and breeding  
16 grounds destroyed.

17 If we can fight to protect our salmon, we should  
18 fight equally as hard to protect our birds and other  
19 wildlife.

20 Our highly desirable scenic views, important to  
21 local business and attractive to out-of-town visitors will  
22 be lost. This will negatively impact the local and regional  
23 economy through the loss of business, loss of visitors and  
24 loss of revenue.

25 CHAIR DREW: Okay, thank you. Your time is

1 up.

2 SPEAKER DECHTER: Thank you.

3 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person I have on  
4 the list is Ross Marturano. I believe he is in person at  
5 Benton County.

6 SPEAKER MARTURANO: My name is Ross, R-O-S-S,  
7 Marturano, M-A-R-T-U-R-A-N-O.

8 It's difficult not to incorporate all of the  
9 thoughts already mentioned, so I just want to add some  
10 additional thoughts.

11 I worked in Manhattan 35 years. Manhattan is 17  
12 miles long. This project is 25 miles long. 70 of the  
13 structures are taller than the skyscrapers in Manhattan, so  
14 we are essentially creating a Manhattan along the southern  
15 part of Kennewick County -- or Benton County.

16 Additionally, none of the power is required within  
17 this area. We are 100 percent renewable in Benton County.  
18 We do not use coal, {inaudible} hydroelectric, no natural  
19 gas, {inaudible} to ten percent nuclear. No petroleum is  
20 used in generation of the power. So we're essentially a  
21 green community now.

22 So why would this project be put in this location  
23 when it's not necessary locally? There's no insurance that  
24 the power will be used locally, and it's strictly only a  
25 profit incentive in doing this project.

1           So I'm strongly against this project for aesthetic  
2 reasons and for common sense. And I thank you for your  
3 time.

4           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

5           The next person I have is Diane McDaniel.

6           SPEAKER MCDANIEL: Yes. Diane McDaniel.  
7 D-I-A-N-E; last name is McDaniel, M-C-D-A-N-I-E-L.

8           My family moved to the Tri-Cities in 1973 when my  
9 father was transferred here to work on the Ice Harbor Dam.  
10 He was career Army Corps of Engineers. He would work on  
11 dams throughout the west and up and down the Columbia and  
12 Snake Rivers.

13           When Dad transferred to his next assignment, my  
14 brothers and sisters and I would stay here. We would put  
15 down roots, marry and have kids and grandkids here in the  
16 Tri-Cities.

17           The growth of the Tri-Cities I've witnessed since  
18 1973 is beyond incredible, and the past years have been even  
19 bigger, although not always the best jobs for working  
20 people. That's why we need to support new energy that can  
21 power those good-paying manufacturing jobs. Most can't  
22 afford the home on the hilltop.

23           What I ask of EFSEC is to include in their review  
24 how the Horse Heaven Clean Energy Center's electricity would  
25 contribute clean power to our local region needs. Many

1 folks like to complain, and we've heard a little bit on the  
2 call tonight about California and others, BPA selling our  
3 power, turning each other against outsiders. And, well,  
4 let's just set that aside for now.

5 The truth is we need more of everything. My  
6 family, we were dams, from the Libby Dam, to Ice Harbor, to  
7 John Day, up and down. And we all worked on Hanford, but we  
8 need more. And we need to attract new manufacturing to the  
9 Tri-Cities area, and I think this project will help do that.

10 Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

11 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

12 Up next, I have Greg Gales.

13 SPEAKER GALES: Hello. Can you hear me?

14 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes.

15 SPEAKER GALES: My name is Greg Gales,  
16 G-A-L-E-S.

17 And I speak in favor of this project. Like it was  
18 said by the electrician earlier, Rylan Grimes, that it would  
19 provide income for the local community. It would also --  
20 this project would also contribute an estimated 260 million  
21 in new tax revenue for our community.

22 So I guess I don't understand the other comments  
23 that -- why they wouldn't be in support of that to be able  
24 to grow Tri-Cities.

25 So that's what I'd like to say is, I do support



1 the project. Thank you.

2 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Up next, I have Graham  
3 Zimmerman.

4 SPEAKER ZIMMERMAN: Hi, this is Graham.  
5 Graham Zimmerman. G-R-A-H-A-M, Z-I-M-M-E-R-M-A-N.

6 I am a professional mountain climber and the  
7 alliance manager at Protect our Winters. I've made first  
8 ascents from Alaska to the Karakorum, feats that have  
9 resulted in awards, including the gold medal of alpine  
10 climbing, called the Piolet d'Or, and a role as the board  
11 president of the American Alpine Club.

12 I also work full-time at Protect our Winters to  
13 engage our over 200 athletes, creative scientists and  
14 business leaders to mobilize the 15 million alpine  
15 enthusiasts in the United States, which (inaudible) the  
16 outdoor state, to advance non-partisan climate solutions  
17 that protect all communities and the places that we love to  
18 recreate.

19 I'm Zooming in today from Bend, Oregon, where I am  
20 based, but I grew up in Edmonds, Washington, and the  
21 beautiful Cascades is where I fell in love with climbing.  
22 These days I'm in Washington frequently to visit my family  
23 and to visit those incredible mountains.

24 I'm here on behalf of Protect our Winters, my  
25 family and community in Washington to provide support for

1 the Horse Heaven Clean Energy Center. Having studied  
2 glaciers in university and spent the majority of my life  
3 exploring environments, I've witnessed the impacts of  
4 climate change firsthand and the mountains worldwide, very  
5 much including Washington. These impacts have crept into  
6 the lower elevations in the form of wildfires, strong storm  
7 systems and heatwaves. All of these have expanded the  
8 climate issue to encompass massive impacts on community  
9 health.

10 As you will see in our written public comment,  
11 without utility scale projects like this, dramatically  
12 decreasing snowpack and extended wildfire seasons will  
13 continue to threaten Washington's \$6.3 billion outdoor  
14 recreation economy and the health of all Washingtonians.

15 In conclusion, I urge you, on behalf of the  
16 members of the outdoor state and all Washingtonians who  
17 value clean air, community health and economic prosperity,  
18 to move the Horse Heaven Project to its construction phase  
19 and issue all pending approvals on the project.

20 Thank you.

21 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

22 Next, we have Brent Strecker.

23 SPEAKER STRECKER: Yes. Brent Strecker  
24 B-R-E-N-T, S-T-R-E-C-K-E-R.

25 Benton County's been my home for over 50 years,

1 and my family live within one mile of the proposed turbines.  
2 I enjoy outdoors and have hiked and biked the Horse Heaven  
3 Hills my entire life.

4 I see first-hand the wildlife that will be  
5 affected by the turbines. There's an owl couple that hoots  
6 from our rooftops during the night, and I see hawks almost  
7 every time out riding or biking. I generally see flocks of  
8 seagulls or Sandhill Cranes and geese flyover year-round.  
9 One time, this last December, the sky was filled with flocks  
10 and birds for as far as I could see in all directions. Some  
11 of the flocks had 500 to 1,000 birds in them, all headed  
12 through the proposed turbine area.

13 Industrial wind turbines are not a novelty or a  
14 celebration of -- symbol of the environmental virtue many of  
15 Eastern Washingtonians who live within them as an intruding  
16 presence along every path we travel in and out of our  
17 community and as a backdrop to our favorite fishing,  
18 hunting, hiking and sightseeing destinations.

19 The idea that my wife and I have to live within  
20 this intruding presence of the forest and industrial wind  
21 turbines in our backyard every time we step outside, day or  
22 night, it's dispiriting and, frankly, downright depressing,  
23 particularly when you consider that Washington state is  
24 already one of the top renewable energy producers in the  
25 nation and that unreliable wind farms will do little to

1 nothing to solve the real problem with increasing blackout  
2 risk within our -- facing Washington State citizens.

3 There are many reasons the turbine towers over the  
4 Tri-Cities are just wrong. For instance, my estimate, this  
5 project would reuse around 20,000 gallons of oil annually,  
6 but the reason -- the one reason that should be most  
7 considered is the western regency protection research  
8 because it directly addresses how the turbines in our area  
9 will operate. Thank you.

10 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you for your  
11 comments. Your time is up. You can send the rest in  
12 writing.

13 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Up next, we have Jerry  
14 Strickler. Do we have a Jerry Strickler on the line?

15 I will call the next person. Rick Dunn.

16 SPEAKER DUNN: Yeah. Good evening. Rick  
17 Dunn. R-I-C-K, D-U-N-N. I'm the general manager of Benton  
18 PUD and a longtime citizen of Benton County.

19 It's common sense to recognize the intermittency  
20 and variability of the wind power is a significant  
21 deficiency when the power grid is expected to deliver  
22 continuous and uninterrupted electricity no matter what the  
23 weather.

24 The question is, can you assign a number to this  
25 deficiency? And the answer is yes, and utilities in the

1 Northwest have done it. In response to increasing risk at  
2 Northwest power grid blackouts driven by rapid coal plant  
3 retirements and no plans for reliable replacements, Benton  
4 PUD joined a consortium of utilities in an effort, called  
5 the Western Resource Adequacy Program, also known as WRAP.

6 One major objective of the WRAP was to adopt  
7 common grid reliability planning and analysis standards,  
8 including calculating what percentage of installed wind farm  
9 generating capacity located in certain geographic areas can  
10 be counted on when electricity demand is highest.

11 What the WRAP team determined is Washington wind  
12 farms are expected to provide the lowest effective winter  
13 capacity than any region analyzed, by a factor of more than  
14 two to three depending on the month. In the worst case,  
15 utilities who add Washington wind to their portfolio will  
16 only be allowed to use eight percent of the maximum  
17 generating capacity possible as credit toward their January  
18 dependable supply inventory.

19 The 850 megawatt Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm  
20 boundary area is over 72,000 acres, but the project would  
21 only be credited by the WRAP for 68 megawatts of  
22 January-effective capacity. It would take more than seven  
23 projects the size of the Horse Heaven project to provide  
24 effective capacity-based, single clean burning and  
25 dependable natural gas power plant occupying 15 to 20 acres.

Utility engineers like myself have been backed into a corner by politicians who are now designing the power grid to their liking. There's no doubt wind farms are going to be built. But if you still think the matters should matter, Washington wind farms should be low on the list of the alternatives, or in the case of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm, removed from the list. Thank you.

SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

Next, I have Jacque Fuller or Jack Fuller. Do I have a Jacque Fuller on the line?

I will go on to the next person. Mike Bosse.

SPEAKER BOSSE: Thank you. Mike Bosse.

M-I-K-E, B-O-S-S-E.

Developing the project's hybrid combination of wind, solar and battery storage applications will create as many as 930 jobs for skilled construction workers. Through building of local access roads and foundations to support the technology, the project will employ crane operators, electricians and skilled laborers.

The project will be a significant source of employment in the local area. The jobs required by this project are high-paying, family wage opportunities. Economic impact studies examining the projects estimated the typical income per worker during the construction phase will be \$113,500. That's nearly 60 percent higher than the

1 average regional compensation across industries and 37  
2 percent higher than the compensation in the construction  
3 industry for Benton and Franklin Counties.

4 The studies also show that a -- at full build-out,  
5 the project could amount to at least 73 million in labor  
6 income and 143 million in total economic output. Following  
7 construction, the project will also create a combination --  
8 a combined direct, indirect and induced total of 56  
9 long-term high paying jobs during the estimated 30-year  
10 lifespan.

11 I'd also like to add that I'm happy to hear  
12 there's so much support on this forum for nuclear power, as  
13 that will probably be coming up in the near future as well.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

16 Next, I have Mark Morton. Is Mark Morton on the  
17 line? I recall seeing him in the chat. I will call one  
18 more time for Mark Morton.

19 Okay. I will call the next person. I have Manuel  
20 Seubert.

21 SPEAKER SEUBERT: Oh, yeah. Hello, can you  
22 hear me?

23 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes.

24 SPEAKER SEUBERT: This is Manuel Seubert,  
25 M-A-N-U-E-L, S-E-U-B-E-R-T.

1 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Go ahead.

2 SPEAKER SEUBERT: I already submitted  
3 comments in writing, so I'll keep it short.

4 I agree with a lot of the comments against a wind  
5 farm here, blinking lights and waste of space, when nuclear  
6 power is a lot more efficient. But I'm also a local  
7 paragliding pilot who flies on that ridge, basically, on  
8 every opportunity that I get. The wind is very variable.  
9 Sometimes it's way too strong; sometimes there's absolutely  
10 no wind, which, you know, affects wind power generation  
11 probably as well.

12 But I'm also concerned about the effect of the  
13 turbines on paragliding pilots. Not the risk of getting  
14 hit, per se, but how much turbulence is after the turbines;  
15 how much does the winter ones affect, you know, the wind,  
16 downwind of the buildings.

17 That was not addressed in any of the comments in  
18 the environmental statement, at least I haven't seen it.  
19 They mention a lot of paragliding spots, but none of those  
20 spots are used, except for Kiona, which is right -- the same  
21 which -- where the wind turbines are planned to be built.

22 So just something to keep in mind.

23 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

24 Next, I have Cisco Elguezabal. Apologies.

25 SPEAKER ELGUEZABAL: Nope, you got it pretty



1 close. Cisco, C-I-S-C-O. Last name, E-L-G-U-E-Z-A-B-A-L.

2 Thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

3 I'm the business manager of Labors Local 348. I represent  
4 over 1,200 hardworking men and women in Eastern and Central  
5 Washington.

6 Horse Heaven Clean Energy Project will result in  
7 approximately 1,000 local union construction jobs, 56  
8 long-term family permanent jobs.

9 Scout Clean has also committed to the use of a  
10 apprenticeship utilization for 15 percent of labor hours.  
11 We already have trained, qualified men and women to do the  
12 renewable projects, so we are in full support of this  
13 project. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Next, we have Russell  
15 Walker.

16 SPEAKER WALKER: Good evening. Russell  
17 Walker, R-U-S-S-E-L-L, W-A-L-K-E-R.

18 I commend this council on the thorough analysis  
19 visual impact included in the DEIS for the Horse Heaven  
20 Clean Energy Center. This approach is based on a factual  
21 and sound methodology, a forthright accounting of how the  
22 project's visual impacts will vary widely in different  
23 distances between key observation points. A clear  
24 mitigation measure is to avoid and minimize the most  
25 significant potential visual obstructions.

1           This impartial science-based approach is needed,  
2 particularly considering many of the emotional and  
3 inaccurate appeals that have been made about the project.

4           It is true that individuals may have a difference  
5 in opinion about what our region's landscape ought to look  
6 like. It's also true that wind turbines are prominent  
7 features which will be seen by many, may elicit subjective  
8 reactions. But by relocating the project's proposed  
9 turbines in the foreground areas of non-participating  
10 residents and other sensitive viewing locations, the counsel  
11 is ensuring the most significant impacts will be mitigated.

12           It is also important to clarify that the proposed  
13 project layout keeps much of the turbans out of sight from  
14 key population centers. This has been demonstrated through  
15 several visual simulations which demonstrate where the  
16 turbines would be in relation to specific viewpoints, but  
17 the current mitigation strategies identified by the DEIS, we  
18 need best practices for minimizing view shed impacts. Any  
19 reactions raised from the project's visual impacts should be  
20 considered subjective. They were also very widely based on  
21 distance and viewpoint.

22           These differences and opinions certainly shouldn't  
23 raise the standard of further regulatory intervention. I  
24 highly encourage this council to carefully balance these  
25 dynamics against a significant contribution to the Horse

1 Heaven Clean Energy Center, which will make for achieving  
2 our state's climate agenda, curbing the impacts of climate  
3 change and achieving the region's clean energy goals.

4 Thank you.

5 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Next, I have Kathryn  
6 Tominey. Do I have a Kathryn Tominey on the line?

7 SPEAKER TOMINEY: Yes.

8 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: We can hear you.

9 SPEAKER TOMINEY: Okay. Kathryn Tominey.  
10 K-A-T-H-R-Y-N; Tominey, T-O-M-I-N-E-Y.

11 I'm supporting the program, the combination of  
12 wind turbines, solar and high capacity storage batteries.  
13 It's a great combination. It's not the only solution, but  
14 it will certainly help the area.

15 I came here from college in February of 1968, 55  
16 years ago. So I've lived here 55 years, and, yes, there are  
17 lots of things that look different now than they did then.  
18 Drive from Bend to the Columbia River, drive from Manastash  
19 Ridge to Cle Elum, drive from Walla Walla and you'll see  
20 wind turbines. World did not come to an end.

21 It is -- I hope the EIS will put some information  
22 into -- regarding the existing implemented recycling  
23 technology for wind turbine blades. It's not a maybe. It's  
24 being done as we speak.

25 I also hope the EIS will address or cover the

1 potential of the solar panels to support farmers who want to  
2 implement agrivoltaics. And many -- many of the speakers  
3 may not have focused on this, but the owners of the land --  
4 farmers -- will also benefit from the steady stream of  
5 revenue from electricity to stabilize their farming coms and  
6 make it easier for them to stay on the farm. I grew up on a  
7 farm, so I know something.

8 That's all I have to say. I think it's a good  
9 idea, and I hope it proceeds. Thank you.

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

11 Next, I have Barbara Buckmaster.

12 SPEAKER BUCKMASTER: Hello.

13 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Hello, is this Barbara?

14 SPEAKER BUCKMASTER: Yes, it is.

15 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Go ahead. We can hear  
16 you.

17 SPEAKER BUCKMASTER: Thank you for your time.  
18 Barbara Buckmaster. B-A-R-B-A-R-A, Buckmaster,  
19 B-U-C-K-M-A-S-T-E-R.

20 Pleased do not allow Scout Clean Energy to ruin  
21 our most beautiful Horse Heaven landscaping by constructing  
22 wind turbines.

23 I own 200 acres -- a 200-acre farm that borders  
24 the base up the hills where the turbines are proposed to be  
25 erected. I really do worry that this will lower the value

1 of my property for years to come. I'm concerned about the  
2 flashing lights that will be nothing but a nuisance at  
3 night, and they are monstrous eyesores.

4 And I truly believe they will affect our habitat,  
5 and so goes the list of our complaints. I was strong -- I  
6 was approached by Scout Clean Energy when they first came to  
7 our community hunting for a pathway to transport their power  
8 to the power grid. And truly, at first it seemed like it  
9 was a great idea, says this country is working to clean up  
10 our environment.

11 Once I really started to look into this and after  
12 legal advice and advice from community developers, I felt it  
13 was best that I ran, and I ran fast.

14 I do not feel Scout Clean Energy has this  
15 community in heart. What they have at heart is the  
16 opportunity to line their pockets and the pockets of their  
17 investors.

18 They came to our area scouting for a sweet place  
19 to install their turbines, and what -- that we really don't  
20 need at this time. We have an abundance of power. We have  
21 nuclear power and we have hydropower already in this area,  
22 and when the time arrives when this community needs support  
23 from -- our community will support anyone when it's time  
24 that we really need the extra power.

25 But why? Why do we need to agree to this when we

1 really do not need this windmill in our area at this time?  
2 Oh, sure, yes, everybody, I've heard you. We will have  
3 extra jobs.

4 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Your time is up.  
5 Thank you.

6 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Next, I have Kathryn  
7 Knutson.

8 SPEAKER KNUTSON: Can you hear me?

9 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can hear you.

10 SPEAKER KNUTSON: Kathryn Knutson,  
11 K-A-T-H-R-Y-N, K-N-U-T-S-O-N.

12 From the research I've done, I think that the  
13 Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm will have negative consequences  
14 for the endangered Washington state ferruginous hawks and  
15 the sensitive areas the hawk needs to be able to hunt and  
16 nest in.

17 And as I stated before in my previous comments  
18 submitted to you, the Horse Heaven Wind Farm has no  
19 meaningful compensation proposals, nor any real mitigation  
20 efforts for the negative effects suffered from the proposed  
21 wind farm for the hawk.

22 So please do not approve this industrial-sized  
23 wind farm, the endangered Washington state ferruginous hawk  
24 should not be sacrificed to meet the green energy goals set  
25 forth by Washington State.

1           In addition, the US Wildlife Service estimates  
2   that between 140,000 and 500,000 bird deaths occur at wind  
3   farms each year. And the most significant threat is posed  
4   to species of the large threatened and high conservation  
5   value birds such as the Washington state ferruginous hawk.

6           In addition, my farm is within a couple of miles,  
7   probably less, of this massive wind farm, and my farm is in  
8   a conservation reserve program for the ferruginous hawk.

9           So that's why I have concerns about this -- of  
10   this massive project and how it's going to affect what I'm  
11   doing. Thank you.

12           CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

13           We will take a break now for five minutes and come  
14   back at 7:04.

15                   (Recess 6:59-7:04 p.m.)

16           CHAIR DREW: While we're finished with our  
17   break, we'll call the next speaker.

18           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: The next person I have is  
19   Barbara Thompson.

20           SPEAKER THOMPSON: How do I unmute this? Am  
21   I unmuted?

22           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: No, you're not on mute.  
23   We can hear you.

24           SPEAKER HERKE: Okay. My name is Barbara  
25   Thompson. B-A-R-B-A-R-A, T-H-O-M-P-S-O-N.

1 I am against the turbine intrusive wind turbine  
2 project. I heard the gentleman speak a little bit earlier  
3 about how they parasail, paraglide off of Heaven Hills, and  
4 I can attest to that because they've landed in my backyard.  
5 And we actually have a lot of paragliders who use Horse  
6 Heaven Hills to recreate in.

7 The other -- I've already submitted most of my  
8 comments, but one of the things that blares out to me is  
9 that all of the wildlife and protected species, in the  
10 1990s, a whole logging industry was shut down for the  
11 spotted owl, and I don't understand how all these rules can  
12 be submitted and changed to put in a wind farm, solar farm,  
13 and willy-nilly make these changes.

14 So later on in an agricultural area like this and  
15 they put in an industry like that, it -- political climate  
16 changes in the state to be able to go and put other  
17 industries in agricultural areas.

18 And I'd also like to know about the economics of  
19 it, since they've been building wind farms -- 2004, there is  
20 a number that popped up in one of the articles that I was  
21 reading that they spent \$90 billion on wind farms, and yet  
22 they only contribute seven percent of our nation's total  
23 electrical energy needs. Their lifespan is only 10 to 20  
24 years, and at the end of their operation, they have to be  
25 decommissioned, all tracked to the midwest and buried in



1 special landfills.

2 I don't understand nuclear power --

3 CHAIR DREW: I'm sorry. Your time is up.

4 SPEAKER THOMPSON: Thank you very much.

5 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

6 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

7 Next, I have Carl Baker. Do we have a Carl Baker  
8 on the line? Oh, we can hear you.

9 SPEAKER BAKER: Thank you. Carl Baker.  
10 C-A-R-L, B-A-K-E-R.

11 And I'm in favor of the project. I'm pretty  
12 sympathetic to the concerns that have been raised, but I do  
13 think that the involved landowners and the business  
14 involved, you know, should be able to get to use their  
15 resources to make money and engage in economic activity in  
16 our community. So I don't -- I don't see any -- that we  
17 have enough negative effects from this project to stop it.

18 So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

19 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

20 Up next, I have Lloyd Fred Lieske. Do we have a  
21 Lloyd Fred Lieske on the line?

22 SPEAKER LIESKE: Yes, right here.

23 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: We can hear you. Go  
24 ahead.

25 SPEAKER HERKE: Okay. First name Lloyd,

1 L-L-O-Y-D; last name Lieske, L-I-E-S-K-E.

2 I am not in favor of this oversized, badly located  
3 wind turbine proposal. It's located on prime land, prime  
4 farmland. We need to be savoring and relishing the  
5 bountiful farmlands in Benton County. These lands are  
6 highly productive and will be even more valued as  
7 populations worldwide continue their explosive growth.

8 Two weeks ago the editorial page in the Tri-Cities  
9 made the statement that the Tri-Cities would be giving up  
10 way too much if they go for the wind farms.

11 What would they be giving up? They would be  
12 giving up beautiful vistas that support a wine industry and  
13 tourism. They would be giving up views that we relish.  
14 They would be giving up the migratory birds that use the  
15 Pacific flight path over that area. They would be giving up  
16 far more than most people realize.

17 It's funny. The Endangered Species Act has not  
18 been mentioned tonight. The ferruginous hawk falls into  
19 that, and I believe there's a burrowing owl that falls into  
20 that.

21 The Tri-Cities already does have abundant  
22 electricity. We don't need these wind farms, so why are  
23 they put here? It just does not make sense. I fear that  
24 one bad decision can lead to another.

25 The governor and Patty Murray did their own study

1 on the removal of the Snake River dams. They stated  
2 alternative power generation must be in place first, before  
3 the dams can be removed. The four Snake River dams provide  
4 1,000 megawatts of electricity. The proposed wind farm with  
5 solar panels produces 1,150 megawatts. It can happen.

6 Thank you.

7 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

8 Next, I have Ted Lewis.

9 SPEAKER LEWIS: Can you hear me?

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can hear you.

11 SPEAKER LEWIS: Okay. My name is Ted Lewis.

12 T-E-D, L-E-W-I-S.

13 I agree with all my neighbors who are against this  
14 wind farm project. It's ill-conceived -- it's an  
15 ill-conceived plan, and it's going to do more harm than  
16 good. We don't need it, and we don't want it.

17 Thank you.

18 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

19 Next, I have Joan Lewis.

20 SPEAKER J. LEWIS: Hello?

21 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: We can hear you.

22 SPEAKER J. LEWIS: Okay. For all of the  
23 reasons -- I'm sorry. (Inaudible) right here with his  
24 tablet, so I'll start over.

25 For all the reasons expressed by those opposing, I

1 am adamantly against this massive, intrusive turbine wind  
2 project.

3 We need to encourage more nuclear and hydropower  
4 projects. Many of the new jobs mentioned at the beginning  
5 will be numerous, but will be reduced drastically after the  
6 project is completed. Again, I am adamantly opposed to this  
7 project. Thank you.

8 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

9 Next, I have Derrick Stricker.

10 SPEAKER STRICKER: Good afternoon. My name  
11 is Derrick Stricker, D-E-R-R-I-C-K, S-T-R-I-C-K-E-R.

12 My family and I are not in favor of this massive  
13 intrusive wind turbine project. The future growth of our  
14 growing MSA is confined by the Columbia River, which leads  
15 to the future commercial and residential growth along the  
16 southern boundary of the (inaudible).

17 This project not only interferes, it stops the  
18 ability of our economy to grow in this region, which will  
19 severely hurt our supply and demand for population growth,  
20 economic prosperity and free market principles.

21 As a young professional, I'm already planning and  
22 working towards what best helps our community by 2050. This  
23 project impacts our future negatively and diminishes the  
24 history that will be built here in Tri-Cities. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

1 Next, I have Charles Barnett.

2 SPEAKER BARNETT: Charles Barnett.

3 C-H-A-R-L-E-S, B-A-R-N-E-T-T.

4 I'm strongly against this Horse Heaven Hills Wind  
5 Farm Project. I'm a licensed pilot and enjoy many hours of  
6 updraft flight along the proposed area of this project, as  
7 do many large birds and migratory birds that soar along that  
8 ridgeline.

9 This project would prohibit my enjoyment and that  
10 of the birds of prey and their natural desire to soar and  
11 hunt for food. I fear that many birds will be killed and/or  
12 injured because of this project.

13 Next, I live in Benton City, Washington. I'm  
14 about a mile and a half from the project. We have 40 acres  
15 there. I've lived there for 50 years. The visual  
16 aesthetics for this project will lower my attitude and my  
17 property value.

18 The movement of the blades during the day and the  
19 flashing lights at night will be very distracting and  
20 unnatural to the area.

21 This project does not benefit the US manufacturers  
22 that send our -- that send our tax money overseas.

23 The power is not slated to be used here locally.  
24 It's set to go away from the area. And yet the people that  
25 are using the power doesn't want it in their backyard.

1 That's why they want to put it in our backyard. It just  
2 doesn't make sense to me.

3 I'm strongly against this project. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

5 Next, we have Dan Wirth.

6 SPEAKER WARD: Dana Ward?

7 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: No, it's Dan Wirth. Dana  
8 Ward is a little lower.

9 SPEAKER WARD: Thank you.

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: No problem.

11 SPEAKER WIRTH: Do you hear me?

12 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes. We can hear you,  
13 Dan.

14 SPEAKER WIRTH: Okay. It's Dan Wirth, D-A-N,  
15 W-I-R-T-H.

16 And regarding the Horse Heaven Wind Farm, my  
17 opinion is this country needs all the clean energy it can  
18 produce, whether it be wind, solar, thermal, hydroelectric  
19 or nuclear. I am not discounting the continuing need for  
20 fossil fuels until we can transition to 100 percent clean  
21 energy.

22 In regard to the Scout Windmill Farm, my opinion  
23 is to use the larger windmills in fewer numbers at the  
24 farthest distance feasible from view. I do not feel that  
25 they will cause a detrimental effect to the environment or

1 animal habitat. The benefits of the wind and solar farm  
2 will outweigh any negatives.

3 Thank you for your time.

4 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

5 Next, we have Jim Atkins.

6 SPEAKER ATKINS: Can you hear me?

7 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes.

8 SPEAKER ATKINS: Okay. Can you hear me now?

9 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

10 SPEAKER ATKINS: Okay. First off, I'd like  
11 to talk about the water issues. On table ES-5 it talks  
12 about traffic, transportation of traffic and not being much  
13 of an issue. But there is a letter from the Port of  
14 Walla Walla saying that they can support the Horse Heaven  
15 Hills Wind Project with 40 water trucks per day. And it  
16 doesn't state how many gallons these trucks are, and it  
17 doesn't state a route they take. So that is a significant  
18 impact to the community.

19 Also on table ES-3-B, it says waste water is 5,000  
20 gallons per day, but it doesn't state how they're going to  
21 get rid of that. So there should be something -- it also  
22 states ENR-5, they're going to capture and recycle wash  
23 water. They should have a plan for that. And as I stated  
24 though, the water trucks will come from Wallula, Dodd Road.  
25 That's a (inaudible).

1           Regarding the shadow flicker SF-2, it has a  
2 one-year complaint line to be reassessed after one year;  
3 that's if you have a complaint, you can call in and they'll  
4 log it down. Well, if they're going to log it down, they  
5 should give a log number to the person who is calling in to  
6 complain so that they can follow up with EFSEC and be sure  
7 the log -- the issue is being addressed.

8           The other thing is, who is going to have oversight  
9 of this project? With all these mitigation issues, somebody  
10 needs to be oversight of what's going on. Who is going to  
11 pay for that oversight? Washington residents.

12           And how are we to know that Scout Energy is being  
13 honest and truthful, because when you look at -- Washington  
14 state should have full and control power over all these  
15 mitigating issues. That means to stop what they're doing,  
16 to halt the project to make sure they're in compliance.

17           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you. You're out of  
18 time.

19           SPEAKER ATKINS: Thank you. Bye.

20           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

21           Next, we have Judy Guse.

22           SPEAKER GUSE: Can you hear me?

23           SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

24           SPEAKER GUSE: Judy Guse, J-U-D-Y, G-U-S-E.

25           Who will be liable when there's a turbine fire



1 that spits oil-laden debris over vast areas igniting further  
2 fires and spewing smoke and fumes from dangerous chemicals  
3 for miles into the atmosphere, uncontrolled or managed.  
4 Fires from turbines are extremely toxic. Who knows what the  
5 ultimate damage these toxic plumes will be to people,  
6 particularly to children and the elderly and to wildlife and  
7 fish and rivers and streams.

8 Because of the turbine height, the fire department  
9 crew can do little but watch it burn itself out. Our county  
10 doesn't have a fire department with resources, knowledge or  
11 equipment to fight a fire on a 671-foot tall turbine in a  
12 desert where there are copious amounts of tumbleweeds and  
13 dried grasses that burn rapidly and spread quickly to  
14 surrounding homes. Hundreds of acres can be consumed in a  
15 single turbine fire, and just one fire incident can cost up  
16 to 4.5 million to contain.

17 Who will be liable for the damage to crops, the  
18 loss of human life, homes and animals?

19 We are dealing with high voltage machines called  
20 aerogenerators high in the sky, operating with hundreds of  
21 gallons of oil and lubricants subject to fires. Research  
22 suggests that one of the main ignition sources for fires in  
23 turbines is lightning strikes.

24 We have a lot of dry lightning strikes in our  
25 area. Our area is a high fire risk because of our desert

1 climate, where our vegetation is a primed tinder box for  
2 fire in the summer.

3 Wind developers provide no protection to  
4 individuals or communities that have these wind projects  
5 imposed upon them with lack of control, regulation and  
6 protection for people, animals, landscapes and communities.  
7 There is no universal fire protection guideline that is  
8 enforceable. Any other industry would be and is required to  
9 have much more accountability. There needs to be fire  
10 protection in place that will put out a turbine fire before  
11 it spreads to nearby homes. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

13 Next, we have Jeanie Polehn.

14 SPEAKER POLEHN: I'm Jeanie Polehn. Can you  
15 hear me?

16 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can hear you.

17 SPEAKER POLEHN: Okay. It's Jeanie, JEANIE;  
18 last name Polehn, P like Paul, O like orange, L like Linda,  
19 E like Edward, H like Henry, N like Nancy.

20 And I have submitted these comments to EFSEC  
21 already, but I want to bring out that I have not seen  
22 anything in the EIS where they have contacted Washington  
23 State Farmland Preservation. And we're going to be losing  
24 that farmland, and we need that -- the farmland to eat,  
25 folks. And the contamination of that farmland with

1 (inaudible), which become hazardous materials and cannot be  
2 removed from those soils, so it will be basically poisoned.

3 We'll have the loss of visual scenery. No photos  
4 are provided in that EIS of actually seeing what the  
5 homeowners will see, as well as their -- the loss and  
6 valuation of their property.

7 And then we have blowing dust, where we can't even  
8 see the streets and the houses across from us. And this  
9 will add to that blowing dust scenario and impact people's  
10 health and cause health issues.

11 Also, I haven't seen anything on tectonic movement  
12 of the areas where the wind turbines will be located. I  
13 haven't seen that it's been adequately tested for or  
14 anything like that in there.

15 And then wind turbines do not provide on-demand  
16 power 24 hours a day, seven days a week so it does not  
17 interrupt the current power system. And it will also raise  
18 the cost of electric power, and that hasn't been dealt with.

19 On separate from the EIS, the funding for the  
20 decontamination and decommissioning of the project needs to  
21 be looked at.

22 CHAIR DREW: I'm sorry. Your time is up.  
23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER POLEHN: Okay.

25 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

1 Next, we have Gene Guse.

2 SPEAKER GUSE: Yes. I just want to say that  
3 I'm not in favor of this massive wind project.

4 That's all.

5 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

6 Up next, we have Joe Loera.

7 SPEAKER LOERA: Hello. Can you hear me?

8 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

9 SPEAKER LOERA: Wonderful. So I -- let me  
10 spell my name first. J-O-S-E, last name Loera, L-O-E-R-A.

11 I've lived in Tri-Cities for over 35 years. I've  
12 watched this community grow into just a beautiful, vibrant  
13 community, and I see absolutely nothing positive with this  
14 wind farm coming in the Tri-Cities.

15 From my perspective, it's going to be detrimental  
16 to our wildlife. It's going to be detrimental to our scenic  
17 views. The jobs that they're talking about are going to be  
18 short-term and only going to be there while they build the  
19 project, and afterwards, our jobs are going to be minimal,  
20 is my understanding.

21 And then finally, the power company locally is  
22 saying this isn't something that we need for this community.

23 So I absolutely have to say this is a hard no.  
24 Not interested in the wind farm in Tri-Cities. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

1                   Next, we have Patricia Loera. Is Patricia Loera  
2                   on the line?

3                   SPEAKER P. LOERA: Yes. This is Patricia  
4                   Loera.

5                   SPEAKER GRANTHAM: We can hear you. Go  
6                   ahead.

7                   SPEAKER P. LOERA: P-A-T-R-I-C-I-A; last name  
8                   Loera, L-O-E-R-A.

9                   I would like to voice my opposition to this  
10                  project. I strongly believe that this wind farm project is  
11                  of no benefit to our beautiful local community.

12                  My main objections are, what is the negative  
13                  impact it will have on our wildlife, our birds, migratory  
14                  and otherwise, and our beautiful natural vistas. Simply  
15                  stated, this is too big of a project. It's too close to too  
16                  many people, and it will impact so many people.

17                  Our community is growing every day, and this is  
18                  not the place to build a big, giant wind farm project so  
19                  close to metropolitan areas. We need to protect our rural  
20                  natural habitat and Tri-Cities. Thank you.

21                  SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

22                  Up next, we have Theresa Mercer. Do we have a  
23                  Theresa Mercer on the line?

24                  I will go ahead and call the next person. Dana  
25                  Ward.

1                   SPEAKER WARD: Yes, this is Dana Ward,  
2     D-A-N-A, W-A-R-D. I'm the conservation chair for the Lower  
3     Columbia Basin Audubon Society situated in the Tri-Cities.

4                   My comments will be strictly to the biological  
5     resources. Thank you for allowing me to make a comment.

6                   The seriousness of climate change and the  
7     resulting impact to human life, the environment and welfare  
8     of the earth relies on intelligent actions to limit carbon  
9     emissions from fossil fuels and other sources. The  
10    construction of solar arrays and wind turbines are important  
11    steps to slow or even reverse global warming.

12                  The Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society supports  
13    well-planned solar and wind turbine projects, but they must  
14    be sited reasonably, they must take into account, as a  
15    minimum, biological habitat and biological resources that  
16    would be impacted. From our review of the DEIS, it falls  
17    well short of attaining this goal.

18                  To allow the adequate environmental review, the  
19    final EIS for the Horse Heaven Hills must include a specific  
20    site design identification and analysis of reasonable  
21    alternatives that minimalize or eliminate impacts to the  
22    environmental resources such as disappearing shrub-steppe,  
23    avian species such as ferruginous hawks and burrowing owls,  
24    as well as prey species such as (inaudible).

25                  In a broader sense, the EIS must address the

1 likely environmental impacts associated with specific siting  
2 decisions and specific mitigation measures with associated  
3 performance measures that address the regional impacts to  
4 birds, mammals and plant populations and their habitat  
5 connectivity.

6 We have submitted 20 pages of specific comments,  
7 and we have a review of four issues the DIS does not provide  
8 enough information to analyze likely environmental impact.

9 Issue 2. The draft environmental impact --

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Excuse me, Dana. You are  
11 now out of time. Thank you.

12 SPEAKER WARD: Okay. Thank you.

13 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Up next, I have Bradley  
14 Wagner. Do we have Bradley Wagner on the line?

15 I will go ahead and call the next person, Lori  
16 Mattson.

17 SPEAKER MATTSON: Hi. I'm Lori Mattson. Can  
18 you hear me?

19 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Yes, we can.

20 SPEAKER MATTSON: I'm Lori Mattson, L-O-R-I,  
21 M-A-T-T-S-O-N. I'm president and CEO of the Tri-City  
22 Regional Chamber of Commerce.

23 As the fifth largest chamber in Washington,  
24 representing over 900 businesses, ranging from sole  
25 proprietors to the largest employers in the bi-county

1 region, we urge EFSEC to consider our community's voice in  
2 this proposal.

3 The state energy strategy asserts that public and  
4 community participation is important to ensure energy policy  
5 is informed by local knowledge, meets local needs and is  
6 viewed as legitimate by the local community.

7 By the state's own analysis, this region's  
8 hydroelectric and nuclear power is 93 percent non-emitting,  
9 and impacts a substantially smaller footprint with several  
10 times the effective load carrying capacity.

11 This project would be just a few miles from a  
12 major population center of 300-plus thousand residents. The  
13 size and scale is inconsistent with the Benton County Land  
14 Use Plan, inconsistent with the character of the surrounding  
15 land use, and at the height of the Space Needle, these 244  
16 wind structures would create an incredible barrier to our  
17 local economy.

18 Recreation and tourism provides over \$500 million  
19 annually to our local economy. Suggested mitigation to  
20 recreation and tourism impacts amount to suggestions that  
21 regional partners wholly identify new recreational  
22 activities.

23 Suggested light and glare mitigation strategies do  
24 not account for the vast difference in scale that the  
25 proposed turbines are from existing installations



1 encompassing 72,000 acres of land and exceeding the Space  
2 Needle in height area surrounded by no other infrastructure  
3 of the same height and number.

4 Please consider the negative impacts to the  
5 Tri-Cities and recognize that this project is not informed  
6 by local knowledge, does not meet local needs, and is not  
7 viewed as legitimate by the local community.

8 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

9 Up next, I have Doug Fearing.

10 SPEAKER FEARING: Doug Fearing, D-O-U-G,  
11 F-E-A-R-I-N-G.

12 I am adamantly opposed to this project. I'm a  
13 74-year community resident, and I'd like to address a few of  
14 the claims regarding wind farms and their impact.

15 We hear claims made about how many houses a  
16 particular wind farm will power. Maybe it's 1,000 or even  
17 2,000. The truth is if the wind isn't blowing, they won't  
18 even power one house.

19 Claims are made that wind power's economical to  
20 produce. I've read wind turbines will never make it to the  
21 breakeven point, energy production versus cost during the  
22 life of the generator. We hear that wind power is a great  
23 energy source. Well, so is lightning. But they both share  
24 a common problem called reliability.

25 We'll hear arguments tonight about the jobs this

1 wind farm will create. Earthquakes, tornadoes and tsunamis  
2 all create jobs. The creation of jobs, in and of itself,  
3 has nothing to do with the merits of wind energy as a power  
4 source.

5 I understand this project means income, but I ask  
6 our union workers to take a hard look at our -- their  
7 community and consider the fact that these are short-term  
8 jobs with long-term results, results that disfigure our  
9 community, destroy our skyline and essentially and  
10 effectively will shut down one of the only true corridors  
11 for growth the city of Kennewick has.

12 The Horse Heaven Hills are not scablands. They're  
13 occupied by farms and numerous multi-million dollar homes  
14 and is prime view property. The undisputed fact is that  
15 building these machines near a residential area severely  
16 devalues property and homes.

17 Windmills aren't built on national monuments or in  
18 parks because why? They're an eyesore. If these wind  
19 turbines are built along the crest of Horse Heaven Hills, we  
20 might as well build a big wall here with a sign hanging from  
21 it saying, Here's where Kennewick ends.

22 This last year I spoke at a public meeting --

23 CHAIR DREW: I'm sorry. Your time is up.  
24 Please submit the rest of your comments in writing.

25 SPEAKER FEARING: Thank you.

1 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

2 Up next, I have Dave Drollinger.

3 SPEAKER DROLLINGER: Yes. My name is Dave  
4 Drollinger, D-A-V-E, D-R-O-L-L-I-N-G-E-R.

5 I'm here to simply state that I'm adamantly  
6 opposed to this project. I think it's just another good  
7 old-fashioned boondoggle like this country has seen off and  
8 on since its inception. And I think it's also,  
9 unfortunately, a virtue-signaling scheme to make people feel  
10 good.

11 We've got -- this type of energy is hugely  
12 inefficient. Nuclear power is much greener, much more  
13 prolific of an energy producer or of magnitude greater.  
14 What this project would do, this -- like the gentleman  
15 before me said, that the only growth Kennewick has is to the  
16 south, and all of that is prime real estate property whose  
17 property values are going to be incredibly devalued because  
18 of their existence. And there's hardly a way to put a price  
19 on it, but it will be, over the course of 50 years, easily  
20 in the tens of millions of dollars.

21 And so the bottom line is this project is not  
22 necessarily for here or any other place in the country, and  
23 the -- the appearance of it is like a graffiti, and it's  
24 graffiti that the proponents and who's going to benefit --  
25 the few that are going to benefit from this, they wouldn't

1 want this graffiti on their home or their neighborhood any  
2 more than we want it. Thank you.

3 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

4 Next, we have Ira Johnson.

5 SPEAKER JOHNSON: Hi, I'm Ira Johnson.

6 I-R-A, J-O-H-N-S-O-N.

7 And I am against this scam. That's what it is;  
8 it's a scam. Take all the pros that we've heard tonight and  
9 all the cons for and against, and there's no reason for  
10 these to be put anywhere, let alone our backyard.

11 They do -- first off, they're made in China,  
12 people. Why are we making another country rich? Why don't  
13 we make them here if you're going to make them.

14 They're not recyclable. Where you going to put  
15 the junk? Do like China? We send them our garbage, they're  
16 going to take it out to sea and dump it; then it'll wash  
17 ashore?

18 It's not dependable. They wear out. And mainly,  
19 they're not cost effective. If it wasn't for us taxpayers,  
20 the federal government, subsidizing those things, they  
21 wouldn't be put in. If they're so dependable and so cost  
22 effective, let that engineering company who wants to put  
23 them in, put them in at their expense and we'll see if it  
24 happens. It won't.

25 This will affect banks, this will affect

1 investors, and most importantly us taxpayers who are here  
2 faced with the consequences.

3 Now, of course, you can justify anything. You've  
4 got to realize, I'm from Texas, and I learned years ago from  
5 a guy named Billie Sol Estes, who sold fertilizer tanks and  
6 they didn't even exist. So you can sell and justify  
7 anything, but I beg you to take and pray over this when you  
8 make your decision.

9 Thank you so much for letting me speak.

10 SPEAKER GRANTHAM: Thank you.

11 Up next, I have Linda Manca. Do we have Linda  
12 Manca on the line?

13 I will go ahead and call the next person, who is  
14 the last person on my list, Travers Bracy.

15 SPEAKER BRACY: Travers Bracy, T-R-A-V-E-R-S,  
16 B-R-A-C-Y.

17 I'm not going to say anything that hasn't already  
18 been said by most of the people on this call, but I'd just  
19 like to point out that community members that have talked  
20 and pointed out their opposition are all from around here.  
21 The people who seem to be for this wind project all seem to  
22 be from -- not from around here, especially the union  
23 members who have been put up and given the canned speeches  
24 and talking points by their international organization.

25 There's plenty of job opportunities for

1 electricians, contractors, construction workers in this  
2 industry -- in this area, and this wind farm won't even be a  
3 drop in the bucket. There's electricians that are looking  
4 for jobs, union and non-union, all the time, and there's  
5 plenty of work for them. So that's not a justifiable excuse  
6 to put this wind farm in.

7 The best argument against that I've heard tonight,  
8 that I'd like to reinforced, is the lack of water and a good  
9 plan for where they're going to -- how they're going to get  
10 rid of these windmills when they're all worn out.

11 Another thing that I haven't heard tonight is the  
12 antelope population has been reintroduced to the Horse  
13 Heaven Hills. It's grown greatly in the last few years.  
14 It's pretty awesome to see the herds up there. When you  
15 drive through the roads and the farmlands, you'll see them  
16 grazing along, very good environment for them. So that's  
17 another impact to the environment that these constructions  
18 and windmills will impact.

19 I don't know any other animal population that  
20 lives under windmills, but I just urge the committee to do  
21 the right thing and turn down this proposal. Thank you.

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. That concludes our  
23 public meeting on the draft environmental impact statement  
24 for the Horse Heaven proposal.

25 Again, you have until 11:59 p.m. tonight to submit

public comments in writing at [www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov).

Thank you very much and good night.

(Meeting Concluded 7:43 p.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

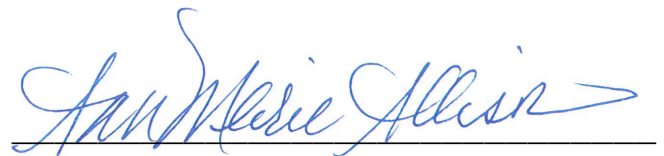
STATE OF WASHINGTON ) I, Ann Marie G. Allison, CCR,  
) certified court reporter, State of  
COUNTY OF PIERCE ) Washington, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing meeting was taken before me, via  
Teams video conference, completed on February 1, 2023, and  
thereafter transcribed by me;

That the transcript contains a full, true and complete  
reporting and transcription of the proceedings;

That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel  
of any party to this action, or relative or employee of any  
such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially  
interested in the said action or the outcome thereof;

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my signature on  
the 14th day of February, 2023.



Ann Marie G. Allison, CCR  
Certified Court Reporter #3375