

Michael S. Martin

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State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

Re: *High Top and Ostrea Solar Project, Yakima County*

Following are my comments on the High Top and Ostrea Solar projects, located in Yakima County:

It is clear that EFSEC has following its procedures in accordance with Washington laws in approving both of these projects.

It is also clear the Yakima County Commissioners missed the boat in not adopting a siting ordinance ahead of time, if that was their big concern. Yakima County has no authority to challenge a prior legal decision, especially since Yakima County dropped the ball. If this was such an important local decision, it should have previously adopted ordinances. Rather, this seems a whining complaint.

EFSEC considered the application, and approved it. It is a done deal.

Yakima County counters that the land will be taken out of agricultural and is used by wildlife – elk and various birds. What Yakima County avoids discussing is that, regarding owner rights, a property owner may decide that the most beneficial use of his/her properties is in solar arrays. I have heard there are more cattle lately on the land proposed for the solar farms, but I have never seen cattle there for 30 plus years. Wildlife, if indeed they are present, will move their migration and browsing routes. The sites are currently comparatively non-producing, and the owner should be able to select the highest and best use for the property as he/she sees fit. Basically, the County's complaints are sour grapes because the County was not prescient enough to adopt a siting ordinance prior to the legal state process. Tough. It's too late now.

EFSEC should move forward with the approval process and let the property owner develop his property to maximize his returns and develop green energy.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,



Michael Martin

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