

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

From: Thomas and Candace Holub

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Date: August 2, 2023

Re: Stop Carriger/Cypress Creek Solar Project off Knight Road

My name is Tom Holub. I am a resident of Klickitat County, WA. My wife and I have owned 4 ½ acres here since 2006. We are not opposed to solar power in general. We have solar panels on the roof of our house where they belong. I am here to speak because my wife and I are adamantly opposed to the proposed Carriger/Cypress Creek Knight Road industrial solar project.

I attended the Klickitat County Board of Commissioners 6:00 p.m. meeting on August 1, 2023 where the Commissioners voted to extend the moratorium on solar projects over one acre in size, to include most of the area of the valley surrounding Goldendale, WA and Centerville, WA. This is after the Klickitat County Planning Commissioners voted unanimously to continue this moratorium.

Klickitat County Commissioner Lori Zoller reported that when she visited the Newell Road fire near Bickleton, WA and the Lund Hills industrial solar facility last week to obtain information from the fire officials about the fire, this is what she found out from DNR representatives and other fire officials:

1. Efforts were diverted from other areas of the fire in order to focus attention on the wind farms in the area and the Lund Hill solar facility. It was necessary to focus on the Lund Hill solar facility because if the fire got to the solar installation, the whole area would have to be evacuated, including the fire fighters. The fire crews do not have the ability to fight an industrial solar complex fire. The fire would have to be allowed to burn out.
2. They told Commissioner Zoller that if there was a fire at or near the proposed Carriger/Cypress Creek Knight Road industrial solar project that the entire city of Goldendale would have to be evacuated, as well as the surrounding residents of the area.
3. Also, the fire officials told her that fire retardant cannot be dropped from helicopters or airplanes onto an solar facility because the retardent is clay based and would break the solar panels.
4. Airplane and helicopter access to areas around industrial solar is severely restricted due to the extensive grid of overhead wires that carry power from the solar facility.

The valley surrounding Goldendale and Centerville has extreme fire danger for over 6 months a year. The health and safety issues regarding this fire danger is far too much of a risk for the residents of this area.

It would be irresponsible and downright dangerous for EFSEC to approve the Carriger/Cypress Creek Knight Road industrial solar project given the likelihood of fire in this area. The most recent fire in this area happened less than a month ago and came very close to being out of control, threatening the Pondersa Park housing area. The fire danger is extreme every year in this valley.

As stated at a meeting by a Klickitat County Planning Commissioner, “there are tens of thousands of acres in Klickitat County that are appropriate for large-scale solar development, but the valley surrounding Goldendale and Centerville are not appropriate.”