Exhibit 12.6

Attachment to Testimony of Richard Weinman
Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan Goals, Policies & Objectives

Chapter 2 of the Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan outlines general Land Use Goals, Policies and Objectives (GPOs). The following analysis discusses some of the general GPOs that are most relevant to the Desert Claim Project proposal. An analysis, shown in italics, follows each GPO.

GPO 2.1   The maintenance and enhancement of Kittitas County's natural resource industry base including but not limited to agricultural, mineral and energy resources.

Analysis: *The proposed Project furthers this GPO in two ways. First, it utilizes the County's natural wind resource to generate electrical resources. Second, it enhances the County's agricultural base by allowing existing farming and ranching to continue in the Project Area while at the same providing an additional source of income for the farmers and ranchers.*

GPO 2.2   Diversified economic development providing broader employment opportunities.

Analysis: *As shown in the study conducted by Central Washington University, the proposed Project will help to diversify the local economy. It will create significant numbers of jobs during both the construction of the Project and its on-going operation and maintenance.*

GPO 2.5   Kittitas County should encourage residential and economic growth that will minimize the costs of providing public utilities and services.

Analysis: *As shown in the study conducted by Central Washington University, the proposed Project will generate significant economic activity as well as tax revenue that Kittitas County could use to help pay for public services. At the same time, however, the Project will not require the extension of public utilities to the Project Area and will place relatively small demands on public services.*

GPO 2.6   Kittitas County will maintain a flexible balance of land uses.

Analysis: *The proposed Project adds to the diversity of rural land uses, while allowing existing farming and ranching to continue in the Project Area.*

GPO 2.7   Kittitas County will cooperate with the private sector and local communities in actively improving conditions for economic growth and development.

Analysis: *As shown in the study conducted by Central Washington University, the proposed Project will generate significant local economic activity.*

The Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan designates the Project Area as Rural. Chapter 8, Section 8.5, of the Comprehensive Plan states: "Rural lands in Kittitas County are now, and have historically been, a mix of resource lands, rural neighborhoods, and varied developments scattered throughout the county." The Plan's GPOs for land uses on rural lands are "established in an attempt to prevent sprawl, direct growth toward the Urban Growth Areas and Nodes, provide for a variety of densities and uses, respect private property rights, provide for residences, recreation, and economic development opportunities, support farming, forestry and mining activities, show concern for shorelines, critical areas, habitat, scenic areas, and open space while keeping with good governance and the wishes of the people of Kittitas County and to comply with the Growth Management Act and other planning mandates."

The following GPOs address land uses in the County's Rural areas and apply to the development of wind power resources:

GPO 8.5   Kittitas County recognizes and agrees with the need for continued diversity in densities and uses on Rural Lands.

Analysis: *Wind power facilities would help to diversify land uses on Rural Lands, which currently are primarily agricultural in the Project Area.*

GPO 8.9   Projects or developments, which result in the significant conservation of rural lands or rural character, will be encouraged.

Analysis: *The proposed wind power facilities would not displace existing rural land uses on the 5,200-acre Project Area, which are primarily agricultural and low density residential in nature. Grazing and other existing uses would continue. By providing additional income to farmers and ranchers, the proposed facilities could help to relieve pressure to convert Project Area lands to*

>   *non-agricultural uses, thus helping to conserve the underlying agricultural use.*

GPO 8.11   Existing and traditional uses should be protected and supported while allowing as much as possible for diversity, progress, experimentation, development, and choice in keeping with the retention of Rural Lands.

Analysis: *As indicated above, the proposed wind power facility would allow existing and traditional rural uses to continue, while promoting a greater diversity of activities (energy production) and progress in producing sustainable energy. Wind farms are a relatively new and innovative type of energy (or utility) use that would support economic growth and generate revenues to Kittitas County and junior taxing districts.*

GPO 8.23   Kittitas County will continue to explore incentives for farming and ranching to continue as significant land uses.

Analysis: *The Project will provide additional income to the farmers and ranchers leasing property for the Project's development, while at the same time allowing them to continue to use the properties for farming and ranching. In this way, the proposed Project may help farming and ranching to continue on these lands.*

Utilities

Kittitas County categorizes wind farms as a utility use, not as an industrial activity. (Definitions of "utilities" and "industrial uses" are contained in the Glossary of Terms (Appendix A) of the Comprehensive Plan.) The Comprehensive Plan states that utilities using natural resources may be appropriate in rural areas:

> *The economy of our rural community has traditionally been based on natural resource activities and Kittitas County encourages and supports their continuation in Rural Lands.... Economically viable farming and logging may occur with or beyond the state designated areas but more and more it is necessary to supplement income from outside sources in order to support natural resource operations. Other businesses and economic growth can be realized without sacrificing our rural character.*

The goals, policies, and objectives in the Utilities section of the Comprehensive Plan seek to plan for expansion or improvement of utility systems; encourage coordination between jurisdictions and utility providers; and ensure the proper placement and appropriateness of utility siting. The following is an analysis of the Comprehensive Plan's utility GPOs that are relevant to the proposed Project:

GPO 6.1   The County should promote the joint use of transportation rights-of-way and other utility corridors consistent with the underlying private property rights and easement limitations.

Analysis: *This GPO is intended to maximize the use of existing utility corridors and prevent the unnecessary creation of new corridors. By locating adjacent to the existing Bonneville Power Administration and Puget Sound Energy transmission lines, the proposed Project avoids creating new corridors for transmission lines.*

GPO 6.7   Decisions made by Kittitas County regarding utility facilities will be made in a manner consistent with and complementary to regional demands and resources.

Analysis: *The proposed wind power facility would be consistent with GPO 6.7. Desert Claim is proposed in response to state-wide and regional growth and associated demand for energy. Long term population forecasts by the Office of Financial Management (OFM) indicate that the state's population could increase from 5,894,121 in 2000 to 8,509,161 in 2030 (OFM, 2007, Medium forecast). Employment is projected to grow as well, from 3,050,000 jobs in 2000 to 4,212,000 jobs in 2030 (OFM, 2008). The demand for energy will also increase in conjunction with this growth. State law (RCW 19.285, I-937) also requires energy utilities to generate 15 percent of their energy from renewable resources, including wind energy, by 2020. The proposed site is located is an area of Kittitas County that is characterized by high quality wind resources.*

GPO 6.8   Additions to and improvements of utilities facilities will be allowed to occur at a time and in a manner sufficient to serve growth.

Analysis: *The Desert Claim Wind Power project is proposed to meet a portion of the energy demand associated with expected state-wide growth in population and jobs; it would be consistent with GPO 6.8.*

GPO 6.18   Decisions made regarding utilities facilities should be consistent with and complementary to regional demand and resources and should reinforce an interconnected regional distribution network.

Analysis: *As explained above, the Project will help to serve the growing regional demand for renewable power. The proposed Project is located immediately adjacent to several existing transmission lines*

and would interconnect with one of those existing lines to deliver power to the regional electric grid. Electricity generated by Desert Claim's proposed wind turbines would be collected through cables that run primarily below the ground in the Project Area to an on-site substation. The proposal would be consistent with GPO 6.18.

GPO 6.21   Avoid, where possible, routing major electric transmission lines above 55 kv through urban areas.

Analysis: By locating adjacent to existing high voltage transmission lines, the Project avoids any need to route new lines through urban areas.

GPO 6.32   Electric and natural gas transmission and distribution facilities may be sited within and through areas of Kittitas County both inside and outside of municipal boundaries, UGAs, UGNs, Master Planned Resorts, and Fully Contained Communities, including to and through rural areas of Kittitas County.

GPO 6.34   Wind farms may only be located in areas designated as Wind Farm Resource overlay districts in the Comprehensive Plan. Such Wind Farm Resource overlay districts need not be designated as Major Industrial Developments under Chapter 2.5 of the Comprehensive Plan.

Analysis: While GPO 6.32 expresses a very permissive policy regarding the siting of energy facilities anywhere in the County, this is limited by GPO 6.34 to lands designated as Wind Farm Overlay districts. The County's wind farm siting process requires a project-specific change in the Comprehensive Plan designation. The Desert Claim proposal is not consistent with GPO 6.34 because the Board of County Commissioners denied the requested approvals and permits.

Chapter 10 of the Comprehensive Plan addresses Economic Development. The following GPOs are relevant to the proposed Project:

GPO 10.1   Be a county that supports the varied needs and demands of the community and surrounding area through the understanding and creation of a supportive and active environment for economic development in the community.

Analysis: As shown in the Central Washington University study, the proposed Project will result in significant economic activity in the local community.

GPO 10.2   Support the retention and expansion of local businesses/industries and recruitment of new businesses/industries in order to maintain a strong job and wage base.

Analysis: *As shown in the Central Washington University study, the proposed Project will create many new jobs, and generate significant economic activity that will benefit existing businesses in the local economy.*

GPO 10.3   Implement regulations that recognize and further the diversity of industry and the business community, while also promoting the sustainability of natural resource based activities.

Analysis: *As shown in the Central Washington University study, the proposed Project will help to diversity the local economy, while also providing additional income to local farmers and ranchers.*

GPO 10.4   Encourage economic growth while protecting the rural character of the County.

Analysis: *As shown in the Central Washington University study, the proposed Project will generate significant local economic activity. At the same time, it will help to protect the rural character of the County by allowing continued farming and ranching activities on the Project Area and providing additional income to farmers and ranchers.*