

**WAC 197-11-960 Environmental checklist.**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST**

*Purpose of checklist:*

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), chapter 43.21C RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information about potential impacts from the proposal to modify EFSEC's Rules (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed proposal, if applicable:

Rules adoption.

2. Name of proposer:

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

Allen Fiksdal, EFSEC Manager,  
PO Box 43172, Olympia, WA 98504-3172,  
Phone: 360-956-2152

4. Date checklist prepared:

December x, 2003

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Issue a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (also called a CR 102) in January 2004 with an issuance of a Notice of Rule Order (or CR 103) in May 2004.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal? If yes, explain.

Update of other EFSEC rules (Chapter 463 WAC) may be necessary in the future. There are no immediate plans for substantive rulemaking during the next year.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

There is information regarding the impacts of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as other environmental information on issues under consideration in EFSEC's rulemaking in Environmental Impact Statements issued by EFSEC for the Sumas Energy 2 Generation Facility and the Wallula Generation Project. (these are available on the EFSEC website: [www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov))

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

Does not apply.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Does not apply.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the proposal and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agencies may modify this form to include additional specific information on proposal description.)

Adoption of new and modified rules to set standards and procedures for siting electrical generation facilities under EFSEC jurisdiction in Chapter 463 WAC. Standards would relate to: noise; seismicity; fish and wildlife; water resources; site certification agreement expiration; wetlands; site restoration; environmental, esthetic and other benefits; water quality; air quality, and socioeconomic impact. In addition, modifications to the EFSEC NPDES permit program, administrative procedures and application requirements are proposed.

Other proposed rules changes would update EFSEC administrative process contained in Chapter 463 WAC regarding public records, public meetings and hearings, fee development, potential site studies, and consultants.

12. Location of the proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed proposal, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographic map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any permit applications related to this checklist.

Proposed changes to the EFSEC rules would apply to applications for new and expanded energy facilities statewide, within EFSEC's jurisdiction..

## B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

### 1. Earth

a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountainous, other.

Does not apply.

b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Does not apply.

- c. What general types of soils are found on the site (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Does not apply.

- d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply.

- f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

The proposed rules provide for control of storm water runoff to prevent erosion and contamination of soils.

- g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after proposal  
h. construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does not apply.

- i. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Does not apply.

## 2. Air

- a. What types of emissions to the air would result from the proposal (i.e., dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the proposal is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply.

- b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

The proposed rules would specify that air emissions be as stringent as state and federal standards. For projects subject to federal Prevention of Significant Deterioration restrictions projects would be required to meet best available control technology (BACT) in limiting regulated emissions. The CO<sub>2</sub> standard would require mitigation of a portion of a new fossil fueled thermal power plant's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**3. Water**

## a. Surface:

- 1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Does not apply.

- 2) Will the proposal require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Does not apply.

- 3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of fill material.

Does not apply.

- 4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply.

- 5) Does the proposal lie within a 100-year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Does not apply.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Does not apply.

## b. Ground:

- 1) Will ground water be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to ground water? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number of such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number of animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

## c. Water runoff (including stormwater):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities, if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- 2) Could waste materials enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

The proposed rules would have water quality standards that every energy facility would need to meet. These standards are based on current state standards that are designed to protect surface, ground, and runoff water quality through actions to control and set limits for the release of contaminants.

**4. Plants**

- a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- \_\_\_\_\_ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
- \_\_\_\_\_ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
- \_\_\_\_\_ shrubs
- \_\_\_\_\_ grass
- \_\_\_\_\_ pasture
- \_\_\_\_\_ crop or grain
- \_\_\_\_\_ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bullrush, skunk cabbage, other
- \_\_\_\_\_ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
- \_\_\_\_\_ other types of vegetation

- b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Does not apply.

- c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply.

- d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

The proposed rule requires use of native plants in mitigation and site restoration.

**5. Animals**

- a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:  
mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:  
fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- a. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply.

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Does not apply.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

The fish and wildlife rule's intent is to achieve no net loss of habitat functions and values, to avoid impacts to threatened and endangered species, and to provide for restoration or replacement of habitat.

## 6. Energy and natural resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electric, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed proposal's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Does not apply.

- b. Would your proposal affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

## 7. Environmental health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste, that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- 1) Describe special emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply.

- 2) Proposed measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

## b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your proposal (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Does not apply.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the proposal on a short-term or a long-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indi-cate what hours noise would come from the site.

Does not apply.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

The rule would set a noise standard for energy facilities that are equal to those currently in Chapter 70.107 RCW and Chapter 173-60 WAC.

**8. Land and shoreline use**

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

Does not apply.

- b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- c. Describe any structures on the site.

Does not apply.

- d. Will any structures be demolished? If so, what?

Does not apply.

- e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

Does not apply.

- f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

Does not apply.

- g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Does not apply.

- h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Does not apply.

- i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed proposal?

Does not apply.

j. Approximately how many people would the completed proposal displace?

Does not apply.

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Does not apply.

## 9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

The socioeconomic rule would require an examination of potential impacts due to additional workers in a community, and measures to reduce or control those impacts.

## 10. Aesthetics

a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply.

b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

## 11. Light and glare

a. What type of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does not apply.



- b. Could light or glare from the finished proposal be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply.

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does not apply.

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

**12. Recreation**

- a. What designated and informal recreational opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

Does not apply.

- b. Would the proposed proposal displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreation opportunities to be provided by the proposal or applicant, if any:

Does not apply.

**13. Historic and cultural preservation**

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archaeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site.

Does not apply.

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

**14. Transportation**

- a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans, if any.

Does not apply.

- b. Is site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does not apply.

- c. How many parking spaces would the completed proposal have? How many would the proposal eliminate?

Does not apply.

- d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Does not apply.

- e. Will the proposal use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed proposal? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Does not apply.

- g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

#### 15. **Public services**

- a. Would the proposal result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

The socioeconomic rule would require an examination of impacts on public services, and measures to reduce or control them.

#### 16. **Utilities**

- a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

Does not apply.

- b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the proposal, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does not apply.

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
Allen J. Fiksdal

Date Submitted: October 21, 2003 .....

**D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS**

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

The adoption of the proposed rules would not cause any increase of discharges to the water and air, nor production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances, or noise. Adoption of the proposed rules would set standards for air and water emissions, and noise. It is uncertain and even doubtful that adoption of the rules would cause more energy developers to site facilities in Washington therefore increasing emissions to water and air, and additional noise. The need for additional energy facilities is driven by growth in population, industry, and other factors, not the adoption of environmental standards that are as stringent or more stringent than what exists or is currently used in Washington state. With these rules EFSEC would continue to or would increase its ability to ensure that energy facilities do not significantly impact the environment.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

The adoption of a CO<sub>2</sub> standard will ensure that a portion of green house gas emissions from fossil-fueled thermal power projects will be mitigated where there is no current regulatory requirement. Many of the other rules provide for the protection of air and water through adoption of existing protective standards for emissions or release of regulated toxic or hazardous materials. The noise rule sets existing state noise standards for energy facilities under EFSEC jurisdiction.

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish, or marine life?

Adoption of many of these rules will specifically address the protection of plants, animals, and marine life. Having rules that require extensive investigation and mitigation of impacts will provide and require protection to plants, animal, and marine life.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Specific requirements contained in these rules would act to conserve plants, animal, fish, or marine life by requiring identification of species, examination for endangered species, and methods of impact avoidance or mitigation if there are impacts identified.

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Although energy facilities may use a great volume of energy or natural resources through construction of the facilities, or use of fuel to power electrical generation facilities,

adoption of these rules will not add to the depletion of such resources. Development of energy facilities will more likely depend on population and industrial growth rather than adoption of rules that set limits and require mitigation of environmental impacts.

Because adoption of these rules is intended to streamline the EFSEC siting process, it is anticipated that it will take fewer weeks to conduct EFSEC's review, therefore there will be fewer automobile trips by fewer people with less paper to argue about issues during an EFSEC review of energy facilities resulting in slightly less energy and fewer natural resources being used.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

These proposed rules encourage the use of the most efficient generation equipment and provide for mitigation of impacts,

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designated (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection; such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

The proposed rules would not by themselves directly affect the areas listed in (4.) above. However, these areas would need to be identified and a determination made whether there were impacts from a proposed energy facility in the areas listed above. If adopted, the rules would provide standards that are designed to meet existing state and federal air and water quality standards, and to avoid or mitigate for fish and wildlife impacts. The rules would require identification of any threatened or endangered species or habitat, historic or cultural sites, or wetlands to ensure that impacts are avoided, mitigated, or compensation is provided.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

The proposed rules do not identify specific measures to protect these areas or resources but provide for the identification of the resources and possible impacts and methods and actions to avoid, mitigate, or replace the resource if impacted.

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

Changes to land or shoreline use would be similar if the proposed rules were adopted or not. EFSEC's rules on land use consistency determinations and/or preemption are not a subject of this rulemaking. Adoption of siting standards would not result in changes affecting land or shoreline use.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

See above.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

The building of some energy facilities could temporarily increase demand on some transportation, public services, and utilities. Development of energy facilities will more

likely depend on population and industrial growth rather than adoption of rules that will identify and require mitigation of impacts to transportation, public services and utilities.

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The proposed rules would not conflict with local, state, or federal laws. In most cases the rules require the implementation of local, state, and federal laws and requirements as the standards the energy facilities must meet. In some cases, the rules would provide specific measures to determine what possible environmental impacts would be and require mitigation that may not be covered by local, state, or federal laws and regulations.