



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
PO Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

July 12, 2018

Media Contact: (360) 664-1116 or media@utc.wa.gov

Docket Number: EF-170823

MEDIA ADVISORY

Vote to be held Tuesday for proposed Columbia Solar project

OLYMPIA, Wash. – The Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council will hold a public meeting, anticipating a vote on whether to recommend approving or denying the proposed Columbia Solar project, on Tuesday in Olympia.

The meeting is open to the public, but public comment regarding the project proposal and EFSEC recommendation will not be taken. Seating may be limited. TVW will broadcast the meeting online at <https://www.tvw.org>.

The council is scheduled to make a recommendation on the project to Gov. Inslee by Aug. 22. He will have 60 days to make a final decision.

In addition to discussion related to the Kittitas County project, the council will take up regularly scheduled business.

A full agenda for the meeting can be found online at www.efsec.wa.gov.

WHAT

Vote on final recommendation for the proposed Columbia Solar project

WHO

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

WHEN and WHERE

Tuesday, July 17

1:30 p.m.

Room 206

1300 S Evergreen Park Drive SW

Olympia, WA 98504

BACKGROUND

In October 2017, TUUSSO Energy applied for a site certification agreement from EFSEC to construct and operate five solar arrays and two generation tie lines in Kittitas County, WA. Collectively the installations would span 200 acres of leased land and are known as the Columbia Solar project. Each new solar array would be capable of providing up to 5 megawatts of solar energy within the Puget Sound Energy service area, for a total of 25 megawatts of electrical power generation.

TUUSSO Energy requested in its application an expedited review process. An application is eligible for expedited review if EFSEC determines the environmental impacts are not significant or can be mitigated to non-significant levels under the State Environmental Policy Act and when EFSEC determines the project is consistent with city, county, or regional land-use plans.

EFSEC released an [environmental determination of mitigated non-significance](#) for the proposed Columbia Solar project in February.

EFSEC issued five draft site certification agreements for the proposed project sites in May for public comment. The draft agreements were issued to help the council gain insight into site specific project concerns beyond the process typically required under an EFSEC expedited review.

EFSEC was created by the state Legislature in 1970 to provide one-stop licensing for large energy projects. The council's responsibilities include siting large natural gas and oil pipelines, thermal electric power plants that are 350 megawatts or greater and their dedicated transmission lines, new oil refineries or large expansions of existing facilities, and underground natural gas storage fields.

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Editor's note: More information on this proposed project can be found at www.efsec.wa.gov.