

May 11, 2024

Vince Ready
4270 West Ridge Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031-7823

EFSEC
621 Woodland Square Loop
PO Box 43172
Lacey, WA 98503-3172

Dear EFSEC members,

My name is Vince Ready, and I live in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Hood River, Oregon. Our home is located less than 2 miles (as the crow flies) from the proposed site of the Whistling Ridge Energy Project.

I am writing to you again to provide public comment in regard to the items on your agenda for the May 16th hearing where you'll be considering the possible transfer and extension of the state-issued permit for this project.

As you know, the permit for Whistling Ridge was issued over 12 years ago by then-Governor Christine Gregoire and it expired on March 5, 2022, making it no longer valid. Since the permit has been expired for more than two years, and the new entity (Twin Creeks Timber) has no standing to exercise it even if it hadn't, this request should be denied.

At a minimum, Twin Creeks Timber should be required to file a new application and go through a full site evaluation, environmental impact analysis, and properly-noticed public hearings to allow for citizen participation/input, if they wish to pursue development of the project.

There has been strong opposition from community members ever since this project was initially proposed by everyone who cares about protecting the natural scenic beauty of the Columbia Gorge. Eighty-six percent of all previously-submitted public comments express concern about the project, and there is a large and diverse coalition of organizations who stand in opposition to it.

I personally oppose the project because, wind towers would be visible along the ridgeline from several *Key Viewing Areas* within the National Scenic Area, and are not in keeping with the stated goal of ensuring that new development blends in with the Gorge's scenery.

While the proposed Whistling Ridge Project would be sited just outside the NSA boundary, the height and visual prominence of these wind turbines on the landscape is simply not compatible.

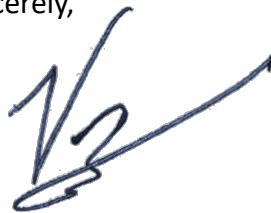
I am also concerned about the threats to endangered and protected wildlife species as a result of removing hundreds of acres of habitat area, and potentially killing birds during key migratory periods.

The present reality is that such a wind farm is no longer necessary. Its estimated average output of 25 megawatts is nothing in comparison to the already-installed 7,000+ megawatts of wind power capacity in the area.

The word "expired" means that something, *"ceases to be valid, typically after a fixed period of time."* The original Whistling Ridge permit (granted to SDS) has long since expired, and I hope you will uphold your duty to confirm the expiration of the site certificate, and disallow this request for an unmerited transfer, renewal or extension.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'V. Ready', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vince Ready
(206) 484-5559