

From: [Sally Newell](#)
To: [EFSEC mi Comments](#)
Subject: Whistling Ridge
Date: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 1:22:13 PM

External Email

Dear EFSEC:

I missed your hasty May 16 deadline for comments regarding Whistling Ridge windfarm, near my home. I was only one of a great many folks in Underwood and the Gorge who submitted written AND oral testimony against this foolish project, and only heard about its proposed resurrection because I was contacted by an advocacy group: not the state agency to which I offered written and oral comments all of those years ago.

I did my happy dance when that permit expired! When any permit I've ever held for any reason expired (hunting, fishing, driving, building), it meant I needed a new one, or risk being cited.

Why should this ill-conceived project receive special treatment, and why isn't EFSEC required to notify all (high and low, organizations and individuals) who commented on the original proposal in a timely manner?

When did it become common practice for a Washington State agency to rely on an opposing non-profit advocacy organization to provide timely notice to folks who took the time to provide timely comment on the original permit?

How is it possible that EFSEC would reinstate that permit almost two years after it expired without engaging the obviously interested public? Shame on you!

EFSEC is probably unaware that there are now a slew of wineries on Underwood Mountain, and coupled with the burgeoning number of Air BnB's here, you should require a new traffic study for Cook-Underwood Rd, a narrow, crooked 2-lane county road that serves the rural communities of Underwood, Willard and Mill A. Tourist traffic on it has increased dramatically over the time since the windmills were originally proposed, and studies have shown that the speed limit is apparently advisory. I think I heard that the average speed on Cook-Underwood is now 53mph. The road is posted 40mph. The current mix of locals, wine tourists and RVs, all in a hurry, makes the only road through our communities far more dangerous than it was, even 5 years ago. Adding the kinds of vehicles needed to build the windmill project will hardly enhance safety or convenience for the folks who pay the taxes for its upkeep.

The new owners of the land in question bought it knowing that the windfarm permit was expired. Require them to submit updated studies with the necessary paperwork to revive that permit.

Sincerely,
Sally Newell
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Sent from my iPhone