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## **Transcript of Proceedings**

August 29, 2024

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council v.

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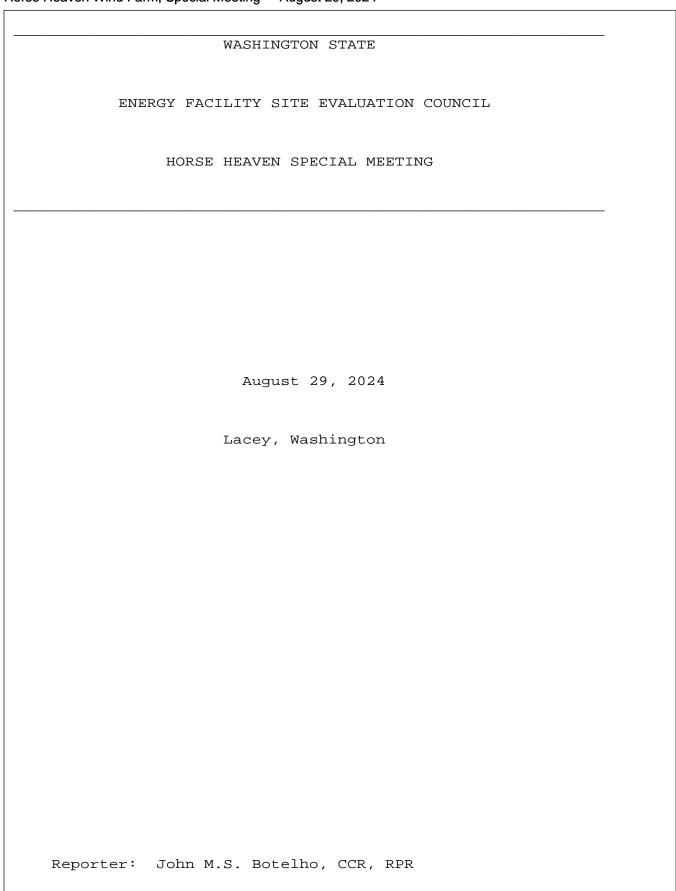
Sarah Fitzgibbon, CCR Vice President



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1
                           APPEARANCES
 2
     STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:
 3
          Kathleen Drew, Chair
 4
          Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology (*)
 5
          Mike Livingston, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (*)
 6
          Lenny Young, Department of Natural Resources (*)
 7
          Stacey Brewster,
          Utilities & Transportation Commission (*)
 8
 9
     LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OPTIONAL STATE AGENCIES:
10
11
          Horse Heaven:
12
              Ed Brost, Benton County (*)
13
     ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL:
14
15
          Jon Thompson (*)
          Zack Packer (*)
16
17
18
     ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:
19
          Adam Torem (*)
2.0
21
     COUNCIL STAFF:
22
          Sonia Bumpus (*)
                                       Alex Shiley (*)
23
          Ami Hafkemeyer
                                       Karl Holappa (*)
                                       Audra Allen (*)
24
          Amy Moon (*)
25
          Joan Owens (*)
                                       Lisa McLean (*)
```

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1
                     APPEARANCES (Continuing)
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     COUNCIL STAFF (Continuing):
 3
          Andrea Grantham
                                        Adrienne Barker
 4
                                        Catherine Taliaferro (*)
          Sean Greene
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          Lance Caputo (*)
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 7
     COUNSEL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:
 8
          Sarah Reyneveld (*)
 9
10
11
12
13
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19
20
21
22
     (*) indicates remote attendee
23
24
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1
                       BE IT REMEMBERED that on Thursday,
     August 29, 2024, at 621 Woodland Square Loop
 2
 3
     Southeast, Lacey, Washington, at 3:01 p.m., the
 4
     following Horse Heaven Special Meeting of the
     Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation
 5
     Council was held, to wit:
 6
 7
 8
                         <<<<< >>>>>
 9
10
                       CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon.
                                                      This
11
     is Kathleen Drew, Chair of the Energy Facility Site
12
     Evaluation meeting, calling our special meeting on
13
     the Horse Heaven Wind Farm to order.
14
         Ms. Grantham, will you call the roll.
15
                       MS. GRANTHAM: Certainly, Chair
16
     Drew.
17
         Department of Commerce.
18
         Department of Ecology.
19
                       MR. LEVITT: Eli Levitt, present.
20
                       MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Fish
21
     and Wildlife.
22
                       MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston,
23
     present.
24
                       MS. GRANTHAM: Department of
25
     Natural Resources.
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1	MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young, present.
2	MS. GRANTHAM: Utilities and
3	Transportation Commission.
4	MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster,
5	present.
6	MS. GRANTHAM: For local government
7	and optional State agency: For the Horse Heaven
8	project, for Benton County, Ed Brost.
9	MR. BROST: Ed Brost is present.
10	MS. GRANTHAM: Assistant attorney
11	generals. Jon Thompson.
12	MR. THOMPSON: Present.
13	MS. GRANTHAM: And Zack Packer.
14	MR. PACKER: Present.
15	MS. GRANTHAM: Administrative law
16	judge: Adam Torem. He has informed me that he is
17	online and present.
18	And I will call Council staff who may speak today.
19	Sonia Bumpus.
20	MS. BUMPUS: Present.
21	MS. GRANTHAM: Ami Hafkemeyer.
22	MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.
23	MS. GRANTHAM: Amy Moon.
24	MS. MOON: Amy Moon, present.
25	MS. GRANTHAM: And Sean Greene.

1 MR. GREENE: Present. 2 MS. GRANTHAM: And is there anyone 3 here for the counsel for the environment? MS. REYNEVELD: Yes. Sarah 4 Revneveld is present. 5 6 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you. Chair, there is a quorum. 7 8 CHAIR DREW: Thank you, all. 9 My first announcement is that since we are 10 unable -- even though we had expected to have all our 11 Council members here, we will be scheduling a meeting 12 next week to take a vote. I'm very sorry, but one 13 member was unexpectedly unavailable at the last minute. So in order to give her the opportunity to vote as 14 well, we will be having a short meeting to conduct a 15 16 vote when all members are available. 17 However, we will go ahead and have our discussion 18 today. And just to remind everybody where we are in 19 this process, I don't -- I think we all know that 20 Governor Inslee directed the Council to reconsider the 21 conditions and mitigation in its recommendation in 22 favor of an approach to mitigation that is more 23 narrowly tailored to the specific impacts identified. 24 That is what we have been working the past couple of months forward to. I know that he also stated that 25

the record is robust and satisfactory from my perspective for the purposes of siting and permitting the proposed project."

And I do want to say at this point that we've heard a lot from multiple parties about taking up the issue of need for the project, which was not considered in the project adjudication. And we are not taking that up. We are focusing our response on approaching the mitigation more narrowly tailored to specific impacts. So I wanted to make that statement on the record. We did not take up the issue of need. We are not taking it up in this proceeding.

So at this point, I want to ask the staff to summarize the information that went out to all the Council members and that the public had a chance to review for changes in the Council -- in the proposed changes to the SCA for Council reconsideration. The Council at our last meeting on this subject directed the staff to draft proposed changes to the SCA.

So with that, I will hand it over to Mr. Greene and Ms. Hafkemeyer to maybe give us a brief overview of what those changes in the SCA are.

MR. GREENE: Okay.

CHAIR DREW: Sorry about that.

MR. GREENE: There were -- let's

2.2

see. There were essentially four changes to mitigation measures from the initial draft SCA that was submitted to the governor's office to the current version provided to the Council and the public.

The first is the Habitat 1 mitigation measure where the original draft version had included a requirement that project components be sited outside of medium-or-higher linkage wildlife movement corridors. That version has been reverted to the version of Habitat 1 that was -- that was included in the F -- the final environmental impact statement, which is a requirement that the applicant provide a corridor mitigation plan for any components sited in those -- those same movement corridors, and this plan would include features to accommodate wildlife movement across linear project components, impact reduction measures, restoration monitoring, and adaptive management but does not include the exclusion areas associated.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Let's pause right there to see if Council members have any questions or would like to discuss that.

Okay. Seeing none, let's go on to the Species -MS. GRANTHAM: Mr. Livingston raised

25 his hand.

1 CHAIR DREW: Who did? Oh. Mike. 2 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yeah --3 CHAIR DREW: Mr. Livingston. 4 MR. LIVINGSTON: -- Chair Drew. 5 CHAIR DREW: Yeah. 6 MR. LIVINGSTON: Thanks. So the -- this pullback from the protection levels 7 that we had put in the original SCA for medium- to 8 high-quality habitat corridors is certainly one that 9 10 concerns me given the limited amount of habitat 11 connectivity that we do have in the Horse Heaven Hills, 12 and some of these areas are the last remaining 13 connection. 14 So though I appreciate, you know, going back to the -- the EIS and what's in there -- and I trust that 15 16 there'll be a lot of hard work going into making sure 17 that there's a good plan put in place in the event that there has to be some diminishment of those corridors --18 19 I just wanted to express that that is a -- that is a 20 concern of mine, veering away from what the -- the SCA 21 that we had recommended to the governor back in the 22 spring. So just wanted to share that. Thank you. 23 CHAIR DREW: I do. So let's talk about that a little bit. And I appreciate that. 24 25 So as we look at this corridor mitigation plan, my

1 understanding is that that will be developed with the PTAG; is that correct? Or is this something that the 2 3 applicant would put forward to that group for review? 4 MR. GREENE: I'm not sure whether the PTAG is explicitly mentioned in this mitigation 5 measure, but it is a plan that the applicant would 6 develop and submit to EFSEC for approval. 7 8 CHAIR DREW: To EFSEC. 9 MR. GREENE: Correct. 10 CHAIR DREW: Okay. So that would 11 then involve our EFSEC staff reviewing it in 12 consultation with our agencies that usually give us 13 input as well as with consultants who are on board to 14 help us review that. Is that how you see that process moving forward? 15 MR. GREENE: Yes, that's correct. 16 17 We would consult with subject matter experts from other 18 State agencies as well as consultants that have -- are 19 employed by EFSEC. 20 CHAIR DREW: And will it include the 21 intent that there will be a path through the project 22 for wildlife? 23 MR. GREENE: Yes. The goal is to 24 reduce project impacts as much as possible or as much 25 as practical for barriers to wildlife movement, and

1 that can include requirements to install specific components that would allow for easier wildlife 2 3 movement, such as larger culverts or potentially 4 bridges or road crossings. 5 CHAIR DREW: Okay. I just wanted to get on the record what -- our expectations as an agency 6 for how that process would occur. How we would conduct 7 the process, let me say. 8 9 I hear -- I do hear your concerns, and I 10 understand them. 11 Are there comments other people would like to 12 make, or questions? 13 Let's go on to the next --Okay. 14 MR. GREENE: Sure. 15 CHAIR DREW: -- item that is 16 changed. 17 MR. GREENE: The next mitigation measure that is changed from the initial SCA draft is 18 19 Species 5, which is specific to the ferruginous hawk. 20 The original ver- -- or the version of Species 5 21 that was submitted to the governor's office included a 22 two-mile buffer for all primary project components to 23 all documented ferruginous hawk nests within two miles 24 of the project lease area. This included 56 nests from

the WDFW priority habitat and species data set and an

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additional two nests that were identified in applicant surveys.

The version of Specie- -- or the version of Species 5 included in the draft SCA available to the Council today reduces that two-mile exclusion area to a 0.6-mile exclusion area, or one kilometer, but additionally takes language from the final environmental impact statement version of this measure, wherein any historic -- or any identified nest that is where the nesting site is still available and sufficient foraging habitat is viable within that two-mile buffer, those nests would be provided the full two-mile buffer from the original vers- -- or from the governor's version, the version of the SCA submitted to the governor.

So to reiterate, all documented nests are provided at least a 0.6-mile buffer. Nests where the nesting site is still available and foraging habitat is viable are provided the two-mile buffer. And that applies to primary project components, which are wind turbines, solar arrays, and BESSes. Apart from the eastern BESS, where language was added to specifically exclude that one from this version of Species 5 as relocating it away from where it is currently located on disturbed habitat would increase habitat impacts with no

discernible mitigative effect as a result. So in that 1 case, it was better to leave it where it is. 2. 3 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Are there 4 questions from Council members, or comments? I want to talk a little bit about the process for 5 this measure. How would this measure be implemented? 6 MR. GREENE: So the process that it 7 would go through is a pre-operational technical 8 9 advisory group would be founded, composed of subject 10 matter experts from other State agencies as well as 11 independent experts and other potentially tribal 12 individuals or individuals from local government, if 13 it's deemed justifiable. 14 And that -- that PTAG would work with the -- work with EFSEC and the applicant to identify a process for 15 16 determining habitat viability. And the PTAG and the 17 applicant would work to identify which of the -- which of the documented nests meet or don't meet the two 18 criteria for providing the full two-mile buffer, submit 19 20 that guidance to EFSEC for consideration.

EFSEC would make the final determination on which nests would receive a .6-mile buffer and which nests would receive a full two-mile buffer.

CHAIR DREW: So the PTAG is not making any decisions; is that correct?

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1 MR. GREENE: That is correct. The PTAG is an advisory body. It has no decision-making 2 3 authority. 4 CHAIR DREW: EFSEC will make the decisions. 5 6 MR. GREENE: Correct. 7 CHAIR DREW: And, secondly, I'll ask Is this a new concept that we've never 8 Ms. Hafkemever: 9 implemented before? Has this been implemented before 10 by EFSEC? 11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: It has a slightly 12 different name. But EFSEC has used what is 13 functionally a preconstruction, still technical advisory group, or -- I'm sorry -- technical advisory 14 committee, or TAC, for multiple projects, and multiple 15 16 projects have had these groups convene prior to the 17 start of construction. 18 Some of the public comments that were received 19 prior in the review of this project raised concerns about whether or not the TAC started before or after 20 21 operations of the facility. But EFSEC has a history of 2.2 requiring these groups to provide advice and guidance 23 to EFSEC, as the decision-maker, starting prior to the start of construction for several projects. 24 25 CHAIR DREW: Okay. So this is not

1 at all unusual in its makeup or use or implementation 2 in this project. 3 Mr. Young. 4 MR. YOUNG: Would there be a single PTAG that would be addressing different aspects of the 5 project, or would there be more than one PTAG with a 6 PTAG -- for example, ferruginous hawk -- focused just 7 8 on ferruginous hawk? 9 MR. GREENE: So the intention is 10 that there's a single body that operates as the PTAG. 11 It's possible that membership may change, depending on 12 which of the mitigation measures that the PTAG is 13 working on at any one time. For instance, a 14 ferruginous hawk expert might not be as needed for some 15 of the other mitigation measures that the PTAG will be 16 considering. But it is -- it is the goal to only have 17 a single body that may have some rotating numbers. 18 MR. YOUNG: How would the PTAG

members be selected?

MR. GREENE: It would be selected by EFSEC essentially as the decision-maker, but we would take into consideration where expertise might be necessary. Where it's possible, we would include subject matter experts from other State agencies where there may be a lack of expertise or a lack of

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     availability. We would contract independent experts.
                                         And if I could jump
 2
                        MS. HAFKEMEYER:
 3
               Historically we have required that the
 4
     facilities put together and convene their technical --
 5
     their TACs, but that is with EFSEC concurrence on
     membership.
 6
                                    Could you clarify that?
 7
                        MR. YOUNG:
 8
     When you say the facilities do the selection, who are
 9
     the facilities?
10
                        MS. HAFKEMEYER:
                                         So, for example,
11
     Columbia Solar, Wild Horse have active TACs, and they
12
     send out meeting invites, do the scheduling, lead the
13
     meeting, send out minutes, and so they sort of take the
14
     lead in the scheduling and agendas and whatnot, and
15
     EFSEC still retains participation and oversight of
16
     decisions.
17
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    That sounds more --
18
                        MS. HAFKEMEYER: Does that answer
19
     your question?
20
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Sort of. That sounds
21
     more like mechanics of operating the TAG after the TAG
22
     has been selected.
23
          Who would actually select -- how would -- how
24
     would the "SAG" (phonetic) members actually be
25
     selected?
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1 MS. HAFKEMEYER: So generally we request participation from the desired entities; for 2 3 example, DFW, U.S. Fish, Ecology. And then within those agencies, they decide who to appoint for the 4 5 project, and we have left that up to those bodies' discretion as to who their actual member is. 6 7 MR. YOUNG: Okay. So it'd be more contacting organizations that EFSEC feels should be 8 9 represented on the TAG, and those organizations would 10 then select the individuals that would represent them 11 on the TAG? 12 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Correct. 13 MR. YOUNG: Okay. And then, again, 14 on the -- sort of the managerial aspect of the TAG, when you refer to the facilities in this case, would 15 16 the facilities mean the applicant, Scout Clean Energy? 17 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Correct. 18 MR. YOUNG: Okay. 19 CHAIR DREW: I think it's a term 20 that, if approved, the applicant becomes a certificated 21 facility in our EFSEC language. So --22 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Great. 23 CHAIR DREW: That's the comparison. 24 Yes. And thank 25 MR. YOUNG: Understood.

1 you for answers to my questions. 2 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Certainly. 3 Are there other questions? 4 Mr. Livingston. 5 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yeah. Thanks, Chair. 6 7 You know, from the beginning of this, the PTAG approach has concerned me, just 'cause it leaves a lot 8 9 of questions unanswered. Interesting reading through 10 comments in the last couple of days. I've seen some --11 some concerns expressed on both sides of this issue. 12 And so I'm curious: If this goes forward as the 13 new draft has described it, one of the guestions has 14 been how do we develop the criteria to determine the viability or the suitability of foraging habitat and 15 16 nesting habitat? What's -- what's the thought on 17 staff's approach to that? Obviously we're going to 18 need wildlife experts adding to that conversation, but 19 how would you go about that? MR. GREENE: 20 Yeah, so that process 21 is -- is certainly going to be involved, and that's why 22 we wanted to wait until the PTAG was operational before 23 we got too deep in the weeds on that. 24 The language within Species 5 includes a couple of

examples of foraging habitat that might be considered

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1
     no longer viable, such as those that have experienced
     large -- large landscape scale conversion into
 2
 3
     residential or agricultural. But that -- the
     development of that viability criteria for foraging
 4
     habitat is something that the subject matter experts
 5
     within the PTAG will be very helpful in determining.
 6
     Ultimately it will be EFSEC's decision as to what those
 7
     criteria are and how they are applied to the BESS, but
 8
     we will certainly give credence to guidance that we
 9
10
     receive from the PTAG.
11
                        MR. LIVINGSTON:
                                         Okay.
                                                 Thank you.
12
          That's it for me. Well, let me ask one more
13
     question. I'm sorry.
                                     No problem.
14
                        CHAIR DREW:
                                     No.
15
                        MR. LIVINGSTON: Councilman Young
16
     there.
17
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    No. Go ahead.
                        MR. LIVINGSTON:
18
                                         So, you know, one
19
     of the things that has --
20
                        CHAIR DREW: You're muted.
21
     Accidentally.
22
                        MR. LIVINGSTON: I apologize.
                                                        Sorry
23
     about that.
24
                        CHAIR DREW: No worries.
25
                        MR. LIVINGSTON: How does that
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2.2

happen? All this time using Teams, and I don't know how to do it.

Anyway, so one of the things I was stating was that some of the other values that we've been working on to protect, that have been inclusive of a two-mile buffer around ferruginous hawk nests, including TCPs and viewshed, you know, as we go through this, this leaves just this big question mark.

If we use the best available science for assessing ferruginous hawk territories and conclude -- you know, I don't know what percentage of these. I have no idea. It could be zero. It could be 10, 20 percent of them. I don't know. But then that leaves a question, the other values that we've discussed as important, particularly in our findings and in our draft SCA to the governor back in April. It seems like it just leaves a lot of questions for us and what those values will be protected or not going forward.

So I guess I'm just expressing the concern of not addressing those other issues with this approach.

Thank you.

CHAIR DREW: Thanks.

I will briefly say -- and then I'll get to

Mr. Young's next question -- that, frankly, as Chair of
this Council, in working with the staff on developing

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     this set of narrowing the mitigations, I thought about
     that quite a bit to determine how to approach each of
 2
 3
     these impacts individually. And so we do -- I -- don't
 4
     have the same extent as we had before as we looked at
 5
     the combination, but there is some mitigation for
     many -- for a few of those issues. I think the visual
 6
     one is more dependent on the others, and perhaps that
 7
     final determination of the viability of the hawks.
 8
 9
     I would still say that the way this is structured will
10
     eliminate some of the most visible turbines.
11
          Is that something that -- I won't ask Sean to
12
     comment on that. That's my opinion -- I'll leave it at
13
     that -- and certainly what I was striving to
14
     accomplish.
          Mr. Young.
15
16
                        MR. YOUNG: I don't have any other
17
     question at this time.
                        CHAIR DREW: Okay.
18
19
          Sorry about that.
20
                        MR. GREENE: You want to move to the
21
     next measure?
22
                        CHAIR DREW: Okay. Let's go on to
23
     the next measure.
24
                        MR. GREENE:
                                     Okay. The next change
25
     in mitigation from the previous version of the SCA is a
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comment about this.

new measure that was incorporated into this version. It is labeled as Cultural Resources 3. And it is a requirement that all wind turbines be precluded from being sited within one mile of the geographic drop-off at the top of Webber Canyon. This was done in response to TCP concerns that were identified by the Yakama Nation associated with Webber Canyon. And 17 of the proposed turbines would be affected by this mitigation measure, and they would need to either be relocated elsewhere within the wind siting micro-corridor -- wind micro-siting corridor or removed from the project.

CHAIR DREW: So let me make a

Again, Governor Inslee asked the Council to, quote, reconsider the conditions and mitigation in its recommendation in favor of an approach to mitigation that is more narrowly tailored to the specific impacts identified.

And then specifically regarding cultural resources, the governor asked the Council to consider, quote, physical traditional cultural resources within the leased property boundary.

So I did ask the staff to look at physical traditional cultural resources within the leased property boundary and identified specifically that

found -- and that we found the Yakama Nation specifically identified the Webber Canyon as an area of particular concern in an early letter from March 2nd, '21.

I recognize that the Yakama Nation has communicated that the project overall will substantially impact Yakama Nation traditional cultural properties. I still wanted to ensure that there was a specific mitigation prohibiting turbines on the physical property of the leased property boundary.

So this is separating -- you know, I see it as separating the mitigation and identifying it as a narrower mitigation but also to reduce some impact to the Yakama Nation. I am no way saying that it will be considered in any way as sufficient by the Yakama Nation, but I did want to give that explanation.

Mr. Young.

MR. YOUNG: Did I understand it to be said that the applicant would have the option of resituating those 17 turbines elsewhere within the project area?

MR. GREENE: Yes. So the locations of the turbines that have been shown in the project layout are representative examples. The way that this project has -- or is going for approval is approving

the number of turbines that are outlined in the application anywhere within the wind micro-siting corridor, which is shown on the project layout.

So the exact locations where the turbines are shown right now is not necessarily where they would eventually be sited. They could be sited anywhere within the wind micro-siting corridor pending the exclusion areas that would be imposed by measures like -- like Cultural Resources 3.

So this measure would not exclude those 17

turbines. It would exclude the area where those 17 turbines are currently being proposed as well as other areas of the wind micro-siting corridor where there is currently no turbines proposed, but it would prohibit them in the future from being relocated there.

MR. YOUNG: Okay.

CHAIR DREW: If I could add, that's the same way we described all of the exclusion zones that we have put forward throughout this project.

MR. GREENE: Yes.

CHAIR DREW: As turbines would be allowed except for in these areas.

MR. YOUNG: Right.

MR. GREENE: It's excluding areas,

not necessarily individual turbines.

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1
                                     It's not any different
                        CHAIR DREW:
 2.
     than what we've said before on that.
 3
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Okay. But I -- I just
 4
     want to make sure I understood it, that it would -- it
 5
     would not necessarily result in the total number of
     turbines for the project being reduced by 17. It --
 6
     again, as you -- as you've described it, it's a -- it's
 7
     a protection of an area, not a direct numerical
 8
 9
     reduction in the number of turbines; is that correct?
10
                        MR. GREENE:
                                     That's correct.
     would be, I guess, accurate to say that it would result
11
12
     in a maximum of 17 turbines being --
13
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Right.
14
                        MR. GREENE: -- removed from --
15
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Right.
16
                        MR. GREENE: -- the project but
17
     not --
18
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Right.
19
                                      If they can find the
                        MR. GREENE:
20
     engineering to relocate those elsewhere within the wind
21
     micro-siting corridor, there could be no reduction in
22
     production potential --
23
                        CHAIR DREW: That is not mitigated
24
     in other ways.
25
                        MR. GREENE:
                                     Correct.
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1 MR. YOUNG: Right. 2 CHAIR DREW: So, you know, the EIS 3 looked at the whole -- the whole project and the 4 micro-siting corridor, and there are several things 5 which affects areas within the micro-siting corridor. MR. GREENE: 6 Correct. MR. YOUNG: Okay. And then --7 8 CHAIR DREW: Yeah. 9 MR. YOUNG: -- and one other 10 question is comparing the original -- the original 11 recommendation to the governor, the original SCA with 12 the revision. How many of those 17 turbines that would 13 be excluded by the buffer at Webber Canyon, how many of 14 those 17 would have been allowed to have been built 15 under the original recommendation to the governor? 16 MR. GREENE: Zero. 17 CHAIR DREW: But it's the same --18 MR. YOUNG: Zero. 19 CHAIR DREW: The same is true. Ιt 20 wouldn't be the turbines built. It would have been an 21 area of exclusion. 22 MR. YOUNG: Yeah. But it's sort of 23 a wash, then, between -- between the original 24 recommendation and the revision that's being 25 considered. In the original, those 17 would have been

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1
     excluded for --
 2
                        CHAIR DREW: Right.
 3
                        MR. YOUNG: -- I quess, other --
 4
     other reasons, because in the original version, there
 5
     was not a specific exclusion for Webber Canyon.
     in the revision, that area would -- those 17 proposed
 6
     sites wouldn't be affected by the Webber Canyon buffer,
 7
     but in the original, they would have been affected by
 8
     something else and would have been excluded by one of
 9
10
     the other considerations?
11
                        MR. GREENE:
                                     That's correct.
                                                       They
12
     would have been excluded by the version of Species 5,
13
     the ferruginous hawk mitigation --
14
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Okay.
15
                        MR. GREENE: -- which was at that
16
     point intended to cover a variety of resource impacts.
17
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Okay. Thank you.
18
                        CHAIR DREW: For those who haven't
19
     followed specifically who is talking -- although it's
20
     clear on my screen -- that it was Mr. Lenny Young from
21
     the Department of Natural Resources, and it was Sean
22
     Greene on our staff, who were introduced as they began
23
     speaking.
24
          Are there any other questions?
25
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Yeah, my -- my little
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1 hand icon seems to automatically go down after about ten seconds, so I just -- I disappear. And thank you 2 3 for those answers to my questions. 4 CHAIR DREW: Yes. 5 Okav. Is there more that we want to -- anyone else have questions on this particular mitigation on 6 the Webber Canyon? Okay. 7 8 Let's move on to --9 MR. BROST: Chair Drew. 10 CHAIR DREW: Yes. 11 Chair Drew, it's Ed MR. BROST: 12 Could I ask a question related to turbines Brost. 13 before we leave that question? And this goes back to the original. There was -- in the original proposal, 14 there was taller turbines versus the shorter turbines. 15 When we're talking number of turbines, we still aren't 16 talking which specific type of turbines we're talking 17 18 about, are we? 19 So -- I'm sorry. MR. GREENE: 20 MR. BROST: And do we ever -- do we 21 ever decide on the shorter versus the taller? 22 CHAIR DREW: So the applicant's 23 proposal to us, as is relatively common with any wind 24 facility that comes to EFSEC, has an option of a taller 25 and a shorter turbine. They also need to be looking at what the latest technology is.

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So in our process, the EIS covers both options but does not require the applicant to settle into one option. Because things change in this industry quite a bit and some turbines that they have used as examples will be out of production, so there's a number of different factors as is -- so it actually made a very complicated review process, because we did look in the EIS at the proposal for both numbers. And you will see that broken out through everything.

We kind of revert to looking at the proposal with the most number of turbines that is shorter, because it would have -- the mitigations have more impact per turbine, and so we tend to only show that, but it is considering either option.

Is that more or less correct, Mr. Greene?

MR. GREENE: Yes. And I would say specific to the most recent mitigation measure that we were discussing, the 17 turbines, that is 17 for both Option 1 and Option 2. So there are more Option 1 turbines, the shorter ones, that are proposed, but in this case, the number is equivalent for both options.

MS. HAFKEMEYER: And if I could jump in. For the record, this is Ami Hafkemeyer.

Just to reiterate, the exclusion area would remain

the same regardless of the turbine type for each of these mitigation measures. And so related to Council Member Young's question, the language in the draft as presented to Council is focused more on an exclusion area rather than a specific number of turbines.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Let's move on to the next difference between the original SCA and the proposed changes.

MR. GREENE: Sure. And, again, for the record, this is Sean Greene, the SEPA specialist for EFSEC.

The final mitigation change that is included in this updated version of the SCA is labeled as Public Health and Safety 2. It has been put in to mitigate project effects on aerial firefighting abilities within the area.

The Department of Natural Resources has informed EFSEC that their aircraft provide a standard corridor mile standoff area for any tall structures when in operation, when the aircraft are in operation. So this measure would provide a quarter-mile buffer around the maximum extent of any wildfire that has occurred within the proximity of the project lease boundary since the year 2000, since January 1st, 2000. Yeah.

CHAIR DREW: So couple of questions

1 on this. 2 MR. GREENE: Mm-hmm. 3 CHAIR DREW: First, when we had an 4 interaction with the Department of Natural Resources, 5 we were talking with them about the aircraft that they 6 use. MR. GREENE: 7 That's correct. They describe that both their helicopter and fixed-wing 8 9 aircraft are provided with the same quarter-mile buffer 10 as standoff distance. 11 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. 12 Are there other questions from Council members? 13 Mr. Young. 14 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, I think the only 15 place where Mr. Lane hedged a little bit on that was, 16 he was referring to most of the aircraft that DNR uses: 17 Helicopters, the Air Tractor / Fire Bosses, probably 18 the scoopers, and the twin jets -- or excuse me --19 twin-turbine planes, the Q-400s. But he was not 20 referring to the what are known as VLATs, the very 21 large air tankers, like the converted DC-10s, in terms 22 of the quarter-mile buffer. 23 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you for 24 that clarification. MR. GREENE: And DNR did also state 25

to us that, when it comes to an operational basis, the pilots have full ability to increase that standoff distance based on what they feel would be safe. So the .25 miles is the minimum that DNR mandates, but if the pilots in operation phase want to increase that standoff distance, they can do it to any distance that they feel comfortable.

CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you for those clarifications.

Are there any other questions?
Mr. Young.

MR. YOUNG: I recognize very much what was just explained really well about how the -- the mitigations are protecting areas and not specifically turbines. But we've got a lot of maps with dots on them that we've been using for comparison.

And so if you look at the number of proposed turbine locations that would have been viable under the original recommendation to the governor and then the number that would be viable and available to the applicant under the revised recommendation to the governor that's being considered, what's the difference? How many more turbines of those original turbine locations come back on line and become available under the revision compared to the original

recommendation to the governor?

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MR. GREENE: So the issue with that is it's dependent on the availability and viability standards in the new version of Species 5. It is potentially the case that the exclusion area from the version of the SCA submitted to the governor does not change. If the determination is made that all of the historic ferruginous hawk nests are -- their nesting sites are available and there's viable habitat, then they would all retain that two-mile buffer, and there would be no change.

The exact number of turbines or exact acreage of the wind micro-siting corridor that is now newly or re-available to the applicant for siting, I can't give you an answer. For -- for this specific measure, Public Health and Safety 2, seven of the proposed locations both for Option 1 and Option 2 would be excluded by this measure, and those were both excluded -- or all seven would have been excluded by the original version of Species 5.

CHAIR DREW: So there's a hard exclusion, if you will, and then there's the exclusion if -- dependent upon the viability of the ferruginous hawk nests and the habitat. I'm kind of shortening the words a little bit there --

1 MR. GREENE: Sure. CHAIR DREW: -- just for the sake of 2. 3 making it easier to talk about. 4 So then is there an overall number of what you 5 would see on the map now in the exclusion zone other than those which might be eliminated because we find 6 there is -- there are viable nests and viable habitat? 7 I have that information 8 MR. GREENE: 9 available in percentages of the number of proposed 10 I don't have the exact number of turbines. 11 But the version of Species 5 that was submitted to 12 the governor would have eliminated the -- the locations 13 of 48 percent, approximately, of the turbines and about 14 12 percent of the solar arrays. The hard buffer -- the hard exclusion area for Species 5 now would eliminate 15 16 about 5 and a half percent of the turbines and 6 percent of the solar array footprint. 17 The -- the difference between those two numbers, 18 19 again -- the current exclusion area could increase 20 depending on that definition of available nesting sites 21 and viable foraging habitat. 22 CHAIR DREW: So let's take it to a 23 broader level to answer this question, if we can. 24 As we look at these four measures -- well, let's -- the measures that eliminate -- have -- exclude 25

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major components; that is, ferruginous hawk, the Webber
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     Canyon, and the Public Health and Safety 2, the aerial
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 3
     firefighting.
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          If you were to look at them in total -- and I'm
     talking about only the .6 mile for the ferruginous
 5
     hawk -- some of those overlap.
 6
 7
                        MR. GREENE: Correct.
                        CHAIR DREW: So if we were looking
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 9
     at the total number -- I'm hoping I'm getting to the
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     answer to your question, Mr. Young, by the way. The
11
     total number that would be eliminated on those, leaving
12
     out the future determination of the viability of the
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     nests in the foraging area, how many would that be?
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                        MR. GREENE:
                                     I don't have that
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     number available right now. It's displayed in the
16
     figure that the Council had access to from the July
17
     Council meeting. I could -- I could refer to that
     figure and come up with a number, but I don't have it
18
19
     available right now.
20
                        CHAIR DREW:
                                     Okay.
                                            Okay.
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                        MR. YOUNG: Could I throw something
2.2
     out and see if this makes any sense at all --
23
                        CHAIR DREW:
                                     Yes.
24
                        MR. YOUNG: -- based on what I just
25
     heard?
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1 CHAIR DREW: Yes.

MR. YOUNG: If we took, like, a starting-point number of turbines in the original proposal, I think the max that was proposed was something like 222. And I think you said that under the original recommendation to the governor, 48 percent of those would have been excluded. That's 106. And that's down to 5 and a half percent under the revision. That's 12.

So the difference, to me, looks to be -- just ballpark numbers -- is that there would be 94 additional turbines that were not available under the original recommendation that would be available under the revised recommendation.

Does that sound ballpark? Am I on the right track with that?

MR. GREENE: So two points on that.

One, some of that -- that 94, or approximate, would potentially be excluded by Cultural Resources 3 and Public Health and Safety 2, the -- the measures that talk about TCPs and aerial firefighting. There might be some overlap there, so I can't give you exact numbers on how many turbines.

And then the second part is, of those 94 turbines, they are not necessarily being allowed with this

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     current version of Species 5.
                                    They may be allowed,
     depending on the determination --
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 3
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Right.
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                        MR. GREENE: -- that EFSEC makes --
                        MR. YOUNG:
 5
                                    Correct.
                        MR. GREENE: -- with the PTAG's
 6
 7
     quidance.
                        MR. YOUNG: So the number -- the
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 9
     numbers you gave me, or gave there, the 48 percent and
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     the 5 and a half percent, that just -- that just flowed
11
     from ferruginous hawk protections?
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                        MR. GREENE: I'm sorry. Could you
13
     say that last bit again?
14
                        MR. YOUNG: Yeah.
                                           The 48 percent,
15
     was that a -- was that a percent of the originally
     proposed turbines under the original proposal to the
16
17
     governor that would have been excluded for all reasons
18
     or just for ferruginous hawk reasons?
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                        MR. GREENE:
                                     So that 48 percent
20
     would have been excluded by Species 5, which was --
21
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Okay.
22
                        MR. GREENE: -- ostensibly a
23
     ferruginous hawk mitigation measure, but it was being
24
     used to --
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                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Yeah.
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                        MR. GREENE: -- address multiple
 2
     resource impacts.
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                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    That's right.
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          And then the 5 and a half percent, is that also --
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     under the revision, the 5 and a half, was that -- would
     that also flow only from Species 5? Because it seems
 6
 7
     like you added the Webber Canyon --
 8
                        CHAIR DREW: Yes.
 9
                        MR. YOUNG: -- turbines onto the top
10
     of that 5 and a half percent.
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                        MR. GREENE: Correct. That was a
12
     desire by the Council to --
13
                        MR. YOUNG:
                                    Okay.
14
                        MR. GREENE: -- kind of split up the
15
     mitigation to address specific resource impacts. So
     the 5 and a half percent is from the current version of
16
17
     Species 5, and that is --
18
                        MR. YOUNG: Yeah.
19
                        MR. GREENE: -- intended only for
20
     reduction of ferruginous hawk impacts. It would have
21
     mitigative effect to other resources, such as visual
22
     and TCPs and all that, but that is not the intent of
23
     that measure.
                        CHAIR DREW: I think there are --
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25
                        MR. YOUNG: Sure. I understand
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that. 1 CHAIR DREW: If I could just chime 2. 3 I think there are specific turbine numbers 4 for each of these three measures on some information 5 that we received. Some of them overlap. But as I recall -- can you pull -- can somebody pull that up? 6 7 Ms. Moon, are you tracking me? MS. HAFKEMEYER: What is it that 8 you're looking to be pulled up? 9 10 CHAIR DREW: I'm looking for the 11 specific numbers -- I can -- I know you're trying to 12 get how many still remain, but I have an easier time 13 finding out -- remembering the numbers that are -- how 14 many would be -- are in areas that would be excluded. And I think it's about 35. 15 16 MR. GREENE: Yeah, so if you -- so 17 there's about 12 turbines being excluded by Species 5. There are 17 being excluded by Webber Canyon mitigation 18 19 and seven turbines by the aerial firefighting. 20 Combined, that number is 36. But, again, there's some 21 overlap there. So it's probably a little bit less than 2.2 36, but somewhere around that number would be excluded. 23 MR. YOUNG: Okay. So a better 24 comparison -- again, if I'm trying to integrate this --25 CHAIR DREW: Yes.

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                        MR. YOUNG: -- just for my own
 2
     understanding.
 3
                        CHAIR DREW:
                                     Yes.
 4
                        MR. YOUNG: A better comparison
     would have been that for the way that the original
 5
     recommendation went in, 106 turbines would have been
 6
     excluded, and now 30 -- 36 would have been ex- -- or be
 7
     excluded, so the difference is about 70, 70 turbines,
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 9
     and you compare that to what we -- what we started out
10
     for. I'm getting an idea --
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                        CHAIR DREW: Yeah.
                        MR. YOUNG: -- of the difference
12
13
     between --
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                        CHAIR DREW: Yeah.
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                        MR. YOUNG: -- between the first
16
     recommendation and the revision being considered.
                                                         So
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     thank you for walking me through that. I really
18
     appreciate it.
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                        CHAIR DREW: And, again, that's --
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     that's total exclusion. It's not taking into
     consideration what the actual review of the site and
21
22
     the viability of ferruginous hawk nests are. So that
23
     would be --
24
                        MR. YOUNG: And what I -- what I --
25
                        CHAIR DREW: -- added to that.
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1 Yeah. MR. YOUNG: Yeah. What I -- what I 2 3 also heard is that number, 36, could go up, depending 4 upon the status that was determined for the total array 5 of ferruginous hawk nests that are out there on the That number could go up significantly, depending 6 7 upon how the status of each of those nests was determined to be. 8 9 CHAIR DREW: Correct. 10 MR. GREENE: Yeah, I would say --11 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. 12 MR. GREENE: -- it's almost 13 certainly going to go up. Just the extent of how -how much it goes up is -- is still to be determined. 14 15 MR. YOUNG: Great. Thanks. 16 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Where are we? 17 Is that the last? MR. GREENE: That is all the 18 19 changes --20 CHAIR DREW: Okay. 21 MR. GREENE: -- to the mitigation. 22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. 23 A lot to discuss. And I think all of this is 24 good, because these are questions that everybody has. 25 Are there any other questions from Council

## members?

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MR. LEVITT: I just want to also mention -- this is Eli Levitt, Ecology -- that, you know, to me, the number of turbines is important, but it's certainly not the only factor in weighing our decision. So I was also one of the people that asked -- asked to look at Webber Canyon, for example.

So if we're more narrowly scoping the mitigation measures, they're just different between Choice A and Choice B, and I think it falls on us as the Council to provide the suite of mitigation measures that we think does the best job to meet the spirit and intent of what EFSEC and all of us do to protect human health and the environment and, you know, make sure there's a viable energy pool in the state, moving to cleaner energy sources, et cetera.

So, me, it's a little bit apples and oranges in big picture to compare the two. It's we as a Council need to -- right now my mission is to make sure we -- we provide better mitigation measures that will do the best job to make the project viable and to protect those resources we're trying to look at carefully. You know, so, for example, that's one reason I wanted to look more closely at Webber Canyon.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you. I

appreciate that.

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And that's true. As we've separated out to look at the mitigation members more specifically, we are dialing in on what those impacts are. And I do think that specifically on the ferruginous hawk, what we're looking at is really trying to establish -- and, in fact, in much of the environmental ones -- an approach which is adaptive management.

And it's very hard to dial in specifically at this stage, before micro-siting is done, on the final determination and the adaptive management that's really best practice, if you will, in this type of environment. I think an agency has a much easier -- an agency without this type of process has -- has a lot more, not -- it's just very difficult to pinpoint, I guess I'll say, at this point in time.

But the intent of adaptive management is a high-level concept that's throughout our environmental process. And that's what we're trying to achieve here as well as meeting the goals of the future that is the balancing act within our statute.

Are there other comments or questions?
Ms. Brewster.

MS. BREWSTER: Thanks.

I guess one of the -- one of my concerns with this

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particular approach is -- is the unknowns and the effects of it. So it's -- it's really hard to gauge the impact we'll have when it's unknown whether a particular nest eliminates a number of -- excludes a number of turbines that are particularly visually impactful since -- that we don't really address it -- visual impact specifically with this. So I guess I'll -- I'm just throwing that concern out there as I'm considering.

Beyond that, I would like to express my appreciation for staff and all the work that you've put into the original proposal and this reconsidered proposal. I really do appreciate all that you have done. So thank you for that.

CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

Ms. Bumpus.

MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair Drew and Council members. For the record, this is Sonia Bumpus.

This is just a comment, a general comment after listening to the discussion today, very good discussion today between Council members about what's before you.

As the SEPA responsible official, I just wanted to comment that I am hearing that there's just a lot of concern and question around the -- sort of the

deficiency and certitude -- right? -- around number of turbines that are permitted, number that actually get put into use and these kinds of things after the micro-siting process is complete.

And I thought of a section of SEPA, in the SEPA rules, where it talks about -- it's in SEPA Rule / Washington Administrative Code 197-11-660. And it talks about the substantive authority and mitigation that an agency does in considering an action, a proposed action.

And one of the things that's interesting is that it talks about identifying adverse environmental impacts but also ensuring, to the extent that you can, you know, that you are developing and applying mitigation that's effective but that is also attributable in terms of the adverse impact from the action, itself, right?

So I thought of that, because I think the -- this sort of adaptive and management approach that's baked into the mitigation before you, it helps us to achieve that. It looks at the area after these criteria are developed -- talking about Species 5, right? -- and you're able to then determine what is going to specifically trigger that criteria, and then of course we all know we've already talked at length about how

1 that -- you know, how that plays out with PTAG and 2 such. 3 But it's actually in the SEPA rules. And I think 4 that while there are some unanswered questions about 5 this right now, that adaptive management approach, the use of the PTAG allows us to get down to the impacts 6 that -- that we identify once we're able to in the 7 8 micro-siting process in these particular locations. 9 So I hope that's helpful. 10 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. 11 I'm reminded that, at the beginning of the 12 meeting, we didn't ask the staff to go over the public 13 comments that had come in. Or do you have a summary of 14 the comments? I know that all the Council members have 15 read them, because I can tell from our conversation that they have. Because I've read all of them. 16 17 So I know that there were -- do we have an exact count of the number of comments? 18 19 MS. GRANTHAM: I can look really 20 quick. 21 CHAIR DREW: Okay. 22 MS. GRANTHAM: So we received from 23 the public 123. 24 This is Andrea Grantham, for the record, by the

way.

25

1 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And then for -- we 2 MS. GRANTHAM: 3 received one comment from the Yakama Nation, one 4 comment from the applicant, and three comments from 5 party member TCC. 6 CHAIR DREW: That is Tri-City --That's Tri-City 7 MS. GRANTHAM: C.A.R.E.S. 8 9 That's Tri-City CHAIR DREW: 10 C.A.R.E.S. And those are the adjudicative parties. 11 So I am quite sure that all the Council members 12 have read them. But for the record, I will make sure 13 and state that those are the comments that we received. 14 So are there further questions or comments? 15 Again, our intent is to find a time, because we had --16 it was unexpected that we had one Council member 17 unavailable today. And so we will be looking to have a 18 time next week where we will actually conduct a vote on 19 this SCA amendment. Okay? 20 Any other questions or comments? If not -- oh, 21 Mr. Young. 22 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, I'd just like to 23 add my thanks to staff for doing a lot of work in a really short time. Very high-quality what we got. 24 25 Appreciated the good communication. So thank you for

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     the great staff work as always.
                                        Thank you.
 2
                          CHAIR DREW:
                                                     Agree.
          Okay. With that, this meeting is adjourned.
 3
     Thank you.
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                                  (Meeting adjourned at
 5
 6
                                   4:00 p.m.)
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1	STATE OF WASHINGTON ) I, John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR, ) ss a certified court reporter
2	County of Pierce ) in the State of Washington, do hereby certify:
3 4	
5	That the foregoing Horse Heaven Special Meeting of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was conducted in my presence and adjourned on August 29, 2024,
6	and thereafter was transcribed under my direction; that the transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of the
7 8	said meeting, transcribed to the best of my ability;  That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any party to this matter or relative or employee of any
9	such attorney or counsel and that I am not financially interested in the said matter or the outcome thereof;
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
11	this 6th day of September, 2024.
12	
13	
14	
15	/s/John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR
16	Certified Court Reporter No. 2976 (Certification expires 5/26/2025.)
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