



State of Washington
**Energy Facility
 Site Evaluation Council**

DRAFT

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

High-Voltage Transmission Facilities

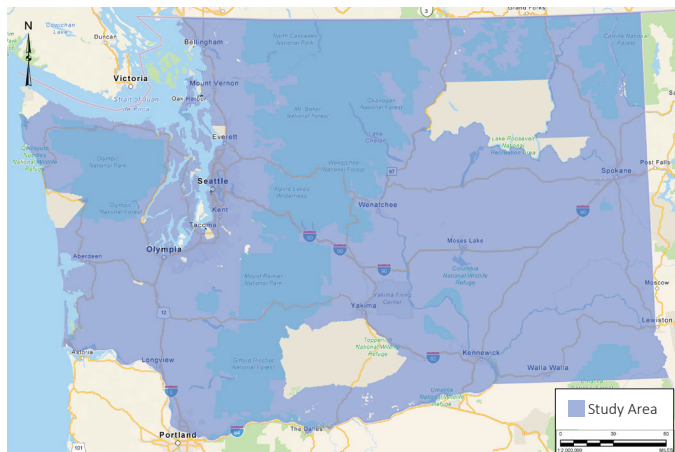
PURPOSE & NEED

As directed by the Washington State Legislature in RCW 43.21C.405, this Draft Programmatic EIS analyzes potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance, and upgrade or modification of transmission facilities in the State of Washington.

The Draft Programmatic EIS includes an analysis of potential impacts on the elements of the natural and built environment specified under RCW 43.21C.405(3), WAC 197-11-444, and WAC 463-60-535.

LOCATION

This EIS analyzes siting of these linear facilities in all geographic areas suitable for such facilities within in the State of Washington other than tribal lands and locations that would require undersea cables.



ALTERNATIVES

The Draft PEIS evaluates two alternatives:

- **ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** use of this Programmatic EIS to evaluate potential impacts associated with the development of high-voltage transmission facilities
- **NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE:** no use of this Programmatic EIS, with environmental review for project-level applications continuing in its current form

IMPLEMENTATION AND SUBSEQUENT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Once the Programmatic EIS is final, it will be used in accordance with RCW 43.21C.408 by applicants and lead agencies planning a transmission facility to:

- Avoid high impact areas,
- Incorporate identified mitigation, and
- Site and design a more environmentally-friendly proposal.

Project-specific applications would include a comprehensive review and analysis to identify the site-specific adverse impacts on resources to determine the suitability of this Draft Programmatic EIS. Environmental review may be phased by adopting or incorporating relevant information by reference from this Draft Programmatic EIS while evaluating site-specific adverse impacts of individual project applications. For more information on phased reviews, please refer to Chapter 1 of the EIS.

LICENSES, LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Because this is a programmatic EIS and the specific nature of projects that would be proposed is not yet known, it is not possible to present a complete list of permits, licenses, and approvals that could be required for project-specific applications. This Programmatic EIS includes a list of common regulatory, siting, and design considerations that projects would be expected to adhere to. Any project that would be subject to this Programmatic EIS would be required to receive all licenses and permits identified during the project-level environmental review.

CONTRIBUTORS

This document has been prepared under the direction of EFSEC. All chapters and appendices have been prepared for and approved by EFSEC. Key authors and principal contributors to the Draft Programmatic EIS analyses include:

STATE OF WASHINGTON	– Department of Transportation
– Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council	– Utilities and Transportation Commission
– Department of Ecology	
– Department of Fish and Wildlife	FEDERAL:
– Department of Natural Resources	– U.S. Department of Defense
– Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	CONTRACTORS:
	– WSP USA Inc
	– WSP Canada
	– Plateau CRM

Additional information on the authors and principal contributors is presented in Chapter 8 of the EIS.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL CONTACT INFORMATION

WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY FACILITY
SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL (EFSEC)
Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Director

Date of Draft Programmatic EIS Issuance:
March 31, 2025

Date Comments are Due:
5:00 PM, April 30, 2025

CONTACT FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE EIS:

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Planned Date of Final Programmatic EIS Issuance And Implementation:

June 30, 2025

Comments on the Draft Programmatic EIS received during the comment period will be addressed in the Final Programmatic EIS.

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Submit comments by going to comments.efsec.wa.gov and selecting the campaign from the “open campaigns” section.

You may also send comments or questions about the public comment process to EFSEC by email at comments@efsec.wa.gov, phone at 360-664-1345, or by mail to this address:

EFSEC, re: Draft Programmatic EIS
PO Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98503-3172

Public Informational Meeting:

**Tuesday, April 8, 2025,
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM PDT**

MICROSOFT TEAMS:

bit.ly/PEIS_ScopingPubCmtMtg1

PHONE: 564-999-2000 | CONFERENCE ID: 335 336 413#

Public Comment Hearings:

**Tuesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 24, 2025,
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM PDT**

MICROSOFT TEAMS:

bit.ly/PEIS_ScopingPubCmtMtg1

PHONE: 564-999-2000 | CONFERENCE ID: 335 336 413#

REVIEWING THE DRAFT PROGRAMMATIC EIS



The Draft Programmatic EIS and associated resource reports developed specifically for this environmental review are available at no cost on EFSEC’s Programmatic EIS website.

To obtain a printed copy, CD, or USB drive of the Draft Programmatic EIS (for the cost of production), please contact efsec@efsec.wa.gov or 360-664-1345.

efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/transmission-programmatic-eis