

60 Moe Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
December 16, 2017

To: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Stephen Posner, EFSEC Manager
EFSEC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA, 98504-7250

In regards to the Tuusso Energy-Columbia Solar Project

Dear Members of the Council,

I am writing as a land-owner and long-time resident of Kittitas County but also as a member of the Solar Facilities Citizen Advisory Committee. This committee has been meeting since September with the purpose of drafting recommendations about siting, permit requirements, and other matters relating to solar facilities. A county moratorium on applications exists until our work is completed.

Our goal is to help provide meaningful and enduring long-term regulations to best serve the residents and citizens of this county through our deliberations. Our committee members have diverse perspectives on some elements and find agreement on other issues, one of which is the value of solar-generated power.

One over-riding concern that keeps surfacing is the prospect that if we recommend strict regulations in the best interest of the county, an applicant would merely go to EFSEC for approval. Our task has become clouded by this prospect. It has become even more complex since an applicant actually did apply to ESEC this fall. We are asking ourselves if our recommendations will mean anything and does the county risk losing its voice about solar facilities. We fear the expedited process makes that even more likely.

There is some inconsistency in Tuusso's reporting that they appealed to EFSEC only after the Kittitas County Citizen Advisory Committee did not complete its work. Tuusso's Jason Evans has been an observer of the entire county process from the extending of the moratorium on July 10, to the county's declaration that it was seeking applicants for a citizens' advisory committee. He has attended every meeting of that advisory group and presented at the first meeting September 7. He certainly has had access to the committee agendas including the first one, released at the Sept. 7 meeting and every agenda since then. It has been apparent to any observer that the committee would likely be meeting throughout, the fall. Jason has attended every meeting - September 26, October, 10, November 2, November 30, December 4. The advisory committee has not been working with deadline restraints except the expiration of the existing moratorium Jan. 10, 2018.

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Committee members have known since mid-October that Tuusso had appealed to EFSEC. It certainly suggests that Tuusso had anticipated this move all along as the steps to make an appeal require a great deal of preparation (including posting a bond?). The question remains—was the applicant just watching the county process continue, but believing all along that they would just apply to EFSEC?

I am speaking only for myself, but trying to reflect a widely-held feeling. We ask that EFSEC deny the expedited process of this applicant. This would make a statement about EFSEC- that this council will continue to respect county priorities including counties like ours which are striving to enact purposeful regulations. We understand other companies are watching this process and may or may not want to comply with newly-created regulations when they apply. If EFSEC sets a precedent of acceptance at the state level, does county action matter?

I hope this testimony will have weight in your consideration of this expedited process by Tuusso Energy. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. Christensen
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60 Moe Rd.
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Re: Tussio Energy Columbia Project