

December 22, 2017

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

Subject: Tuusso Energy-Columbia Solar Project's consistency and compliance with Kittitas County land use plans and zoning ordinances.

I would like to thank EFSEC hearing panel that was convened December 12 to receive public comment and to extend the comment period to permit Kittitas County to assemble a presentation to the Council.

Comments at the hearing were revealing as hoped. Tuusso's business plan was built on using irrigated farm land that would be converted to an industrial power generation to exploit the public power grid and reduce development cost to Tuusso. It is apparent that Tuusso worked with Kittitas county representatives and individuals to promote their interests until it became evident that the land use management plan for the County being developed under moratorium was likely going to direct industrial solar projects to non-irrigated land. I inferred this from Tuusso's comments. That the County planning committee would direct industrial solar projects to non-irrigated land seems responsible. According to public comment, there are 1.5 million acres of non-irrigated farm land in the County as opposed to about 60,000 acres of prime irrigated farm land.

Kittitas county is world renowned for its Timothy hay. Alfalfa hay is a close second. The County has unique growing conditions that allows farmers to grow a wide variety of products and compete worldwide. The County's identity and sense of community is built around agriculture. That said, the County officials and general public appear very supportive of clean generation of power – like solar. I am one individual who is supportive of power generation on non-irrigated farmland, and adamantly opposed to industrial solar generation on irrigated farmland.

I strongly advocate for EFSEC to deny Tuusso's attempt to circumvent the local, county planning process. Tuusso should not be granted a permit to move forward with the five projects wrapped into one as presented. That Tuusso requested an expedited request is especially concerning to me, as it appears to be a company committed to its solitary route forward and not a company that is committed to being a partner at the local community, searching for the best alternatives for its interests and that of the public. One public comment made December 12, that was of interest to me compare the Tuusso project to a negative dynamic among economic classes. The dynamic of the advantaged in wealth and privilege, once again attempting to take of the lives and property of the disadvantage and exploit them for personal gain.

The Kittitas County Land Use Management Committee must be permitted to develop a long-term growth plan for the County to protect, preserve and provide for the public in the County before more industrial solar projects are built. It should not be surprising that industrial solar impacts would take more than six months to develop and study. Reflecting on similar construction projects, it would be reasonable that such impacts may take two years to sufficiently understand and reduce to regulation. Even so, it appears Kittitas County is moving more quickly as County Commissioner Paul Jewel made reference that plans may be forthcoming in the near future.

I have confidence that the County, and others, will cite regulation. The bundle of Tuusso projects to build industrial solar projects in Kittitas county are not consistent with expressed and implied community plans. State level approval prior to Kittitas County developing a growth management plan that contemplates industrial solar projects would create chaos for the County. EFSEC approval of this project, expedited or otherwise, would give the wrong signal and precedent to the dozen projects that have indicated similar interest.

I oppose development of industry solar project on irrigated farm land in Kittitas County as such a move would not be consistent with land use and zoning.

Best regards,

Fred Scarlett
1860 Mellergaard Road
Ellensburg, WA 9892