

Verbatim Transcript of Monthly Council Meeting

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

February 16, 2021



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WASHINGTON STATE
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
Lacey, Washington
February 16, 2021
1:30 p.m.

Telephonic Monthly Council Meeting
Verbatim Transcript of Proceedings

(All participants appeared virtually.)

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 Councilmembers:

- 3 KATHLEEN DREW, Chair
- STACEY BREWSTER, Utilities and Transportation Commission
- 4 MIKE LIVINGSTON, Department of Fish and Wildlife
- KATE KELLY, Department of Commerce
- 5 ROB DENGEL, Department of Ecology

6 Assistant Attorney General:

7 JON THOMPSON

8 EFSEC Staff:

- 9 SONIA BUMPUS
- KYLE OVERTON
- 10 STEW HENDERSON
- TAMMY MASTRO
- 11 JOAN OWENS
- STEPHEN POSNER
- 12 PATTY BETTS
- AMY MOON

13 Local Government and Optional State Agencies:

14 BILL SAURIOL, Goose Prairie

15 Also in Attendance:

- 16 JENNIFER DIAZ, Wild Horse
- 17 ERIC MELBARDIS, EDP Renewables
- JEREMY SMITH, Chehalis Generation Facility
- 18 MARK MILLER, Chehalis Generation Facility
- CHRIS SHERIN, Grays Harbor Energy
- 19 KIP WHITEHEAD, Energy Northwest
- DAVE KOBUS, Scout Clean Energy
- 20 PAT LANDESS, Scout Clean Energy
- OWEN HURD, Tuusso
- 21 BLAKE BJORNSON, OneEnergy
- ANN SIQVELAND, OneEnergy
- 22 TIM MCMAHAN, Stoel Rives
- JASON EARLS, Yakima County
- 23 NOELLE MADERA, Yakima County

24
25

1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; FEBRUARY 16, 2021

2 1:30 P.M.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5

6 CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon. This is
7 Kathleen Drew. I Chair the Washington State Energy
8 Facility Site Evaluation Council meeting, and I will
9 be -- I am calling this meeting to order today.

10 Before we begin with roll call, I thought I
11 would make a couple of introductory comments since we do
12 have two projects that have filed applications with us
13 in the past since our last meeting, and we will be
14 establishing the site councils for those according to
15 our state law and have letters out to those who, under
16 our state law, have an ability to participate but they
17 have not yet been formed.

18 Secondly, although we have just introductory
19 information to be presented today, we will have
20 opportunities for public comment within the 60 days of
21 when those applications have been filed. So although we
22 aren't taking public comments today, we will be
23 providing that opportunity to everyone who is
24 interested, and we look forward to your participation in
25 this process.

1 We will be discussing when those will be
2 held. At this point, given our COVID situation, we do
3 expect those to be virtual. If you want to sign up to
4 receive project information, you can do so on our
5 website or by calling our general information number.

6 So with that, again, I am asking for the --
7 the clerk to first call the roll of the EFSEC Council
8 and then the Staff members and then the representatives
9 of the facilities and the projects who are on the agenda
10 for today.

11 Ms. Mastro, will you please call the roll?

12 MS. MASTRO: Good afternoon, Chair Drew.
13 Good afternoon, Councilmembers. This is Tammy Mastro
14 for the record.

15 Department of Commerce?

16 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, present.

17 MS. MASTRO: Department of Ecology?

18 MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, present.

19 MS. MASTRO: Department of Fish and
20 Wildlife?

21 MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston, present.

22 MS. MASTRO: The Natural Resources position
23 is vacant.

24 Utilities and Transportation Commission?

25 MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, present.

1 MS. MASTRO: Local jurisdictions and
2 optional state agencies for the Goose Prairie Project,
3 Department of Transportation?

4 MR. SAURIOL: Bill Sauriol, present.

5 MS. MASTRO: Thank you.

6 The assistant attorney general for EFSEC?

7 MR. THOMPSON: Jon Thompson is present.

8 MS. MASTRO: EFSEC Staff, Sonia Bumpus?

9 MS. BUMPUS: Sonia Bumpus is present.

10 MS. MASTRO: Amy Moon?

11 MS. MOON: Present. Thank you, Tammy.

12 MS. MASTRO: Thank you, Amy.

13 Kyle Overton?

14 MR. OVERTON: Here.

15 MS. MASTRO: Joan Owens?

16 MS. OWENS: Present.

17 MS. MASTRO: Patty Betts?

18 MS. BETTS: Present.

19 MS. MASTRO: Stew Henderson?

20 MR. HENDERSON: Present.

21 MS. MASTRO: Stephen Posner?

22 MR. POSNER: Stephen Posner, present.

23 MS. MASTRO: Representatives for the
24 operational updates, Kittitas Valley Wind?

25 Wild Horse Wind Power Project?

1 MS. DIAZ: Jennifer Diaz, present.

2 MS. MASTRO: Grays Harbor Energy Center?

3 MR. SHERIN: Chris Sherin is present.

4 MS. MASTRO: Columbia Generating Station?

5 MS. RAMOS: Mary Ramos, present.

6 MS. MASTRO: Chehalis Generation Facility?

7 MR. SMITH: Jeremy Smith, present.

8 MR. MILLER: Mark Miller, also present.

9 MS. MASTRO: Thank you, Mr. Miller.

10 Counsel for The Environment for the Goose
11 Prairie Project, would you like to introduce yourself?

12 Will the court reporter please introduce
13 yourself?

14 THE COURT REPORTER: This is Tayler
15 Garlinghouse.

16 MS. MASTRO: Thank you, Ms. Garlinghouse.

17 Chair Drew, there is a quorum for the
18 regular EFSEC Council as well as the Goose Prairie
19 Council. Thank you.

20 CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Ms. Mastro.

21 Also, if there's anyone on the line who
22 would like to introduce themselves at this point, please
23 do so. Go ahead.

24 MR. SHERMAN: This is -- this is Bill
25 Sherman as counsel for The Environment. I'm afraid that

1 I was muted when I introduced myself a moment ago.

2 Sorry about that.

3 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

4 MR. KOBUS: This is Dave Kobus with Scout
5 Clean Energy for Horse Heaven Wind Farm.

6 MR. HURD: This is Owen Hurd, TUUSSO Energy
7 with the Columbia Solar Projects.

8 MR. MELBARDIS: Eric Melbardis, EDP
9 Renewables, Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project.

10 MR. BJORNSON: This is Blake Bjornson with
11 OneEnergy for the Goose Prairie Solar Project.

12 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And I believe that
13 was Eric Melbardis before that with Kittitas Valley; is
14 that correct?

15 MR. MELBARDIS: That was correct.

16 MS. SIQVELAND: This is Ann Sigveland with
17 OneEnergy Renewables for the Goose Prairie Solar
18 Project.

19 MS. MADERA: Noelle Madera with Yakima
20 County Planning.

21 CHAIR DREW: I'm sorry, I'm not sure we
22 heard your name. Could you please state it again?
23 Thank you.

24 MS. MADERA: Noelle Madera, N-o-e-l-l-e,
25 last name is M-a-d-e-r-a, and I'm with Yakima County

1 Planning.

2 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

3 MR. EARLS: Jason Earls with Yakima County
4 Planning.

5 MR. MCMAHAN: Tim McMahan with Stoel Rives
6 law firm on behalf of the Scout Horse Heaven Project and
7 OneEnergy Goose Prairie.

8 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

9 At this point, we will move on to our
10 proposed agenda, which is before you.

11 Councilmembers, is there a motion to adopt
12 the proposed agenda?

13 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, move to adopt the
14 agenda as written.

15 MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, second.

16 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

17 All those in favor, please say "aye."

18 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

19 CHAIR DREW: All those opposed?

20 Motion to adopt the agenda is approved.

21 Moving on to minutes. We have two sets of
22 minutes from January. The first we will take up is the
23 January 19th, 2021 Council meeting minutes. Is there a
24 motion to approve the minutes from January 19th, 2021,
25 the regular Council meeting?

1 MR. DENGEL: Rob Dengel, motion to approve
2 minutes.

3 MR. LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston will second
4 that motion.

5 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

6 Is there any discussion or comments on the
7 minutes?

8 Hearing none, all those in favor of
9 approving the minutes from the regular meeting on
10 January 19th, 2021, please say "aye."

11 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

12 CHAIR DREW: Those opposed?

13 Motion carries.

14 Moving on to the public comment hearing of
15 January 19th, 2021. For those minutes, is there a
16 motion to approve the minutes?

17 MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey Brewster.
18 I'll move that we approve the minutes from the public
19 comment hearing on January 19th, 2021.

20 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

21 MS. KELLY: Kate Kelly, second.

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

23 Discussion? I do have one correction to
24 make on page 4. Pull this up here. Line 2 it says,
25 Determination to improve the PSD Amendment 5 Permit, and

1 it should be Determination to approve the PSD Amendment
2 5 Permit.

3 So with that change, are there any other
4 proposed changes?

5 Hearing none, all those in favor as -- of
6 approving the minutes as amended, please say "aye."

7 COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

8 CHAIR DREW: All those opposed?

9 I heard a couple of you, so I'm assuming we
10 have a majority in favor to be approved.

11 Moving on to our first operational update,
12 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, Mr. Melbardis?

13 MR. MELBARDIS: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,
14 EFSEC Staff, and Council. For the record, this is Eric
15 Melbardis with EDP Renewables speaking on behalf of the
16 Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project. We had nothing
17 nonroutine to report during the period. We are just
18 enjoying winter wonderland over here today.

19 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. We even got to
20 experience a little bit of that in Western Washington,
21 although it's sunny right now and the snow seems to have
22 disappeared at my home anyway.

23 Moving on to Wild Horse Wind Power Project,
24 Jennifer Diaz.

25 MS. DIAZ: Yes, thank you, Chair Drew and

1 Councilmembers. This is Jennifer Diaz with the Wild
2 Horse Wind Project, and I have no nonroutine updates for
3 the month of January.

4 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

5 Chehalis Generation Facility, Mr. Smith?

6 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,
7 EFSEC Council, and Staff. This is Jeremy Smith, the
8 environmental analyst representing Chehalis Generation
9 Facility. The facility has no nonroutine updates for
10 the month of January.

11 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

12 Columbia Generating Station and WNP-1/4,
13 Ms. Ramos?

14 MS. RAMOS: Thank you. Good afternoon,
15 Chair Drew, EFSEC Staff, and Councilmembers. This is
16 Mary Ramos reporting for Energy Northwest. For the
17 month of January 2021, Energy Northwest requested and
18 received an extension for annual air emissions source
19 registration for Columbia Generating Station. We're
20 continuing to discuss with Department of Ecology the --
21 the scope of emissions source report.

22 And then also, regarding the Industrial
23 Development Complex Inert Waste Landfill, we are working
24 to address comments we received from EFSEC and
25 Department of Ecology. That's all I have.

1 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

2 Any questions?

3 Okay. Thank you very much.

4 Moving on to Desert Claim Wind Power

5 Project, Ms. Moon.

6 MS. MOON: Good afternoon, Council Chair
7 Drew and Councilmembers. For the record, this is Amy
8 Moon providing an update on the Desert Claim Project.
9 EFSEC Staff continue to coordinate with Desert Claim;
10 however, there are no other project updates at this
11 time.

12 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

13 Next on our agenda is Columbia Solar
14 Project, Mr. Overton.

15 MR. OVERTON: Yes, this is Kyle Overton, the
16 site specialist for Columbia Solar. This past month,
17 EFSEC Staff received a preliminary draft of the Initial
18 Site Restoration Plan, or ISRP, from Columbia solar.
19 Staff in the process of our initial review in
20 consultation with our independent contractor determined
21 that the plan complies with facility's SCA in regulation
22 primarily WAC 463-72.

23 The ISRP is required to be approved by the
24 Council per WAC 463-72-030. Once the review is
25 complete, EFSEC Staff will prepare a recommendation to

1 the Council for their consideration.

2 Is there any questions?

3 CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions from
4 Councilmembers?

5 MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey Brewster.
6 Kyle, do you have an idea of when we could expect that
7 report?

8 MR. OVERTON: I don't have the really firm
9 date of it. We're still coordinating with the
10 facilities to get some initial information to complete
11 their plan.

12 MS. BREWSTER: Thank you.

13 CHAIR DREW: And as I understand it, there
14 will be additional plans. Specific plans are required
15 to go to the Council for approval, but some of the Staff
16 will coordinate and respond to between them and the
17 facility operator and owner. But we will keep -- give
18 you an update as to when you can expect it and certainly
19 provide you with adequate time for review. Thank you.

20 Moving on to the Invenergy...

21 MR. SHERIN: Chair Drew?

22 CHAIR DREW: Sorry, I lost my -- my focus on
23 the agenda there for a quick minute. Mr. Sherin.

24 MR. SHERIN: Good afternoon, Chair Drew,
25 Councilmembers, and Staff. This is Chris Sherin, plant

1 manager at Grays Harbor Energy Center. Grays Harbor
2 Energy Center doesn't have any nonroutine items to
3 report for the month of January.

4 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And we did complete
5 the public hearing in the amendment on Title 5, so
6 that's in effect now I understand?

7 MR. SHERIN: Yes, that is correct, the PSD
8 Amendment 5.

9 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And we look forward
10 to hearing more about your technology upgrade as you get
11 further into the spring here, so thank you.

12 MR. SHERIN: Welcome.

13 CHAIR DREW: Goose Prairie Solar Project.
14 Again, for those of you who may have joined since my
15 opening statement, Goose Prairie Solar Project has
16 applied to us for review of the project. We will have a
17 public comment meeting within the 60 days from the time
18 the application is received. So for today's
19 presentation, we won't be taking public comments and
20 questions, but we will have an ability for
21 Councilmembers to ask questions after the presentation.

22 With that, I'll turn it over to Mr. Overton.
23 I am not hearing Mr. Overton. Is there -- is there --
24 do we have --

25 MR. OVERTON: Is this working now?

1 CHAIR DREW: Yes, there you are.

2 MR. OVERTON: Sorry about that.

3 CHAIR DREW: No problem.

4 MR. OVERTON: So this is Kyle Overton, the
5 site specialist for Goose Prairie. I don't know if you
6 heard, but I did want to provide some more info for the
7 Grays Harbor update. Their -- their PSD was -- their
8 amended PSD was issued on January 28th.

9 And -- and for Goose Prairie, EFSEC received
10 an application for site certification and an application
11 for expedited processing on January 19th for the Goose
12 Prairie Solar Project, which was submitted by OneEnergy
13 Renewables.

14 The ASC proposes the construction of an
15 80-megawatt solar facility with optional battery storage
16 to be located in Yakima County.

17 At this time, Staff is coordinating with
18 State agencies and third-party contractors to review the
19 application for completeness and compliance with that
20 regulation, primarily WAC 463-60 and 463-43.

21 Our first step as mentioned is to determine
22 if there's any additional information needed to conduct
23 a full review of the ASC. If any are identified, Staff
24 will prepare a data request, which will be submitted to
25 the applicant for their response, which will then get

1 attached to their initial application.

2 In conjunction with the overall ASC review,
3 Staff are working on addressing expedited processing
4 request. To determine if the project is eligible for
5 expedited processing, two questions must be answered per
6 WAC 463-43-030, the first being if the environmental
7 impact as a proposed project is not significant or have
8 to be mitigated to a nonsignificant level under SEPA.

9 The second is if the project is consistent
10 with -- and in compliance with local land use
11 regulation.

12 Prior to making these determinations, WAC
13 463-43 requires EFSEC to conduct a public information
14 meeting and a land use consistency hearing within 60
15 days of receipt of the expedited processing application,
16 and that deadline would be March 20th, 2021.

17 At this time, Staff's proposing a tentative
18 date of March 16th to hold these meetings, which is the
19 date of the regularly scheduled March Council -- Council
20 meeting. Staff anticipates scheduling the public
21 information meeting and land use hearing later in the
22 day of the 16th and holding these virtually to
23 accommodate COVID-19 restrictions.

24 Does anybody have any questions before I
25 turn it over to the representative of One -- OneEnergy

1 Renewables who has prepared a presentation to introduce
2 their project?

3 CHAIR DREW: Are there any questions from
4 Councilmembers?

5 MR. OVERTON: So I think Blake Bjornson is
6 going to do the presentation here. I'll hand it over to
7 him.

8 MR. BJORNSON: Great. Thank you, Kyle.
9 Can everybody hear me okay?

10 CHAIR DREW: Yes.

11 MR. BJORNSON: Thank you.

12 All right. Yes, thank you. My name is
13 Blake Bjornson. I'm the manager of product development
14 in OneEnergy, and we are happy to be here to introduce
15 the project and our project team and excited to get
16 going in this process with EFSEC.

17 So next slide, please. Just a quick agenda
18 of what I'm going to be touching on today. Like I say,
19 going to introduce our team a little bit. I know we've
20 got some new members of the EFSEC Council, so I wanted
21 to just quickly cover some solar basics and then get
22 into an overview of the project including the location
23 and kind of where we're at with development and then
24 open up to questions.

25 So next slide. And go ahead, next slide,

1 please. So OneEnergy is headquartered in the state of
2 Washington in Seattle. We have had success developing
3 projects here in the West with multiple operational
4 projects in both Oregon and Montana and a number of
5 other projects in our development pipeline including
6 here in Washington. The -- we're really excited about
7 having a project that's -- that's close to home, and we
8 look forward to being able to hopefully one day take
9 folks out to Yakima County directly from Olympia here.

10 As far as who is going to be working on this
11 project, like I said, my name is Blake Bjornson. We've
12 also got on the call today Ann Sigveland. Ann is a
13 director of development and going on seven years with
14 OneEnergy. She will be leading development -- or she is
15 leading development of the project in the West. And
16 she's been in the renewable energy industry since 2007
17 with previous solar and wind development experience at
18 EDP Renewables and EDF Renewable Energy.

19 We also have on the call today as he
20 mentioned Tim McMahan supporting us from Stoel Rives.

21 Go ahead to the next slide, please. So like
22 I said, I know some folks are new to the Council since
23 Columbia Solar, so I just wanted to touch quickly on
24 some of the major components.

25 First and foremost, as you guessed, we're

1 going to have some solar panels out there. Same type of
2 panel that you see on a -- on a residential or
3 commercial facility. And one cool thing is the
4 antireflective coating, which really enhances the amount
5 of power -- or the amount of solar energy that's not
6 lost to reflection and turned into electricity.

7 Also got the racking. Those hold the
8 panels, and we are proposing a single axis tracking
9 technology that would rotate throughout the day to track
10 the sun. And then that's held up by minimally invasive
11 steel posts that are driven into the ground.

12 Next slide, please. So we've got a couple
13 of electrical components to get that electricity into a
14 usable form to get it onto the grid. There are the
15 inverters that change the power into a useable type of
16 power, and then there's the interconnection
17 infrastructure, which has safety equipment and -- and
18 different controls to actually put it onto the grid.
19 And we work closely with the interconnecting utility or
20 provider, which in this case is Bonneville Power
21 Administration.

22 Next slide. Wanted to touch on the -- the
23 optional battery energy storage system. I guess, first
24 of all, just to say it is optional. The commercial
25 discussions and -- and what exactly the buyer of the

1 power wants will -- will ultimately decide whether we --
2 whether set storage is included with the project or not.

3 The benefits of storage include reducing
4 renewable curtailments, being able to provide power when
5 the sun doesn't necessarily shine, and limit price
6 spikes related to evening peak ramping demand, so being
7 able to shift some of that power.

8 Any battery that would be used would be
9 listed or certified by the underwriter's laboratory,
10 which is the industry's foremost safety and
11 sustainability third-party standard. And kind of as you
12 can see here, these are modular self-contained units
13 that have all the built-in systems that are required
14 including, as you can see, there's a new standard, NFPA
15 855, that's been developed for the standard for the
16 installation of stationary energy storage systems. So
17 there's some high-level -- there's some -- there's some
18 requirements that have been created to -- to make sure
19 that these are safe.

20 Okay. Next slide, please. This will be the
21 final -- final couple components here. There's fencing
22 with the security fence up to eight feet in height that
23 would be installed around the perimeter. And we would
24 work with the County and the landowner and other
25 interested or- -- agencies to make sure that we design

1 the appropriate fence. And then we'll have roads for
2 access into the facility and within the facility for
3 operations and maintenance.

4 Next slide, please. I wanted to talk a
5 little bit about why solar is a great Washington
6 product. So I actually want to start on the second
7 bullet there. The Clean Energy Transformation Act,
8 CETA, has certainly increased the demand for solar
9 projects in the state. And as the Department of
10 Commerce in its recently released 2021 energy strategy
11 talks specifically about the significant quantities of
12 new clean generation that will be required to -- to meet
13 the future energy requirements of Washington, and this
14 project will be a great contributor to that goal.

15 Solar also correlates well with peak demand,
16 especially in the summer. We can site it close to
17 existing infrastructure, no use of water, and then sun's
18 going to be shining, so there's no fuel price risk
19 associated with it.

20 And finally, the solar is compatible with
21 agriculture. It's -- it does not have any negative
22 impacts on adjacent agricultural uses, and the landowner
23 is provided with supplemental income, which helps a lot
24 for them. And at the end of the project, we can remove
25 the -- remove the project and the land can be returned

1 to either its current use or whatever the landowner
2 wants to do with the -- with the land at that time.

3 Next slide, please. A few more things that
4 are kind more specific benefits to local communities.
5 One of them, taxes. There will be -- throughout the
6 life of the project, the project will deliver a reliable
7 and sustainable source of revenue to the County, which
8 can, of course, provide funding for schools, roads,
9 police, fire rescue, et cetera.

10 There's the recurring land expenditures that
11 just talks about the lease payments. Those -- you know,
12 those can really help diversify the landowner's income,
13 which allows for more resilience through volatility of
14 ag markets. And then there's also operation and
15 maintenance to keep the -- to keep the project going,
16 things like vegetation management.

17 Local spending during the -- especially
18 during the construction will have, you know, up to
19 300 -- as many as up to 300 jobs during construction,
20 which brings, you know, money into the community for
21 local contractors, hotels, food, things like that. And
22 then, of course, spending on things like electrical.

23 I will give a little bit to the [inaudible]
24 project. This is taken of the sites. Again, this is --
25 again, this is -- this sort of -- well, we will get

1 to -- the next page I have a map, so we'll jump next to
2 that. Yes, so here's the project location. You can see
3 Yakima sort of in the center of the map. We are about
4 eight miles east of Moxee in the Moxee Valley, and that
5 yellow line you can see there is the BPA line crossing
6 the -- that goes right across the project site.

7 It's actually the second site for this same
8 project. OneEnergy conducts thorough early due
9 diligence on sites, and that includes rigorous desktop
10 analysis through online mapping and early engagement
11 with agencies. And this instance, we actually had site
12 control and interconnection position on the same line
13 but about 12 miles east and in response to some WDFW
14 feedback, we moved the project to this current location.

15 Next slide, please. The other reason we
16 chose this location is the very high solar energy
17 resource. So this is a map produced by the National
18 Renewable Energy Lab, NREL, and shows solar radiation in
19 the state. And as you can see, there's that darker
20 shade here in the south -- southern part of the state.
21 Yakima County has a -- is square in that -- that really
22 high resource, which of course just means that each
23 solar panel can produce more electricity on an annual
24 basis than ones that are in a lower resource area, say,
25 in Seattle.

1 And, you know, while the solar resource is
2 better east of the Cascades, there's limited electrical
3 infrastructure, and so a really key component in siting
4 is to look for those existing transmission lines to
5 reduce the impacts of new products.

6 Next slide, please. Just wanted to zoom in
7 a little bit closer in on the site here. So a little
8 bit of background. The project encompasses two private
9 landowners. There's what we call Meacham and Martinez
10 that you will see in the application. Meacham is shown
11 here in green and Martinez is in orange. The -- the
12 properties are used in CRP and grazing right now, CRP,
13 the Conservation Reserve Program from USDA, and both --
14 both landowners have provided letters of support, which
15 are Attachment C to the application.

16 As I mentioned earlier, the yellow line
17 shows the existing BPA transmission line that we -- the
18 project will be interconnected to. And you can see the
19 point of interconnection identified by the P. And
20 additionally south of that, you can see the access off
21 of State Route 24, and the project will not require any
22 additional roads to access the site.

23 Just real quickly, the turquoise lines here
24 you see are the facility parcel boundaries, and the
25 shaded areas, the orange and green shaded areas, are the

1 sole extent of landowner site control, for which we had
2 all our biological and cultural studies completed. We
3 call that the survey area in the application. And then
4 within that, you can see it's a little bit harder to see
5 in this, but there's a red outline, which is within that
6 survey area, and that's the facility area extent, which
7 I will discuss a little bit more in detail in the next
8 slide.

9 Before we get there, I wanted to point out a
10 couple of additional things. You can see the ephemeral
11 stream -- there are a couple of ephemeral streams that
12 were delineated. Those are in blue. Those are tide
13 five streams, ephemeral streams, and the County did not
14 have any regulations for that type of stream; however,
15 we intend to avoid those as you can see in our layouts
16 with a 50-foot buffer. And then the area in the black
17 is the sage draw that we've also committed to avoiding
18 as higher quality habitat.

19 And if you go to the next slide, please. I
20 just wanted to spend a moment on the area definitions
21 that we use. I just said a few of them. So there's the
22 facility parcels, and -- and just to make sure, these
23 are laid out also in our application in Section 2.A.2.D,
24 2.A.2.D. So the facility area is defined as the area
25 within the project sets plus the access roads to connect

1 any distinct areas. That's the facility area.

2 As currently designed, facility occupies
3 approximately 595 acres. We are asking -- and we are
4 asking for a maximum size of 625 acres. That would be
5 the facility area. Facility area's fully within what we
6 call the facility area extent, which is a micro-siting
7 boundary within which that facility area will be placed.
8 So that totals 789 acres, and that's what you see as in
9 the red in this map. So the purple -- and the purple is
10 what is the currently designed facility area.

11 And like I said, the facility area extent is
12 wholly located within the survey area, which was for our
13 biological and cultural surveys. So just wanted to
14 touch base on kind of an important part of understanding
15 some of the terminology in our -- in our applications.

16 Next slide, please. And this will be the
17 last slide. Just wanted to touch on the project status a
18 bit. So kind of the macro level, we think about project
19 development needing to satisfy these five components.
20 So with land, we've got site control secured for
21 adequate lands. We've got interested private landowners
22 that are seeking endeavors by their income streams.

23 We've got interconnection. We've received
24 our facility study, which is the final study from BPA,
25 which shows that we can interconnect to this location

1 easily, both in terms of minimal new facilities and
2 feasible costs. And the project is sited immediately
3 adjacent to the existing infrastructure, which limits
4 impacts. And this limited scope lower cost
5 interconnection ultimately means cheaper electricity for
6 the consumer.

7 For strong resource, as I mentioned earlier,
8 this is one of the best spots in the state for solar.
9 This project is anticipated to produce about 180
10 gigawatt hours in the first year, which is equivalent to
11 the annual electricity consumption of over 14,500 hours,
12 so a pretty great spot to have solar.

13 So the two you can see there in gray are of
14 course the permit, here we are. And I will talk about
15 next steps in a moment, but -- and then the energy
16 sales, which, again, CETA's creating high demands for
17 renewables in the state, we're actively engaged in state
18 proposals and negotiations with a number of entities and
19 targeting a commercial operation date as soon as
20 November of 2022.

21 And I guess maybe I'll just focus here --
22 stay here on the permit for a second and talk about next
23 steps. Kyle mentioned the -- we've got the land use
24 consistency meeting and the public information meeting
25 on March 16th that we look forward to participating in,

1 and I guess I will leave it at that and let -- let you
2 discuss further from there.

3 So with that, if you'd go to the last slide,
4 please. I just wanted to make a couple final notes.
5 One is kind of an administrative note. I took great
6 pains in the application to use bookmarks quite a bit,
7 so in both the PDF version and Word version, there are
8 bookmarks to all the different sections. So I really
9 encourage you to use those to jump around in the
10 document when you need to.

11 And then I also wanted to give my sincere
12 thanks to EFSEC Staff for their assistance for the last
13 many months. The whole crew, including Chair Drew,
14 Sonia, Kyle, Patty, Stephen, and Tammy, have all been
15 really great to work with. Really appreciate that and
16 looking forward to going down this process with you all.

17 With that, I will open up to any questions.

18 CHAIR DREW: Thank you, Blake.

19 Are there any questions from Councilmembers?

20 MR. DENGEL: This is Rob Dengel. I have a
21 question regarding the operation. So looking through
22 your application, it looks like you have a maintenance
23 and operation facility that you're going to put on site,
24 but I think it was in your notes you also mentioned that
25 you wouldn't be having a full-time person working at the

1 site. So I was just wondering, what do operations look
2 like from a long-term staffing perspective just to get a
3 better understanding of the nature of this solar
4 project?

5 MR. BJORNSON: Yeah, thank you. So in terms
6 of operation maintenance, you're correct that there will
7 be a building on site or we're -- we're asking to permit
8 for a building. Each owner and the, you know, whether
9 they have a building on site that holds things like
10 extra panels or electrical equipment that needs to be
11 serviced, you know, that -- that might be up to --
12 that's different depending on who's operating the
13 project.

14 But we have -- you know, typically solar
15 projects are serviced by operations and maintenance sort
16 of -- what's the right word -- consultants, that are
17 servicing a number of projects in an area so that the
18 solar project itself does not require a full-time staff.
19 A solar project of this size does not require a
20 full-time staff on site. But when there are issues that
21 come up, they can be called on to -- to go and fix
22 things.

23 And then there's also, you know, annual
24 maintenance that's scheduled, and so those -- those
25 would be scheduled with that -- with that company as

1 well. That's typically how it's -- how it's done.

2 MR. DENGEL: Thank you.

3 CHAIR DREW: Any other questions from
4 Councilmembers?

5 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yeah, Chair, this is Mike
6 Livingston.

7 CHAIR DREW: Go ahead.

8 MR. LIVINGSTON: So first I just wanted to
9 thank Blake and the team for the -- the consideration of
10 moving the site from that wet farther eastern location
11 to this one. From a Fish and Wildlife standpoint,
12 siting is the key for these projects. The more we can
13 get them away from impact wildlife habitat the better,
14 so appreciate that.

15 I wanted to also acknowledge the preliminary
16 work that is done on the rare plants and big game
17 habitat corridors. I'm curious if there's any
18 additional survey work intended to be done. Though the
19 likelihood is low, there's still a possibility given the
20 proximity of the site to the Yakima Training Center
21 where we do have one of our remaining sage grouse
22 populations left, there's some possibility that they're
23 occurring in the general area. So I'm curious if you're
24 planning on doing any more wildlife surveys. Ground
25 squirrels are another potential species of concern, jack

1 rabbits, burrowing owls.

2 And then I -- one other question would be,
3 are you guys -- you know, one of the things that we've
4 grappled with for the solar project in particular is
5 that these large eight-foot fences can be barriers to
6 wildlife movements, and they can also be potential
7 collision sites for, in particular, birds. And so I
8 don't know if you're looking at best management practice
9 for how to minimize those types of collisions. Thanks.

10 MR. BJORNSON: Yeah, thank you for the
11 questions. So on the survey work, we conducted surveys
12 at the site over the course of two years, 2019 and 2020
13 spring surveys, and conducted outreach to the local WDFW
14 folks who provided feedback on our survey protocol and
15 made sure that we were doing the appropriate work out
16 there.

17 In terms of sage grouse in particular, no
18 sage grouse were identified on the site during either
19 survey. And I don't think we anticipate -- we do not
20 anticipate at this time doing additional survey work,
21 and I encourage you to -- you know, all the survey -- or
22 the survey reports are included of course in the permit
23 as an attachment, I believe it's Attachment F.

24 And I would say -- do I want to say any more
25 on the surveys? Yeah, you know, different ground

1 squirrels, there were -- all the findings can be found
2 in that Attachment F.

3 In terms of the fence, yes, we also did
4 the -- we've discussed the fence design with WDFW as
5 well and have committed to raising the bottom by four
6 inches off the ground and also committed to not using
7 razor wire on the top.

8 And we do have some ongoing conversation
9 with WDFW in terms of rounding out the -- the mitigation
10 and making sure that the project minimizes impacts to be
11 least as possible. So we continue to look forward to
12 continue discussing those impacts and -- as we go
13 forward.

14 And I would also encourage, the habitat
15 mitigation memo is Attachment R to the application, and
16 that -- that has a kind of our assessment of where we're
17 at with mitigation at -- at this present time and
18 provides some of the other things that we've done for
19 mitigation tactics.

20 MR. LIVINGSTON: Thank you for those
21 responses. I appreciate that.

22 MR. BJORNSON: Thank you.

23 CHAIR DREW: Blake, I do have a question
24 too. In terms of the agricultural lands, do you know if
25 any of them are designated of long-term significance?

1 MR. BJORNSON: I believe in Yakima County,
2 all agricultural lands -- when they did the land use
3 planning, all agricultural lands have that designation.
4 They do not distinguish within the agricultural zoning
5 district.

6 CHAIR DREW: And can you explain what the
7 different kinds of agriculture that are currently
8 happening on this property are?

9 MR. BJORNSON: Yes. So the Meacham
10 property, which is the southernmost property, the one
11 that's adjacent to State Route 24, that is in the
12 Conservation Reserve Program, so it's been sitting
13 fallow and does not have any active agricultural
14 practices.

15 The Martinez property is routinely used for
16 grazing in the winter. As you can see in the -- in the
17 Attachment C, the landowner support letter, it doesn't
18 have very high value for them as a -- as winter habitat,
19 but -- or excuse me, as winter grazing, but it is used.
20 And you can see there's one particular portion that has
21 a bit heavier grazing usage that's in the Martinez
22 property that's south of the transmission line. But
23 otherwise, it's not used a lot, but it is used for
24 grazing.

25 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

1 Other questions?

2 Okay. Hearing none, thank you very much for
3 your presentation and we will continue to -- the Staff
4 will work with you in terms of the review, and we will
5 also work to set up the informational meeting and the
6 land use consistency meeting in order to gather the
7 input from the public at that time. Thank you.

8 MR. BJORNSON: Great. Thank you so much.

9 CHAIR DREW: Moving on to Horse Heaven Wind
10 Project, Ms. Moon?

11 MS. MOON: Thank you, Chair Drew. On
12 February 8th, 2021, EFSEC received an application for a
13 site certification from Scout Clean Energy proposing the
14 construction and operation of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm
15 Project. The application for site certification, also
16 known as an ASC, proposes the construction of a
17 renewable energy generation facility that would have a
18 maximum nameplate energy generating capacity of up to
19 1,150 megawatts for a combination of wind and solar
20 facilities as well as battery energy storage systems, or
21 BESS. The proposed project is located in Benton County,
22 Washington, south of Kennewick.

23 According to the ASC if approved, the
24 applicant is anticipating commercial operation of the
25 first phase to be built by the end of calendar year

1 2023.

2 EFSEC is working to schedule the public
3 information meeting and land use hearing to be held on
4 the same day within 60 days of applicant receipt before
5 April 9th. These are anticipated to be virtual
6 meetings, or virtual meeting and hearing.

7 EFSEC is sending notification letters this
8 week to local and State agencies who have an
9 opportunity to appoint someone to sit on the Council.
10 EFSEC is also developing a project mailing list. People
11 can sign up for the project mailing list on the Horse
12 Heaven Project specific website. That's -- first go to
13 the EFSEC website and then you can scroll through the
14 facilities to Horse Heaven.

15 The Horse Heaven Project application
16 included a request for the expedited process, which has
17 a 120-day State Environmental Policy Act, otherwise
18 known as SEPA, review timeline. June 8th will be the
19 120 days.

20 As Kyle Overton previously presented, the
21 Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project is subject to the same
22 Washington Administrative Codes as the Goose Prairie
23 Solar Project.

24 Does the Council have any questions?

25 CHAIR DREW: Any questions at this point for

1 Ms. Moon?

2 Okay. Hearing none.

3 MS. MOON: Okay. We will now have a brief
4 project overview presentation by the Horse Heaven Wind
5 Farm Project applicant.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not hearing anything.

7 CHAIR DREW: Yes, we can't hear the
8 presenter yet.

9 MR. LANDESS: Hello. Can you all hear me
10 now?

11 CHAIR DREW: Yes, we can. Go ahead.

12 MR. LANDESS: Okay. Apologies for the
13 technical difficulties. Okay. Want to -- want to
14 discuss -- introduce Scout Clean Energy, give an
15 overview of our project team as well as the Horse Heaven
16 Project. We will also touch on components of the
17 environmental protections and reviews that you will find
18 in our application materials. I will close with a
19 summary of the community engagement that has been
20 conducted over the past year, and -- and also allow some
21 time for questions from Council or Staff at the end of
22 our presentation.

23 So Scout Clean Energy is a leading renewable
24 energy developer, owner, and operator. We have -- we
25 are headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, and have a local

1 office here in the Tri-Cities. Scout was founded in
2 2016 but made up of a long-standing management team with
3 an extensive track record of developing utility scale
4 wind projects.

5 Scout currently has a -- over a
6 3,000-megawatt portfolio that includes wind, solar, and
7 energy storage projects across 12 states. The most
8 recent Scout project to come online is our Bitter Ridge
9 Wind Farm, which is located in Jay County, Indiana.
10 That site began operations in October 2020.

11 I'd also like to introduce the broader --
12 broader project team and consultants that helped prepare
13 our application for site certification. Tetra Tech was
14 responsible for the environmental review analysis in
15 preparation of the application.

16 West is our avian and bat study and
17 statistical analysis consultant.

18 Westwood helped or assisted with our
19 preliminary engineering design and survey work.

20 And HRA, or Historical Research Associates,
21 is our archaeological and cultural study consultant for
22 the project.

23 Here's our presentation team. They're -- I
24 am Pat Landess and also Dave Kobus is the lead project
25 manager for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm. His experience

1 includes leading development of the Nine Canyon Wind
2 Farm, which is currently operating in Benton County,
3 Washington. Dave is a resident of Richland, Washington,
4 which is just a few miles from the proposed Horse Heaven
5 project site.

6 Now, I would like to let Dave talk a little
7 bit and discuss more of the details about the Horse
8 Heaven project that is proposed for Benton County.

9 MR. KOBUS: Thank you, Pat, and good
10 afternoon, everyone. I hope folks can hear me. As can
11 be seen on the slide, the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project
12 will be located just south of the Tri-Cities. At its
13 closest point, it's approximately four miles
14 south/southwest of the city of Kennewick and as you can
15 see as well on the larger Tri-Cities urban area.

16 To date, the company has substantial site
17 control in the area. We've got just over 70,000 acres
18 with wind energy lease and easement agreements with the
19 participating landowners. So the project area consists
20 primarily of private agricultural land what -- where
21 each turbine and associate access roads on average
22 affects only about a half acre from agricultural
23 production.

24 There's also a few parcels of state school
25 trust land, which we have hopes to support up to ten

1 wind turbines plus a portion of the solar project.

2 And then we're fortunate we have two planned
3 interconnections with the electrical grid. There is one
4 on the eastern side of the project near Interstate 82,
5 which runs north-south through the project area. And
6 then on the -- the west site control boundary, there's
7 also a planned interconnection there, both are on the
8 Bonneville system.

9 Scout Clean Energy's been working to develop
10 a wind project in Benton County since 2016. In the
11 process, we've -- we've acquired assets as well as filed
12 for additional interconnection capacity that will allow
13 the addition of solar and battery storage components.
14 This allows us to scale the project up to 1,150
15 megawatts of renewable energy.

16 The project will permit up to 244 wind
17 turbine generator locations with the exact model and --
18 and precise corresponding locations to be determined
19 closer to construction, as it will be dependent on
20 available manufacturer production schedules and will be
21 selected through a competitive process.

22 Combining wind, solar, and battery storage
23 as a hybrid system helps to mitigate one of the biggest
24 disadvantages of renewable power and that's in its
25 variability. Building these components at the same

1 location can enhance grid reliability by providing
2 electrical generation during more hours of the day as
3 well as the ability to store power when it's needed the
4 most. Also, hybrid renewable energy resources in this
5 region have enhanced value due to generation peaks
6 coinciding with power demand peaks where one technology
7 can contribute during the [sound interference] of
8 another.

9 So flexibility's key as depending on the
10 preferences of the eventual power purchaser of a power
11 sales agreement for the facility. The relative wind,
12 solar, battery storage ratios may change where
13 additional solar, battery storage is constructed with
14 correspondingly fewer wind turbines. This flexibility
15 also includes the potential for the project to be built
16 in phases and even have multiple offtakers.

17 So Scout originally intended to pursue local
18 permitting throughout our development planning efforts
19 as wind, solar, and battery storage are allowable
20 conditional uses in Benton County. However, in -- in
21 recent months, the project size and scope have expanded
22 as well as the evolving challenges associated with
23 public meetings due to the pandemic all adding to the
24 environmental review complexity.

25 We also appreciated that the EFSEC process

1 ensures robust public involvement opportunities that we
2 believe match or exceed the local permitting process.
3 So the State process ensures that expert resources are
4 available to accomplish review without undue burden on
5 local agencies with limited resources.

6 We have met with Benton County staff and
7 officials multiple times throughout the course of our
8 development effort, and our team continues dialogue as
9 questions arise. And Benton County has been provided
10 the land use section of the application. Consistency
11 with local land use will be determined through the site
12 certification process.

13 I'd like to touch on components of the
14 environmental reviews that you will find in our
15 application materials. To give you a sense of the
16 natural environment within the project boundary area,
17 approximately 74 percent is agricultural land, primarily
18 dry land wheat farming, 11 percent is grassland, and 8
19 percent is shrub land.

20 Now, the shrub land I can further identify
21 that of the -- you know, high value of shrub land, 1
22 percent is sagebrush shrub-steppe in our micro-siting
23 corridors, and very little of it is impacted by solar.
24 In fact, less than .1 percent.

25 The list of studies have all been recently

1 concluded and are in the application materials. The
2 wildlife studies were conducted over the past three
3 years.

4 Now, our review also considered
5 environmental health impacts, which includes such
6 factors as the aesthetics, ambient noise, and shadow
7 flicker, which you can see a bit there shown on the
8 slide. Setbacks are established for statutory criteria
9 as well as industry standards.

10 Visual simulations have also been developed
11 based at numerous viewpoints in the surrounding area.
12 The view that you see here is -- is from Clodfelter Road
13 looking southeast. So on the inset, you can kind of get
14 oriented how the -- the photo was taken relative to the
15 full layout of -- of the wind turbine site.

16 For areas with broad vistas such as this,
17 wind energy projects can result in change to the
18 landscape. You know, you're going to see them. But
19 participating landowners will experience a very small
20 impact on the actual use of their land.

21 So in this region, wind turbines must be
22 placed in the most windy sites, which are higher in
23 elevation so they'll occupy ridge lines like you see
24 often around the area. Consequently, they will be
25 visible to a varying extent depending on your vantage

1 point.

2 As I mentioned earlier, the majority of the
3 project site is extensively used for agriculture, but
4 regardless of the land use, cultural resource
5 investigations of all areas were completed and detailed
6 reports are available in the application along with
7 their findings.

8 Now, I will turn the presentation back over
9 to Pat to address community outreach, which certainly
10 has been challenging due to the recent gathering
11 restrictions in the state.

12 CHAIR DREW: There you are.

13 MR. LANDESS: Sorry. Thank you. Can you
14 hear me now?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

16 MR. LANDESS: Thank you.

17 Thanks, Dave.

18 It's important for us to conduct meaningful
19 public engagement and certainly while safely weathering
20 the -- the pandemic. We're using a variety of online
21 tools to connect with residents and local stakeholder
22 groups at -- near the Horse Heaven Project.

23 In December, a public opinion survey was
24 conducted by EMC Research. Their study assessed Benton
25 County voter sentiment on renewable energy development

1 broadly as well as Horse Heaven Project specifically.
2 The results of that survey are detailed in our
3 application materials.

4 I also wanted to touch on the supplemental
5 information that we'll be filing as part of our
6 application for site certification with the Council once
7 it's completed. The -- the two main forthcoming
8 documents are the ambient noise monitoring report as
9 well as the habitat mitigation plan.

10 And to wrap up now, appreciate the -- the
11 time and would like to answer -- answer any questions
12 that Council or Staff may -- may have after our
13 introduction.

14 CHAIR DREW: Thank you to both of you. My
15 question is about the agricultural use of the property,
16 and I understand agricultural use with wind is somewhat
17 different than solar. You are planning both activities.
18 Are the lands considered to be -- the agricultural lands
19 long-term -- of long-term significance and what is your
20 thought about the continued use for agriculture?

21 MR. KOBUS: Yes, appreciate the question,
22 Chair Drew. All of the land that's within the area of
23 site control is GMA ag zoned. And so, you know, as I
24 mentioned, the -- the way the -- the land is utilized,
25 it's primarily dry land wheat. Where the solar panels

1 will be placed will -- will cause a change in the -- the
2 use of the land as the solar panels will take it out of
3 any agricultural production. And the intention is to
4 reseed the areas where there's -- the solar panels will
5 be with native grasses.

6 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. And so do you see
7 some ongoing participation outside of the project exact
8 footprint in terms of the lease land for that dry land
9 agriculture? That's kind of the question I was after.

10 MR. KOBUS: Yeah, wherever the wind turbines
11 are placed, there will be a, you know, small impact,
12 approximately a half acre per wind turbine. And so
13 those agricultural activities will continue. In fact,
14 the farmers generally appreciate the additional roads as
15 that helps them in their farming operations as well.

16 In -- in the solar areas, they will be
17 fenced as you've heard previously, but we'll work with
18 the services to make sure that that fencing is, you
19 know, adequate for safety of the project, but, you know,
20 minimizes the impact environmentally.

21 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

22 Are there other questions from
23 Councilmembers?

24 MR. DENGEL: This is Rob Dengel with
25 Ecology. I have a couple of questions I would like to

1 ask.

2 So a couple questions on the project, nature
3 of the project, one thing I couldn't find in any of the
4 materials is whether or not you already had leases to
5 cover the 35-year -- -year useful life of all the
6 equipment or how the ownership -- because my
7 understanding is that there are multiple landowners
8 involved in this project. If you can speak to that,
9 please.

10 MR. KOBUS: Yes, appreciate the question.
11 This is Dave Kobus with Scout. We have almost all of
12 the leases executed. We certainly have commitments from
13 all of the landowners within that site control, you
14 know, at least verbally committed. The one area where
15 we may have to rely on letters of consent is with the
16 State lands where the Department of Natural Resources,
17 you know, will depend on the -- the SEPA evaluation as
18 part of our application to conclude their efforts in
19 their leasing activities.

20 But they have indicated that they are
21 supporting our wind development parcels as well as the
22 solar as well as the associated right-of-way that will
23 be needed.

24 CHAIR DREW: So if I could follow up on
25 that. So DNR is looking to our SEPA process to inform

1 their decision?

2 MR. KOBUS: That's correct.

3 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

4 MR. DENGEL: Just a few other quick
5 questions here, and that is, the energy production on
6 the turbines, I couldn't quite find it, but it looks
7 like it's 350 megawatts; is that right? It's kind of
8 the vast majority of the energy production coming from
9 solar at 6,570 megawatts.

10 MR. KOBUS: You know, I -- I'm not sure the
11 numbers you're referring to, but suffice it to say that
12 the maximum number of turbines that we could construct
13 is -- is 244, and if I recall correctly, that equates to
14 about 650 megawatts production from -- from the wind
15 turbines. So the remaining 500 megawatts would be
16 the -- the potential of solar if we have that balance of
17 wind and solar desired by our offtakers.

18 But, you know, as I mentioned, the number of
19 wind turbines could be fewer if we desire more solar
20 associated with the project, but our nameplate limit
21 will be 1150 megawatts.

22 MR. DENGEL: Okay. Thank you. That's
23 useful. Apologize. Looks like the number I cited was
24 the average. So yeah, okay. So all right. So makes a
25 lot more sense.

1 And then my last question is regarding the
2 bird mitigation. I was looking over the SEPA documents,
3 can you just kind of describe at a high level what's
4 done on the turbine standpoint for mitigation? I had a
5 difficult time finding anything specific.

6 MR. KOBUS: Well, as -- as I recall related
7 to turbine placement, we will have the standard setbacks
8 that, you know, are associated with -- with the zoning
9 for the property. We will also have setbacks associated
10 with wildlife such as nesting areas. I mean, one that
11 comes to mind is ferruginous hawk nesting areas.
12 There's a standard setback that -- that we would use
13 from those.

14 So, you know, other than specific identified
15 locations, it's pretty much the -- going to be the
16 standard protocol in the wind industry guidelines.

17 MR. DENGEL: Thank you.

18 MS. KELLY: Chair -- Chair Drew, this is
19 Kate Kelly.

20 CHAIR DREW: Go ahead.

21 MS. KELLY: I just had a question about the
22 battery storage. Can you -- can you talk a little bit
23 about what that might look like or how that would work?

24 MR. KOBUS: Yeah, the -- the best way to
25 describe it is the -- the battery storage would come

1 in -- in modular-type units, you know, similar to what
2 you saw earlier relative to inverters for the solar
3 project. But these -- these modular units would be
4 installed on -- on concrete pads and they're -- they're,
5 you know, kind of like a shipping container, and then
6 there would be the -- the cooling systems that would be
7 required would also be on the end of the units and then
8 they would be stacked -- not stacked but side by side
9 on -- on a footprint close to where the collector
10 substations would be for the project.

11 And so each battery storage container for
12 the technology we're currently looking at is about three
13 megawatts per container. So if you had 150 megawatts,
14 of course there -- you know, there would be 50
15 containers that would be sited.

16 MS. KELLY: And so the -- the scope of the
17 how many containers there are and what they look like is
18 conditioned on what kind of deals you reach with folks
19 who need the power?

20 MR. KOBUS: Yeah, the way, you know, it will
21 work is we will, you know, bid the project into requests
22 for proposal of processes, and we'll identify an
23 offering, you know, that we believe is consistent
24 with what the request for proposals are looking for, and
25 then we'll negotiate with the interested party. They

1 may say that, you know, they -- they don't need battery
2 storage, all they want is wind. They may say that they
3 want the hybrid facility that -- that has wind and
4 storage but no battery. Or they could, you know,
5 identify needing battery and -- and not so much solar.

6 So it will really be a negotiation process
7 to refine at the end of the day what has the greatest
8 value for the interested offtakers.

9 MR. LANDESS: And if I may just add a couple
10 notes, as it's laid out in our -- our application for
11 all of the different resource analyses, it's -- it's --
12 we're looking at the maximum, you know, impacts of the
13 build-out. So it's -- it's as if -- the resource
14 analyses are completed as if all or, you know, both 150
15 megawatt battery storage systems at, you know, either
16 projects collector substation location would be
17 constructed and -- and under operations.

18 CHAIR DREW: So our -- our process would be
19 to review the application, and then pending the outcome
20 of that process once that's completed, if it's a
21 positive outcome, then the negotiations would be under
22 that overall footprint?

23 MR. LANDESS: That's correct.

24 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. KOBUS: Yes, and just -- just another

1 point of clarification that, yeah, whatever we build
2 would -- would be within the footprint we've identified
3 in the application. So in other words, we've -- we've
4 identified the most impactful case and -- and may end up
5 scaling back from there.

6 Also with -- with the battery storage, it's
7 not considered generation. So, you know, when we speak
8 1150 megawatts as the nameplate capacity of the project,
9 that's not counting the -- you know, the two 150
10 megawatt potential battery storage systems. Hope that
11 clears it up.

12 MS. KELLY: Thank you. That's helpful.

13 CHAIR DREW: Any other questions from
14 Councilmembers?

15 MR. LIVINGSTON: Yeah, Chair, this is Mike
16 Livingston. I got a -- I got a few.

17 CHAIR DREW: Go ahead.

18 MR. LIVINGSTON: So one thing that I -- I
19 kind of dove in a little bit into the -- the West
20 Incorporated report, noticed the timeline of the -- the
21 wildlife surveys that had been completed, they're two to
22 three years old. I don't know if there's more continued
23 surveys going on that will lead up to the final
24 decisions for siting of specific turbines.

25 Dave, you mentioned the ferruginous hawk.

1 It's currently a State-threatened species, and we are
2 under current public review for a potential
3 recommendation to our Commission to uplift endangered --
4 State-endangered, so that species is really kind of
5 imperilled. And Benton and Franklin Counties are like
6 the, if you will, the stronghold for the species. So
7 there's -- there's some real concern there that we want
8 to make sure that siting is done properly for that
9 particular species.

10 So I wanted to know -- and I've got some
11 other questions, but I want to know, are there
12 additional update surveys planned, because ferruginous
13 hawk in particular will move around from different
14 territories, and so it will be important to note where
15 they are when you are making these decisions.

16 MR. KOBUS: Appreciate the question, Mike.
17 At this point, we do not plan any additional surveys.
18 The -- you know, we had the two-year baseline survey,
19 you know, relative to standard protocols. And then as
20 we expanded the site, we did an additional one-year of
21 large bird surveys on the eastern side of the project.

22 But, you know, we do have a bird and bat
23 conversation strategy that -- that will be a living
24 document and, you know, we will work with services and
25 adapt as necessary.

1 MR. LIVINGSTON: Okay. Thank you. And then
2 one other wildlife-centered question, and you're
3 probably aware of this, the snow geese numbers in --
4 particularly in the wintertime have just been really
5 increasing in that area. They spend a lot of time on
6 the wheat fields and then further down onto the Columbia
7 River. And so that's something to keep in mind.
8 They're not an imperilled species and in some -- some
9 situations they can be at a nuisance level on the
10 breeding grounds, but they are economically important
11 both from a hunting as well as a wildlife watching
12 perspective. So I think that'll be an important species
13 to keep in mind as you're doing your siting decisions as
14 well.

15 And then finally, and I'm going to geek out
16 for a second, and just note that in the West report,
17 there were five observations of Washington ground
18 squirrels, which to my knowledge don't occur in Benton
19 County. That would be Townsend's. So I think that
20 would be an important thing for you guys for your
21 records to make sure that you get that -- that
22 corrected.

23 And with that, Chair, I'm done with my
24 questions and comments.

25 CHAIR DREW: Thank you.

1 Any other questions from Councilmembers?

2 MS. KELLY: Chair, this is Kate Kelly again.
3 They -- at the end of their presentation, there was talk
4 about additional documents that were being produced.
5 Does -- does that mean the application isn't complete
6 right now or -- until we receive those or are those just
7 part of the ongoing process?

8 CHAIR DREW: I will ask Staff to answer
9 that. Ms. Moon or Ms. Bumpus?

10 MS. BUMPUS: Hi, Chair Drew. This is Sonia
11 Bumpus. So the application is being reviewed for
12 completeness, and those reports are items that we would
13 need to complete the reviews. So we do see those as
14 pieces of information that are needed to make the
15 application complete, but we're also reviewing
16 everything else we have so that we can develop a
17 comprehensive list of questions and things that we might
18 need just clarified to put together to send to Scout
19 Clean Energy.

20 CHAIR DREW: And that's --

21 MS. BUMPUS: Does that help answer the
22 question?

23 CHAIR DREW: The -- just a second. And
24 that's common in terms of even though we've received the
25 application, we already start that 60-day period in

1 order to have the first comment -- public comment period
2 and the land use consistency hearing, so we're -- we're
3 on that timeline, but that doesn't mean we won't be
4 asking for additional information. And I'll take
5 whoever it is that wanted to comment on it as well. Was
6 that someone from Scout?

7 MS. KELLY: Chair, this is Kate. That --
8 that answered my question. So thank you both very much.

9 CHAIR DREW: Okay. Thank you.

10 Are there additional questions from
11 Councilmembers?

12 Thank you very much for your presentation,
13 and we look forward to getting additional information as
14 we move forward.

15 Again, for those of you who are
16 participating on this call in terms of listening or
17 viewing it, this will be -- the applications are posted
18 on our site, and there are opportunities for you to sign
19 up on mailing lists, which are electronic as well, and
20 to continue to get information on the project. And we
21 look forward to hearing from you in our future meetings
22 for public comment. So appreciate that.

23 We're moving on now to the revised third
24 quarter cost allocation, Ms. Bumpus.

25 MS. BUMPUS: Yes, thank you. Good

1 afternoon, Chair Drew and Councilmembers. This is Sonia
2 Bumpus for the record. We have done our third quarter
3 cost allocation, but with the two new projects that
4 we've received, Goose Prairie in January and Horse
5 Heaven Wind Farm in February, we've needed to update our
6 cost allocation. So this cost allocation that you're
7 seeing in your packets here is for January 19th, that's
8 when it begins, incorporates the Goose Prairie Solar
9 Project into the cost allocations. So I will just very
10 quickly go through these.

11 For Kittitas Valley Wind Farm, 8 percent;
12 Wild Horse, 8 percent; Columbia Generating Station is 24
13 percent; Columbia Solar, 8 percent; WNP-1, 3 percent;
14 Whistling Ridge, 3 percent; Grays Harbor 1&2, 13
15 percent; Chehalis, 12 percent; Desert Claim Wind Power
16 Project, 8 percent; Grays Harbor 3&4, 4 percent; and
17 Goose Prairie, 9 percent.

18 So this cost allocation became effective
19 January 19th when the new application was received by
20 Goose Prairie. In February we received the -- February
21 8th to be precise -- the application for site
22 certification for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm.

23 We also have another change, as of February
24 18th, two days from now, the Grays Harbor Energy Site
25 Certification Agreement for Units 3 and 4 will be

1 expiring. So for the cost allocation that you are
2 looking at now that begins February 8th, it removes the
3 portion that Grays Harbor Energy Units 3 and 4 would
4 typically carry, and it shifts those costs and then it
5 also adds in Horse Heaven Wind Farm. So I'll read these
6 percentages off.

7 For Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project, 7
8 percent; Wild Horse, 7 percent; Columbia Generating
9 Station, 24 percent; Columbia Solar, 8 percent; WNP-1,
10 3 percent; Whistling Ridge, 3 percent; Grays Harbor 1&2,
11 12 percent; Chehalis, 12 percent; Desert Claim Wind
12 Power Project, 6 percent; Grays Harbor Energy 3&4 is
13 reduced to 0 percent; Goose Prairie, 9 percent; and
14 Horse Heaven, 9 percent.

15 And these are going to be our cost
16 allocation percentages until March 31st, the end of the
17 quarter for fiscal year 2021. Are there any questions
18 for me?

19 CHAIR DREW: Thank you for that. We have a
20 few changes going on, so appreciate that we're keeping
21 up to date with our cost allocation, and thank you for
22 your presentation.

23 We are at the end of our meeting for today,
24 our agenda, so thank you all for your participation, for
25 the presentations, for the questions, and we look

1 forward to a busy year. Our meeting is adjourned.

2 (Adjourned at 2:58 p.m.)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



Tayler Garlinghouse
Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358