

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00301	2RwSSvu	Tara Kentch		9 S Goose Gap Rd Benton City, WA 99320	tarakentch07@gmail.com	False

I don't want the windmills. They will devalue our property. They kill birds. They looks hideous.

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00302	314I2hO	David Sharp		89417 Summit View Dr Kennewick, WA 99338	davesharp.pe@gmail.com	False

SEPA Scoping

Comment-General

This comment is to advise the Council that it is probable the HHH Wind Project will end up being owned by a private corporate entity. The projects that Scout has completed while owned by Quinbrook Infrastructure Partners have all ended up being owned by private corporate entities.

If that is the case, the destination of the renewable energy credit will go to the owner for use at their desired locations. The tax incentives will follow the owner. The generated power, would then be orphaned from the renewable energy credits and will likely be sold on the Mid-Columbia or California Oregon border spot market. The owner will receive the revenue from the power sales. The battery storage system will likely act to smooth the wind or solar power put onto the grid, but the energy will be still be short term, and is not what Washington state needs to replace firm energy that the fossil units now provide.

It was confirmed with WUTC that power orphaned from the renewable credits can only be used as unspecified power as defined in the Fuel Mix Disclosure Reporting system. Thus, Washington will not receive any carbon reduction benefit from that power if purchased*.

To summarize, if the project is purchased by a private corporate entity for their own carbon reductions goals:

1. Renewable Energy Credits go to the owner.
2. Tax incentives go to the owner
3. Revenue from the spot market power sales go to the owner.
4. Spot market power is classified as unspecified power and does not count toward Washington's carbon reduction goals.
5. Washington customers get no renewable energy from the project*.
6. Washington gets no firm power from the project.

According to statute, Washington has a "pressing need for energy facilities", but if the project does not provide a product that is needed for the State, how can that be justified over cost to the environment.

If this project is approved and results in minimal benefit to the state, it will erode confidence in the site evaluation process and could end up being the biggest misstep since the WNP 1-4 debacle.

*If the private corporate owner of the wind project has facilities in Washington, those customers may get renewable energy credits for the energy that is consumed.

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00303	31CTHQT	Gary Schaefer		54807 E Badger Rd Benton City, WA 99330	gsfarrier@live.com	False

The power is not needed in the tri city vicinity let alone the lies and misrepresentation of actual facts that are related to the wind power and solar farm proposed south of the tri cities typical leftist BS all for corporate greed federal tax incentives and not to mention the licensing off shore to elude paying taxes that would normally be paid by legit businesses that are actually licensed and based in the state where they do business

No one seems to care about future growth of the tri cities say in 50 years or so the only directions that the city can grow is south were the wind mills are proposed to be installed

Wind companies utilize they're Power and corporate knowledge on the uninformed and sad to say less knowledgeable to sway they're way of thinking by skewing the actual facts call it deceit if you will no different than all of the politicians we have elected that have been doing

No care or consideration towards the people who will have to live with the decisions of the wind mills being placed in our back yard ruining the scenic views not to mention lack of consideration for the wild life that will be effected Eagles Hawks Owls. Deer Antelope even more of which the WDFW knows that are there not to mention the loss of farm ground that will be take out of production

If the west side needs the power and or California why don't they locate the wind power and solar power in they're back yard oh that is right they were proposed to be put there but the people who live over there didn't want that in they're back yard and made such a ruckus they stopped them and now they are now trying to put them here

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00304	33HXkUs	Benjamin DeForest	Resident	54407 E 95 PR SE Benton City, WA 99320	lost.in.deforest@gmail.com	False

I oppose the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm project. Please see the attached letter I wrote for the details as to why I oppose this project with links to supporting evidence and specific cases I have personally seen of some of the negative impacts that would be caused by this project. I am an electrical engineer, former servicemember from the US Army that deployed to Iraq and worked on CH-47 Chinook and UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters, former wildland firefighter, and I interned at Franklin PUD, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and a small (less than 50 employee) local engineering company before I graduated with my electrical engineering degree and started in my career. While interning at Franklin PUD I saw the negative effects that wind has on base load for electric grids and how much damage it can cause on the electrical distribution side of things when other sources are constantly ramping up and down to compensate for the instable supply of wind energy. This greatly reduces the life of turbines in hydroelectric facilities and creates the need for increased maintenance in those facilities. Southeast Washington has several hydroelectric facilities and a large nuclear facility with two more small modular reactors planned and is an exporter of power already, so this project is not needed and not wanted by the majority of local residents, especially due to the fact that most, if not all, of the energy produced will not stay in the local area and the fact that the company that is trying to build this project is not even based in Washington at all. Further comments in the attached letter.

Attachments:

EFSEC Committee:

I am a resident of the Horse Heaven Hills area and I live quite close to the intended installation location for the proposed HHH Wind Farm. I am an electrical engineer, Army veteran that deployed to Iraq, and former wildland firefighter. I am strongly opposed to the HHH Wind Farm. Contrary to what some proponents say, I am not wealthy and neither are many of the residents that will be most affected, and we oppose the wind farm project for more reasons than just that "it will affect our scenic view" as those proponents for the project have claimed. Not only will the wind farm be an eyesore and devalue land in the area, it will also disrupt the tourism of the area and affect the whole commerce of the area. Southeast Washington is not only a large farming area, but also has a lot of industrial and production activity as well, and is the location of the DoE Hanford Nuclear site. Many of the local wineries are opposed to the wind farm because it will negatively impact their business as well.

The proposed HHH Wind Farm includes plans for solar/PV installations and Lithium-Ion battery storage facilities. I find this very concerning because of the fire danger Lithium-Ion storage facilities present. Southeast Washington is an area that has high fire danger in the summers and, as a wildland firefighter, I certainly fought plenty of fires in the area and in surrounding states during my five years of fighting wildfires. One of the most memorable fires I fought was the Vansycle Canyon Fire in August, 2011 which burned 4,508 acres and cost \$535,000 in damages. It was memorable because it took place around the wind turbines near Wallula Junction. Fighting the Vansycle Canyon Fire presented a unique and pressing danger to the firefighting crews because of the proximity to the wind turbines. If it had damaged the wind turbines we all would have been in much greater danger than normal because of the potential of a wind turbine falling and posing an even bigger fire threat with the high voltage lines and oil contained in the support towers, turbine nacelles, and transformers at the base. And if the fire had taken out a wind turbine it would have increased the damage cost of the fire significantly. Combine the fire danger near wind turbines with the fire danger presented by Lithium-Ion storage facilities and it is a recipe for disaster just waiting to happen. Any fire caused by this installation would have a highly negative impact on the Horse Heaven Hills environmental health.

In April 2019, there was a fire at a Lithium-Ion storage facility in Surprise, Arizona. The fire then had an explosion which shot flames out 75 feet and upward 20 feet which knocked 4 firefighters unconscious and dislodged or removed their SCBA face masks and equipment as well as their helmets. Wildland firefighters do not have SCBA equipment and if they were responding to a fire such as that, they likely would have been killed or else would have had severe burns if they survived. This type of fire and explosion are not unique to the facility in Arizona and have been seen around the country and overseas numerous times since Lithium-Ion storage facilities have started being installed and used. It should be noted that in many installations it was discovered that large temperature fluctuations had a detrimental effect of the life of the storage facilities and caused many of the fires. I do not believe that these storage facilities are a smart option for an area that already has high fire risks.

Without the storage facilities, the wind farms are not particularly efficient. I had to perform calculations for the production potential and efficiency during my electrical engineering classes. The winds in the area are either quite still or very strong, with not a lot of in between. I am well aware of the fact that if wind turbines are in winds that are too strong they cannot run, and if the brakes keeping the blades from rotating fail, then the wind turbine will self-destruct in the most impressive manner which usually involves the blade flexing too much in the wind and the tip of the blade striking the tower and tearing everything apart. Just over this past weekend we had winds that had sustained speeds of 30-45 mph with gusts up to 60-70 mph.

There are also the environmental concerns. There are many birds of prey and migratory birds that fly overhead where I live, which is close to the proposed installation site. There are also concerns about the maintenance and what effect it will have on the local environment. We already have several hydro-electric dams in Southeast Washington and they provide more power and are more consistent than wind turbines could ever be. They have elements in place to help the fish population and have actually help bolster the fish population in recent years with the fish ladders and hatcheries near the dams. So far, no wind turbine can say the same thing for bird populations. Another green source of power in Southeast Washington is nuclear. We have the Columbia Generating Station nuclear power plant here, and if combined with the dams, we have more green energy in Southeast Washington than almost anywhere else. Southeast Washington already supplies power to the rest of the state, and even to surrounding states, so it is quite apparent that an installation like this one is not going to benefit the local area. And the addition of a couple thousand temporary jobs and 50-60 permanent jobs will not have a very positive impact on this area. It is certainly not a large enough impact to counter the negative impact of the other areas of commerce and income for the area.

Another element that the wind turbines would affect is local recreational activities and general aviation flying. I see many small planes flying overhead and they would have to significantly alter their routes if this project were to be installed. I have also seen many historic planes flying overhead for various air shows and at least one movie about World War II that was being filmed over Burbank. I have also seen many military helicopters flying overhead in various training exercises and, having formerly worked on these military helicopters, I am sure that our military would be affected by losing the flying routes and places to fly training missions. The recreation that takes place in the area that would be affected are things such as hang gliding and hiking. There is a hiking trail, the Kiona Ridge Trailhead located at 19205 N McBee Rd in Benton City would be severely affected as would the amount of wildlife that people go there to observe while hiking. There is a large amount of Bureau of Land Management land up there also that would be adversely affected from this project if it were to go through. That land is used for more hiking, birdwatching, hunting, and other forms of recreation that would no longer be possible or at the very least would be greatly diminished if this wind farm is installed. There are also a large number of people that go hang gliding and fly sailplanes along the ridges and that would no longer be possible if these wind turbines are installed. Decreasing the recreation area in the Tri-Cities area will negatively affect the commerce and quality of life.

In addition to the reasons above, I do not support the proposed HHH Wind Farm project because, were it not for government subsidies, wind farms would not pay themselves off in their operational lifetimes.

Combine this with the fact that wind turbines cannot provide any form of base line load of electrical supply for the electric grid and that the blades are not very environmentally friendly and have limited lifetimes themselves before they must be disposed of and that the blades cannot be recycled but are buried as trash, and everything about the project becomes quite abhorrent to myself and to other citizens that live in this area. Listen to the citizens that live in this area and do not allow this project to proceed.

Respectfully,

Benjamin DeForest
54407 E 95 PR SE
Benton City, WA 99320

Links:

“Regulator Says Lithium-Ion Batteries Create ‘Unacceptable Risks’”

<https://pv-magazine-usa.com/2019/08/08/lithium-ion-not-prudent-and-create-unacceptable-risks/>

“South Korea Identifies Top 4 Causes For ESS Fires”

<https://liiontamer.com/south-korea-identifies-top-4-causes-that-led-to-ess-fires/>

“A Lithium-Ion Battery Burnt & Four Firefighters Knocked Unconscious: A Timeline, And Recommendations”

<https://commercialsolarguy.com/2020/08/10/a-lithium-ion-battery-burnt-four-firefighters-were-knocked-unconscious-a-timeline-and-recommendations/>

“APS Storage Facility Explosion Raises Questions About Battery Safety”

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/aps-storage-facility-explosion-raises-questions-about-battery-safety/553540/>

“Northwest Annual Fire Report 2011” (PDF, see Vansycle Canyon on page 6 “NW 2011 Large Fires List”)

https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/content/pdfs/archives/2011_Annual_Report.pdf

“Blaze Nears Containment”

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2011/aug/10/blaze-nears-containment/>

“Crews Still Battling Wildfire in Walla Walla County”

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/crews-still-battling-wildfire-in-walla-walla-county/>

“Unfurling The Waste Problem Caused By Wind Energy”

<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/10/759376113/unfurling-the-waste-problem-caused-by-wind-energy>

“The Cost of Decommissioning Wind Turbines is Huge”

<https://www.instituteeforenergyresearch.org/renewable/wind/the-cost-of-decommissioning-wind-turbines-is-huge/>

“Wind Turbines” (US Fish & Wildlife Service)

<https://www.fws.gov/birds/bird-enthusiasts/threats-to-birds/collisions/wind-turbines.php>

“Wind Farm Plan Worries WDFW”

https://lmtribune.com/outdoors/wind-farm-plan-worries-wdfw/article_1b3c5b99-8029-51b2-a654-c1a380b2213e.html

“Wind Turbines On Washington’s Horse Heaven Hills – How Not To Pursue A Green New Deal”

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2021/03/08/wind-turbines-on-washingtons-horse-heaven-hills--how-not-to-pursue-a-green-new-deal/?sh=28154a4a508d>

“Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project Offers Few Benefits For Tri-City Economy”

<https://www.tricitiesbusinessnews.com/2020/10/wind-farm-opinion/>

“County Commissioners Oppose Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project; What Happens Next?”

https://www.nbcrighnow.com/news/county-commissioners-oppose-horse-heaven-wind-farm-project-what-happens-next/article_834b1fca-9277-11eb-9925-bfa1daeb577e.html

“Will Wind Farms Raise Power Prices And Increase Blackouts? Benton PUD Thinks So”

<https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/article246922452.html>

“The Wind Turbine That Couldn’t Cope With a Gale: £250,000 Tower Crashes To The Ground After Its Blades Spin Out of Control”

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2270029/UK-weather-Heavy-floods-wreak-havoc-gale-force-winds-sends-115ft-turbine-ground.html>

“Wrecked by Gales Again as Windfarms get £300,000 to Switch Off...In High Winds”

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2083149/Wind-turbines-cope-UK-weather-3-blown-pieces.html>

“Exploding Wind Turbines: A Look at The Max Speed of Wind Turbines”

<https://dbldkr.com/exploding-wind-turbines-a-look-at-the-max-speed-of-wind-turbines/>

“Top 5 Wind Turbine FAILS & Mishaps”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjnXpOMu09I>

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00305	34aSHu6	Toni Rucker		2703 N 543 PR NE Benton City, WA 99320	ruckerclan4@hotmail.com	True

WE DON'T WANT WINDMILLS COVERING OUR BEAUTIFUL HILLS..

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00306	3905tY2	Toni Rucker		2703 N 543 PR NE Benton City, WA 99320	ruckerclan4@hotmail.com	False

NO WINDMILLS!!!!

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00307	3c1CbJ8	Sharla Marshall		6606 W. 20th Avenue Kennewick, WA 99338	smarsh2080@aol.com	True

1.THERE IS NO PRECEDENT FOR A LARGE WIND FARM'S BEING BUILT SO CLOSE TO HIGH POLULATION DENSITY SUCH AS TRI-CITIES'

2. SCOUT MISREPRESENTED THE NEED FOR MITIGATION RELATIVE TO EXISTING RECREATION AREA

It will be a great tragedy for the 300,000+ citizens of the Tri-Cities if the Horse Heaven Wind Farm is approved as proposed. All Washington state windfarms to date have appropriately been developed in more rural areas, at least 5 miles or more from any area with 100 or more residents per census block. In evaluating sites for clean energy power generation projects, visual aesthetics and preservation of the community's quality of life must be considered. The Horse Heaven Wind Farm is a placement anomaly and will definitely degrade our local quality of life.

I would like to draw the council's attention to a misrepresentation in Scout Clean Energy's report in regard to SEPA scoping--in the category of "Recreation" - In Section 4.2.4.3 Scout Clean Energy states, "This Project would not significantly interfere with recreation in conjunction with the current land use". That is an incorrect statement. Also, from the ASC; "therefore, no mitigation measures specific to recreation are proposed". In reality, their project proposes several wind turbines, and other equipment along a ridge at McBee Road, often referred to locally as "McBee Rise" or "Kiona Ridge at McBee Road". This is a greatly treasured and magnificently beautiful area used for hiking, horseback riding, paragliding, mountain biking, remote control airplane flying and more. Please see photos attached of large group of hikers ascending McBee Rise, and of cars lining McBee during a 50 mile endurance race for which people travel across the state to attend.

We understand the council's dilemma in having been charged with evaluating the sites for much needed clean energy projects in our state, but we beg you to consider all of the information coming your way, about the unique beauty and wonderful quality of life that we are working so hard to preserve here. Please understand that this is simply not the right place for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm.

Respectfully,

Sharla Marshall

Kennewick, WA

smarsh2080@aol.com

Attachments:





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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00308	3q6Yhpu	Sharon Denchfield		1929 Pine St Richland, WA 99354	sharon.neville@gmail.com	True

The area in which the construction is proposed is a fragile eco system. The disruption from construction would be significant and difficult to repair.

I am further concerned by the inadequate study with relation to migratory birds.

I do not understand why so much of this project would be so near such a significant population center. All of the other windfarm areas of which I am acquainted are in areas that are much more remote. Having one loom over the Tri-Cities area is an eyesore.

Sincerely,

Sharon Denchfield

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00309	4fglwIT	Karen Richardson		34704 S. Valley Vista Pr Se Kennewick, WA 99338	Zimbaz2910@gmail.com	True

Dear "Person's,"

I've sent many letters, photos, and videos! I strongly oppose the Scout Clean Energy Wind Farms in Horse Heaven Hills, Wa. Our community is a very "Green Energy" example as we utilize Hydro-Electric Power with our Dams and now the introduction of 2 modular nuclear reactors at the Hanford Reservation.

Because of the lack of need for "GREENER ENERGY" and the impact on every other NEGATIVE REASONBird migrations, stepscrube habitat for antelope, deer, rabbits, quail, cricket, pheasants, Hawks,Owls Tourist wine industries, Kennewick Urban Growth!! The visual demolition of our beautiful vistas and wide open spaces!!! MYSELF AND MY FAMILY COMPLETELY OPPOSE THE CONSTRUCTION OF SCOUT ENERGY WIND TURBINE FARM AND ANY OTHER!!

KAREN RICHARDSON

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00310	4idvGW1	Ashley Daniels		Kennewick, WA 99338	ashleymegan85@hotmail.com	False

Build the windmills where people that vote for them live. Let them be in their own backyard. We don't want to see them, they are an eyesore. We have our own power; they are not benefiting our community in anyway, jobs or power. Windmills have been in our area for a long time, and we have never seen a fluctuation in our electrical bills. Workers coming here and staying at our hotels and eating here is a bull shit excuse. It is temporary, not long term. They will not be welcomed here. Please do not build them.

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00311	5mR46r6	Ross Marturano		73206 East Sundown Pr Southeast Kennewick, WA 99338	rosspmar@gmail.com	False

June 9, 2021

Drew and EFSEC committee

I am a Kennewick resident who moved to Kennewick Washington two years ago. I am Ross Marturano and am retired from the Bell System after 45 years. Recently relocated from Seattle and previously New York.

I retired from both AT&T and Verizon and spent 30 years in Manhattan and 15 years in other major US cities.

My wife and I chose Tri-Cities to spend our September years for many reasons.

These include an avid outdoor life style, wonderful agricultural environment, a clean environment, growing community businesses and retirement conditions, excellent recreation, growing wine industry and tourism along with an abundance of natural beauty as well as the beautiful Columbia River and the rich American history of Lewis and Clark

Additionally, my wife's great grandfather founded the town of Pasco.

We are opposed to the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Wind farm proposal along with most in our community for many reasons.

Too large a Wind Farm so close to a growing community that will be stifled from growing if permitted.

The Tri-Cities already produces 97 % carbon less electricity and the energy will not be utilized here nor is it necessary. The energy is required in communities over 250 miles away. The proposals are for a project that will only be available 30% of the time and a blight of landscape of 72,000 acres for energy that will be used elsewhere.

Please consider some essential facts.

1) The wind towers are 499-671 feet tall, half the height of the Empire State Building duplicated 244 times.

2) There are 274 skyscrapers in Manhattan just over 492 feet, each wind tower is higher than that flashing lights in dark hours, again 244 of them.

3) Manhattan is 13.4 miles long, the proposal stretches 23 miles over residential communities.

Consider also noise, light, glare across the entire area.

Could we possibly be considering something covering a landscape larger than Manhattan in a beautiful area of the Columbia River?

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Studies have indicated health issues to people in wind farm neighborhoods.

4) Washington State is 240 miles long adjacent to Puget Sound and the Pacific Ocean where the energy is required. Wind power is available over 65% verses the 30% from Horse Heaven Hills. This resource is not available to most inland US States Additionally, another source will be necessary to provide the 70% unavailability. Lastly, what is the loss of power consumed during the transport over 250 miles through mountainous regions?

The Horse Heaven Hills are the absolute wrong place for such a proposal.

5)The June 7th Wall Street Journal page A4. Headline indicated up to 500,000 migratory birds will be killed by windfarms.

Previously, Wind farms were protected from litigation. The article stated that no longer will this be restricted.

Windfarms become subject to litigation going forward.

The Tri-Cities are in many bird migration paths and many numerous local species, some of which are on extinction lists.

What are the anticipated bird kills anticipated for this vast project?

6) Currently, there are two energy corporations proposing to build two each latest nuclear plants far safer than previously. These proposals are to be on existing land locally verses the blight of the landscape of 72,000 acres.

Perhaps these should be an alternative to those area's requiring the carbon free power.

These plants will be necessary to provide the 70% shortfall from the inadequate windfarm proposal. Therefore, the supplement could be the actual overall solution.

These projects will provide numerous quality employment opportunities verses the wind farm proposal.

There are numerous additional facts that have been submitted by many in our communities which for the sake of not being redundant will not be repeated here. It should be clear we aren't in support of the Wind Farm Generation in our area.

I do feel compelled to notify the committee that the awareness of this project was stifled by the secretive and unprofessional behavior of Scout Energy which attempted to go around the local authorities to get State approval knowing the community at large would be opposed

Please be assured many still are still unaware. We are organizing to create that awareness presently.

Since my wife and I plan to spend our entire senior years here we ask you to support our opposition and reflect on what your thoughts might be if this were occurring in your town.

Ross P Marturano

rosspmar@gmail.com

73208 Sundown

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Kennewick Washington 99338

Show quoted text

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00312	8jGwIKW	Eileen Laramore	Friends of the Oxbow Property, Umatilla County, Hermiston Oregon	945 W Ridgeway Ave Hermiston, OR 97838	gelaramore3@gmail.com	False

See attached comment

Attachments:

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The 20 plus members of Friends of the Oxbow Property,Umatilla County,Hermiston,Oregon strongly object to the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm project.

The project is touted as sustainable but that's a misconception. Studies have revealed wind turbines fail on a regular basis causing fires, falling debris and have technical difficulties.

Wildlife habitat will be disturbed and lost forever. Our work on a federally mandated restoration site has taught us how important protecting wildlife habitat is to the environment and a healthy environment is important to the health and well being of humans. We don't see where the proposed Horse Heave Wind Farm will benefit wildlife or humans.

We shutter at the thought of 200 plus wind turbines dominating the skyline north of the Columbia River. If anyone questions how distracting and problematic wind turbines are, just travel I-84 near Arlington Oregon.

Friends of the Oxbow Property, Umatilla County, Hermiston, Oregon recommends against moving forward with the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm.

Sincerely

Eileen Laramore

Executive Director

Friends of the Oxbow Property,

Umatilla County, Hermiston, Oregon

541-371-7315

"Promoting public awareness about our natural resources"

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6/10/2021	00313	9kcvUjN	Mike Minelli		16518 S Fairview Loop Kennewick, WA 99338	compari64@gmail.com	False

Aesthetics

Light & Glare

Below is an explanation of the attachments:

Attachment 1 - Scout's photo "Representative Viewpoint #5 Figure 8" in their application, shows only one of seven subdivisions through haze and fog. Scout's photo does not "represent" the visual impact of the wind farm on homes since most are not shown.

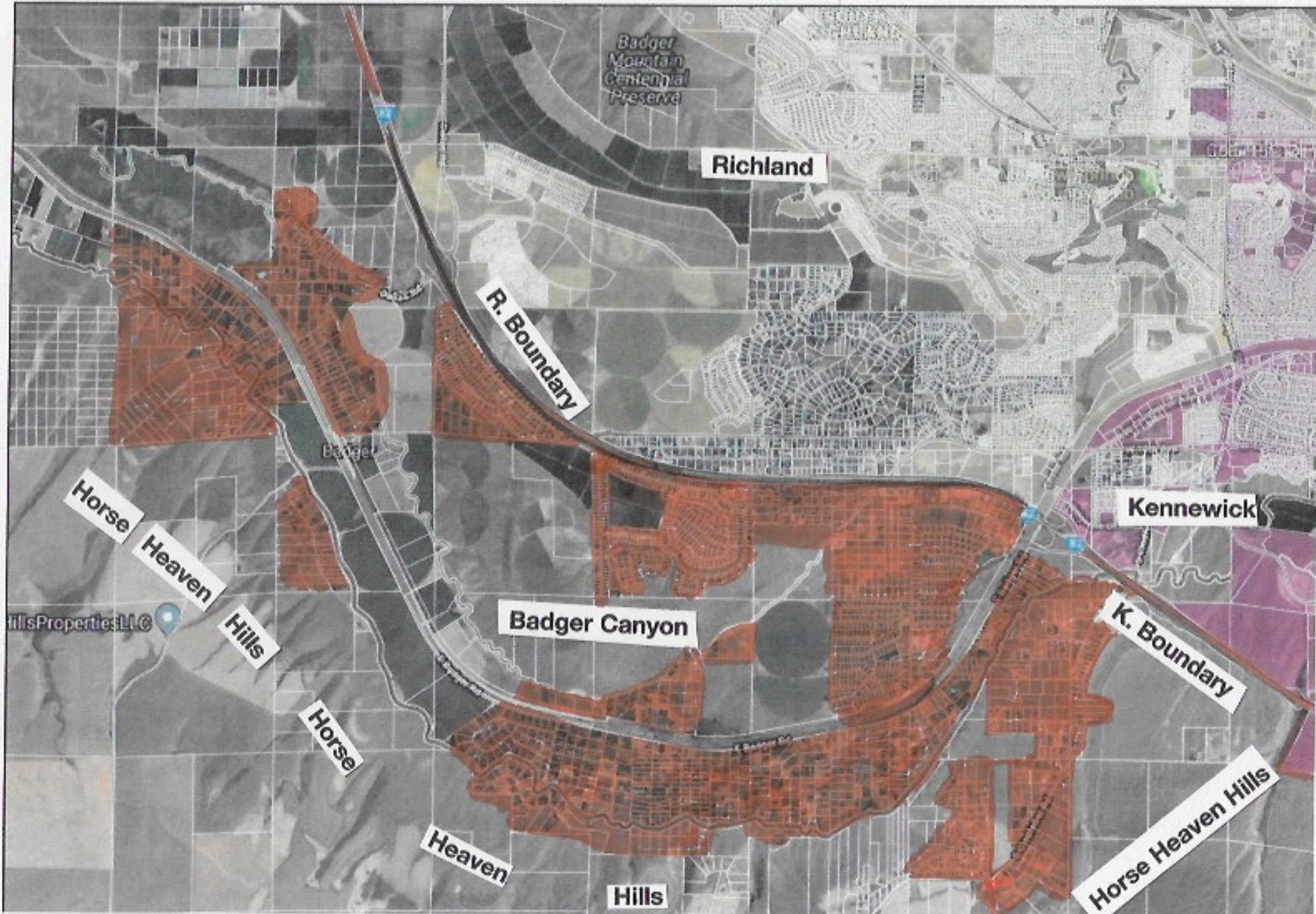
One must ask, is this an effort to minimize the visual impact of the wind turbines?

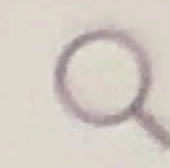
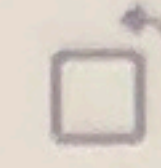
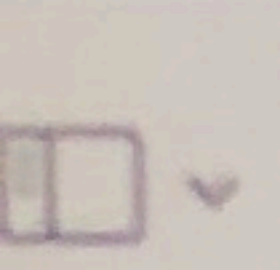
Attachment 2 - This photo is truly "representative", clear, transparent and free of haze and fog. Notice the numbers of homes on or facing the hills in very close proximity to future wind turbines.

Attachment 3 - This map shows that thousands of Tri-Citians live in full view of the HH Hills. Most are unaware of the wind farm project. Once the turbines begin to appear on their skylines, there will be significant push back. Residents will feel blindsided, by-passed and without a voice.

Attachments:

FOR THOUSANDS TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT! Benton County, WA





SCOUT'S PHOTO: What's Missing?? 6 Subdivisions!



exploring the landscape



Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00314	aB9zeF8	David Sharp		89417 Summit View Dr Kennewick, WA 99338	davesharp.pe@gmail.com	False

SEPA Scoping

Aesthetics

The project is located too close to a metropolitan area and the urban growth area of Benton County, much closer than large projects are normally sited. In fact, this one may be unique in the category. It certainly is for wind projects sited in Washington State. Turbines as shown on the project maps are sited very close to the escarpment overlooking Badger Canyon, particularly in the Western portions of the project. Those locations will overpower the visual features of the Horse Heaven Hills. They will impair the vistas for a good portion of the population of the Tri-Cities Area and local Red Mountain wineries. The far eastern part of the project builds even closer to Finley and with much larger turbines than the existing Nine Canyon Wind Project. The project location should be reconsidered.

The best way to get a partial picture of the visual impairment is from the Visual Simulation in Appendix Q, Figure 8. This particular viewpoint shows a narrow slice of the project, showing 101 of 244 turbines (option 1). If this were a panorama it would show all 244, which is what the human eye would naturally scan. Unfortunately, this simulation that gives the best picture is not a good quality photograph compared to the others. It looks washed out, out of focus, and not showing the lower part of the turbine towers.

Figure 4.2.3 Viewshed Analysis shows clearly the close-in visual receptors locations (commonly called people) in the Badger Valley, but there was no visual simulation provided. There were also no visual simulations provided from within the urban growth area which would be considered mid-range. The Viewshed Analysis Figure mentioned above does not even recognize the thousands of visual receptors living in the urban growth area.

Three recommendations.

1. The council should require the developer to add more visual simulations from key observation points, at least one each from the close-in visual receptors in the Badger Valley, one from the urban growth area, which would be considered mid-range, and one from the Finley area, where in each case, there are numerous homes. The photo simulation presented in Appendix Q, Figure 8, should be redone in better lighting conditions, or correcting what made the first one to give a clearer representation.
2. The developer should revise Figure 4.2.3 to include visual receptor clusters in the urban growth areas.
3. The council should make a trip to the Tri-Cities area to view first-hand the project area, and the number of residences now in the urban growth area, or under construction.

There are two attachments to this comment. Note the number of homes shown in the Badger Valley in the Photo from the Urban Growth Area

Appendix Q Figure 8, Representative Viewpoint 5

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Photo From Urban Growth Area Looking WSW at Badger Valley and the HHH-

Attachments:






2



Existing Conditions

Project Simulation Option 1
244 WTGProject Simulation Option 2
150 WTGHorse Heaven
Wind ProjectFigure 8
Representative Viewpoint 5Existing Conditions
and Project Simulations

BENTON COUNTY, WA

-  Viewpoint Location and Photo Direction
-  Project Lease Boundary
-  Proposed Turbine Location
-  Proposed Substation
-  Proposed Transmission Line

View direction (deg): 236
 Horizontal field of view (deg): 58
 Vertical field of view (deg): 15
 Max. WTGs within field of view: 101 / 76
 Max. Visible WTGs at tip height: 101 / 76
 Max. Visible WTGs at hub height: 101 / 76
 Closest WTG (mi): 4.7 / 4.7
 Furthest WTG (mi): 9.9 / 9.8
 Closest Solar Array (mi): No view
 Closest Transmission Line (mi): No view

To approximate how the project will appear to a viewer in the natural setting, this sheet should be printed at 11 x 17 inches, full size with no scaling, and viewed at 8 inches from the eye. If viewed on a computer monitor, the document should be scaled at 100% and viewed at 8 inches from the eye.

NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00315	aVb2q0w	Jack Pickard		1963 W. 15th Ave Kennewick, WA 99337	jlpick66@gmail.com	False

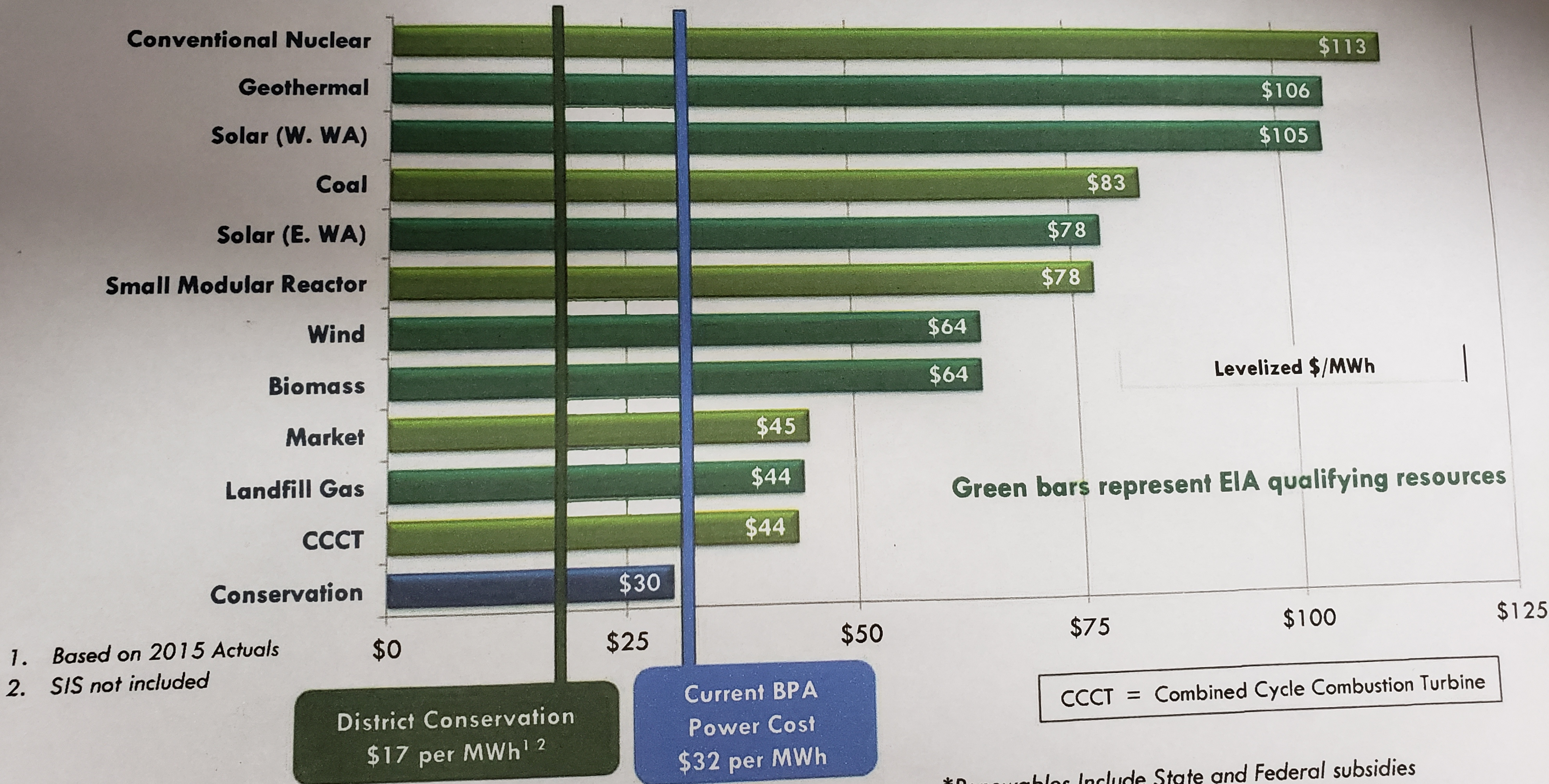
Wind and solar power are not feasible and can never pay for themselves before they wear out. We have hydroelectric and nuclear power in this region and dont need turbines and solar to raise the cost of our electricity. Let the ones needing more put these bird killing, ugly turbines in their backyard. We listen to our utility distrcts that tell us its not a good idea not studies from California scientists that say they could pay for themselves in five years. The study was done with a sustainable wind 24/7 which is unicorns and rainbows. Impossible. We dont want to lose a minimum of 75,000 acres of shrub steppe which is open to the public. NO NO NO!!!!

Attachments:

3

Resource Levelized Cost Comparison

No Carbon Tax Assumption



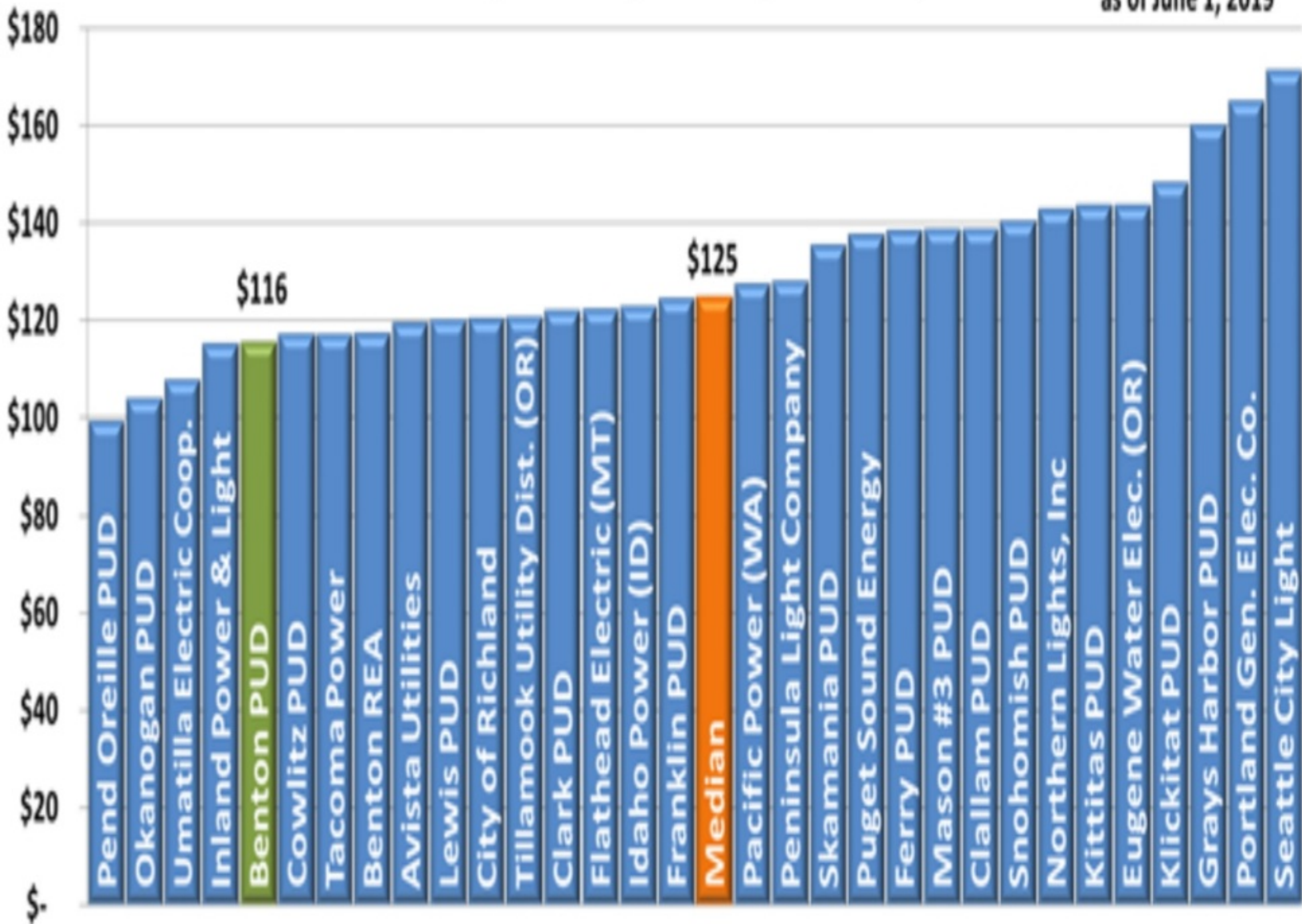
*Renewables Include State and Federal subsidies
*Emitting resources Include \$0/ton carbon tax

Informational Meeting on Rate Increase

Presentation - August 21, 2019

Residential Average Monthly Bill Comparison at 1,350 kWh

as of June 1, 2019



Average bill information has been calculated by Benton PUD staff using data from other utilities' websites. Calculation is Benton PUD's best effort to provide comparable information.
Excludes utilities that own major hydro facilities.



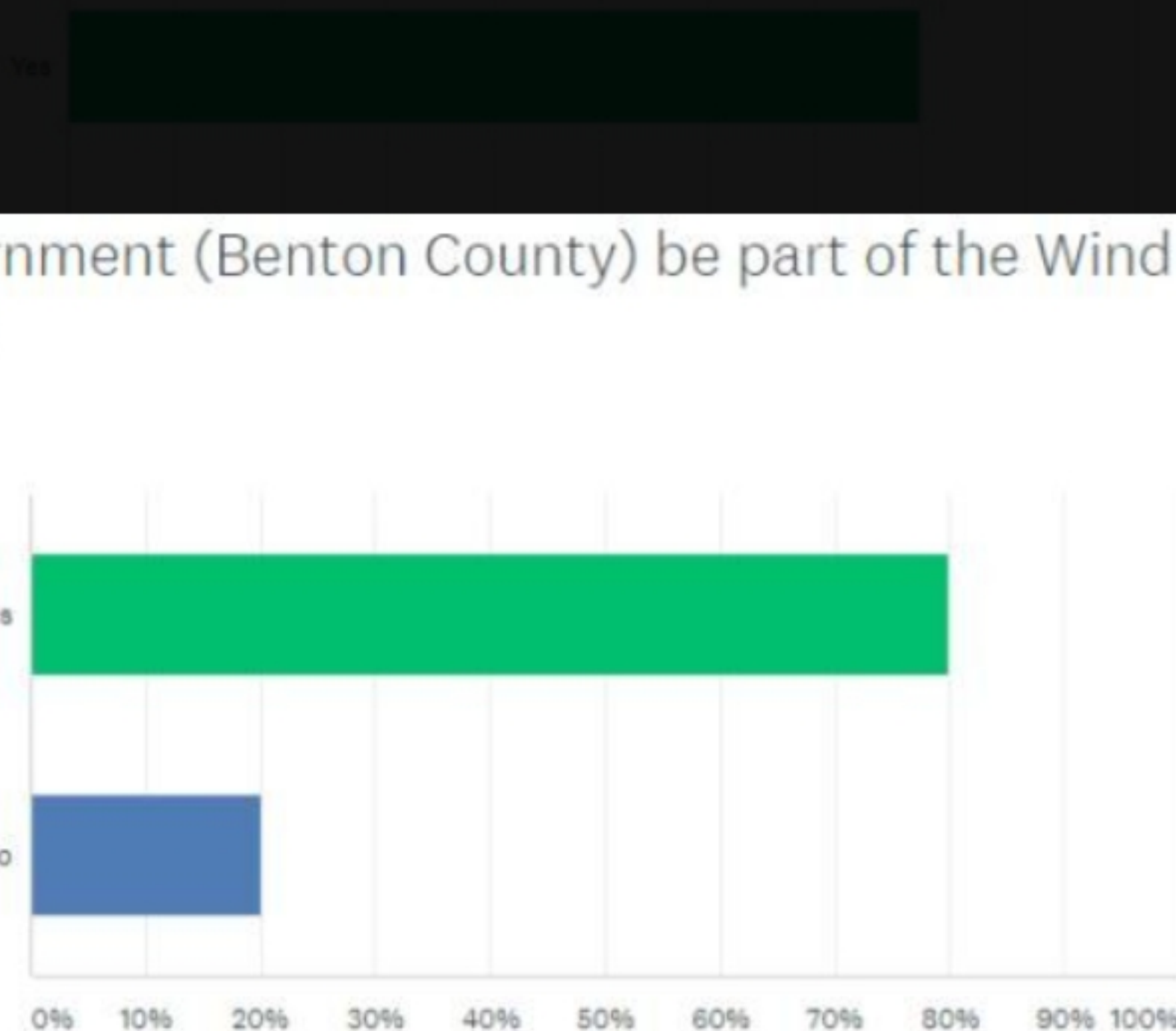
2 of 3



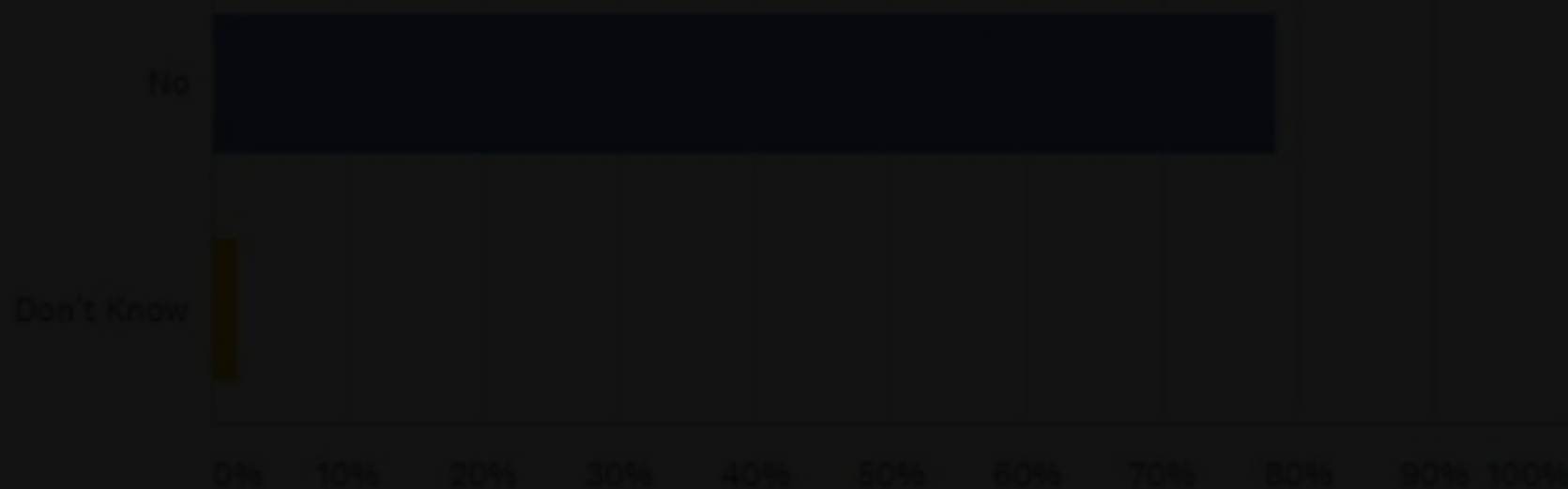
personal, environmental, and economic impacts on the community.

Should local government (Benton County) be part of the Wind Farm Project approval process?

Answered: 2,183 Skipped: 37

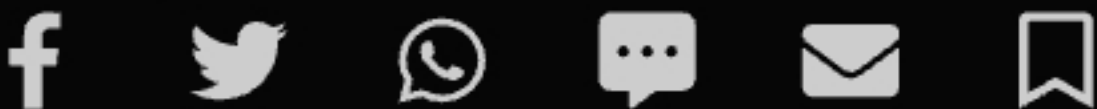


ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	79.98%	1,746
No	20.02%	437
TOTAL	2,183	



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	19.55%	432
No	78.55%	1,738
Don't Know	1.90%	42
TOTAL	2,210	

Kalley Davis



Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00316	b1uSQLC	Dennis Simmelink	Horse Heaven Farmer	98413 Lilliann Dr Kennewick, WA 99338	SIMMELINK.DENNIS@GMAIL.COM	True

Myself and my family are adamantly OPPOSED of this project. Our family has farmed in the proposed project area since 1929. We are dryland wheat farmers and do not want to see the devastation that this project would subject the land to. Based on the scope of the project I do not see that it would be practical to continue farming as we have for almost 100 years. NO to this project. PERIOD! Further, the beauty of the skyline would be destroyed forever. Thank you.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00317	bgdpRBv	Jennifer Cowgill	Realtor	16620 S Fairview Loop Kennewick, WA 99338	jennifer@referredrealestate.com	True

The project is located too close to a metropolitan area and the urban growth area of Benton County, much closer than large projects are normally sited. In fact, this one may be unique in the category. It certainly is for wind projects sited in Washington State. Turbines as shown on the project maps are sited very close to the escarpment overlooking Badger Canyon, particularly in the Western portions of the project. Those locations will overpower the visual features of the Horse Heaven Hills. They will impair the vistas for a good portion of the population of the Tri-Cities Area and local Red Mountain wineries. The far eastern part of the project builds even closer to Finley and with much larger turbines than the existing Nine Canyon Wind Project. The project location should be reconsidered

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Appendix Q Figure 8, Representative Viewpoint 5

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Attachments:






2



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NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00318	bkXqJft	Edgardo Quiroz		, WA		False

SAVE THE WILDLIFE

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00319	boX7Eda	Rosemary Giacci		PO Box 490 Richland, WA 99352	rgiacci@earthlink.net	True

I oppose the proposed wind farm in Horse Heaven Hills, Benton County, WA. There are many reasons including risk to fowl and wildlife in the area, obstructing beautiful views, and most importantly it would impede our urban growth. The Tri-Cities region continues to experience healthy and robust economic growth and increased population. This wind farm would seriously affect that momentum.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00320	buJF64H	Fred Giacci		PO Box 490 Richland, WA 99352	fgiacci@earthlink.net	False

The proposed wind farm in Benton County across the Horse Heaven Hills is not wanted or needed in our area. We have abundant hydro power and the capability of increased nuclear power. The windmills are unattractive and when they stop functioning there is little to no possibility of recycling any of the parts. The construction only offers short term employment at best and costly use of much needed concrete, other construction material and labor to meet our residential construction needs in the area and would only benefit people outside of our area.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00321	bDlodXJ	John Christensen		3802 W 43rd Ave KENNEWICK, WA 99337	cjcfarms@msn.com	True

Please see attached for my comments.

Attachments:

1

June 10, 2021

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear EFSEC Committee;

All energy projects have impacts regardless of their technology, but Wind and Solar are extremely intrusive because of their large footprint. It then follows, Scout Clean Energy (SCE) should not be allowed to construct a Wind Farm at the Horse Heaven Wind Project location.

AESTHETICS

Scout Clean Energy's proposal is NOT acceptable because of its proximity to the Tri-Cities and the 300,000 community residents. It is extremely intrusive and demonstrates little regard for our area. It will destroy the view of majestic landscapes of the Horse Heaven Crest. You cannot mitigate to non-significance the visual pollution of a 24-mile spinning picket fence of 600' Space Needle high wind turbines. With this comes nighttime flashing strobe lights and daytime blade flicker. All within sight of the 3rd largest community in Washington State.

WILDLIFE

This wind farm proposal is in violation of a USDA/WDFW wildlife priority area. It is within the boundaries of the USDA Ferruginous Hawk SAFE Program (see attached.) This is an area in Benton County created to address priority natural resource concerns. Primarily the Ferruginous Hawk whose populations continue to decline. On the Federal level this is a species of "Special Concern" --- Washington State considers the Ferruginous Hawk as "Threatened" but the Fish and Wildlife Commission seek to change status from threatened to "Endangered" as soon as September of this year. Obviously, you should not, --- you cannot, construct a "kill zone" line of Wind Turbines in the midst of this priority area. Any deaths to this Ferruginous Hawk "Threatened" species within this area and attributable to Wind Turbines would be completely UNACCEPTABLE and cannot be mitigated to non-significance.

Just the presence of Micro Siting Corridors, Solar Siting Areas, access roads, and increased traffic will lead to a decline in wildlife populations in this priority habitat area. Trespass, poaching, and wildfires also become more frequent with the creation of miles of access roads.

LAND USE

This proposal is in violation of Benton County's Comprehensive Plan Update, specifically Land Use Designation. Benton County has designated these lands as GMA - Agriculture and is supported by Growth Management Hearing Board decisions. The fact that 20 years earlier Benton County granted a Conditional Use Permit for the Nine Canyon Wind Farm Project has absolutely no bearing on this application.

Differences include but not limited to:

- 1.) Scope of the 2001 proposal was only a small fraction (7%) of the Scout Clean Energy proposal.
- 2.) Battery and Solar Siting was not in the Nine Canyon proposal.
- 3.) There were 10 Energy Northwest member utilities participating in contrast to the Scout Clean Energy project where local utilities have elected not to support the project.
- 4.) The proposal's entirety was not within a USDA/WDFW Ferruginous Hawk SAFE Priority Area.

CONCLUSIONS

The Tri-Cities community has the most rapid economic growth in the state and has the 3rd largest population in Washington. To propose a 24-mile, 72,000 acre project stretching more than halfway across Benton County is extremely irresponsible and intrusive. Our area contributes much more than its proportionate share of clean energy to Washington State. As such, we should be able to choose which projects are acceptable, not a Colorado based group who cares nothing for our community. Alternatively, other Washington counties need to step up and contribute to the energy pool based on their population as well.

Future production of clean energy from this area should be focused on Small Modular Reactors (SMR). The technology is acceptable in this community, the site is available on the Hanford nuclear reservation, its footprint would be approximately 35 acres rather than 6,276 acres and would deliver consistent dispatchable energy rather than non-dispatchable intermittent energy from wind and solar.

On a personal note...I am a lifelong 74-year resident of South Kennewick. Five generations of my family have lived their lives at the north edge of the Horse Heaven Hills just south of Kennewick. Tranquility, abundant wildlife, and scenic vistas are why we are still here. This proposed wind farm will destroy these aesthetics. To have this enormous project forced into our backyard is intrusive, if not contemptible. For those landowners who favor this project, it is self-serving with no regard for area residents and the community. This 24-mile wind and solar project is unacceptable here just as it would be from Spokane to Post Falls, Seattle to Everett, or Seattle to Tacoma.

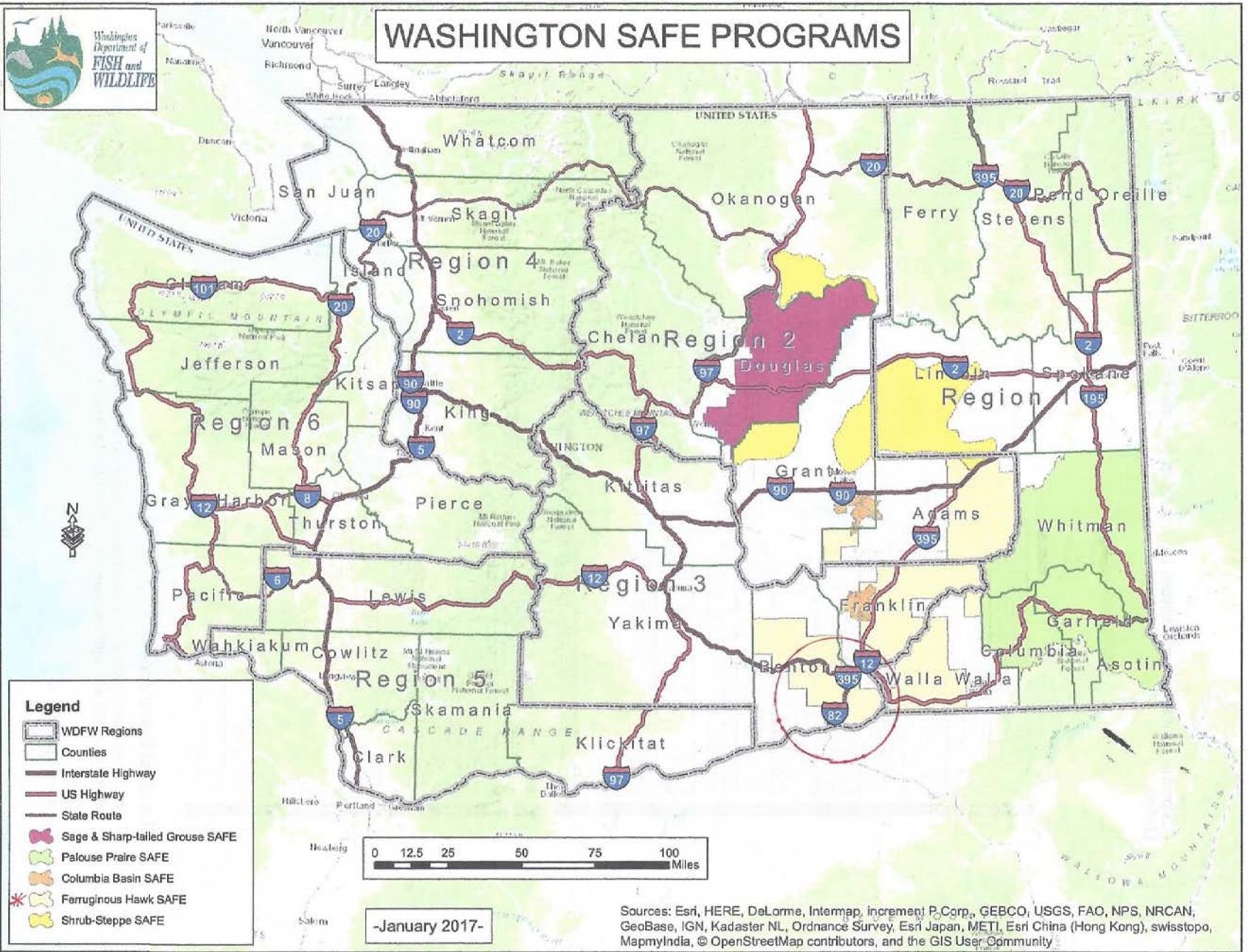
My vote is to not bring another wind and solar farm to the Tri-cities area.



John Christensen
3802 W 43rd Ave
Kennewick, WA 99337
509.531.0057
cjcfarms@msn.com



WASHINGTON SAFE PROGRAMS



Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00322	bGorBOb	Markus Stauffer	NA	9708 Schuman Lane Pasco, WA 99301	pmstauffer@charter.net	False

Cultural values need to be considered in the EIS for the proposed Horse Heaven Hills wind farm project.

Please see the attached file.

Thanks for your consideration.

Markus Stauffer

Attachments:

1

Cultural values need to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Horse Heaven Hills Windfarm Project

The people around the Tri-Cities are outdoors people; we are blessed with a warm, dry climate that is ideal for outdoor recreation. Many of us enjoy golfing, boating on the Columbia River, wandering the parks along the rivers, a glass of wine on the patio of the many wineries, or hiking the local hills. It is part of our culture; it is what we do around here.

One of the most popular outdoor destinations are our mountains: they align in a north-south direction from Little Badger to the south, to Badger, Candy, and finally Red Mountain. Several trailheads lead paths to the tops, and on nice, sunny days they become crowded with hikers, runners, and mountain-bikers who enjoy the beautiful views over the region with the distant volcanoes of Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams over the Horse Heaven Hills.

Trail on Candy Mountain with Badger Mountain in the center, surrounded by Richland and Kennewick to the left, and Badger Canyon and the Horse Heaven Hills to the right.



I am a member of an outdoor organization called Fun, Fit, and Over Fifty (FFOF) and we have weekly hikes to the top of Badger Mountain. A highlight for runners in the Northwest is the Badger Mountain Challenge, a 100 mile ultramarathon when runners are on the trails from Badger, to Candy and Red Mountain for 24 hours.

View from Badger Mountain with the Horse Heaven Hills over Badger Canyon



I am also a member of an organization called the Friends of Badger Mountain who is dedicated to making these local hills accessible to the community; we work with landowners and often buy the private properties leading to the ridges. Then our volunteers spend thousands of hours building and maintaining the paths from the trailheads to the tops. In 2016 we raised \$ 1.5 million to purchase land to make a hiking and a nature trail leading up to Candy Mountain. At this time we have a new fundraising effort to purchase another parcel of land between Little Badger and Badger Mountain; we have to raise \$1.5 million to buy this property. I have contributed \$1,000 to this effort because I believe this will benefit our community and make it a better place to live.

Sign along the Candy Mountain trail showing the water level of Lake Lewis during ice age floods, with Horse Heaven Hills in the background.



It is shrub-steppe habitat: we love our native plants and give them labels along the trail. The Horse Heaven Hills form the background.



The ridges of the Horse Heaven Hills (HHH) run parallel to the Badger, Candy, and Red Mountains, in most places about 5 miles to the west. The planned HHH wind farm would be in close proximity, spanning the entire western horizon with all 244 turbines visible like a giant industrial operation; it would be like 244 Space Needles lined up on 25 miles of our ridges, visible day and night with blinking lights and churning blades. No longer would the views of Mt. Adams and Mt. Rainier be unobstructed. I strongly feel such an industrial setting would diminish my \$1,000 contribution and that of the many other donors to the Friends of Badger Mountain to buy the land and turn it into an asset for our community.

Simulated view from Badger Mountain showing the 500 to 670 foot wind turbines in the Horse Heaven Hills. Also notice the new housing communities in the foreground. This image is from the Scout application with EFSEC.



Our outdoor lifestyle is part of our local culture and needs to be considered as part of the environmental impact study. If the HHH wind farm is approved, I feel the only remedy to assure some scenic balance is maintained is to set aside land on the ridges of the HHH; I propose that Scout Clean Energy is required to purchase land on the ridges of the HHH directly across from Badger Mountain. The distance between Little Badger and Red Mountain is approximately 12 miles; Scout Clean Energy should be required to buy 12 miles of ridge-line in the HHH to keep them free from future development, accessible to the community, and to preserve the spectacular views from our local mountains. A one-mile wide green corridor on the ridges of the HHH planted with native vegetation would also preserve habitat for wildlife and pathways for migrating birds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Markus Stauffer

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00323	bJqr0M9	James Brand	Retired	PO box 896 Selah, WA 98942	gingerbrand7@gmail.com	False

Born and raised in the Tri City's . These wind turbines are going to disturb the natural and environmental habitat and the migration of bird's in the Columbia Basin. I object to the construction of these Wind turbines . A full Environmental assessment should be conducted.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00324	bLJC320	James Brand	Retired	PO box 896 Selah, WA 98942	gingerbrand7@gmail.com	False

Born and raised in the Tri City's . These wind turbines are going to disturb the natural and environmental habitat and the migration of bird's in the Columbia Basin. I object to the construction of these Wind turbines . A full Environmental assessment should be conducted.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00325	bR4Pc09	Sommer Miller		82704 E Summit View Dr Kennewick, WA 99338	sperry1005@gmail.com	False

The windmills proposed for horse haven hills will negatively impact my neighbors and I. We moved into this new construction only 9 months ago. Our property value will definitely diminish from this property. Furthermore, the project will negatively impact our wildlife and the natural environment while stifling growth in our expanding community. Stop this project or relocate it somewhere further removed from growing neighborhoods.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00326	bRWLVcl	Renee Michel		17002 Grandview Ln. Kennewick, WA 99338		False

I don't want the wind farm, they are an eye sore & not energy efficient at all.

Attachments:

0

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00327	bTax1UJ	James Brand	Retired	PO box 896 Selah, WA 98942	gingerbrand7@gmail.com	False

Born and raised in the Tri City's and still have family there. These wind turbines are going to disturb the natural and environmental habitat and the migration of bird's in the Columbia Basin. I object to the construction of these Wind turbines . A full Environmental assessment should be conducted.

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
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6/10/2021	00328	bU3spwK	Todd Synoground		88315 Summit View Drive Kennewick, WA 99338	toddsyno@man.com	True

This wind mill project should be eliminated. Not only will it decrease all surrounding county home values, the size of the fans, the constantly blinking red lights and the overall lack of energy generation value in the long and short term are all justifications to discontinue the project. Not to mention that the DOE is evaluating the placement of compact nuclear reactors in our community which will feed even more power to the local grid effectively making the wind mills obsolete even before they are installed. Also, the land that is to be used for the wind farm diminishes the counties ability to grow by shutting growth to the south from Kennewick effectively creating a land lock. Overall this looks to be a huge land grab and a way to feed the power needs of the various multi-media platform organizations and our community does not need to support that.

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00329	c2ErTxp	Kay Raymen		9204 N Canyon View PRNE Benton City, WA 99320	ekraymen@gmail.com	False

I do not want the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project. The wildlife will suffer. This project is not beneficial to anyone around here.

Attachments:

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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00330	c6lk3jT	Cynthia Ives		16511 S Fairview Loop Kennewick, WA 99338	Cynthia.ives14@gmail.com	True

I do not wish to see the beautiful skyline of my hometown littered with windmills during the day and blinking lights at night. I strongly oppose this proposal. This is not the right area to do it. It is too close to our city and neighborhoods.

Attachments:

0

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6/10/2021	00331	c7py9rR	david linton		2508 rd 60 pasco, WA	defianthippiedave@yahoo.com	False

we dont need these and dont want these they are eye sores and nothing but a scam

Attachments:

0

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6/10/2021	00332	cG5i1hC	David Sharp		89417 Summit View Dr Kennewick, WA 99338	davesharp.pe@gmail.com	False

EFSEC Comment-SEPA Scoping

Aesthetics

My name is David Sharp, and I have provided several technical comments regarding this project. This comment is personal.

I retired six years ago, and returned to my home state of Washington with my spouse, who is also a Washington native. My work was in the power industry, and we spent over 40 years in the Western US working in, and living around power plants.

Our choice to move to this area was influenced by many things. We missed the pastoral flavor of agricultural areas where we grew up. We had been coming to the Tri-Cities for a number of years, and we liked the people, the laid-back culture, ample shopping, ease of traveling by air and car, recreational opportunities in the area, and did I mention the wine industry. Perhaps that is why our growth rate has been among the highest in the state.

At our home, we enjoy our outdoor living areas, and the peaceful evenings. The night skies over The Horse Heaven Hills to the South give good star gazing opportunities. We particularly like late afternoon periods where the contrast of the late afternoon shade provides vivid contrasts on the steep slopes and arroyos carved in the horse heave hills.

We can look across the Badger Valley with binoculars and can spot an erratic weighting several tons on the Southern slope of the Horse Heaven Hills. Erratics are granite boulders that are not supposed to be here. They floated here frozen in glacier ice when upriver ice dams broke up and caused the ice age floods.

Attached is a picture taken from our residence in the county urban growth area. I am sure you will agree that the Horse Heaven Hills have their own unique beauty.

One other consideration was made in retiring here. We wanted to be away from industrial settings. We know what a 600' stack, switchyards, and high voltage power lines looks like. Now it appears we will be looking at hundreds of their equivalent with the proposed wind project. We are extremely disappointed with what is proposed.

Obviously, we are strongly opposed to this project as there are other options to clean energy that are a lot more efficient and less costly. We are not against carbon free power. Why is Washington not advocating for the next generation nuclear 80 MW modular units? These make a lot of sense. Land is available on the Hanford reservation, they have a small footprint, and our population is more receptive to nuclear power here than perhaps anywhere. And Northwest Nuclear Generating Station cannot run forever. Thank You.

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00333	cGJbOdr	Tenika Morrison		105205 E Tripple Vista Dr, Kennewick, WA 99338	tenikam27@gmail.com	False

We have flocks of cranes that migrate straight over the top of my house twice a year that will fly directly into the flight path of these turbines. Normally this maybe wouldn't be a big deal but due to the extra height of these, they will take a toll on our wildlife as we also have eagles, hawks, owls and much more.

This project could easily be done in areas that are closer to the border where they could tap into the existing power lines or further west where you would not get much pushback from a community that is going to get them straight in their face. There is SO much land that is isolated, why would you choose to line some of the biggest population areas in this part of the state?? It makes no sense. We already have some of the most green & most efficient power of them all- nuclear....we have to deal with sub-par energy because it's the "hip" narrative even though it can't hold it's weight compared to it's waste of parts/ugly/affects on animals.

This is not efficient and it's definitely not a good idea for us to not only have a nuclear plant but your wind farm for the west here as well. If it must be built to cash in on that green legislation find somewhere else in eastern Washington where you still get the wind but it doesn't affect thousands and thousands of people...there is a lot to choose from.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00334	clq5tPS	Paula Nolte	RN	36604 N Flagstone dr Benton City, WA 99320	pnoaltern@gmail.com	True

I was was a supporter of these wind Turbines. Live I south east WA for over 40 years. Now seeing and learning about them I totally am against them near any towns or cities. Besides all the negatives I can list the blades are not biodegradable and we still need fossil fuels to operate them. It's a farce. NO NO AND NO.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00335	cK45Kxt	Kenneth Stanford		P.O. Box 5287 Benton City, WA 99320	kenny_stanford@yahoo.com	False

This wind farm would displace so many different types of wildlife, it would stop one of the only forms of recreation around Benton City/Prosser area which is utilizing the wind tunnels on the top of the horse heaven to go gliding either with a machine or by parachute. It also stops other forms of recreation such as hiking, geocaching, and photography. All of which are very important to the residents of Benton city and surrounding areas. I would also like to point out that this is a picturesque view and it would be severely ruined due to the proposed wind farm. I am NOT in favor of this going in. It should be denied. So that our animals, residents, and visitors can keep And preserve the natural beauty and landscape That we know as the horses heaven hills.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00336	cZRpWGV	Yasmine Gilbert		72016 Sundown PRSE Kennewick, WA 99338	yazgilbert@yahoo.com	False

We are strongly opposed to this project. We have looked into it and do not agree with its purpose or what it will do to our landscape and views.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00337	cZYMamN	Jessica Johnson		1021 Suncrest Trl Richland, WA 99352	jessica@referredrealestate.com	False

Regarding the HH wind farm project, I respectfully request that the utmost of diligence be practiced while investigating and studying the environmental impact the HH Wind Farm project will have/create.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00338	d6LLOTL	Mark Forcum		75515 Country Heights Drive Kennewick, WA 99338	mark@go2upullit.com	False

I am opposed to the Scout Energy project proposed for the Horse Heaven Hills. I believe this is a project that should not be built because it will not produce new clean energy but would just replace existing hydro-electric production. This is will forever change the scenery of South East Washington that can not be replaced.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00339	doK9YoB	Kristyn Puntenney	Summitview Home Owners	15702 S Fairview Loop Kennewick, WA 99338	kristyn.puntenney@gmail.com	True

My In-laws live in Lone, OR. They're landscape is filled with those metal monsters. Nothing good comes from them. The non-stop blinking red lights at night, the loud hissing noise it makes constantly, the shadows it will make on our living room walls in the evening before sunset, the polluted new view we will have, the loss of habitat for our desert animals.... The list is endless. Please, if anyone is listening, I beg you to do the right thing. Keep the windmills out of our homes.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00340	dpkyOUo	Faye Nelson		PO Box 3878 Pasco, WA 99302	fayevnel@aol.com	True

I oppose the wind tirbines. They are not reliable oe environmentally good. They kill birds and set up sound wabes that are destructive. And then they ate an eyesore. I oppose wond turbined!!

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00341	dJay4Cd	Sonya Ward		10704 Grandview Lane Kennewick, WA 99338	ussward@aol.com	False

To whom it may concern,

It has come to our attention that a company wants to build giant windmills in our community. We fill that this is a very bad decision! There is plenty of open land that could be used for this and should not be built close to communities! From my research these windmills cause many problems to those who live close by, as well and endanger wild life. We don't want to see this affect the health and safety of our community members as well as our ecosystem here in Eastern Washington! These windmills don't even last that long! Please do not allow this project to move forward, it is not going to add one single positive thing to our community!

Thank you, Sonya Ward

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00342	dQRVszk	C Metz		3911 27th Ave Kennewick, WA 99337	cmetz@startmail.com	False

Good afternoon,

I would like to echo the concerns of thousands of residents in our county that remain concerned about the damage windmills will do to our area. Not only will the windmills destroy our beloved skyline line and the beauty we see for miles and miles, they will also damage wildlife and real estate values. The beauty of our desert will be forever lost if these windmills are approved.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00343	dRrcsRO	Sheryl Raines		87504 E Sagebrush Rd Kennewick, WA 99338	rlskraines@yahoo.com	False

We don't want your ugly windmills ruining our view of The Horse-heaven Hills. Go screw up your own neighborhood!

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00344	e3GNQdw	Debbie Berkowitz		544 Franklin St. Richland, WA 99354	cdberkowitz@charter.net	True

Please address the following questions in the EIS for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project:

1. What is the expected impact on habitat and wildlife during the construction phase of the project, e.g., during trenching and other ground disturbance?
2. What is the environmental impact of producing materials needed for this project, e.g., turbine blades, solar panels, batteries? What is the carbon footprint involved in producing these materials?
3. What data do you have regarding nocturnal migrating birds/bats and nocturnal predators in the area of this project? What do the data suggest that the expected impact will be on nocturnal migrating birds/bats and nocturnal predators, especially those flying within the vertical range of the turbines? This is a major concern that needs to be addressed due to the large number of birds and bats that migrate at night.
4. What plans are there to decrease collisions between birds/bats and turbines? For example, can a LIDAR and artificial intelligence be used to stop rotation of blades when flocks of birds/bats are in the vicinity? Can the blades be coated in a way that makes them visible to birds/bats but still stays within FAA requirements? Can the height of the blades from ground level be adjusted to decrease potential impacts?
5. What is the impact on wildlife corridors? How many are in the project area? To what extent will this project inhibit wildlife movement?
6. How will you determine wildlife mortality in the project area?
7. How will this project impact future energy projects in this region?
8. What is the expected lifetime of this project? What will happen to the land and the infrastructure at the end of this project?

Thank you.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/10/2021	00346	eOJ44zP	Laurie Ness	None	2253 Davison Ave Richland, WA 0	Pennifurs.mom@gmail.com	False

Scoping issues

The EIS should be completed considering all phases of development and operation and not piecemealed.

We think the project is too ambitious and large to fulfill NEPA requirements. Existing methods for assessing environmental impacts are unlikely to scale to a project of this size. In addition, assessment is complicated by the requirement to determine the impacts of both the solar and wind components of the project; the interaction of these components may lead to additional environmental impacts that must be considered.

Environmental Impacts to include in Scope of EIS

Wildlife and Plant species to analyze

All plant species listed by Federal or WA State.

Federal and WA State Threatened, Endangered, Candidate, as well as Species and Habitats of Concern. All avian migratory species using the pacific flyway; Bats; Migratory waterfowl; shrub-steppe and grassland obligate species such as; Ferruginous Hawk, Townsend's Ground Squirrel, Sage Thrasher, American Badger, Black-tailed Jackrabbit, Pronghorn Antelope, Mule Deer, Loggerhead Shrike, Brewer's Sparrow, Sagebrush Sparrow, Golden and Bald Eagle, Burrowing Owl, Shrub-Steppe habitat, Cliff areas, Bat roosting sites, Nesting colonies of Great Blue Herons, native grassland habitat and all migratory bat species regardless of listing.

Impacts to wildlife and habitat

- Direct and cumulative loss or declines of special-status plant and wildlife species, resulting in reduction of distribution, loss of reproductive connectivity through fragmentation, insulating of local populations over time causing local extinctions.
- Altitude blockage and risk of fatality for bird species using the turbine area. Thus losing suitable migratory flyway habitat airspace.
- Address accessibility to any mitigation habitat that is not within feasible distance of current use habitat.
- Loss of known foraging and resting habitat for avian migrators due to visual blockage of land from large solar arrays
- Wildlife behavior modifications and area avoidance due to construction and operation noise, lights and increased human disturbance

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

- Lighting issues that realign, confuse or change migration patterns and migration behaviors that compromise species fitness of migrating bats or birds, effecting species success on northern breeding grounds or southern wintering grounds
- Impacts on migratory behavior; analysis of impacts during migration and likelihood of displacement or fatality while passing through the project site
- Impacts on nesting populations and reproductive behaviors of the most common avian species residing on the site. Such as the cumulative impacts of Horned Lark fatalities on populations. (This species has the highest number of fatalities and should be actively monitored as an indicator species.)
- Barriers or constraints to wildlife movement
- Introductions and spread of invasive, non-native, or noxious plant species
- Waterfowl movement between aquatic sections of McNary NWR such as Patterson, WA and Burbank, WA in winter, spring and fall. Also daily avian traffic to irrigated fields for foraging.
- Degradation of vegetation, food and nesting sites from fugitive dust
- Changes in wildlife habitat usage that potentially affect species fitness and productivity.
- Address known local fog events in the Horse Heaven Hills after precipitation in relation to avian passage in the project area
- Impact of energy siting near landforms such as gulches, ravines and tops of slopes
- Impact of increased fire threat due to project construction and operation.

Water Resources

- Increased impervious surfaces
- Changes in runoff patterns on moderate to steep slopes
- Energy siting near known water sources such as springs and intermittent or perennial water sources used by wildlife
- Access to water resources for habitat fire suppression

Cultural Resources

- Damage, alteration or destruction of historic properties and cultural artifacts
- Adverse impacts to tribal rights of foraging activities and other land uses
- Active and ongoing involvement with tribal authorities

Laurie Ness & Patrick Paulson

2253 Davison Avenue

Richland WA 99354

Laurie Ness

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Pennifurs.mom@gmail.com

509-430-5338

Patrick Paulson

patrick@3rivers-ashtanga.org

509-845-1062

Attachments:

1

Scoping issues

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- Impacts on migratory behavior; analysis of impacts during migration and likelihood of displacement or fatality while passing through the project site
- Impacts on nesting populations and reproductive behaviors of the most common avian species residing on the site. Such as the cumulative impacts of Horned Lark fatalities on populations. (This species has the highest number of fatalities and should be actively monitored as an indicator species.)
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509-845-1062

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00347	90PkXr	Barbara Caldwell		2212 Davison ave Richland, WA 99354	bjcmwc@gmail.com	False

This area does not need anymore wind turbines on our beautiful hills. This energy isn't for us....it's for Seattle or other populated areas. So out these ugly, eye sore, useless turbines where ever the energy will be used. This is not green energy regardless of the lies told to us by the left. They use oil. They require electricity to run. They are not bio degradable after their life span is up. Enough. Stop the lies and stop the building of these turbines in our area.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00348	W7tvMV	Dan Arrenholz	Self	2609 S. Cascade Pl Kennewick, WA 99337	dan.arrenholz@gmail.com	False

Save the views.

Save the hills.

Save the birds.

Deny this proposal.

Build more nuclear power facilities.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00349	1a1aGNZ	Frank Kliwer		102601 E Tripple Vista Kennewick, WA 99338	Frank@FrankKliwer.com	True

Save the Horse Heaven Hills, our sanity and our children!

Dear Chair Drew and EFSEC Committee,
6/10/2021

Psychology studies show being in and around nature is linked with improved mental health. Spending time in nature can ease problems such as anxiety and depression. The Horse Heaven Hills area is a sanctuary for just such a natural rural quality of life experience. The rolling hills of pristine prime agricultural land, created 15,000 years ago during the Ice Age Floods, is critical to producing food for future generations, while at the same time providing an environment enjoyed by hikers, roaming wildlife, and majestic flocks of many bird species soaring through the skies above. Even those who do not consider themselves nature lovers are subconsciously affected by just being in the natural setting of the Horse Heaven Hills. Over 300,000 thousand Tri-Cities area residents and tens of thousands of visitors have this important peaceful rural environment to enrich their lives. Our children are fortunate to have this life experience as they grow up, and many more from urban areas need to come and at least visit this amazing reality to feel the sanity of a connection to nature.

All this blessing is at great risk with the looming menace of industrial sized monster wind turbines surrounding our precious rural environment. Gigantic blades killing birds we treasure, machines destroying our rural landscape, and thousands of acres of black plastic panels smothering the natural growth, robbing the wildlife of their sustenance. Flashing lights along the skyline where we now enjoy celestial wonders. Destruction of property values for hundreds if not thousands of hard-working people. And, for what...grossly inefficient energy production to be sent hundreds of miles away, while we suffer the environmental and economic impact here...all in the creation of profit for a few and a globally owned entity that has no presence here. That is insanity.

But we need more energy in the future. Fine. These gigantic wind turbines were originally designed to be placed offshore. And that is exactly where the Biden Administration has directed that wind turbines be located, offshore near to the coastal cities that want the energy.

According to a spokesperson for Governor Inslee, not overly compromising our values is a big deal. Well, the values represented by the Horse Heaven Hills is an extremely big deal, now and in the future for generations...they must be respected and protected.

Please direct energy developers to our local Benton County governmental agencies for their permitting and environmental approval processes. The local personnel are among the best experts in the world in evaluating and understanding any energy proposals to be based in this area, while maintaining the precious and healthy natural resources we need in our lives. Our children will thank you in the future.

Frank Kliwer

Kennewick

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00350	1d0rG8Y	Stephanie Lyon-Rau		908 Horne Drive Benton City, WA 99320	slyon604@gmail.com	False

Do not destroy our Horse Heaven Hills environment with these ugly, destructive wind farms.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00351	1lzTNmG	Julia Gifford		PO Box 1132 Benton City, WA 99320	jgifford@pocketinet.com	False

Wind turbines on the hills are ugly. I don't want the view spoiled by these. These are not as efficient as nuclear power. The blades can't be recycled and just add to the land fills. Li-ion battery recycling is difficult. The electricity/energy received from these machines will be sent somewhere other than our county but leave us with the eye sore.

Just say NO to the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00352	2H19SZw	Sonia Ayala	Tree huggers of America	700 N. Rd. 32 Pasco, WA 99301	gramason1@gmail.com	False

We the people of Tri Cities Washington have the Right to our scenery.

We have the right to refuse a unnecessary eyesore to our Community.

We have the right to refuse all this Turbines littering our Hills and land.

Please do these Windfarm out of site not littering our roadways and scenery.

We don't need these temporary jobs.

I plead the blood of Jesus No!

Sincerely,

S.M.H.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00353	3dAzFQD	David Trojan	N/A	86104 Summit View Drive Kennewick, WA 99338	dtroyan@yahoo.com	False

Thursday, June 10, 2021

Hello, I really need to tell you people that are behind this Horse Heaven Wind Turbine / windmill project that this whole thing is a major travesty and a huge bunch of pollution to our community.

First of all, I have heard that these wind turbines aren't even going to be giving local energy to the local community, what a fucking shame. If you're actually going to build something so stupid, so expensive, and such an eye sore at least make it count for something local!

Wait: you people are putting up 200+ wind turbines in our local mountain ridge area and we don't even get the energy it makes, wholly fuck what a load of crap!

Second, I also heard that wind turbines only make 26% of the energy and are only running about 26% of the time, again what a waste of political money. Everyone knows this project is political & nothing else! It's all about politics! It's not about wildlife and land destruction and the destruction of vast beautiful views, it's about who's in charge & that person or those people exercising their power & might! Have those fuckers contact me so we can talk!

This whole project is a major dysfunctional travesty and in no way whatsoever should ever be allowed to move forward & be built.

I am a local home owner in the vicinity of the proposed turbines and it is going to fuck-up my view like you wouldn't believe.

This should never ever be allowed to happen.

If you people from Colorado & the UK and where ever the fuck your from think that you can just march in here and build some shit and de-value my property then fucking think again!

You idiots are going to be destroying wildlife and all kinds of ecological & environmental stuff. The wind turbines leak oil, kill birds and anything that flies in its path, they can't be destroyed and they often burn & start wildfires. Build this shit somewhere else!

I implore you to please not build the wind turbines / windmill project as well as the solar farms and the battery storage facilities and anything on the proposed ridge from Kennewick to Benton City as it will actual destroy so many things including several major hiking & wildlife trails

Please don't build this shit in our backyards!

Nobody wants it & it will be an extreme eye sore for all of time!

Yours Truly

David Trojan, M. Photog.CR

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
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Horse Heaven Wind Project
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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00355	3hf5z5n	Nancy Marquart		6210 Washougal Ln Pasco, WA 0	Nanjmarquart@gmail.com	True

We already have too many windmills in Eastern Washington. We have hydroelectric and nuclear energy. We are giving enough, leave our environment alone.

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00356	4cUFQDD	Katie J		Pasco, WA 99301		False

I do not support this! There are better ways to harvest energy!

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
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Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00357	4hduvja	Dan Robinson		308 N Joliet PL Kennewick, WA 99336	Djrob95@gmail.com	False

We do not want our hills plagued with windmills.

Thank you

Attachments:

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Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00358	a3CFcLR	Michael Ritter	WDWF	, WA		False

See attachment

Attachments:

1

From: [Ritter, Michael W \(DFW\)](#)
To: [EESEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Scoping comments
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 3:27:48 PM
Attachments: [Scoping Comments .pdf](#)

Scoping comments from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

*Michael Ritter
Fish and Wildlife Area Habitat Biologist
Statewide Technical Lead: Wind and Solar
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2620 N. Commercial Ave
Pasco, WA 99301
509-380-3028 (cell)*



State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Pasco District Office, Habitat Program • 2620 North Commercial Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301

June 10, 2021

Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager
Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
PO Box 43172
Lacey, WA 98504-3172

Subject: Scoping: Horse Heaven Hills Wind, Solar, and Battery Storage Project

Ms. Bumpus,

In April 2021, WDFW provided our initial comments on this project, drawing particular attention to the immense size of the project along the Horse Heaven Hills ridgeline and the subsequent landscape-scale impacts to important habitat and ecological connectivity. The habitat represents some of the last remaining functional and uninterrupted shrub-steppe and natural grasslands in Benton County and has remained largely undeveloped or converted to agriculture due to its shallower soils and steeper gradients. Development within this ridgeline will result in further fragmentation and isolation of shrub-steppe and grassland habitat as well as loss of function and value to wildlife.

While the majority of the project is sited over existing dryland wheat fields, the project's location in the Horse Heaven Hills puts many of the turbines, microsites, corridors, transmission lines, solar arrays, etc., in close proximity to, and crossing over, many of the draws and canyons that provide some of the only native habitats in the area. These areas, as well as the entire Horse Heaven Hills ridgeline, are used seasonally and year-round by a variety of avian species, some of which are State, Priority, Candidate, and Threatened Species. In fact, the entire Horse Heaven Hills ridgeline is an important area for avian species and other wildlife, including reintroduced Pronghorn antelope. It is a strategic location that provides suitable habitat for a variety of native plant and wildlife species and has been recognized as such through a variety of scientifically validated stakeholder publications: *The Spatial Conservation Priorities in the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion – Methods and data used to identify collaborative conservation priority areas for the Arid Lands Initiative* and *The Washington Connected Landscapes Project: Analysis of the Columbia Plateau Ecoregion*.

Due to the significant landscape-level impact from this project, we offer the following recommendations for further consideration and analysis:

- We would like to reiterate our comments from our April letter that the project focus only on solar development (no wind energy development) on agricultural and grasslands in the southern edge of the lease area and to the southwest. This includes transmission corridors and all

supporting infrastructure. This would help preserve the integrity of the Horse Heaven Hills ridge line as the only documented and scientifically-validated east/west ecological corridor supporting native habitats and wildlife in Benton County.

- The Ferruginous hawk is a State of Washington Threatened Species that has been proposed for uplisting to Endangered. Our Priority Habitats and Species recommendations for this bird are:

Activities	Buffer width ^a	Buffer around	Timing	Comments
Avoid all human access & ground-based activities	820'	active nests	1 March – May 30 ^c	Delay construction and development until after young have dispersed, which generally occurs about a month after fledging
Prevent prolonged activities (>0.5 hours)	3280'	active nests	1 March – August 15 ^c	Ferruginous hawk's breeding season
Avoid development, rodenticide and pesticide application.	1300'	major prey concentrations	year round ^b	Prey concentrations include ground squirrel colonies

^a Buffers should be tailored to the individual hawks involved, based on factors such as line-of-sight distance between nest and activity, nest structure security, disturbance history, observed responses, and nest elevation in relation to the activity. ^b Permanent buffer. ^c Seasonal buffer to minimize disturbance during critical periods.

and the project should fully discuss and analyze how the project will not impact this species and its' prey base.

- Any aspect of the project (collector lines, transmission lines, turbines, solar areas, battery storage, new roads, etc.) that could adversely affect this species or its prey base, should be discussed and analyzed.
- Pronghorn antelope utilize the western portion of the proposed project site year-round, especially in the winter. Impacts to this herd should be discussed as it relates to the long-term viability of this reintroduced population across the greater Horse Heaven Hills landscape.
- The project should include a discussion on how the nearly complete loss of connectivity along the Horse Heaven Hills ridgeline will be mitigated.
- Mitigation values should not be calculated until a preferred Alternative is selected and a complete understanding of the impacts can be evaluated.
- In order to maintain some connectivity across the landscape, solar areas be set up in arrays (as opposed to one large development) and not cross any canyons/draws to maintain some connectivity across the landscape.
- If wind energy development is proposed, micro-siting should not cross, or otherwise impact, "waters of the state" or canyons/draws. All collector and transmission lines should be set south of the ridgeline and run parallel to it (roughly east/west), with perpendicular collector lines to each turbine.

- All turbine locations, micrositing corridors, and transmission corridors be surveyed to better understand project impacts and that further refinement of the micrositing corridor and turbine locations could occur based on the findings of these surveys.

Please contact me at 509-380-3028 or at Michael.Ritter@dfw.wa.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Ritter". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Michael Ritter
Area Habitat Biologist
Statewide Technical Lead: Wind and Solar

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00359	a48Lbgj	Frank Kliewer		, WA	Frank@FrankKliewer.com	False

See attachment

Attachments:

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From: [Frank Kliewer](#)
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Save the Horse Heaven Hills, our sanity and our children!
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 4:28:34 PM

External Email

Dear Chair Drew and EFSEC Committee,

6/10/2021

Psychology studies show being in and around nature is linked with improved mental health. Spending time in nature can ease problems such as anxiety and depression. The Horse Heaven Hills area is a sanctuary for just such a natural rural quality of life experience. The rolling hills of pristine prime agricultural land, created 15,000 years ago during the Ice Age Floods, is critical to producing food for future generations, while at the same time providing an environment enjoyed by hikers, roaming wildlife, and majestic flocks of many bird species soaring through the skies above. Even those who do not consider themselves nature lovers are subconsciously affected by just being in the natural setting of the Horse Heaven Hills. Over 300,000 thousand Tri-Cities area residents and tens of thousands of visitors have this important peaceful rural environment to enrich their lives. Our children are fortunate to have this life experience as they grow up, and many more from urban areas need to come and at least visit this amazing reality to feel the sanity of a connection to nature.

All this blessing is at great risk with the looming menace of industrial sized monster wind turbines surrounding our precious rural environment. Gigantic blades killing birds we treasure, machines destroying our rural landscape, and thousands of acres of black plastic panels smothering the natural growth, robbing the wildlife of their sustenance. Flashing lights along the skyline where we now enjoy celestial wonders. Destruction of property values for hundreds if not thousands of hard-working people. And, for what...grossly inefficient energy production to be sent hundreds of miles away, while we suffer the environmental and economic impact here...all in the creation of profit for a few and a globally owned entity that has no presence here. That is insanity.

But we need more energy in the future. Fine. These gigantic wind turbines were originally designed to be placed offshore. And that is exactly where the Biden Administration has directed that wind turbines be located, offshore near to the coastal cities that want the energy.

According to a spokesperson for Governor Inslee, not overly compromising our values is a big deal. Well, the values represented by the Horse Heaven Hills is an extremely big deal, now and in the future for generations...they must be respected and protected.

Please direct energy developers to our local Benton County governmental agencies for their permitting and environmental approval processes. The local personnel are among the best experts in the world in evaluating and understanding any energy proposals to be based in this area, while maintaining the precious and healthy natural resources we need in our lives. Our children will thank you in the future.

Frank Kliewer

Kennewick

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/11/2021	00360	a4LO2hv	Darrel and Collen Raines		, WA	raines@owt.com	False

See attachment

Attachments:

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From: raines@owt.com
To: [EFSEC \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: Horse Heaven Hills Wind Farm
Date: Thursday, June 10, 2021 7:53:34 PM

External Email

Dear EFSEC Committee,
6/10/2021

We are Darrell and Coleen Raines. We are electrical contractors and have been doing business in the Tri Cities for 27 years. We are opposed to the Horse Heaven Wind project.

We can think of no reason to locate the wind farm in much of the urban growth area of Benton County.

The hills in our area are viewed for miles which is why we love the hills. But hills covered with unsightly windmills would devastate the entire area and skyline.

They would be too close to much of our new growth and ruin property values in those as well as many other areas.

There is no question that our region doesn't need the energy. And the jobs the farm would provide are very few and many of the workers come from outside our area.

We live where we see the birds migrating and wonder how they will survive the windmills.

This windfarm is entirely incompatible with our area for so many reasons.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.
Darrell and Coleen Raines

Horse Heaven Wind Project
SEPA Scoping Comment Database Comments

Date Received	Comment #	ID	First name Last name	Organization	Mailing address	Email address	Subscribed to mailing list
6/14/2021	00361	dajEkwa	Gwen Clear	Department of Ecology	, WA	crosepa@ecy.wa.gov	False

See attachment

Attachments:

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STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
1250 West Alder Street • Union Gap, Washington 98903-0009 • (509) 575-2490

June 8, 2021

Amy Moon
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98504-3172

Re: SEPA Register 202102394, Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project

Dear Amy Moon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

WATER QUALITY

Project with Potential to Discharge Off-Site

If your project anticipates disturbing ground with the potential for stormwater discharge off-site, the NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit is recommended. This permit requires that the SEPA checklist fully disclose anticipated activities including building, road construction and utility placements. Obtaining a permit may take 38-60 days.

The permit requires that a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (Erosion Sediment Control Plan) shall be prepared and implemented for all permitted construction sites. These control measures must be able to prevent soil from being carried into surface water and storm drains by stormwater runoff. Permit coverage and erosion control measures must be in place prior to any clearing, grading, or construction.

In the event that an unpermitted Stormwater discharge does occur off-site, it is a violation of Chapter 90.48 RCW, Water Pollution Control and is subject to enforcement action.

More information on the stormwater program may be found on Ecology's stormwater website at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/stormwater/construction/>. Please submit an application or contact Lloyd Stevens at the Dept. of Ecology, (509) 574-3991 or lloyd.stevensjr@ecy.wa.gov, with questions about this permit

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gwen Clear".

Gwen Clear
Environmental Review Coordinator
Central Regional Office
(509) 575-2012
crosepa@ecy.wa.gov