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April 25, 2023

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council v.

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1 ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

2
3 Carriger Solar Project
4 Informational Public Meeting

5
6
7 April 25, 2023

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9
10 Glendale Grange Hall
11 228 East Darland Drive
12 Goldendale, WA 98620

13 And

14 Via Teams Video Conferencing
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23

24 Reported by: STEVEN B. CRANDALL, CER

25 Certified Electronic Reporter #1198

1 CHAIR DREW: Good afternoon. This is
2 Kathleen Drew, Chair of the Energy Facility Site
3 Evaluation Council, calling to order our public
4 information meeting tonight. I will say that this is a
5 meeting about solar project called the Carriger Solar
6 Project, and as required by RCW 80.50.09.01 and WAC --
7 that's Washington Administrative Code -- 463-26-025
8 EFSEC is holding this public informational meeting.

9 At this meeting, EFSEC staff and the applicant
10 will introduce themselves and the Counsel for the
11 Environment and assist -- who is an Assistant Attorney
12 General appointed by the Washington Attorney General,
13 and that person will be introduced and explain the
14 duties of this position. The applicant and EFSEC staff
15 will make presentations.

16 Following the presentations, the public will be
17 invited to provide comments. Speakers will have two
18 minutes each to speak. I know that some were told we
19 would have three minutes, but we had so many more people
20 sign up that we wanna give everybody an equal
21 opportunity to be heard this evening. If you do not say
22 all you wish to say to us, you can send your in
23 comments, your comments in writing to comments at
24 efsec.wa.gov and an online database is open during the
25 meeting until midnight tonight. And so you can go

1 straight into that comment database and provide your
2 comments. And that is <https://comments.efsec.wa.gov>.
3 At this point, I would ask for Ms. Grantham to call the
4 role.

5 STAFF GRANTHAM: Certainly. Department of
6 Commerce.

7 STAFF GRANTHAM: Department of Ecology.

8 ELI LEVITT: Eli Levitt present.

9 STAFF GRANTHAM: Department of Fish and
10 Wildlife.

11 MIKE LIVINGSTON: Mike Livingston present.

12 STAFF GRANTHAM: Department of Natural
13 Resources.

14 LENNY YOUNG: Lenny Young present.

15 STAFF GRANTHAM: Utilities and
16 Transportation Commission.

17 STACEY BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster present.

18 STAFF GRANTHAM: Local government and
19 optional state agencies for the Carriger Solar Project
20 for Klickitat County. Do we have a Matt Chiles?

21 MATT CHILES: Matt Chiles present.

22 STAFF GRANTHAM: For the Assistant
23 Attorney Generals, Jenna Slocum?

24 JENNA SLOCUM: Jenna Slocum present.

25 STAFF GRANTHAM: And ~~John Thomson~~
Jon Thompson.

1 For the Administrative Law Judge, Micah
2 Larripa.

3 JUDGE LARRIPA: Micah Larripa is present.

4 STAFF GRANTHAM: For EFSEC counsel staff,
5 Sonia Bumpus.

6 (No response)

7 Ami Hafkemeyer.

8 AMI HAFKEMEYER: Ami Hafkemeyer present.

9 STAFF GRANTHAM: Joan Owens is present.

10 Sean Greene.

11 SEAN GREENE: Sean Greene present.

12 STAFF GRANTHAM: Joanne Snarski.

13 JOANNE SNARSKI: Joanne Snarski present.

14 STAFF GRANTHAM: Alex Shiley.

15 ALEX SHILEY: Alex Shiley present.

16 STAFF GRANTHAM: And for the Counsel for
17 the Environment we have Sarah Reyneveld. Are you there?

18 SARAH REYNEVELD: Sarah Reyneveld present.

19 STAFF GRANTHAM: Thank you. Chair, we
20 have a quorum for the regular Council and for Carriger
21 Solar. Thank you.

22 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. We will begin
23 with the presentation from the Counsel for the
24 Environment. Would you, Ms. Reyneveld, please state
25 your role and what the public can do if they're

1 concerned about this project?

2 SARAH REYNEVELD: Yes. Sarah Reyneveld
3 and I'm the assigned Counsel for the Environment for the
4 Carriger Solar Project. Counsel for the Environment
5 represents the public and its interest in protecting our
6 environment. And you are welcome to reach out to me.
7 My email is Sarah, S-A-R-A-H, dot Reyneveld,
8 R-E-Y-N-E-V-E-L-D, at A-T-G dot W-A dot G-O-V. Thank
9 you.

10 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. Next, we have the
11 EFSEC's process presentation. Ms. Hafkemeyer.

12 AMI HAFKEMEYER: Thank you, Chair Drew.
13 Welcome everybody. My name is Ami Hafkemeyer. I am the
14 Director of Siting and Compliance for EFSEC and I will
15 be giving a short presentation on the EFSEC siting
16 process for those of you who are unfamiliar with our
17 agency.

18 Next.

19 **A little bit of history of the EFSEC Agency.**
20 **EFSEC was created in 1970 for the siting of thermal**
21 **power plants. The intent was to create a one-stop**
22 **permitting agency for large energy facilities. EFSEC is**
23 **comprised of state and local government members who**
24 **review each application before voting to make a Council**
25 **recommendation to the Governor. If recommending**

1 approval, the package to the Governor includes a draft
2 site certification agreement or SCA which defines all
3 preconstruction, construction, and operations plans. If
4 approved by the Governor's office, the decision preempts
5 other state or local regulations.

6 Next.

7 Multiple energy generation facilities fall
8 under EFSEC's jurisdiction. Some projects, including
9 thermal power plants greater than 350 megawatts and
10 nuclear generation for the purposes of generating
11 electricity are required to sited through EFSEC while
12 others such as wind, solar, green hydrogen, storage, or
13 clean energy manufacturing can opt in to our process at
14 any size. Transmission lines greater than 115 kilovolt
15 can also opt in. And there are thresholds for pipelines
16 and refineries that may be sited through EFSEC that are
17 found in the Revised Code of Washington or
18 RCW 80.50.060.

19 Next.

20 EFSEC is comprised of members from several
21 different state level agencies. The chairperson is
22 appointed by the Governor and there are standing members
23 from five other agencies appointed by those agencies to
24 sit on the Council. The current Council is made up of
25 Chairwoman Kathleen Drew, Eli Levitt from the Department

1 of Ecology, Mike Livingston from the Department of Fish
2 and Wildlife, Kate Kelly from the Department of
3 Commerce, Lenny Young from the Department of Natural
4 Resources, and Stacey Brewster from the Utilities and
5 Transportation Commission.

6 There are additional agencies that may elect to
7 appoint a Council member during the review of an
8 application. These agencies are the Department of
9 Agriculture, the Department of Transportation, the
10 Department of Health, and the Military Department.
11 These agencies have not appointed a Council member for
12 the review of the Carriger Project. The local county
13 shall also appoint a council member for the review of an
14 application and Klickitat County has appointed Matt
15 Chiles.

16 Next.

17 Here's a map of the facilities that are
18 certificated or have applied for certification under
19 EFSEC jurisdiction. You can see, marked in green, there
20 are six operating facilities, including two natural gas
21 facilities, one nuclear facility, one solar facility,
22 and two wind facilities. The blue marks indicate the
23 four additional facilities that are approved but have
24 yet to start construction. Two being wind facilities
25 and two being solar facilities. The clear marker is the

1 one facility in the process of decommissioning. And
2 EFSEC is currently reviewing applications for five
3 projects, including the Carriger Project, which is what
4 brings us here tonight.

5 Next.

6 Okay, so here's a flow chart showing the
7 general process an applicant will go through when they
8 submit an application to EFSEC. There are green arrows
9 on the chart that indicate specific milestones in the
10 process where the Council and staff seek public input.
11 You can see here that there are multiple processes that
12 happen concurrently when EFSEC is reviewing an
13 application. There is the land use hearing and
14 adjudicative process outlined on the far left, the state
15 environmental policy act or SEPA process outlined in the
16 middle, and the third process on the far right involves
17 identifying and preparing applicable environmental
18 permits. All of these processes ultimately feed into
19 the Council's recommendation to the Governor.

20 Where an adjudication is required following the
21 land use consistency hearing, an order is issued to
22 commence proceedings and initiate intervention. Here,
23 members of the public wishing to participate in the
24 adjudication must identify themselves and their issues
25 in writing. There are pre hearing conferences through

1 which parties are granted intervention status and issues
2 are identified. Exhibits and testimony are provided and
3 cross examination, sorry, cross examination is
4 conducted, after which the Council looks at all the
5 information in the adjudication record and deliberates.
6 Finally, the Council develops an order establishing
7 their findings of fact and conclusions of law from the
8 information provided throughout those proceedings.

9 Moving on to the middle tier. For every
10 project proposed, a SEPA review is performed. When a
11 determination of significance and a decision to prepare
12 an environmental impact statement or EIS is made, public
13 comments are taken on the scope of the EIS. After
14 public comment for scoping, the SEPA responsible
15 official determines the scope of the EIS. A draft EIS
16 is prepared and issued with the minimum 30-day public
17 comment period, after which the final EIS is prepared
18 and released.

19 In some instances, a Determination of
20 Nonsignificance, a DNS, or Mitigated Determination of
21 Nonsignificance, MDNS, is issued. If the SEPA
22 responsible official determines that a project meets the
23 criteria of a DNS or MDNS, an EIS is not required. In
24 this process the determination is notice to the public
25 and there is a minimum 15-day public comment period for

1 an MDNS, while a DNS requires no comment period.
2 Following the conclusion of these separate avenues of
3 application review, the Council develops its
4 recommendation to the Governor tying together the
5 information brought forth through the application review
6 processes.

7 Next.

8 I'd like to talk briefly about the expedited
9 siting process as it has been requested for the Carriger
10 proposal. To be considered for expedited processing, an
11 applicant must make the request in writing, and the
12 project must meet two criteria. First, it must be
13 determined to be consistent with local land use
14 ordinances and codes, and second, the SEPA determination
15 must be that of a DNS or MDNS in this expedited process
16 and the adjudication step is not required and a full EIS
17 is not developed. The Council prepares their
18 recommendation to the Governor in an expedited timeframe
19 under this process.

20 Next.

21 EFSEC is also the issuing agency for any
22 applicable environmental permits that a facility may
23 require, including water quality and air quality permits
24 as they may apply. These permits are identified in the
25 final package with the Council's recommendation to the

1 Governor.

2 Next.

3 At the conclusion of the Council's review of an
4 application, a recommendation is made to the Governor to
5 either approve or reject the application. This
6 initiates a 60-day window within which the Governor will
7 then either approve the application, reject the
8 application, or remand the application back to the
9 Council for reconsideration. Any application that is
10 rejected by the Governor is a final decision for that
11 application.

12 Next.

13 If an application is approved by the Governor,
14 EFSEC then has oversight of the environmental compliance
15 for the life of the facility through decommissioning.
16 EFSEC has standing contracts with applicable state
17 agencies that assist in the monitoring and enforcement
18 of conditions either in the site certification
19 agreement, identified permits, or EIS or MDNS. EFSEC's
20 enforcement authority extends to the issuance of any
21 penalties as they may apply.

22 Next.

23 As previously mentioned, EFSEC oversees
24 facilities under its jurisdiction through
25 decommissioning. Prior to the start of construction of

1 approved projects an initial site restoration plan, or
2 ISRP, is required. Then at the end of the life of the
3 facility, prior to the start of decommissioning, a
4 detailed site restoration plan is required. These plans
5 must be reviewed and approved by the Council. The
6 project must also provide financial assurance for the
7 decommissioning in the event that the project is no
8 longer able to complete the process. Assuming the
9 project decommissions while still under full control of
10 the developer, those costs would be play paid directly
11 by the certificate holder.

12 Next.

13 So that concludes my presentation this evening.
14 Before I end, I would like to reiterate how everybody
15 can submit comments for this proposal. If you'd like to
16 sign up to speak this evening and you are joining us
17 virtually or by phone, you can call the EFSEC mainline
18 at 360-664-1305 to be added to the speaker list. You
19 may also send in written comments by postal mail to our
20 office at 621 Woodland Square Loop, PO Box 43172,
21 Olympia, Washington, 98504-3172.

22 Comments may also be submitted to our online
23 database at <https://comments.efsec.wa.gov>. There's also
24 a database available for the duration of the meeting for
25 anyone wishing to submit comments through our online

1 database. Oh, I just said that. Sorry. It should be
2 zero five, shouldn't it? Four five. I apologize.
3 360-664-1345. If you want to talk to me directly, dial
4 05. In case you were curious where that little slip
5 came from.

6 All comments received, regardless of method of
7 delivery, will be saved with the project record and
8 available for Council and staff review. Chair Drew your
9 microphone is off so online cannot hear you.

10 CHAIR DREW: Oh, thank you. No problem.
11 Okay. Let's see if we can get the rest of this right.
12 Okay. Next we have Cypress Creek Renewables with their
13 presentation.

14 LAUREN ALTICK: Thank you, Chair Drew.
15 Thank you, everyone for joining us this evening. My
16 name is Lauren Altick. I'm a Project Developer at
17 Cypress Creek specifically for the Carriger Project.
18 Thanks. Can everyone hear me okay? And I'm here with
19 Tai Wallace, Senior Director of Transmission.

20 And next slide, please. Next slide, please.

21 And we are going to be introducing the core
22 project team, give an overview of Cypress Creek
23 Renewables, the company, and provide an introduction to
24 Carriger Solar. And the appendix provides the
25 application for site certification, site plan seats, for

1 the record. And I will pass it on to Tai -- or
2 actually, I'll do the introduction to.

3 Next slide, please.

4 So, I already introduced Tai and myself. Our
5 Environmental Director is Seja Stratton, our Senior
6 Environmental Manager, Julie Alpert, both with CCR, and
7 we have Leslie McClain with Tetra Tech and she is our
8 Environmental Consultant, Project Manager. And Leslie
9 is with us this evening.

10 TAI WALLACE: Good evening. Thank you,
11 Chair Drew, EFSEC counsel, staff, and thank you all
12 stakeholders for joining us today.

13 Next slide, please.

14 So my name is Tai Wallace. I'm Senior Director
15 of Development here at Cypress Creek, and I cover
16 transmission-scale markets in the west with a heavy and
17 intense focus in the state of Washington. So Cypress is
18 a mission-driven company. Our mission is powering a
19 sustainable future one project at a time, and we've been
20 in business since 2014. We were founded and, to date,
21 have developed over 800 projects across the country. We
22 own and operate over 200 projects. And, you know, we
23 develop through our five core competencies or, all
24 right, what we call our five Cs, you know, care, courage
25 collaboration, creativity, and conviction.

1 Next slide, please.

2 So our core competencies include development,
3 operations and maintenance services, and fleet services.
4 So effectively asset management. These are our three
5 business divisions. We have about 400 staff spread
6 across the country, and we operate in about 24 states.

7 In terms of our development portfolio, we have
8 about 12 gigawatts of solar energy projects developed to
9 date, and we have about 55 megawatts of storage that's
10 developed to date in operations. We have a
11 policy-driven strategy. So we look at markets, you
12 know, from top to bottom, and we're very thoughtful
13 before we enter those markets, and we do a lot of
14 stakeholder engagement at the market level before we
15 even conceive of an individual project.

16 We have diversified experience with both
17 transmission-scale development and community-scale
18 development, which is more distributed generation. And
19 believe to get to a sustainable future, you have to
20 develop on both sides of the transmission and
21 distribution system.

22 We have an award-winning Structured Finance
23 team and we have done a lot of financing for our assets
24 and, you know, for those that are others as well. And
25 we have an innovative construction and design and

1 third-party EPC contracting team. Justin who leads that
2 for The Pacific Northwest and joins us today brings
3 immense experience both at the utility level, at the
4 construction contracting level, and now joins us, you
5 know, at our project level to take, you know, our
6 projects to fruition and make sure that we meet the
7 standards under permitting.

8 So, in terms of O&M Services, you now, we are a
9 fully vertically integrated independent power producer
10 or IPP. We develop projects with the intent, as often
11 as we can, to own and operate those projects for the
12 long term. And we have four gigawatts of projects under
13 contract. We only operate and maintain solar and
14 storage projects. Those four gigawatts under contract
15 are both our own assets and assets of other developers
16 and other shops. We have a state-of-the-art
17 NERC-registered Control Center that has 24/7/365
18 operations and control and remote maintenance
19 capabilities for all of our assets that we operate for
20 ourselves and others. And we have, you know, business
21 services that include warranty administration, all of
22 the compliance requirements in all of the markets that
23 we operate, industry-leading drone program, and one of
24 the best total recordable incident rates in the industry
25 in terms of safety, compliance, and standards.

1 And then in terms of our fleet, we operate two
2 gigawatts of projects spanning 217 individual assets
3 across 14 states. These projects are managed 24/7 and,
4 you know, through our asset management in fleet
5 division, we pay all of our bills, all of our tax bills,
6 and, you know, manage all of the filings and
7 requirements for each of these projects day in, day out.

8 Next slide, please.

9 So in terms of, you know, our solar and
10 development growth, you know, we, again, are vertically
11 integrated, you know, a full solar focused IPP focused
12 on just solar and storage development. This is our
13 bread and butter. This is what we've done, you know,
14 time in and time out, and we have done this, you know,
15 across the country in multiple different states.

16 Next slide, please.

17 This slide just shows, you know, actual
18 pictures and images from our 24/7/365 NERC-certified
19 control center. This facility is located in
20 Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina. And, you know, this is
21 manned or stationed by our folks who have some of the
22 highest safety standards and some of the deepest
23 industry experience across the solar and energy
24 industry. A number of folks come from nuclear plant
25 operations background, from utility backgrounds, and

1 they're very experienced at what we do. And we can see
2 and remotely monitor and operate all of our facilities
3 across the country, all 217.

4 Next slide, please.

5 So part of what we try to do in terms of
6 development is educate folks about what solar is.
7 There's often a lot of, you know, mystery, you know,
8 about what it is these facilities do, especially in a
9 community that does not have existing, you know,
10 generating solar assets to date. So, you know, when you
11 look at the key systems and components, they're
12 effectively broken up into solar modules, which actually
13 generate the DC electricity from the sunlight. You
14 know, the goal of these pieces of equipment is to absorb
15 as much sunlight and convert that to as much energy as
16 possible. That DC electricity then runs into the DC/AC
17 inverter where it's converted to alternating current and
18 it is stepped up to a medium voltage. Those modules are
19 placed on racking systems, which are, you know,
20 essentially galvanized steel, and those are imbedded
21 into the ground and the subsurface. And they're rated
22 to withstand all types of, you know, events and, you
23 know, power through things like hurricane and wind
24 events, manage snow load, and wind load, and all of
25 those other aspects. The combiner boxes take that low

1 voltage DC electricity, and they feed those cables, you
2 know, from each module into a combiner box. Those then
3 feed into the cabling, into the inverters, and then go
4 into the medium voltage collector lines. Our monitoring
5 systems, which are critical, are all our meters and
6 gauges that we use to measure and report system
7 preferences and performances back to our own facility
8 both on site and in North Carolina. And in the case of
9 battery systems, and for this project, AC coupled, that
10 system is a series of lithium-ion batteries that will
11 store that energy safely for use throughout the day.

12 Next slide, please.

13 And so what we took here is a sampling of a few
14 of our projects that we've developed. We have a number
15 of smaller assets at the distribution level that we've
16 developed and operate in Oregon. So we wanted to show
17 projects that are contextually relevant from a
18 geographic location perspective, and then we also wanted
19 to show large projects that represent designs that
20 accommodate, you know, some of these environmental
21 features and things like we do here, such as our Wagyu
22 Project in Texas, which is near the scale of this
23 project and our IS37 Project in North Carolina where we
24 have built and developed hundreds of projects to date.

25 Next slide, please.

1 And so I'm going to pass it back to Lauren to
2 take you through the Carriger Project.

3 LAUREN ALTICK: Okay. So, Carriger Solar
4 is a 160 megawatt solar project with the option for 63
5 megawatt battery storage system. We have full-site
6 control, interconnection studies are complete,
7 transmission studies are complete, and we have
8 transmission rights secured. All topographic, geotech,
9 hydraulic, and hydrologic assessment studies have been
10 completed. The land use consistency hearing and site
11 certification will go through EFSEC, as Amy previously
12 discussed. All preliminary field surveys have been
13 complete, and the SEPA determination will go through
14 EFSEC as well. I will discuss that in the next slide,
15 in the next few slides. Wetland delineation has been
16 completed. We're avoiding all potential fish bearing
17 waterways, and we have completed a third-party property
18 tax assessment that I will also be discussing on the
19 next slide. Lastly, the initial engineering
20 procurement, and construction RFP, has been complete.
21 Justin on our team is going to be working on that going
22 forward. And, yeah, that's where we're at. Lots going
23 on since the start of development in 2018.

24 Next side.

25 So, the economic benefits that are directly

1 attributable to Carriger, the property tax revenue
2 projections were done by a third party, and these
3 estimates are based on 2023 tax levies through the
4 county. So obviously this will vary, but it is an
5 educated estimate and can be used as a reference point
6 at this time. Aside from local investment, Carriger is
7 estimated to create between 350 and 450 full-time
8 construction jobs that will have a ripple effect in the
9 local economy. And then there are obviously the
10 environmental benefits. Carriger is anticipated to
11 provide enough electricity to power 32,500 homes
12 annually, clean energy, and the carbon offset is
13 estimated to be the equivalent of 10,800 cars off the
14 road each year.

15 Next side, please.

16 So I'm going to spend bit of time on this slide
17 as I expect this is of interest to the community. So
18 the project is designed with safety measures in mind to
19 address concerns for fire, noise, and glare,
20 specifically. It has been designed to meet
21 environmental noise limits established by the Washington
22 Administrative Code, and an acoustic assessment report
23 was completed. The results indicated that the project
24 will comply with the most stringent 50 decibel
25 night-time limit at all noise-sensitive receptors.

1 A clear analysis was also completed and
2 predicted no glare at receptor points around the project
3 area and very limited amounts of glare along Knight Road
4 and State Route 142, and those were only during certain
5 times of the year. A copy of the glare study was
6 provided to the FAA. The FAA determined no hazard for
7 air navigation from the solar project.

8 Moving onto electric and magnetic fields, they
9 will be produced, its electrical equipment, they're
10 produced from all electrical equipment when conductors
11 are connected to a power source, such as a lamp, a
12 microwave, et cetera. That said, the project solar
13 panels and collector lines are expected to produce very
14 low levels of EMF, and no EMF from the project equipment
15 is anticipated to extend beyond the project area
16 boundary.

17 Moving on to fire safety, design elements are
18 incorporated throughout the entire project design to
19 minimize risk of fire ignition. The BESS containers
20 include state-of-the-art fire prevention and
21 suspension -- suppression -- excuse me, systems.
22 Significant amount of progress on these technologies in
23 recent years and will only continue to be so. Project
24 operations will be monitored 24/7 as Tai already
25 discussed previously. A 20-foot fire break will be

1 maintained along the entire perimeter of the fence
2 lines. And lastly, a fire control plan will be prepared
3 and submitted to EFSEC and the county prior to
4 construction. Fire suppression protocols will be
5 determined in consultation with the Klickitat County
6 Fire Marshal and will be outlined in a fire control
7 plan.

8 Lastly, local building and electrical
9 inspectors will review and approve construction levels,
10 prior level permits, prior to construction of the
11 project. So a lot on this slide. It is on the EFSEC
12 website, so you can review in further detail.

13 Next slide, please.

14 Moving on to permitting and SEPA. So, EFSEC is
15 obviously responsible for evaluating applications for
16 site certification to ensure that the environmental and
17 socio-economic impacts are considered before making a
18 recommendation to the Governor to approve or deny the
19 project. The State Environmental Policy Act, or SEPA,
20 checklist is included in this application for site
21 certification. And you can see all of the elements that
22 we included. Those are the various aspects of this
23 environmental policy act, of which many have been
24 designated necessary for Carriger to undergo in this
25 application.

1 Next side, please.

2 So Cypress Creek, the team, has consulted,
3 coordinated with various local, state, tribal, and
4 federal agencies of which the list is on the screen.
5 And many of the SEPA studies cited on the previous slide
6 was discussed with these applicable agencies to ensure
7 that proper survey protocols were followed.
8 Coordination with these agencies will be ongoing
9 throughout the review process.

10 Next slide, please.

11 This slide shows the actual studies that were
12 conducted. So the topic is to the left. Study is to
13 the right. All of these are included in our application
14 and are listed on our website. The visual impact
15 assessment was submitted to EFSEC on April 18 and has
16 also been uploaded to the website. So everyone from the
17 public is welcome to review these studies.

18 Next slide, please.

19 This is an example of Carriger Solar, what went
20 into our micro siting. Cypress Creek prides itself on
21 very intentional and conscientious project design. So
22 the first visual in the lower left, you can see there
23 are quite a bit of panels around the waterways. And I'm
24 sorry, I don't have a beam, but that's where all the
25 grey, you know, sections are. Those represent panels.

1 So that was prior oh, thank you so much. Yeah, exactly.
2 So that was prior to the consultation with agencies
3 prior to all of the studies that we conducted. The next
4 slide in the middle, or the next picture in the middle,
5 shows the next iteration where, you know, we started to
6 learn more about the land, got more information, tweaked
7 the site plan. The final one, you can see, was after
8 all the consultation, after all of our studies were
9 complete, and we removed the entire middle area there
10 from the project site plan to allow for wild life
11 movement and to account for vernal pools, waterways, et
12 cetera. And another thing to know, we are not cutting
13 down any trees on this project. We have been very
14 intentional with set backs and allowing for wildlife
15 movement and habitat and the like.

16 Next slide, please.

17 And to end, I wanted to circle back to the
18 community. Cypress Creek is -- seeks to establish
19 relationships with the community that we develop in. We
20 focus on four primary areas, environmental
21 sustainability, STEM education, workforce development,
22 economic development, and community investment, and
23 veteran's initiatives. This is something that we take
24 very seriously all the way up the chain at our company.
25 So we're doing so here in Klickitat. We already have

1 initiatives underway. Most recently, there's a
2 Klickitat County scholarship program, May 5th deadline.
3 If anyone has not heard of that, please reach out and I
4 can provide additional information. But we will be
5 continuing to partner with the community throughout the
6 life of the project. It's something that we take very
7 seriously.

8 And next slide.

9 And that's it. And, again, just to note, we do
10 have the site plans in the appendix, but just for the
11 record, there was nothing specific that we were going to
12 reference. And the site plans are available on the
13 EFSEC website. Thank you so much.

14 CHAIR DREW: Thank you. We are now going
15 to move on to our public comment portion of this
16 meeting. Thank you all for being here tonight and also
17 online on this lovely day in your community here. It's
18 a pleasure to be here, and we look forward to hearing
19 each and -- from each and every one of you who wished to
20 speak. And so we are going to limit, as I said earlier,
21 limit comments to two minutes. We're going to start
22 with asking you to state your name and then spell your
23 first and last name because we have a court reporter and
24 we wanna take an accurate record of the people who are
25 speaking tonight. And I will turn it over to Judge

1 Larripa, who will be presiding over this portion of the
2 meeting. Judge.

3 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, Chair Drew and
4 good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am Micah Larripa,
5 and I serve as an Administrative Law Judge with the
6 Washington State Office of Administrative Hearings, a
7 neutral and independent state agency. For the comments,
8 which will begin momentarily, and Alex Shiley, right
9 over to my left, has taken down the names of people who
10 wish to speak, and we'll call each of you up in the
11 order that you signed up. If you're here in person,
12 please step up to the podium and as Chair Drew
13 mentioned, please state and spell your name, and then
14 I'll invite you to begin with your comments.

15 I am mindful that two minutes may not be enough
16 time to conclude whatever you'd like to say tonight.
17 Again, in the interest of ensuring that everybody has
18 the opportunity to speak, we must limit the time, but
19 please understand that you will have the opportunity to
20 submit anything additional, or if, after you've spoken,
21 you hear something else that you desire to comment on,
22 you may do so in writing. I will ask -- I understand
23 that we have a number of people who wish to speak
24 tonight. I will ask that while you wait for your
25 opportunity to speak or after you've spoken, if you're

1 still in attendance, that you be respectful and
2 courteous to the speaker who is at the podium. With
3 that, Alex, would you please call the first the -- the
4 first speaker this evening.

SHILEY

5 STAFF GRANTHAM: We'll be hearing from
6 County Commissioner, Dan Christopher.

7 DAN CHRISTOPHER: Clarification question.
8 So if we have written comment from the county itself,
9 can I submit that to somebody here or do we have to do
10 that online?

11 STAFF GRANTHAM: We have a comment box in
12 the back.

13 DAN CHRISTOPHER: Got it. Thank you.
14 Chair and members of the EFSEC Board. I am Klickitat
15 County Commissioner Dan Christopher and this is my
16 district. I am here speaking on behalf of the voters of
17 Klickitat County. I believe Klickitat County is the
18 green energy capital of Washington state. We have and
19 continue to be pro green energy. This county has
20 permitted -- it in itself has permitted over 602
21 windmills, a landfill gas facility that is second to
22 none, and a 194 megawatt solar farm. We are also
23 currently permitting another 150 megawatt solar farm in
24 the county. We have many more solar, wind, and
25 water-pump storage projects planned and coming, and we

1 are welcoming of them as long as they can continue to be
2 sensitively cited.

3 As you can see, we are pro green energy. I am
4 sure that many of you have dealt with many anti green
5 energy counties in the past, but please understand that
6 we are different. We also are a county that wants to
7 sensitively site our projects in a way that doesn't hurt
8 our people. We have areas of our county that have been
9 deemed by the state as poor and impoverished areas that
10 are begging for growth and economic development. Yes, I
11 am speaking of Goldendale, which is where you are.

12 There are currently three to four solar
13 companies looking to surround this poor and impoverished
14 community on all sides with about 10,000 acres of solar
15 panels that would forever stifle growth, economic
16 development and, jobs in this area. That would be a
17 3-year boom followed by 40 years of economic
18 devastation. You may hear testimony from some people
19 today looking to cash in on that short-term money grab.
20 I am not one of them.

21 As Chairman of the Klickitat County Board of
22 Commissioners, I am begging you to honor and allow us to
23 work through our current solar moratorium and create
24 population density criteria in this valley. Let us work
25 with the residents to establish areas in our county

1 where we can continue to sensitively site solar projects
2 in a way that won't cripple this community or
3 (inaudible). Thank you for your time and consideration.

4 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir, for your
5 comments.

SHILEY

6 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: Next, we'll have County
7 Commissioner Lori Zoller.

8 LORI ZOLLER: I did submit comments to
9 EFSEC in anticipation of timing. I tried to cut them
10 down, so I'll try to give you the short version.
11 Klickitat County is an over achiever in green energy.
12 Starting in 1990s we opened a program at our land fill
13 the capture methane gas and turn it in to energy.
14 Klickitat County currently has 602 operating wind
15 towers, and we're in the process of the pumped storage
16 project, which the Governor himself has touted and
17 toured as the state of green energy project for
18 Washington state.

19 Klickitat County, is currently the largest
20 supplier of green energy in the state of Washington. In
21 2005 we enacted the first energy overlay zone. That
22 energy overlay zone focused on wind at the time.
23 Discussions in planning for solar at the time were
24 barely a side note and directed at personal or small
25 projects.

1 The creation of the EOZ, a single
2 environmental -- with the creation of the single --
3 excuse me, with the creation of the EOZ, a single
4 environmental impact statement was produced intended as
5 a blanketed EIS for the construction of wind projects,
6 but in the final stages, the EOZ was appealed.

7 Requirements were set in place, at that time, that if
8 large solar came into our county, each would require
9 site by site its own EIS, and the county would also
10 retain the right to be the lead agency for large scale
11 solar or be allowed to pick the agency that would be
12 that lead.

13 In 2023, the placement of the new moratorium,
14 prior to the submission of the Carriger application,
15 ensured the county were to have time to accomplish the
16 required studies and addition of large scale solars to
17 update our documents and ordinances. We have already
18 began that process with our planning director and
19 planning commission. Proper sensitive siting for large
20 scale solar is a priority in our county. In review I
21 could not come to rest on any chapter (inaudible).

22 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, Commissioner.

23 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ **SHILEY** Next we'll hear from

24 County Commissioner Jacob Anderson.

25 JACOB ANDERSON: That's Jacob, J-A-C-O-B,

1 Anderson, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. Dear members of the Energy
2 Facility Site Evaluation Council, I'm here to express my
3 concerns on the proposed Carriger Solar Project and to
4 request that you do a full environmental impact
5 statement.

6 As a county commissioner, it is my
7 responsibility to ensure the best interest of the
8 community are taken into account, and I believe a full
9 EIS is necessary to fully assess the potential impacts
10 of this project. The Carriger solar facility is a
11 significant development. With a capacity of a 160
12 megawatt, this will be one of the largest solar
13 facilities in our region. It will have significant
14 impacts on our environment and our community. As such,
15 it is essential a full EIS is conducted to provide a
16 thorough and comprehensive analysis of the potential
17 environmental and social impacts of this project.

18 There are several key factors that support the
19 need for a full EIS. First and foremost, the proposed
20 project is located in an area of significant
21 environmental sensitivity. As the ACS has over 900,000
22 cubic yards of earth being moved, the potential impacts
23 of this project on these sensitive areas must be
24 thoroughly assessed to ensure they're protected.

25 Secondly the proposed project has a potential

1 to impact the health and safety of our community. The
2 construction and operation of a solar facility of this
3 scale will generate a significant amount of traffic,
4 noise, and dust. These impacts could have adverse
5 impacts on the nearby residences and businesses, and it
6 is essential that these are thoroughly assessed and
7 mitigated. Both solar projects going on in this county
8 currently and through the process have been required to
9 do an EIS even though they have far less environmental
10 as well as community concerns.

11 Finally, the proposed project has the potential
12 to impact our local economy. While I recognize the
13 potential benefits of solar facilities, such as the job
14 creation, increased tax revenues, it is essential that
15 the potential negative impacts on other sectors of our
16 economy are assessed. For example, the visual impact of
17 a large solar facility could impact our tourism, which
18 has -- which is a significant economic driver in the
19 region.

20 In conclusion, I believe that a fully
21 (inaudible) or the potential impacts of the Carriger
22 solar facility are thoroughly address -- assessed as
23 well as addressed and mitigated. Thank you.

24 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you for your
25 comment, commissioner.

SHILEY

1 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: Next we'll hear from
2 Sheri Bousquet.

3 SHERI BOUSQUET: Sheri Bousquet,
4 S-H-E-R-I, B-O-U-S-Q-U-E-T. Welcome to our beautiful
5 county. I hope you enjoyed our mountain views. I don't
6 believe any of you should be here today, but here we
7 are. I don't believe you have territorial jurisdiction
8 in our county. And I'm asking for legal proof. I've
9 said in my documentation, I don't believe you have that
10 authority to supersede our comprehensive plan and our
11 land planning. I would again request to have that proof
12 that you have territorial jurisdiction.

13 Furthermore our county does have a moratorium.
14 It was in place prior to you accepting this application,
15 and that's shameful that you did. You should've stopped
16 right there. Everything should have stopped right
17 there. It should stop right here. You're violating RCW
18 89.10.005 farmland preservation. You refused to go on
19 our site there to see the farmland, the active farmland
20 that's being farmed right now. How will you eat? How
21 will you feed your family when you take away all the
22 farmland? People are worried, China -- I'm going off
23 script -- people are worried China is buying up
24 farmland. Well, when you destroy our farmland with
25 black glaring glass, stripped of all of its topsoil, a

1 dust bowl, how will we eat? Will China feed us? Their
2 farmland won't have solar panels. They won't put their
3 solar panels, that we buy from them, on that farmland.

4 Furthermore, I find that you need to find
5 significant environmental damage with this project. No
6 EIS. This needs to stop now. Right here. Right now.
7 Today. You are people. You should do no harm by
8 sitting that facility. Going further, you will harm
9 every single person in this room. Every single person
10 in this town. We already have an economic issue here.
11 We need economic growth. We don't need to be destroyed.
12 We don't need to be destroyed. (Inaudible) significant.
13 It is not consistent with our values.

14 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you for your
15 comment, ma'am. And for our next speaker.

16 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Next we'll hear from Greg
17 Wagner.

18 GREG WAGNER: Greg Wagner, G-R-E-G,
19 W-A-G-N-E-R. CEASE members are submitting this
20 following comments for the record concerning the
21 certification of the Carriger Solar Project. The ASC
22 submitted by Cypress Creek Renewables for the Carriger
23 Solar Project is flawed, filled with errors, omissions,
24 inaccuracies, and non factual information. There is no
25 purpose for this project other than corporate profits.

1 It will do more harm than good.

2 Klickitat County has a history of ranching and
3 farming. This project is not consistent with the
4 current land use in its proposed location, is not
5 consistent with Klickitat County Comprehensive Plan.
6 This project is also not compatible in the area
7 proposed. For these reasons, this project should not be
8 certified. There are multiple significant issues that
9 cannot be mitigated.

10 This project should not be allowed on
11 productive farmland as it violates the RCW 89.10.005 and
12 the farm -- it's a farmland preservation act and the
13 U -- and it also violates the USDA farmland protection
14 act. Siting this project on thousands of acres of
15 productive farmland reduces the food supply for
16 Americans and makes our country more reliant on food
17 source from other countries, countries which still apply
18 harmful chemicals to those crops, chemicals which were
19 outlaw in the United States years ago. This
20 contaminated food source endangers the lives of
21 Americans.

22 If a preliminary site study would have been
23 done, it would have been obvious that this project is in
24 an inappropriate location and cannot be sensitively
25 sited. The ASC is poorly written with many assumptions

1 and inaccurate data. Many of the required studies are
2 out of date. Many studies were performed by Tetra Tech.
3 The accuracy of those studies are questionable
4 considering Tetra Tech is under investigation by the
5 Department of Justice for environmental fraud and two
6 employees have already been sentenced to prison. These
7 studies should not be accepted and performed again by an
8 independent firm hired by EFSEC. EFSEC should stop
9 trusting the applicant study. The ASC failed to
10 accurately evaluate project (inaudible). Thank you.

11 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you for your
12 comment, sir. For the next speaker.

13 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ SHILEY Deb Wagner.

14 DEBORAH WAGNER: Deborah Wagner,
15 D-E-B-O-R-A-H, W-A-G-N-E-R. These are my comments why
16 Carriger Solar Project should not be certified. 201
17 days of sunshine per year here. Carriger will not be
18 successful. You have to have sunshine to have a solar
19 site. That is approximately one half of the year
20 sunshine, the other half, I guess, we'll freeze to
21 death. This just proves it's all about money, not the
22 needs of the citizens.

23 Number two, the Clean Water Act is a federal
24 law enacted in 1948, and amendments made in 1972, to
25 protect our water. Our water should not be contaminated

1 by solar sites.

2 Number three, an RCW, 89.10.005, written to
3 preserve farmland. Carriger Solar sited on farmland
4 violates state law. Everyone needs food to sustain
5 their lives and to site Carriger Solar on farmland is
6 irresponsible. Do not certify this project and take
7 away our food.

8 There are two people in jail from Tetra Tech
9 for criminal acts. Tetra Tech is now being investigated
10 by the Department of Justice for fraudulent
11 environmental acts. I do not want Cypress Creek
12 Renewables in our county doing business.

13 Carriger solar site will not bring enough
14 energy to sustain life. The solar site as we know it
15 today, the Carriger Solar Project, is not consistent
16 with Klickitat County land use plans and has many
17 significant problems that can not be mitigated and
18 therefore cannot be certified. I will fight for our
19 people for the reasons I have just spoke about.
20 Governor Inslee is not represent (inaudible) only
21 himself. Thank you.

22 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you for your
23 comment. And before our next speaker steps up, I will
24 ask that you please keep all comments on the topic of
25 the proposed project and with that, some of the comments

1 have strayed off topic a little bit with regard to
2 Justice Department criminal investigations or opinions
3 about different political policies. This is an
4 opportunity to comment on this project itself. So with
5 that, would you please call our next speaker.

SHILEY

6 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: Delmar Eldred.

7 DELMAR ELDRED: I opposed this large scale
8 solar project for Klickitat County. It's going to
9 destroy the landscape, the farm culture, the loss of
10 thousands of acres of tillable land will be gone
11 forever, grazing area for cattle, wildlife, and the
12 rainwater that runs off these panels releases cartagens
13 and cadium into the soil, along with the erosion that
14 pollute nearby streams and surface water. The increased
15 risk of fire and health problems that come from the
16 electromagnetic field, which severely affect some
17 people. And it's called electromagnetic hypersensitive.
18 The herbicides that are being used to prevent
19 vegetational growth in these panels also contaminate and
20 run -- the runoff water. And the water that it's going
21 to take to clean millions of these panels twice a year.
22 These projects also limit the opportunity for
23 economic growth, cause loss of farm service employment,
24 and harm the quality of life for many people in future
25 generations. If this agency's purpose is to ensure

1 protection of the environmental quality and address the
2 concerns the public has on the negative impact that
3 these large scale solar projects have on the community,
4 then I cannot see why you would approve something that
5 has such a damming effect on the future of Klickitat
6 county. Thank you.

7 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. And our
8 next speaker.

9 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ SHILEY Handy Magnison.

10 JUDGE LARRIPA: If you would, please still
11 speak into the mic. The people that are joining us,
12 either by telephone or online, that's the only way
13 they'll be able to hear you. Thank you, ma'am.

14 CANDY MAGNUSON: Okay. Candy Magnuson,
15 C-A-N-D-Y, M-A-G-N-U-S-O-N. Eight-two years old, 4 foot
16 11 and pissed off, okay. I don't have much time on this
17 Earth but when I go, I hope that I have saved some of
18 this beautiful property here in Goldendale and
19 Centerville. You know, guys, I resent -- I resent this
20 money, this new green deal money, coming from the
21 government to pay for you guys, and nothing personal,
22 your wages and stuff. Okay. And put our land in
23 jeopardy. We're not going to have -- you know, I'm a
24 farmer. There's farmers in here. We're not -- we got
25 to have the hay for our horses, our cows, our goats, our

1 everybody, okay. We send it out to foreign countries --
2 our hey goes out to foreign countries and stuff, too.
3 But I'll tell you what, I've seen a lot of things in
4 here and this is the saddest day that I've seen in my
5 lifetime. I hope that you guys -- you guys are getting
6 paid with our money, okay, because I pay taxes. I still
7 pay taxes. And new green deal, that's tax money. And
8 so I hope that you guys will take us serious here.
9 Because we are serious here. We love our property. We
10 love our land. We're related to a lot of people here
11 and stuff. And the people that have signed up, I'm
12 sorry. I'm sorry that you did because your ancestors
13 are going to pay for it, and that's why I'm standing
14 here to save my ancestors. Thank you.

15 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, ma'am.

16 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Russ Hanson.

17 RUSS HANSON: Russ Hanson, R-U-S-S,
18 H-A-N-S-O-N. So, excuse me, trying to get this down to
19 two minutes. My wife and I live immediately adjacent to
20 this proposed project. From our front door we have a
21 view of over 300 acres of solar panels, of new
22 substations, and two acres of lithium-ion battery
23 storage. Says there are nine homes immediately in our
24 area that will be affected by this large-scale project.
25 Today, I want to talk briefly about the visual impact

1 assessment that was added as an addendum to this
2 application. This assessment is incomplete and
3 obviously weighted towards Cypress Creek who hired them
4 to do it. I have numerous examples throughout the 59
5 page report, but only have time here to go over a
6 couple, first being the key observation points. There
7 were seven key observation points selected to be
8 representative of the landscape of this project. The
9 factors in considering these key observation points
10 include locations with sensitive viewers, i.e. local
11 residents and motorists. Yet not one local resident was
12 included in the report. Furthermore, identifying groups
13 of individuals that would likely be sensitive to visual
14 change is an important part of the visual assessment
15 process and determining this. Most being, the most
16 critical viewpoints, i.e. views from community,
17 residential areas, and recreation areas. Again, not one
18 resident had a view assessment done and included in this
19 report. Why is that? How can EFSEC make an informed
20 decision on the visual impact assessment if they don't
21 have all the information? I would request that this
22 assessment by Tetra Tech not be considered by EFSEC and
23 that EFSEC hire their own independent company to do a
24 complete visual impact assessment. In conclusion, I
25 just like to state that I'm not against solar. I just

1 would like to see it sensibly sited. And next to homes
2 is definitely not sensibly sited. Thank you.

3 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. And our
4 next speaker, please.

5 ~~STAFF CRANTHAM:~~ **SHILEY** Amy Hanson.

6 AMY HANSON: Amy Hanson, A-M-Y,
7 H-A-N-S-O-N. Thank you for taking your time listening
8 to comments. This is my life. This is our life. We
9 bought a property 12 years ago, 40 acres. It was our
10 dream retirement property. We never expected this to
11 happen. The substation went in 6 months after we bought
12 our property. We had no idea it was coming. We weren't
13 advised, notified at all. There was nothing we can do
14 about it at that point. We have a beautiful view. We
15 have Mount Hood, Mount Adams, Mount Saint Helens. On a
16 clear day, like today, to Mount Jefferson. Sweeping
17 views of the Goldendale Valley and Simcoe Mountains.
18 This is why we moved here. We're surrounded by
19 beautiful farmland and country. We have the best
20 neighbors in the world. We bought into a development,
21 20 acre parcels, 240 acres. We found out in 2020 when
22 we retired and tried to buy an additional four acres
23 after we sold our -- that it was -- the 100 acres that
24 were not already purchased or lived on were leased to
25 Cypress Creek. We had no idea that was coming. In

1 addition to that there's going to be over two acres of
2 battery storage within our development. Terrifying. I
3 know that they say that they're the safest, you know,
4 but still it's like everything's safe until something
5 happens. You know, we moved here for the view, the
6 farmland, the community. We shop local, you know, we go
7 to the hospital local, you know, we get our car fixed
8 local. I mean, we lived -- we moved here for the
9 community. We wanna stay here. We don't wanna have to
10 move. If we can even sell our property. We don't blame
11 the people leasing. We know where they are. They're
12 making a lot of money, but we're concerned about our
13 property values, you know, and our quality of life and
14 safety also. So please consider that in making your
15 decision. Thank you.

16 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, ma'am. Next
17 speaker, please.

SHILEY

18 STAFF GRANTHAM: Dave Thies.

19 DAVE THIES: My name is Dave Thies,
20 T-H-I-E-S, for Columbia Gorge Audubon Society.
21 Klickitat County has been targeted as an energy
22 sacrifice zone. When public sentiment turned against a
23 corporate energy takeover of our county, that industry
24 doubled down and brought to us their energy overlay
25 zone, supposedly offered -- authored by our economic

1 development director who just happened to come from
2 renewable energy and returned to renewable energy when
3 the EOZ was approved. That EOZ streamlined regulations
4 and tellingly it greatly reduced public comment. Far
5 less than 1% of local people spoke in favor of the EOZ
6 and yet our county commissioners accepted a few boosters
7 and proponents for county wide support. Considering the
8 magnitude of the EOZ, it should have been put to a vote
9 of the people, but our county leaders could not have
10 allowed that because they knew it would never have -- it
11 would have been decisively defeated. Federal, state,
12 and county government all support and encourage
13 renewable energy. They have legislated tax breaks and
14 subsidized -- and subsidies for renewables. Federal and
15 state wildlife agencies know that to oppose renewable --
16 renewables could be fatal to their budgets. We believe
17 this is greatly hindered a much needed --

18 JUDGE LARRIPA: And, sir, I don't mean to
19 interrupt and I'll -- we can pause and reset some of the
20 time. The comments in this public hearing need to be
21 related to this specific project. So if you can please
22 narrow the scope of the comments to the same rather than
23 generally about the projects. Once again, we'll go
24 ahead and back up your time if you have additional
25 remarks to make, sir.

1 DAVE THIES: Micah, if you want to you can
2 turn off this mic, but I'll tell you what, we all sat in
3 this room for an hour while we had chit chat and now
4 you've cut us down from three minutes to two minutes.

5 JUDGE LARRIPA: Sir, so --

6 DAVE THIES: You don't have to act on what
7 we say, but you should listen.

8 JUDGE LARRIPA: Sir, if you'd like to make
9 comments, we'll go ahead and restart your time. If your
10 comments have concluded, then you may submit additional
11 remarks in writing. Thank you, sir. Right. Would you
12 please call the next speaker?

13 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM~~ SHILEY Joan Fry.

14 JOAN FRY: (Inaudible)share with you an
15 expert on -- oh, come on -- I would like to share with
16 you an excerpt from my testimony, the April 18th hearing
17 before Klickitat County Commissioners regarding their
18 solar moratorium. I was one of the signatories of the
19 energy overlay and want to clarify the rationale and the
20 process. Excuse me, wind power was headed our way, and
21 we wanted to be prepared. The question was what did the
22 citizens want in our county and where did they want it?
23 We held numerous public hearings in all communities
24 county wide. West end said no, thanks. The east end
25 was supportive. Many saw the windmill income as an

1 opportunity --

2 JUDGE LARRIPA: And, ma'am, I again -- and
3 please pause the time. This is not a public information
4 hearing regarding -- okay. Then you may please go
5 ahead.

6 JOAN FRY: (Inaudible) then onto the board
7 of county commissioners for more hearings and public
8 process. Concurrently, we also did a full blown
9 environmental impact study, which was lengthy,
10 expensive, and more public process. Each wind power
11 project still had to do site specific applications, just
12 not an environmental impact study, which the county had
13 already done. At that time, solar energy was nothing
14 more than a rooftop panel -- solar panels. Given the
15 rapid advances energy technology has been making, the
16 1996 EOZ should have been updated 15 years ago with as
17 much citizen input as possible. As it stands, the EOZ
18 doesn't address the magnitude of solar projects and
19 their impacts in any way and shouldn't be considered a
20 document that allows them. In addition to the statement
21 made to the county commissioners, my message to this
22 body is that Carriger Solar and future solar
23 applications belong in the hands of the citizens through
24 their elected county commissioners, and those decisions
25 must be made according to county land use regulations.

1 Thank you for your time.

2 JUDGE LARRIPA: Great. Thank you, ma'am.

3 And just to clarify, when I'm referring to on topic and
4 off topic, I'm not making any assessments of the
5 relevance of the comments that people have in another
6 form or in another place. Here today, though, the
7 purpose of this informational meeting is very narrowly
8 defined by statute RCW 80.50.090 and Washington
9 Administrative Code 463-26-025. So this is your
10 opportunity to comment about this project specifically.

11 I will need to interject if I hear further
12 commentary about decisions of county commissioners and
13 or broad policy as it pertains to project of this
14 nature. All right. And there also -- there will be an
15 additional land use hearing in this matter on May 15th.
16 But once again, if the comments are general in nature
17 about projects like this, I will need to interject to
18 limit the scope of it. But with that, we do want to
19 hear the comments that people have about this particular
20 project. So would you please call our next speaker.

21 ~~STAFF CRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Gene Callan.

22 GENE CALLAN: Gene Callan, G-E-N-E,
23 C-A-L-L-A-N. I live at 38 Knight Road adjacent to the
24 project. I'm going to take my robust two minutes and
25 look at the graphics on the screen and look at the

1 impact, a graphic impact on our Goldendale Valley, what
2 I think Carriger implies.

3 Next slide, please.

4 This is a map of that valley. You can see
5 Goldendale in the middle, Centerville down below and the
6 Columbia River to the south, Highway 97 running north
7 and south. This is home over 8,500 people. We're a
8 traditional rural town, and we're proud of our town.
9 This is our home.

10 Next slide, please.

11 It's an agrarian valley. We have over 60,000
12 acres of farmland, irrigated and non irrigated. You've
13 heard a lot about the RCW that demands that we honor and
14 respect that farmland, and that applies here.

15 Next slide, please.

16 There are over a 100 miles of rivers, streams,
17 swales, waterways that run through the Goldendale
18 Valley, all feeding into the Little Klickitat and the
19 Big Klickitat and finally the Columbia River. In
20 addition to that, as the department of ecology knows,
21 there are hundreds of domestic water wells out there.
22 Ours being one, that's within 400 feet of our property
23 line and this project, so that's a big issue for us.

24 Next slide, please.

25 The study -- and we recognize because we live

1 there -- there are many species of animals and plants in
2 this Goldendale Valley. Three of them, I believe, are a
3 priority or a threatened status. One that wasn't
4 mentioned and ignored is the Golden and the Bald Eagle,
5 which every resident out there knows is in and around
6 that valley. In addition to that, there -- we believe,
7 there are some first foods, for example, the camas root,
8 that lives in that valley -- in our valley.

9 Next slide, please.

10 This is the most important slide that I want to
11 share with you. This is a graphic representation. I'd
12 ask you to look at the little square on the right. That
13 is a 641 section scale. And yellow graphically depicts
14 nine to 10,000 acres and the Carriger Project will be a
15 pilot project that will trigger all these others.

16 CHAIR DREW: Mr. Callan. Yeah. Thank
17 you.

18 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you for your
19 comment, sir.

20 CHAIR DREW: We will save the PowerPoint
21 as a comment as well.

22 JUDGE LARRIPA: All right. Thank you.
23 Please call the next speaker.

24 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Mike Alleritt.

25 ~~ELI LEVITT:~~ ^{MIKE ALLERITT} Good evening, my name is Mike

1 Alleritt, M-I-K-E, A-L-L-E-R-I-T-T. Thank you for the
2 time to comment on this project. We do appreciate it.
3 I'm here tonight speaking in favor of the project. The
4 reason I'm speaking in favor of the project is I've seen
5 the way that it's been helping in the rural communities
6 throughout Washington, eastern Oregon, and eastern
7 Washington.

8 It allows us as -- I guess, let me back up a
9 little bit. So, I represent iron workers in the state
10 of Oregon and five counties in southwest Washington. So
11 I've seen the benefits to the members of the building
12 trade affiliates that build these projects and the
13 ability that it gives us as accredited apprenticeship
14 programs to bring in people from the rural communities
15 of eastern Washington and eastern Oregon. I think
16 they're very important to be able to keep building the
17 skilled workforce that we're going to need to move into
18 the future with fossil fuels going away and renewable
19 projects coming into play.

20 I think it's very important that we use our own
21 local people to build these projects and not have people
22 coming in from out of state to build these projects and,
23 therefore, training our apprentices is very important.
24 It also helps us get closer to that carbon neutral for
25 the state of Washington. Thank you for your time. I

1 appreciate it.

2 JUDGE LARRIPA: All right. Thank you for
3 your comment, sir. And just once again, as a reminder,
4 for speakers who are going to speak for the remainder of
5 this evening, please tie your comments to this specific
6 project. The next speaker, please.

SHILEY

7 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: David West.

8 DAVID WEST: Dave West, D-A-V-E, W-E-S-T.
9 Unusual event this evening. I agree with all three of
10 my commissioners all at the same time. I'm not against
11 solar and I'm certainly not against solar being in our
12 county. But as you're considering this project, I do
13 believe you need to consider -- I looked at Gene's
14 slides -- there's 8,500 people here. Only 3,500 people
15 live in the city limits and that's the same population
16 that was 40 years ago. All of our growth has been in
17 the rural areas.

18 Now, land studies, real estate value studies,
19 not paid for by the corporations indicate 20 to 30% drop
20 in value, depending on where you're at. If you go
21 forward to this, let's put a requirement they compensate
22 the people for that drop in value.

23 Now, let's get down to brass tax. I used to
24 work for a corporation that in the end, for over 20
25 years they're owned by one of the world's largest

1 corporations. The bottom line is the bottom line.
2 Cypress Creek is not in the business of making solar.
3 They're in the business of making money. And the reason
4 they wish to site here is because of the very short,
5 cheap distance to connect to the substation.

6 Now, if they don't build here, if you choose to
7 deny it, we have lots of room in this county without the
8 conflicts, and it's all within the distance they have
9 previously stated they can effectively build power lines
10 in. We will not lose green energy projects. Our county
11 will not lose money. We have the capacity for that
12 10,000 acres of solar production here. But maybe you
13 can require them to spend more money and site it where
14 we won't have the conflicts.

15 Almost out of time. I found their whole plan,
16 that I actually believe to be a plan to have a plan,
17 kinda like asking a high school student to grade his own
18 term paper. Thank you.

19 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
20 speaker, please.

21 SHILEY
22 STAFF GRANTHAM: Dave Barta.

23 DAVE BARTA: D-A-V-E, B-A-R-T-A. Good
24 afternoon Council and Cypress Creek representatives.
25 Thank you for the opportunity to speak today regarding
the Carriger application. As you have heard, or will

1 here, there's several significant reasons to reject the
2 application. Most of my discussions centers on the poor
3 fit of this project application is relative to local
4 land use. Notably, the area proposed has been zoned
5 extensive agriculture and general rural for decades.

6 In the Klickitat County's zoning ordinance, the
7 purpose for extensive agriculture zoning is, I quote "to
8 encourage the continued practice of farming on lands
9 best suited for agriculture and to prevent or minimize
10 conflicts between common agricultural practices and
11 various non farm uses." In the case of nearly all the
12 Carriger application, there is no continued practice of
13 farming that can or will happen. In some cases, lessors
14 have leased virtually all their ground. They have no
15 intention to continue to farm it.

16 Similarly, the general rural zones purpose is,
17 quoting "to maintain openness in the rural character of
18 the countryside to protect the county's water and other
19 natural resources, and to provide areas which are
20 appropriate for typical rural development." The
21 Carriger application states there'll be over 1,300 acres
22 of industrial panels with an extended height of 12-1/2
23 feet on roughly 2,000 acre parcel. Carriger states they
24 will surround most of the area with the six-foot-high
25 chain link fence topped by barbed wire. This hardly

1 gives the impression of, quoting "maintaining the
2 openness and rural character of the countryside."

3 Additionally, the industrial solar developer
4 hopes to place 63 megawatts of lithium-ion battery
5 storage within about a 1000 feet of several residences,
6 visualize dozens of semi-trailer-sized batteries. They
7 say they are safe and they won't burn, but when
8 something goes wrong, it goes really wrong and means
9 evaluations of hundreds or maybe even a 1000 people and
10 the negative effect on land. The battery storage site
11 is about three quarters of mile north of where both
12 forks of Blockhouse Creek come out of the ground and a
13 couple miles north of the stream that feeds Goldendale
14 Fish Hatchery.

15 Under GMA requirements, Carriger application
16 will result in a land conversion. Klickitat County has
17 zoning ordinances for a reason. This project does not
18 meet them. Please reject the expedited application
19 request.

20 CHAIR DREW: The timer. Yep.

21 JUDGE LARRIPA

21 ~~ELI LEVITT:~~ Thank you, sir. Next
22 speaker, please.

23 SHILEY

23 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM:~~ Tom Holub.

24
25 TOM HOLUB: (Inaudible) 2006. My wife and

1 I own four and a half acres. My property is not
2 directly affected. I'm just outside of Goldendale. But
3 we moved here for a very specific reason, and this may
4 sound general, but this directly -- I intend to directly
5 cite this project because we moved here for the natural
6 beauty of this place. Shortly after we bought our
7 place -- I'm going to get off topic there -- but what I
8 basically wanna say is, we feel like the property values
9 in this county are going to go down and the overall
10 impact of this project is not going to benefit this
11 county. I mean, we need to see some economic benefit
12 from this type of a project in our county. There's no
13 other reason to despoil our natural beauty. And for
14 that reason, I asked that the Council recommend to the
15 government -- Governor that this project not move
16 forward.

17 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you for your
18 comment, sir, and before you step away, would you please
19 spell your name for the record.

20 TOM HOLUB: I'm sorry.

21 JUDGE LARRIPA: No problem at all.

22 TOM HOLUB: Tom Holub, T-O-M, H-O-L-U-B.

23 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you. And please
24 call our next speaker.

25 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ **SHILEY** Kenneth McKune.

KENNETH MCKUNE

1 ~~ELI LEVITT:~~ K-E-N-N-E-T-H, M-C-K-U-N-E.
2 Welcome to Goldendale, the golden gate to the Evergreen
3 State, not the golden gate to the solar mistake. It
4 will be a big mistake to site Carriger in the area that
5 they're proposing. You've heard a lot of arguments that
6 back that statement up. One thing, the whole green
7 energy movement is like the whole clean -- is like smoke
8 and mirrors, in a way. And it's like trashing the
9 planet. Siting these things in places, that changes the
10 complexion, the face of the landscape. Thousands of
11 people are going to be affected every day. It's not
12 like the other end of the county where maybe two people
13 live within two or 3,000 acres. Here on Knight Road,
14 we're all going to be seeing it all the time. And, you
15 know, I'm not totally against solar. I mean, I'd love
16 to see -- those are my friends out there. I've known
17 them most of my life. I'd like to see them benefit from
18 the technology. But the scope and the scale is -- it
19 just doesn't fit. We're a rural county, a rural
20 community, we don't really need the glitz and the
21 glamour of becoming the energy center of Washington
22 state and feed the megalomaniac governor that wants to
23 impose --

24 JUDGE LARRIPA: And sir, the road that
25 you're heading down, we need to contain the comments on.

1 KENNETH MCKUNE: I apologize for going off
2 track. I'm done. Thank you.

3 JUDGE LARRIPA: All right. Thank you,
4 sir. Next, speaker please.

5 ~~STAFF CRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Apologies. James Wilson.

6 JAMES WILSON: James Wilson, J-A-M-E-S,
7 Wilson W-I-L-S-O-N. I'm probably the bad guy here. I
8 was the General Foreman on the Lund Hill Project for the
9 iron workers. I'm not saying that this project is
10 located in the right area. What I will say is there is
11 some short term -- there are some benefits to the
12 construction of it. While we were working on Lund Hill,
13 we had approximately seventy people working those -- a
14 lot of the -- some of the people live here, some of the
15 people -- most of the people, came from out.

16 The store. A lot of small businesses benefited
17 from them living here during the week. A lot of the
18 money made, stayed in this community. And it helps a
19 lot of small businesses. And, again, I don't know about
20 the location of this project, but the project will have
21 benefits. And it seems like everybody that comes up
22 here, nobody gives it credit. But anyway, also we while
23 we were here, we took in some workers from local areas,
24 and it gives a chance, to the people that might not get
25 a chance, to earn a living wage job. The iron workers

1 is a career where, if you work there for 30-35 years,
2 you get to retire with a decent retirement, and it just
3 benefits the community as well. Thank you.

4 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
5 speaker, please.

6 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Ryan Mo.

7 JUDGE LARRIPA: We can also go to the next
8 speaker and then give him an opportunity when he comes
9 back in. Just next in line.

10 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ ^{SHILEY} Okay. That'd be Rocel
11 Dimmick.

12 ROCEL DIMMICK: Good evening. I'm Rocel,
13 R-O-C-E-L, Dimmick, D-I-M-M-I-C-K. And I am a resident
14 here in Klickitat County, and I will be one of the
15 residents closest to the battery storage facility. And
16 looking through your project and your proposal, I didn't
17 catch what kind of brand that battery was that's going
18 to be utilized and how it's going to be recycled. And
19 where can I find these studies that they're safe for
20 residents? I see that you just say it, but I don't see
21 any studies that support this. Where's the
22 cradle-to-grave reports on these?

23 What determined the location of the battery?
24 Typically, the winds will blow from the west side, and
25 that's where it's located on the west side of the

1 substation. So if it were to explode or catch fire,
2 wouldn't that just make the fire even more difficult to
3 address? And there was a fire at one of these
4 facilities actually in September of last year, and it
5 was in Alcorn, California. And I just wanna know, like,
6 what the plan is for residents when this happens and
7 there's toxic smoke going into our air and it's blowing
8 towards Goldendale. Where is that report that it's
9 safe? Where's those studies? Why aren't they included
10 in your proposal.

11 In your evacuation plans, you mention that the
12 fire departments have all been, you know, onboard and
13 working with you, but we didn't see that happen with
14 Lund Hill. They didn't address what our community might
15 have to do in case of an emergency where these battery
16 storage facilities would happen to catch on fire. And
17 these are widely used in South Korea. And it turns out
18 that in a 2-year period there were 23 fires at these
19 battery storage facilities. So I'm not too excited
20 about living next to your project, especially when I
21 don't have the facts that are backing up your proposals
22 and how you can just assure that it's going to not
23 affect my air quality when you strip the topsoil down.
24 And I witness --

25 CHAIR DREW: That's time.

1 ROCEL DIMMICK: -- the 50 mile an hour
2 winds that go through this county.

3 CHAIR DREW: Your two minutes have been
4 up.

5 ROCEL DIMMICK: I really hope that you
6 guys consider all of these --

7 JUDGE LARRIPA: All right. Please
8 conclude your comments with time having concluded.
9 Also, because you had a number of questions for the
10 applicant, if you would like to leave a number or
11 contact information, completely your choice, you may
12 take a moment to leave that with him. Okay. All right.

13 And with the next speaker, I know that the
14 person who you called just before our last speaker had
15 stepped outside, would you please call that speakers
16 name again? I'm sorry my misunderstanding. I thought
17 you meant he had stepped outside momentarily. So then
18 please go to the next name on the list.

19 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM~~ SHILEY Aubrey Newton.

20 AUBREY NEWTON: Good evening. Can you
21 hear me okay? I'm joining virtually.

22 JUDGE LARRIPA: Yes. We can hear you.

23 AUBREY NEWTON: Wonderful. Aubrey Newton,
24 A-U-B-R-E-Y, N-E-W-T-O-N. Good evening and thank you
25 Chair Drew and the entire commission for the opportunity

1 to speak this evening. My name is Aubrey Newton. I am
2 the Director of the Northwest Laborers'-Employers
3 Cooperation and Education Team. I work with the
4 Laborers' International Union of North America for the
5 northwest region, which encompasses nine states in the
6 northwest and provinces in the western Canada area,
7 which includes Washington state. In Washington
8 specifically, we have over 15,000 members in the state.

9 I won't get into the full details due to the
10 stake of keeping on topic, but our members have worked
11 in many projects in the southwest Washington area, and
12 we are very much in support of this project. We are
13 here in -- this evening -- in favor of this project, and
14 we look forward to seeing how Cypress Creek will work
15 with communities in the area to ensure that under
16 represented workers are included and locals are given --
17 local workers are given the opportunity to build
18 Washington's energy goals.

19 Our members, specifically in this area, have
20 very large experience being trained and ready to handle
21 over 60% of the entire project from material handling,
22 concrete work, and many other scopes of work throughout
23 the project that we've done throughout southwest
24 Washington and specifically in the Goldendale community.
25 And with that, overall, our members deserve to work on

1 projects like these, and our members deserve to work for
2 contractors and developers that value union's good
3 paying jobs and building communities in all sectors.
4 With that, thank you for your time.

5 JUDGE LARRIPA: Great. Thank you for your
6 comment. And I will ask that people please don't remark
7 while other speakers are speaking. I am screening
8 comments for whether or not they're on topic, and I'll
9 make that determination. I will ask people to please
10 remain silent while other people are speaking. Thank
11 you. Next speaker.

12 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ **SHILEY** Justin Sellars.

13 JUSTIN SELLERS: Justin Sellars,
14 J-U-S-T-I-N, S-E-L-L-E-R-S. Thank you, commission.
15 Appreciate the time to be able to speak to you and -- I
16 am on behalf of this project itself. I represent
17 members of this community. I am the President of Labor
18 Union International North America LIUNA Local 335. I'm
19 representing the membership here, and we represent
20 hundreds of hard working men and women in the southwest
21 Washington area, as long as in Klickitat County itself.
22 Our members build and construct all forms of energies,
23 dams, winds, and solar projects from start to finish.

24 I'm here this evening to advocate for this
25 project and support it in full. Furthermore, we're here

1 to be on the representation of apprenticeship
2 utilization, contractor compliance, diversity equity
3 goals, and CETA requirements. We look forward to
4 working with Cypress Creek in employing local hire, in
5 giving great living-wage jobs, and building the future
6 of Klickitat County. Thank you for your time.
7 Appreciate it.

8 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
9 speaker, please.

10 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ **SHILEY** Jim Hill.

11 JIM HILL: Jim Hill, J-I-M, H-I-L-L. You
12 know, as a gosh, the things I've heard today. As a
13 fourth generation landowner on this property, I am angry
14 and disappointed that the people who lived here a couple
15 of years, 10 years, few months, are trying to dictate
16 what we fourth, fifth, sixth generation landowners can
17 legally do with our property. And, yes, I am one of
18 those money mongers property is on my or the project --
19 Carriger Project is on, excuse me, my property.

20 You know, I've heard a lot of emotion today,
21 but really not much fact about the Carriger Project.
22 Nineteen to 30 million dollars in taxes. Why would the
23 county turn that down? As Dave said earlier, the
24 population of Goldendale is 3,600, more or less same as
25 it was 40 years ago, but the population has grown to

1 8,500. Where are those houses? They're on farm ground.
2 I can have -- I could legally put 21 houses on my
3 property. Each one of those houses will have a well
4 into the aquifer. Another straw in the bottle. It's
5 not an unlimited supply. I lost my train of thought.
6 And so, you know, I don't know -- I don't know what my
7 kids and grandkids are going to do. But, like I say,
8 there could very easily be 21 houses. Farmland is gone
9 forever. The project, 20-30 years, farmland is
10 (inaudible) and Goldendale must thrive and prosper in
11 the meantime.

12 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
13 speaker, please.

SHILEY

14 STAFF GRANTHAM: Karl Amidon.

15 KARL AMIDON: So I guess I'm kinda
16 (inaudible). Karl Amidon, K-A-R-L, A-M-I-D-O-N. Okay.
17 I guess I'm kind of the bad guy here from what it sounds
18 like. I'm right in the middle of this project. Been on
19 Knight Road for 71 years and almost 72. Don't plan to
20 leave. It's going to be right around -- right around
21 me. I've farmed in this community my whole life. I've
22 struggled. No one has ever paid my taxes for me. No
23 one has ever offered to help. We've done it ourselves.
24 We've stayed here on Knight Road. When my folks came
25 here there was 10 farms on Knight Road. There's one

1 today. Not that we own all the land. I wish I did, but
2 we don't, but we do farm quite a bit of it. And the
3 development of all these people moving in here, that's
4 what's causing our problem. At least the solar
5 panels -- there's a fence around it -- and there's no
6 people, no problems. Thank you.

7 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir.

8 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ SHILEY Elaine Harvey.

9 ELAINE HARVEY: Elaine Harvey,

10 E-L-A-I-N-E, H-A-R-V-E-Y. Today I speak as a resident
11 of Klickitat County. I lived here most of my life,
12 except the time when I went to college. I'm also
13 speaking as a Kah-milt-pah band member, which is the
14 Rock Creek band. We are the first people of this land.
15 I live in this direct vicinity of the Carriger Project.
16 I decided to live there because our first foods are
17 there. I can walk out my door and I can pick some fresh
18 food. I can go down the road. I can pick berries that
19 are native. I have concern for the native plants, the
20 native insects, the native wildlife that's going to be
21 affected.

22 And we always speak on behalf of those who
23 cannot speak for themselves. And that's why I work in
24 natural resources. I have a bachelors degree in
25 fisheries and aquatic sciences. I have a master of

1 science degree in environmental law, hydrology, and
2 geomorphology, and I'm working on my PhD in natural
3 resources. I dedicate my life to natural resources and
4 our first foods and our cultural resources. And this
5 project will be detrimental to all the organisms that
6 live in this area. I see them on a daily basis. This
7 guy back here says, he only sees four deer. I don't. I
8 live there. I see all the wild life. I know what's
9 there.

10 And, you know, this project is like the worst
11 nightmare that I can ever have in my life because I know
12 what it's going to do to this land, to the community,
13 and it's going to build off from this project more and
14 more in this area, which is a really important
15 culturally area for the Yakamas and for the Kah-milt-pah
16 band which is one part of the tribes that make up the
17 Yakama. So, you know, I'm speaking on behalf of those
18 who can't speak for themselves.

19 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, ma'am. Next
20 speaker, please.

SHILEY

21 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: Kyle Hanson.

22 KYLE HANSON: Kyle Hanson, K-Y-L-E,
23 H-A-N-S-O-N. I'm here on behalf of Ironworkers Local
24 29. Just wanted to assure the committee that they have
25 competent and plenty of workers to complete this job

1 with trained skills and experience and historic
2 procedures and to get the job done correctly and by the
3 deadline. While we're here to support -- we support the
4 community and the local revenue. We also support
5 whatever local infrastructure is being given to
6 progressing America. If this project does happen, I
7 encourage to use Local 29 workers, as they say -- set
8 their standards, excellence, high and take pride in our
9 work. Thank you.

10 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
11 speaker.

SHILEY

12 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: Dana Peck.

13 DANA PECK: My name's Dana Peck, D-A-N-A,
14 P-E-C-K. I'm the retired Director of Economic
15 Development for Klickitat County and managed the energy
16 overlay process in the late 1990s and early 2000s. I'm
17 also the guy Dave was talking about who came here doing
18 wind projects and went off and did them again after the
19 industry came back. So you need to face for that story,
20 it's my face. Typically I stand up and agree with
21 Commissioner Fry and then sit down and say thank you.

22 The two things I like to point out that you've
23 heard tonight that I think speak well of Carriger is
24 what they bring to us in terms of tax benefits. Keeping
25 a small county healthy is not easy. Depending on how

1 you count it, they're worth about a million dollars a
2 year to the immediate small districts around us. You
3 can -- and that's about as good a price on the value of
4 view as you can get.

5 I'm much more in agreement with Jim Hill and
6 the landowners. One of the reasons we did the energy
7 overlay zone originally was to keep houses off the farm
8 ground. We knew with our timber industry dying, with
9 the smelter closing, that the only way we had to keep
10 our landowners healthy was find a competitive advantage.
11 And as commissioner Fry said, initially it was wind, it
12 became solar.

13 I wish the county would've updated its Energy
14 Overlay Zone we worked on when that started to happen,
15 just like we did when we saw wind start to happen. And
16 in my opinion, that's why you exist. You know, if the
17 county would've updated itself, we wouldn't be having
18 this conversation or this meeting. It would all be
19 under the Energy Overlay Zone, which is very successful,
20 handled almost two gigawatts of green power in the
21 county. Thanks for your time.

22 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
23 speaker, please.

SHILEY

24 STAFF ~~GRANTHAM~~: Warren Dazey.

25 WARREN DAZEY: Good evening.

1 JUDGE LARRIPA: And please state and spell
2 your name, sir, for the record.

3 WARREN DAZEY: Warren Dazey, W-A-R-R-E-N,
4 D-A-Z-E-Y. First, I wanna say I'm in full support of
5 the construction workers, the laborers, and the iron
6 workers, and I can think they could get some pretty good
7 jobs somewhere else. This project that you're
8 proposing, the 300 jobs that's going to bring in,
9 everybody in this room knows they're coming from out of
10 state or out of the area, so that's a no brainer. When
11 the job's done, they leave. The project stays here.
12 When the projects done, how do you get rid of it? You
13 can't eat solar panels.

14 Most of what I was going to say has previously
15 been covered, but my wife and I live on 44 acres on Pine
16 Forest Road. We have an amazing view. It's a million
17 dollar view, same as the Hanson's. And this project
18 backs right up to our property, and that's going to drop
19 our property value right through the cellar. So as far
20 as, does it hurt the local citizens? You but it does.
21 And it's not just me. There's a lot of other folks
22 that's adversely affected with this project.

23 **A little while back we had a county**
24 **commissioners meeting with them, and there are several**
25 **times people brought up they come up out of the gorge,**

1 they see this valley, and they feel like they're in
2 God's country. Well, why would we wanna cover God's
3 country with solar panels? Is it because we don't
4 believe in God or we just don't have any respect for
5 him? Thank you.

6 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
7 speaker, please.

SHILEY

8 STAFF GRANTHAM: Tom Tasto.

9 TOM TASTO: Tom, T-O-M, and the last name
10 is Tasto, T-A-S-T-O. I want to build on Delmar Eldred's
11 comments on water runoff. And also I want to touch
12 briefly on what Dana Peck had to say, and I hope you'll
13 accept what I'm about to say because it's out of state.
14 Okay.

15 The Virginia Department of Environmental
16 Quality as of late March is now regulating stormwater
17 from solar farms to include the panels themselves.
18 Previously only the foundations or bases under the each
19 panel was considered impervious. But under Governor
20 Glenn Youngkin's administration, the panels themselves
21 will be now classified as impervious as well. The rain
22 hitting the panels causes concentrated flow erosion as
23 it drips off the panels.

24 The previous administration of Governor Ralph
25 Northam had ignored existing stormwater management

1 guidelines in their efforts to prioritize or fast track
2 solar projects. They ignored concerns that have
3 continued to be raised by local officials and key
4 stakeholders, of which we have a lot of here in this
5 room.

6 I have worked as a soil conservation
7 technician, so I know a little bit about concentrated
8 flow and runoff and things like that. The Energy
9 Overlay Zone needs to be revised. We really cannot
10 proceed with this project without the revision of the
11 Energy Overlay Zone. Dana said it was done back in 1996
12 when solar was not even a gleam in her eye. So anyway,
13 I don't think it's a good idea. I wouldn't be standing
14 here if I did, but thank you.

15 JUDGE LARRIPA: Right. Thank you, sir.
16 Next speaker, please.

17 ~~STAFF GRANTHAM:~~ **SHILEY** Mike Tobin.

18 MIKE TOBIN: M-I-K-E, T-O-B-I-N. I'm not
19 from this community. I wish my community in Yakima had
20 shown up like this. What I'm really impressed by is the
21 idea that forward thinking of the county itself
22 considering green energy, including this. This action
23 should fall under that from what little information I've
24 garnered today. I do not know why EFSEC is
25 participating in this at this time. I will say that is

1 independent and different from what has been stated
2 today is there are always mitigation elements of
3 projects like this. There is a loss of agricultural
4 land that is not being mitigated for. It must be
5 included. I think that it should be a requirement that
6 the Washington Department of Agriculture be here
7 supporting the loss of agricultural land through a
8 mitigation process, just like any other wildlife
9 habitat. You can't replace this, but you can sure
10 protect other areas that are vital to the county through
11 use of conservation easements. So I'd offer that as
12 another positive comment to this -- to this fine group.
13 And, again, I applaud everyone who has spoken today. It
14 is interesting to see the diversity, and I hope -- wish
15 the best of luck for you here.

16 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. Next
17 speaker, please.

18 ~~STAFF CRANTHAM:~~ SHILEY That is the end of the
19 speakers who signed up.

20 JUDGE LARRIPA: So if there are others in
21 the room who've not yet spoken, Chair Drew indicated
22 that because we have 10 minutes left, we'll invite you
23 to do so. I see -- this was the first hand up and then
24 I see a second hand up and a third.

25 SHELLEY WESTLUND: Shelley Westlund,

1 S-H-E-L-L-E-Y, Westlund, W-E-S-T-L-U-N-D. I came to
2 Klickitat County in 2010. I wanna first say that I'm
3 extremely proud to be a Klickitat community member. And
4 I am so proud of my community right now, today, and how
5 they have spoken up. I have land that I believe 160
6 acres of it is being proposed. I have interest in that
7 land. I don't own it out right in process of purchasing
8 it. And I have, I think, part of those owners are
9 considering putting solar panels on that upper piece. I
10 believe that would be a horrid use of our land for all
11 the reasons that have been spoken today, including, we
12 have runoff water that comes down through that land and
13 goes straight into the Little Klickitat River. I agree
14 that we solar energy can be awesome. I plan to have
15 solar on my home. However, where you are proposing to
16 do this Carriger project is absolutely inappropriate for
17 our county, for our lands, for our people, for every
18 single reason. We have other places that would be more
19 appropriate for solar. And I really hope that you will
20 really listen to all of us and that this is not
21 appropriate on any way. I wish I had known that we
22 could speak today I would be more prepared, but I
23 couldn't let the opportunity go by. I know there other
24 people that want to speak, and I hope that we can be in
25 agreement that we can do good things without harming our

1 animals, our waterways, and our land. Thank you.

2 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, ma'am. And
3 yes, please go ahead and step up to the podium and state
4 and spell your name for us.

5 LOCAL 335 SPEAKER: I'm here on behalf of
6 the Laborers Union 335. I want this to happen. The
7 community needs to have more things for people workwise,
8 or we will have to travel to someone else's area to get
9 work. I did it for years. I installed oil and gas
10 pipelines for over 12 years. This is the new stuff, and
11 I'd like to be able to stay home, which I live here, to
12 be able to do my work for once.

13 JUDGE LARRIPA: And I saw one last hand.
14 Please go ahead and step up, sir.

15 CARL CONROY: Carl Conroy, C-A-R-L,
16 C-O-N-R-O-Y. I'm one of the bad guys. I have
17 (inaudible) solar (inaudible) with the commissioners, as
18 Dan knows. There are some things we really agree on.
19 I'm a firm believer that solar is like a crop of grain,
20 it needs to be harvested. But my main contention is,
21 what is done when it's over with. That's the
22 commissioner's job and your job to make sure that when
23 that solar company leaves, and if they do, that land is
24 returned to normal. That all comes to part. Mostly I
25 wanna thank the opposition. I appreciate you guys. I

1 appreciate that everybody's been here. We can disagree,
2 and I really appreciate that. I too am a pretty much
3 pure food and drug guy. We've talked at length about
4 chemical use on this ground. I propose sheep grazing.
5 They have been very receptive to it, that we can graze
6 that and use maybe do that instead of all the chemical
7 use for weeds. So while I think there are a lot of room
8 for discussion and some things that we need to do, I do
9 believe that with the commissioners and these people,
10 that compromise can be reached. I really appreciate
11 your time. I appreciate everybody showing up and the
12 way we've conducted ourselves. Thank you.

13 JUDGE LARRIPA: Thank you, sir. And so
14 now we'll go ahead and move to participants online.
15 This is an opportunity. We have time to hear from up to
16 three additional speakers. If you're on Teams, please
17 go ahead and raise your hand and staff will identify the
18 order. And I see you, sir, if we have time after
19 online. Has anybody online indicated a desire to speak?
20 All right. Then, sir, please go ahead and step up to
21 the podium and state and spell your name.

22 KEN BRANHAM: K-E-N, B-R-A-N-H-A-M. I'm
23 an iron worker. I've worked on several of these
24 projects around here. I have actually put two kids
25 through college. I lived the American dream by building

1 windmills, all this stuff. And I live close by and this
2 is green energy. It don't get no really any better.
3 I've worked on power houses that are filthy and dirty
4 and this -- and it's -- it can be reclaimed, just like
5 this gentleman says. So when this is all done, they
6 come in, put some new topsoil down, and you got --
7 basically you can run cattle on it. You can farm it.
8 You can do whatever you want.

9 But we gotta do this because it helps out a lot
10 of people. Not just me financially. But it's going to
11 help out the community. It's going to turn on lights.
12 This area is going to grow and there's going to be more
13 homes out there. You know, it ain't just going to be
14 farm ground everything. There's going to be more homes
15 that are built in the area and these things can turn the
16 lights on. Thank you.

17 JUDGE LARRIPA: All right. Thank you,
18 sir. All right. So at this time, we're going to
19 conclude public comment. No. At this point, ma'am, the
20 public comment has concluded, but thank you for -- if
21 you do have anything else, so please feel free to sit --
22 submit written remarks. Chair Drew.

23 CHAIR DREW: Thank you all for
24 participating tonight. We appreciate hearing from all
25 of you, and this meeting is adjourned.

1 CERTIFICATE

2
3 I, Steven B. Crandall, certify that the foregoing
4 transcript is a full, true, and accurate transcription
5 of the proceedings and testimony taken in the matter of
6 the above-entitled proceeding.

7 That the foregoing meeting was taken before me,
8 via Teams video conference, completed on April 25, 2023,
9 and thereafter transcribed by me;

10 That I am not a relative, employee, attorney, or
11 counsel of any party to this action, or relative, or
12 employee of any such attorney or counsel, and that I am
13 not financially interested in the said action or the
14 outcome thereof;

15
16
17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
18 signature on this 10th day of May, 2023.

19 

20 Steven B. Crandall, CER
21 Certified Electronic Reporter #1198
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