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PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

May 05, 2025

Carriger Solar Meeting

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WASHINGTON STATE

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

Carriger Solar Project

EFSEC Special Council Meeting

and

Public Comment Hearing

May 5, 2025

Goldendale, Washington

Reporter: John M. S. Botelho, CCR, RPR (Reporter attending remotely)



1	APPEARANCES	
2	STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:	
3	Kurt Beckett, Chair	
4	Elizabeth Osborne, Department of Commerce	
5	Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology	
6		
7	Nate Pamplin, Department of Fish and Wildlife	
8	Lenny Young, Department of Natural Resources	
9	Stacey Brewster, Utilities & Transportation Commission	
10		
11	LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OPTIONAL STATE AGENCIES:	
12	Carriger Solar:	
13	Matt Chiles, Klickitat County	
14		
15	ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:	
16	Jon Thompson	
17		
18	COUNCIL STAFF:	
19	Sonia Bumpus Andrea Grantham	
20	Ami Hafkemeyer Alex Shiley	
21	Joanne Snarski Karl Holappa	
22	Joan Owens Sean Greene	
23		
24	COUNSEL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:	
25	Sarah Reyneveld	



1	APPEARANCES (Continuing)
2	
3	IN ATTENDANCE:
4	John Hanks Cypress Creek Renewables
5	
6	PUBLIC COMMENTS PROVIDED BY:
7	Matt Chiles
8	Delmer Eldred
9	Candy Magnusson
10	Elaine Harvey
11	Dave Barta
12	Greg Wagner
13	Dave Thies
14	Ken McKune
15	Gene Callan
16	Todd Andrews
17	Warren Dazey
18	Luke Throop
19	Virginia Fitzpatrick
20	
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1	BE IT REMEMBERED that on Monday,
2	May 5, 2025, at Goldendale Grange, 228 East Darland
3	Drive, Goldendale, Washington, at 5:30 p.m., the
4	following Special Meeting of the Washington State
5	Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was held, to
6	wit:
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8	<<<<< >>>>>>
9	
10	CHAIR BECKETT: Good afternoon. My
11	name's Kurt Beckett. I'm the chair of the Energy
12	Facility Site Evaluation Council. I'm calling this
13	special meeting to order.
14	And let me first begin by thanking our community
15	members who are here. And, please, for those who are
16	still joining us this evening, come on in. And
17	agendas are in the back. I think most folks have had
18	a chance to pick one of those up. But if you wish to
19	have an agenda, they are available in hard copy in
20	the back.
21	This is a hybrid meeting, so we do have a number
22	of potential participants online as well as a couple
23	of our Council members. So thanks for all the
24	Council members as well as the public using the
25	microphones clearly when you do, and I'll try to lead



1	by example in that regard.
2	I wanted to, beyond, again, thanking the
3	community, including those who have helped make sure
4	that we were able to host this important conversation
5	tonight appreciate being here; it's good to be here
6	again, I will say and I was going to further explain
7	just briefly the meeting agenda which will be adopted
8	by the Council here shortly, but just to kind of
9	explain what we're here to do.
10	And so, first, a two-part agenda. We have the
11	special Council meeting here at 5:30. And EFSEC, as
12	far as the "what," is holding a special Council meeting
13	to take up the request from Cypress Creek Renewables to
14	grant expedited processing of the application. That's
15	under WAC 80.50.05 for the authority that is associated
16	with this potential action.
17	Expedited processing means that instead of a
18	formal trial-type adjudicative hearing, at which expert
19	testimony and exhibits may be presented, subject to
20	cross-examination by attorneys for parties supporting
21	and opposing the project, the Council instead holds a
22	less-formal public comment hearing to help it develop
23	its final recommendation to the governor. And staff
24	will be further explaining both the time frame from

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where this started to where we are tonight to a general

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forecast of where we go from here in the staff
 presentation shortly.

Upon the Council's discussion and potential action here tonight, if -- if that expedited processing is granted, then we would move into the public comment hearing, which would then essentially allow public comment on where the Council goes from here and the staff additional processing.

So that's, in general, what we're planning for. Thanks for putting up with me on my new first time at a field meeting like this as the chair. And I will check with staff just to make sure I haven't missed anything in the initial overview of -- of tonight.

Okay. And, again, just for -- to consider for 14 15 your comments, I'll repeat some of this shortly, but 16 just in case you need to think about it, comments can 17 be left with staff in the box in the back. You are 18 welcome, of course, if you've signed up, to make verbal 19 testimony here tonight. You can certainly e-mail EFSEC 20 at the various e-mail addresses noted both online and 21 here in the room. If you wish to send us a comment to 2.2 supplement any verbal comments tonight or if you think 23 of something tomorrow morning or the next day, you can 24 e-mail us, and certainly we'll make sure your -- your 25 input is considered as part of the Council review going



Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 8 forward. 1 So, with that, let me then move to asking our 2 3 clerk to call the roll. 4 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you, Chair Beckett. For the record, this is Andrea Grantham. 5 6 Starting with Department of Commerce. 7 Department of Ecology. Eli Levitt, present. 8 MR. LEVITT: 9 Department of Fish MS. GRANTHAM: 10 and Wildlife. Nathan Pamplin, 11 MR. PAMPLIN: 12 present. 13 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Natural 14 Resources. 15 MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young, present. 16 MS. GRANTHAM: Utilities and 17 Transportation Commission. 18 MS. BREWSTER: Stacey Brewster, 19 present. 20 MS. GRANTHAM: For Klickitat County, Matt Chiles. 21 2.2 MR. CHILES: Matt Chiles, present. 23 MS. GRANTHAM: Assistant attorney 24 generals. 25 Jon Thompson.



	Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 9
1	MR. THOMPSON: Jon Thompson,
2	present.
3	MS. GRANTHAM: Zack Packer.
4	And Talia Thuet.
5	For Council staff, I will call Sonia Bumpus.
6	MS. BUMPUS: Sonia Bumpus, present.
7	MS. GRANTHAM: Ami Hafkemeyer.
8	MS. HAFKEMEYER: Ami Hafkemeyer,
9	present.
10	MS. GRANTHAM: Joanne Snarski.
11	MS. SNARSKI: Joanne Snarski,
12	present.
13	MS. GRANTHAM: Joan Owens is here as
14	well, as well as Alex Shiley and Karl Holappa.
15	And then do we have anyone present for the counsel
16	for the environment?
17	MS. REYNEVELD: Yes. Sarah
18	Reyneveld is present virtually.
19	MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.
20	Chair, there is a quorum.
21	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
22	Council, the Council has the agenda before you.
23	I'd like to entertain a motion to adopt the agenda.
24	MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young. So moved.
25	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.



	Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 10
1	Is there a second?
2	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.
3	CHAIR BECKETT: Motion to adopt the
4	agenda has been made and seconded.
5	All in favor, signify by saying "aye."
6	MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.
7	CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?
8	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.
9	CHAIR BECKETT: Abstain?
10	Okay. The agenda is adopted.
11	And we will move into our staff presentation
12	first. And I believe we have some additional
13	information from Cypress Creek Renewables, who will
14	follow staff and in general, staff and Cypress Creek
15	are here to answer Council questions as we get into the
16	discussion shortly.
17	So with that, Director Bumpus, I'll direct it to
18	you first.
19	MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
20	Beckett. And good afternoon, Council members.
21	We have Joanne Snarski, our siting specialist
22	assigned for this project, who's going to do a staff
23	presentation. We'll discuss the SEPA information and
24	the comments that we received on the draft MDNS.
25	CHAIR BECKETT: And friendly



reminder to myself but also staff: Best we can on 1 2 acronyms as we go, especially since this will be a 3 verbal meeting. "MDNS" is, again, "mitigated determination of nonsignificance." So you'll hear that 4 5 acronym a lot tonight. So "mitigated determination of nonsignificance." That's a term under SEPA, the State 6 Environmental Policy Act. Thank you. 7

MS. SNARSKI: Okay. Good evening. 8 9 Again, this is Joanne Snarski, the siting specialist 10 for Carriger Solar.

11

Yeah. Let's get there. Oh.

12 Tonight I would like to review with you the Okav. 13 application activities that have led to this meeting. 14 The purpose is to bring you -- bring you Cypress Creek 15 Renewables' request for expedited processing of their application.

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I got too many buttons here.

So under RCW 80.50.075, it identifies two criteria for an applicant to meet to be granted approval for expedited processing of their application.

The first is the applicant's pro- -- is the applicant's project must be found to be consistent and in compliance with city, county, or regional land-use plans or zoning ordinances at the time of the application.

Second, the impacts to the environment from the
 proposed facility are found to be not significant or
 will be mitigated to nonsignificant level.

Carriger formally submitted their application to EFSEC on February 10th, 2023. We held the public information meeting in April that year at this same facility. The following month, in May, we held a virtual land-use consistency hearing and took written comments and testimony on that topic.

10 On September 25th, 2023, EFSEC published 11 Order 889, confirming the project was consistent with 12 land-use requirements and meets the first requirement 13 for granting an expedited processing of the 14 application.

15 With regards to the second criteria towards 16 approval of expedited processing, during the formal 17 SEPA process, EFSEC issued a letter to Cypress Creek 18 Renewables on August 8th, 2023, notifying them that our 19 evaluation found that -- that identified project 20 impacts to visual and cultural resources were likely to 21 be significant. SEPA rules allow the applicant to work 2.2 with the lead agency to make further changes or 23 mitigation that reduce impacts down to the level of nonsignificance. 24

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Between August 2023 and July 2024, we worked



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extensively with Cypress Creek Renewables, and they
 were able to accommodate further setbacks from the
 roadways on both SR 142 and Knight Road.

In mid 2023, the Yakama Nation made it known -made it known that the project would have impacts to traditional cultural properties in the area. EFSEC entered into an interagency agreement with them to allow them time to study and identify those impacts.

9 To that end, on October 28th, 2024, they provided 10 EFSEC with the final traditional and cultural resources 11 report. As it was and it will remain confidential, the 12 Yakama Nation were able to provide a summary letter 13 that we were able to subsequently share with Cypress 14 Creek Renewables.

Based on the information in that letter, Cypress Creek Renewables proposed mitigation measures for the Yakama's consideration. Following further discussions with both the tribe and Cypress Creek Renewables, EFSEC approved, with modifications, mitigation measures to traditional and cultural properties on March 12th, 2025.

To finalize the formal SEPA process, on April 7th, 23 2025, EFSEC published the notice for a mitigated 24 determination of nonsignificance for a 14-day public 25 comment period. Following -- following review of all



the comments, it was determined that the proposed 1 mitigation in the notice met the requirements for 2 3 reducing all impacts down to a level of 4 nonsignificance. With the determination of land-use 5 consistency and a final MDNS, the Carriger project meets the requirements for expedited processing. 6

In preparation for this meeting, EFSEC posted a 7 draft order for public comment between April 29th and May 1st, 2025. We received eight comments. Seven of the comments were directed at either opposition or in support of the project. Comments from the Yakama Nation requested the Council decline the request for 13 expedited processing and instead allow for a formal 14 adjudicative process.

15 Next steps start with tonight. Where we are now 16 is determination of expedited process. To follow, 17 depending on the outcome, will be the public comment meeting. During our next Council meeting, scheduled 18 19 for May 21st, the Council deliberations action as 20 desired, and the same with the June meeting, June 18th, 21 2025.

2.2 I think one thing I left off of this slide was 23 actually tomorrow, May 6, we will be having a on-site visit for the Council members to show them the specific 24 25 areas that we're speaking of for this facility.

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1 And that's it. 2 CHAIR BECKETT: Were there any other 3 verbal comments, Director Bumpus, before we move to 4 Cypress Creek, if that's the next step? 5 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair Beckett. 6 The only comment I'd make -- and I think this 7 was -- may have been noted in the presentation -- is 8 that we are working with the Yakama Nation to schedule 9 10 a discussion and potentially consultation with our 11 Those discussions are under way. But to my chair. 12 knowledge, we do not yet have a meeting with the Yakama 13 scheduled yet. So that's something that is what we 14 anticipate in -- being included in the steps ahead. 15 CHAIR BECKETT: Very good. 16 Joanne, if you could help me, then, introduce our quests from Cypress Creek and how this next 17 18 presentation will qo. 19 MS. SNARSKI: Yeah. John Hanks with 20 Cypress Creek Renewables, he will be presenting a 21 short -- a short overview of some of the changes that 2.2 have occurred over the last couple of years from where 23 we started to where we've landed. I think it's very 24 brief. 25 And I'm sorry. I don't remember your title, John.



Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 16 1 Director of development. 2 CHAIR BECKETT: Very good. 3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you. 4 CHAIR BECKETT: And I'm sorry. Ιf 5 you could reintroduce yourself to the --6 MR. HANKS: Sure. 7 CHAIR BECKETT: -- the group that's also in the room, we'd appreciate that. 8 9 MR. HANKS: Yeah. John Hanks, 10 Cypress Creek Renewables, director of development. And 11 apologize if I'm not facing everybody, but --12 CHAIR BECKETT: It's okay. 13 MR. HANKS: -- I'll have to face 14 this direction of the microphone. 15 What's that? All right. We'll keep it short and 16 sweet. 17 We had a longer presentation at the land-use 18 meeting two years ago. And so we'll do a two-slides 19 quick refresher of what we shared in that presentation 20 and then another slide of the changes that we've made 21 in the two years since. 2.2 So this first slide you can see is an overlay of 23 our project area with the zoning code at the time of our project application. The -- the purple areas you 24 25 can see here, those are areas of Carriger Solar. And



Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 then the yellow and green, those are the -- the zoning 1 2 at the time. 3 And as you can see, the red hatched area, that's 4 the energy overlay zone. And we tried to keep as much 5 of the project in that energy overlay zone as we could. You'll see that there -- there is some project 6 that's north of there. And that -- the reason for it 7 is the Knight substation, the BPA substation is north 8 9 of there, and that's where we are connecting to the --10 the grid. 11 So everything down in the hatched area was allowed 12 per zoning at the time of the application. Everything 13 in the north was allowed by -- by CUP. 14 And this is clearly way too small to read, but 15 we'll go over the -- the high level. The maximum 16 project extent, that's the maximum area that our -- our 17 project is -- is contained within. We tried to design it in a way that avoided environmental impacts, so we 18 19 are minimizing any impacts to wetlands and other 20 sensitive habitats. Housing and residential, where we have the minimum 21 2.2 of 500-foot setbacks for any residences to the project. 23 And, you know, economy. It's over 300 jobs, 24 construction jobs at the peak of construction. And 25 some operational jobs following the -- the delivery. 253.627.6401



Opening Color Months		
Carriger Solar Meeting		
Public Comment Hearing,	-	May 05, 2025

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There's also a significant tax base as a result of
 the project for the County.

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Next slide, please.

Since then, we've worked with EFSEC and others to produce some changes to the project. The first one is increased setbacks. So we've increased the setbacks at Knight Road a minimum of a hundred feet to the fence, 120 feet to the panels. We also increased the setbacks from the DNR property, the State-owned lands that are south of the Knight substation.

We've revised the fence design. Originally we had a cyclone fence, a chain-link fence with barbed wire on top. So we've changed that design so it's now a welded wire game fence to better blend in with the surroundings.

You know, additional wetland considerations. In 2024, the Department of Ecology came out and did additional fieldwork to -- to locate additional vernal pools and wetland. So we stayed within our maximum project extent but were able to relocate some of the -the solar panels to avoid the additional wetlands that were discovered.

And then noise monitoring. If you go through the MDNS from -- from EFSEC, you'll see that there are requirements for -- for noise monitoring to make sure



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1 that we're staying within the -- the noise ordinance 2 and code.

We also worked with the Department of Agriculture to review our project and talk with the farmers and ranchers in the area that are participating. And as a result of that, we came up with some soil testing regimen by which we'll test the soil during the project and pass those results on to Department of Agriculture.

And then, finally, the MDNS. We don't have time to go through everything in the MDNS. But if you read through it, you'll see that there's an additional list of mitigation measures that have been included for the project.

That's it. Thank you.

CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,

Mr. Hanks.

I believe that concludes the formal presentation, unless there was anything further, Ami or Sonia. Let me check with you, and otherwise, I believe there's probably questions from the Council and discussion that we would jump into next.

But anything further from staff first?
MS. BUMPUS: No, Chair Beckett. I
think we'll see what questions Council has.
CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Well, let me



Page 20

1	turn this to my colleagues to see if there are
2	comments, questions. All are welcome. So we'll take
3	in order of the table or whoever's got their hand up.
4	MS. BREWSTER: Lenny Young has his
5	hand
6	CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah. Thank you.
7	Mr. Young, I believe. Council Brewster flagging
8	it. You are up.
9	MR. YOUNG: Thank you, Chair
10	Beckett.
11	I will be voting "no" on expedited processing.
12	I'm citing to the letter from Yakama Nation that the
13	Council received on May 1st, a few days ago, and to the
14	particular statement in that letter, that without an
15	adjudication, Yakama Nation has no direct or
16	confidential avenue to communicate the project's
17	negative impacts on our membership nor to propose
18	appropriate avoidance or mitigation measures for your
19	consideration.
20	And I think it's very important that Yakama Nation
21	has this opportunity, so I will be voting "no."
22	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
23	Mr. Young.
24	Mr. Chiles seems to be ready.
25	MR. CHILES: Yes, Chair Beckett.



Thank you.

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I also have a question about the Yakama Nation. I'm not sure who would be able to address it.

But it seemed that the Yakama's concerns were addressed and now they are not addressed. So it -what is the true situation? And what concerns were addressed, and why are they complaining with, I assume, justifiable complaints that there are still concerns that need to be addressed? Can someone speak more to that?

MR. GREENE: I can speak to that.
For the record, this is Sean Greene. I'm a SEPA
specialist for EFSEC attending virtually.

14 The -- in our discussions with the Yakama Nation, 15 they had identified several different impact types 16 associated with traditional cultural properties in the 17 region where the project is to be located. These 18 included things such as visual impacts to TCPs, 19 traditional cultural properties, from the project's 20 development as well as loss of quality of experience by 21 tribal members who would be accessing these TCPs to 2.2 continue traditional cultural practices and loss of 23 sense of place and cultural attachments to the areas.

24 We had several discussions with the Yakama Nation 25 to try to identify mitigation measures that could be



1	applied to the project that would address these
2	concerns. Staff came to the conclusion that sufficient
3	mitigation was available to reduce these impacts to a
4	level below significant. The Yakama Nation does not
5	agree with that determination by staff.
б	That is the point of contention at this point, is
7	we have identified mitigation, and the applicant has
8	agreed to implement that mitigation that we believe,
9	based on updated visual simulations that the applicant
10	has provided, do reduce those impacts to a level below
11	significance, and the Yakama Nation does not agree.
12	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
13	Mr. Greene.
14	If you had other question if you have other
15	questions, Mr. Chiles, or comment, you're certainly
16	welcome to make them now or in a few minutes. Just
17	want to make sure you understood, if you've got other
18	questions, we're happy to hear them.
19	MR. CHILES: Thank you. That was my
20	main at this point, but I may have one a couple more
21	in a bit.
22	CHAIR BECKETT: Sure. Very well.
23	Other comments or questions from the Council for
24	staff or applicant, or one another, yes, too.
25	MS. BUMPUS: Chair Beckett.
	(Account)



1 CHAIR BECKETT: Director Bumpus. 2 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair 3 Beckett. 4 For the record, this is Sonia Bumpus. 5 Mr. Greene, on -- on the line, talked a little bit about the work with the Yakama to address concerns and 6 application of the mitigation that's in the MDNS. 7 I wonder if Mr. Greene could talk a little bit 8 9 about the concerns that are specific to the adjacent 10 parcel that the Yakama had communicated to us. 11 MR. GREENE: Yeah. So I don't know 12 in how much detail we want to go, as this is a public 13 meeting, and the -- the location and nature of TCPs are 14 a confidential matter. But the -- the Yakama Nation 15 did produce a -- a traditional cultural properties 16 survey at -- at the Yakama Nation's request. Was part 17 of EFSEC's SEPA process to help the Yakama Nation identify TCPs in the region and explain to EFSEC their 18 19 inherent values to the tribe, the anticipated impact to 20 those TCPs from the project. And the Yakama Nation did 21 provide several mitigation measures that they stated 2.2 would be a -- an appropriate beginning point for 23 providing technical mitigation to those impacts. 24 The primary mitigation that EFSEC has employed to

25 address those impacts is -- are setbacks. The project



1 has been redesigned several times through communications with the applicant. And EFSEC has 2 3 employed setbacks along Knight Road and the state route 4 nearby the project that would reduce visual impacts to 5 tribal members who use those primary arterial routes to access TCPs in the area, and EFSEC has implemented 6 setbacks elsewhere on the project that would -- that 7 would reduce visual impacts to TCPs in the area. 8

9 The Yakama Nation also identified cumulative 10 impacts that were of substantial concern to them that 11 would be resultant from this project and a future 12 reasonably foreseeable project that EFSEC and the 13 Yakama Nation are aware in the area that is currently 14 in preapplication with EFSEC.

Based on the information available to EFSEC, it is anticipated that the reasonably foreseeable project in the future would have much more substantial impacts to the TCPs that have been identified, and EFSEC believes that more substantial mitigation should be applied to that future project as opposed to this project, as it would have a much higher degree of impact.

MS. BUMPUS: And so just to add to -- this is -- for the record, this is Sonia Bumpus. Just to add to what Mr. Greene just said, that proposal that he mentioned as a reasonably foreseeable



1	future action, it is in preapplication status right
2	now, but it is not it has not submitted a formal
3	application. It's not formally before the Council to
4	make any determination or decision on.
5	So what we anticipate is that if that project
б	moves forward, EFSEC does receive an application for
7	site certification, SEPA would be conducted on that
8	site and the impacts from that proposal, and we
9	anticipate that some of these concerns that we've heard
10	about for this proposal are are likely to be
11	something that we'll be analyzing and evaluating as
12	part of that SEPA review.
13	CHAIR BECKETT: Could you also
14	expand, Director Bumpus, as I understand it, on what
15	EFSEC and then by extension the Council can or cannot
16	do on this project in terms of anticipating those
17	potential future conflicts? Is that allowable to be
18	considered under SEPA?
19	MS. BUMPUS: Under the
20	CHAIR BECKETT: This project? My
21	understanding is, is that it is not, but would
22	appreciate your clarification to make sure we
23	understand clearly.
24	MS. BUMPUS: Under the State
25	Environmental Policy Act, you can analyze cumulative



impacts. My understanding is that the -- we did look at -- we did look at, evaluate some cumulative impacts. We certainly talked about it internally as we were analyzing the impacts and reviewing the application. And the primary concern -- one of the primary concerns had to do with access to the other site for which EFSEC has no control.

So under the State Environmental Policy Act, we 8 9 can only mitigate for impacts that are proposed from 10 this project that's before us. We could do a 11 cumulative impact assessment on the other application 12 if it were to come before us. You can do cumulative 13 effects assessments. But understanding that this 14 was -- this seemed to be a concern about access and 15 this applicant has no site control for this adjacent 16 site, we really did not see any way to -- we didn't 17 identify any mitigation that would address that issue. MR. GREENE: And if I can add onto 18

19 that. Again, for the record, this is Sean Greene, SEPA 20 specialist for EFSEC.

Under SEPA, we should and in fact are required to perform cumulative impact analysis of any project for which we are taking an action or reviewing an application. And that is a -- the cumulative impacts are the impacts of the project when combined with other



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past, present, or reasonably foreseeable future
 developments.

When assigning mitigation, however, mitigation for cumulative impacts for a specific project should be commensurate with that project's contribution to those cumulative impacts.

So like Director Bumpus mentioned, one area of 7 particular concern for the Yakama Nation is a property 8 9 that does contain a TCP for which the Yakama Nation 10 still uses for -- for cultural practices on a regular 11 That property is outside of the project basis. 12 boundary for this project, but it is within the boundary of that reasonably foreseeable future project. 13 14 That is why the mitigation that staff have recommended for this project, Carriger, we believe is commensurate 15 16 to this project's contribution to impacts to that --17 that external property. For that reasonably foreseeable future project, we would anticipate much 18 19 more substantial mitigation as it would result in 20 direct physical impacts to that -- that TCP property. 21 CHAIR BECKETT: Very good. Thank 2.2 you for the clarification.

I do have a question on adjudication and the tribal consultation. I just want to acknowledge it. But let me first see if there were other questions or



1	comments other Council would like to make.
2	MR. CHILES: I have another comment,
3	Mr. Chair.
4	CHAIR BECKETT: Okay.
5	MR. CHILES: Or a question, rather.
6	Can you speak a little bit more about the welded
7	wire game fence? How tall is that? Is it allow
8	designed to allow game to pass through or over, or to
9	exclude game? What would that look like?
10	MR. HANKS: It's an eight
11	eight-foot fence. And the bottom is not flush with the
12	ground. So as the ground undulates, there will be room
13	for small mammals to pass underneath. We walk through
14	the design with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to
15	make sure that they were comfortable with it, and
16	that's how we came up with that that plan both for
17	the wildlife perspective and the visual impact.
18	MR. CHILES: Do you have any any
19	way for deer to get through, or is this a large deer
20	barrier?
21	MR. HANKS: We have wildlife
22	corridors that we've planned into the project. If you
23	look at the application, I believe we have a figure
24	that shows those wildlife corridors. And happy to
25	provide additional info on that as well.



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1	MR. CHILES: Okay. But it is the
2	intent, just so I'm clear, that deer are not living
3	within the project area; is that correct?
4	MR. HANKS: That's that's
5	correct. The intent
6	MR. CHILES: Okay.
7	MR. HANKS: is they'll be able to
8	pass in multiple locations through the project
9	MR. CHILES: Right.
10	MR. HANKS: but not in the actual
11	solar arrays.
12	MR. CHILES: Okay.
13	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
14	Council Pamplin, I think.
15	MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah.
16	CHAIR BECKETT: It looked like you
17	had a question or comment.
18	MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Chair.
19	Maybe this is a question or clarification from
20	Director Bumpus. But appreciated in the staff overview
21	kind of the history of the different events and some of
22	the comments received on the draft order. There was
23	concerns that it was just a three-day comment period.
24	And just wanted to ask for kind of clarification and
25	explanation on why it was an abbreviated comment

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period.

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MS. BUMPUS: Thank you for the question. For the record, this is Sonia Bumpus.

So there's a couple of reasons for the, I guess you could say slightly compressed comment period.

First off, the -- the requirement for EFSEC to take comment on draft documents and proposed action items on our agendas, that is relatively recent. It was in 2022 that the Open Public Meetings Act was changed. And all final actions that are taken up by a body such as this have to provide opportunity for public comment prior to taking any final action.

So because of that requirement, we now -- EFSEC now puts draft documents that are the subject of a -of a potential action item out for public comment.

In this case, we -- we only have an application extension to, I believe it's June 25th. So we -- we do not have a whole lot of time to complete our steps that we're required to complete to get the recommendation completed. And so for -- one is the requirement under the OPMA which requires public comment. This is in addition to public comment requirements that are already in rules that we -- other rules that we adopt, either ours or others, and then also a pretty compressed project schedule.



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1 Thanks. CHAIR BECKETT: 2 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair -- yeah, 3 thanks, Director Bumpus. That's helpful to me. And 4 just wanted to address that, because that was something 5 that was reiterated throughout the comments on the draft order. 6 My next question is more just of a process 7 question so I can understand kind of what happens next 8 9 for this particular fork in the road. 10 So if the Council were to grant the order, is 11 that -- does that later become, you know, in the --12 later in May or the June meeting Council deliberation, a yes/no on the project, or is there an avenue from 13 14 that step to go back to an EIS and other things that Yakama Nation was requesting? 15 16 MS. HAFKEMEYER: For the record, 17 this is Ami Hafkemeyer. So the decision in front of the Council today is 18 19 to take up the question of expedited process. Going -so that would be a decision of whether or not to grant 20 21 expedited process and move forward with a less formal 2.2 comment hearing and then into a recommendation. 23 In the statute -- and I apologize. I'll have to 24 look up the exact citation. But the statute indicates 25 60 days from the granting of expedited process to a



	rubic Continent nearing, - May 05, 2025 rage
1	recommendation to the governor. And so the tentative
2	schedule in front of us that was on Ms. Snarski's
3	slides falls within that time frame. If the Council
4	were to not grant expedited process, that would then be
5	the path of an adjudicative process.
6	MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, thanks.
7	Thanks. Thanks.
8	So within the 60 days, if the expedite the
9	order was granted. We're in the expedited review
10	process. There's no off-ramp back to the adjudicative
11	process, then?
12	MS. BUMPUS: So the I believe the
13	statute I believe the statute that talks about
14	our statute that talks about expedited process, RCW
15	Revised Code of Washington 80.50.075, says that the
16	basically that the Council may grant expedited process,
17	and that if it chooses to grant expedited process, it
18	is not required to conduct an adjudicative process.
19	There's a few other things that it mentions, but one of
20	them is adjudicative process.
21	So it does not say that the Council is precluded
22	from conducting an adjudication. But I suppose you
23	could wonder at why you would grant expedited process
24	if you're going to adjudicate.
25	MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks. Thanks,



1	Ms. Bumpus. I was just trying to think about, as we
2	get more information like, for instance, if the
3	Council were to grant the expedited process, well, then
4	there's a public hearing, and so if there's then new
5	information that would then, you know, want us to shift
6	to a different direction, then that would be
7	informative for me anyway, so thank you.
8	CHAIR BECKETT: Please.
9	MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
10	Beckett.
11	I just wanted to note one other thing, and this is
12	to some of the earlier questions.
13	We we did have an indication from the Yakama
14	Nation that they did wish to hold consultation.
15	That and I think I mentioned earlier that that has
16	not been scheduled yet. So as far as following steps,
17	there's the ones that Ms. Hafkemeyer talked about, but
18	also, if we were to hold consultation and the chair
19	meets with the tribe, if there were things that came
20	out of that, those are also things that could be
21	included and considered in the Council's deliberations
22	on their recommendation. We just have not scheduled
23	that yet, and I'm not sure if that will take place or
24	not at this time.
25	MR. PAMPLIN: Great. Thank you.

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1	CHAIR BECKETT: Council,
2	(unintelligible) just to close up.
3	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No. I'm
4	good. Thanks.
5	CHAIR BECKETT: Okay.
6	(Unintelligible) welcome if you think about other
7	things, so
8	MR. CHILES: This is Matt Chiles
9	CHAIR BECKETT: (Unintelligible.)
10	MR. CHILES: again for the
11	record.
12	Director Bumpus, following up on the questions
13	about expedited process and particular related to the
14	Yakamas, as Lenny Young emphasized in the letter, the
15	Yakamas are concerned that if we did the expedited
16	process, they would not have an opportunity to give
17	input. Is that correct? Or would they still have
18	opportunity to input and such through the expedited
19	process?
20	MS. BUMPUS: That's a very good
21	question. For the record, this is Sonia Bumpus.
22	So my opinion is that, yes, there is an
23	opportunity for the Yakama to propose other ideas,
24	other mitigation that may not have been offered up at
25	this time. Through the consultation process, there
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1	there is an opportunity there, I think. And there is
2	time for with the proposed schedule that we have,
3	there is time to bring that information to the Council
4	by way of the chair reporting to the Council and for
5	the Council to consider that in its recommendation.
6	So in my opinion, there is opportunity even though
7	we may not be going the route of an adjudication.
8	CHAIR BECKETT: Anything further,
9	Mr. Chiles? Welcome if you do.
10	MR. CHILES: Nothing further at this
11	point. Thank you.
12	CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Other Council
13	questions or comments?
14	MS. GRANTHAM: Chair, this is Andrea
15	Grantham.
16	I see that Eli Levitt has his hand raised on
17	Teams.
18	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
19	Mr. Levitt.
20	MR. LEVITT: Hi, Director Bumpus.
21	This is Eli Levitt from the Department of Ecology.
22	I was just curious about what you just said in
23	terms of would the Yakama Tribe be able to provide
24	confidential information to EFSEC during an expedited
25	process. I think that was that was a key



consideration in their -- in their recent concerns, at 1 least as I heard it earlier in the meeting. 2 3 CHAIR BECKETT: And if I may, thank 4 you, Council. And let me tag onto that, because that 5 was my question about adjudication, which may go to our counsel here tonight. But I'll address it to you, 6 7 Director Bumpus, first. Can you expand on why the confidentiality only 8 9 accompanies adjudication in terms of sensitive matters 10 that we all take seriously; in this case, the Yakama 11 Nation? Question I certainly had -- I appreciate 12 yours, Eli, as well -- and so if you could expand on 13 why that's so constrained, only an adjudication. 14 Because I would think, even if that's the law today, 15 there's -- I got to believe there's other means to kind 16 of get to some of those important conversations without 17 always having to only be able to do it in adjudication. 18 MR. THOMPSON: I'll just jump in 19 So this is Jon Thompson with the attorney mavbe. 20 general's office. 21 So there's a -- it all comes down to the fact that 2.2 there's an exemption under the Public Records Act --23 CHAIR BECKETT: Mm-hmm. 24 MR. THOMPSON: -- for -- well, for 25 archaeological resources, for one thing. And then



1	another is reports about traditional cultural places.
2	And that's the the exemption that that enables us
3	to protect sensitive information that's been disclosed
4	to us, like the report that was produced in this case
5	has been held as confidential under that exemption.
6	And then, you know, sort of the the contents of that
7	report as well we consider to be confidential.
8	So I think I think the from what I
9	understand, the Yakama Nation's concern is that they
10	want the they like the opportunity to present in
11	person to the full Council, I understand. But I don't
12	think it's I think it's it's the importance of
13	that opportunity to address the Council in spoken form.
14	CHAIR BECKETT: Right.
15	MR. THOMPSON: Which does create a
16	difficulty in terms of confidentiality. Because when
17	our Council meets when our Council meets as a
18	quorum, it has to be it has to be in an open public
19	meeting context, so necessarily public, so
20	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
21	I think Director Bumpus is going to supplement
22	perhaps.
23	MS. BUMPUS: Well, I was just going
24	to add for the record, this is Sonia Bumpus that
25	in the past, when the EFSEC chair has met with tribal



1	council, it's been in a in a closed meeting. So
2	the as Mr. Thompson mentioned, you know, there are
3	constraints around the sort of the audience with the
4	Council at large, but but for the consultation part
5	of our process that's yet to play out, that when we've
6	had those in the past, those have been discussions
7	between the chair and and the tribal council
8	members, and those have been closed discussions.
9	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
10	Councilman Levitt, did that answer your question,
11	or did you wish to follow up since especially you're
12	online? Feel free to jump in here.
13	MR. LEVITT: Yes, that answered my
14	question. Thank you.
15	CHAIR BECKETT: Are there other
16	comments or questions? Other Council?
17	Okay. We are at 6:17. So thank you to our
18	members of the public who are here for letting the
19	Council conduct its business and a little longer than
20	originally forecast.
21	So, Director Bumpus, anything else you care to
22	add? If there's not further discussion, I assume we
23	will need to consider the action before us.
24	MS. BUMPUS: For the record, this is
25	Sonia Bumpus.



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I would just reiterate what Ms. Hafkemeyer said earlier. This is -- this decision is not your 3 recommendation on the project. There are still 4 opportunities for comment. There are still opportunities for technical engagement with the tribe and others. And there's still also the mechanism of the pathway of consultation. 7

This action that's before you is only about whether to grant the applicant's request for expedited process, which is dependent upon meeting those two criteria, the consistency with land use and that all identified impacts are mitigated to levels of nonsignificance. I just reiterate that.

> CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

Also, I did remember my other question that I was pausing there for a second to try and remember.

17 The 60 days that are require -- or that are -- is 18 the period associated with expedited review, given that 19 we also have a statutory deadline to review and make 20 recommendations on projects within one year -- and 21 clearly we're a little beyond that already on this 2.2 project -- can either Director Bumpus or Council further expand on the realities of that deadline? 23 Ι sense there's some concern about just the nature of 24 25 speed and time, and 60 days will go quick.



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1 So if you'd like to speak to what requirements or 2 latitude exist under that -- that pathway of expedited 3 review, that'd be appreciated. 4 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Certainly. So in the initial -- I wouldn't call it an initial 5 statute, but in our -- our guiding statute, 80.50, the 6 requirement for reviewing a project within 12 months 7 is -- is outlined, or such time as mutually agreed upon 8 by the Council and the applicant. 9 10 RCW 80.50.075 then outlines what an expedited 11 process might look like and asks the Council to make 12 rules to adhere to that. 13 So then taking a look at EFSEC's rules in 14 Washington Administrative Code 463-43 are our rules for expedited processing, and that is where the timelines 15 for that are laid out. The initial timeline is 120 16 17 days or such time as agreed upon by the Council and the 18 applicant to make the decision on expedited processing. 19 When the Carriger project initially approached that deadline, EFSEC had issued that letter indicating that 20 it seemed like a determination of significance was 21 2.2 anticipated. 23 At that point, Cypress Creek Renewables requested

At that point, Cypress Creek Renewables requested that EFSEC hold off on making a decision while they exercised their right, as spelled out in the statute,

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to make modifications to their project to try and
 achieve a mitigated determination of nonsignificance.
 And that is much of the work that Ms. Snarski described
 for visual setbacks, additional work conducted by staff
 and the applicant and other agencies.

So now that some of the milestones leading up to expedited process have been met, that is the question in front of the Council today. And then WAC 463-43-020 is the chapter that indicates that a decision -- or a recommendation shall be made to the governor within 60 days of being granted expedited process, again, or such time as agreed upon by the Council and the applicant.

13 Currently, the review period is through June 25th,14 2025.

15 CHAIR BECKETT: And so if the 16 Council ultimately -- or staff or other parties, I 17 guess, associated with this entire process -- if, in 18 fact, Day 61 or beyond was needed, is there a cure in 19 basically adjusting the rule or no?

20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I believe that 21 would be within -- within our options. Again, the --22 the line, "...or such time as is agreed upon with the 23 Council and applicant," I think if we were to reach 24 that point, we would want to coordinate with Cypress 25 Creek and see which new timeline would be appropriate



1	to complete any remaining work.
2	CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. For the
3	record, I can assure you the staff will find my
4	question I just made ironic, (unintelligible) time
5	certain outcomes as the new chair, but thank you for
6	for the added information.
7	I guess the comment I would would add is or
8	a couple. Pardon me while I gather my thoughts here in
9	the moment.
10	On the one hand, if Council were to agree to
11	expedited review, we have, I'm sure, different opinions
12	about the benefits or burdens of adjudication. It is
13	clearly a more litigious and just just
14	courtroom-like atmosphere, and there's good reasons for
15	that sometimes. And I take heavily, as Mr. Young
16	called out early and thank you, again, Council
17	Young, for sharing your your perspective in early,
18	and that's appreciated as far as where your thinking
19	is.
20	Ultimately, you know, how we engage with the
21	Yakama is critical to me. I believe it's critical to
22	the Council and to the staff. And as much as I
23	appreciate the benefits of adjudication to accomplish
24	that, I am in hopes that we also find some other
25	real-world ways to, you know, to come to an agreement



so that we can have a better exchange between the Yakama Nation and the Council, both as a whole and in this case it's been designated to the chair to conduct that -- that consultation. And, I think, ultimately, as I understand it, consultation is -- is often ongoing and not just a singular moment, and I'm certainly committed to that.

In this case, if that were to allow or we could 8 9 find a path to do that and not always have the burdens 10 that I think come both not just cost but on 11 communities, on other parties associated with any 12 application, that there's important rights and process 13 with adjudication, but there's also some pretty heavy 14 burdens that come with it. And so that's what I 15 reflect on as we grapple with this -- with this choice 16 here. And I don't think any of us want to rush to a 17 decision by any means, including as we look at our members of this community, and I certainly look at you. 18 19 I know this is very important to you.

So we want to take the time we need, but obviously we've been taking quite a bit of time. And I don't know that adjudication is necessarily going to, you know, resolve all the different issues that are ultimately before us, including those -- the Yakama, as much as I'm committed to trying to -- to find that



path.

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So, ultimately, if I'm hearing that the expedited 2 3 review, while it has a 60-day clock to it that I think 4 I interpret many of the Council members are concerned 5 about, if there is a means to try to make that, you know, that time frame, which I think we should, if the 6 Council were to, you know, to decide to go down that, 7 that path, then ultimately I think we have some 8 9 latitude of what to do if we need more time or if there 10 is a need to decide that, no, there wasn't adequate 11 ability to work with the Yakama in a way that the 12 Council, itself, as a whole, ultimately wanted the 13 Council and the chair to do so. Whether or not that, you know, is appealing to the Council, I'll let each of 14 15 you decide ultimately, I guess, in your vote. We'll 16 see if there's other comments or questions here, 17 including from anything I've just shared.

18 But it would seem that we do have viable paths in 19 I know the nonadjudicative path with the some form. 20 Yakama Nation might be a little less clear at this 21 moment, but it seems that there -- there is some merit 2.2 to exploring that, at least from my perspective. So 23 I'll stop my comments there and see if there are other questions or other clarifications of any errors I may 24 25 have made in the midst of my comment, so...



1	MS. HAFKEMEYER: Not an error you
2	made. An error my I made. If I could please
3	correct my citation earlier. The recommendation within
4	60 days is WAC 463-43.080, not 020. My apologies.
5	CHAIR BECKETT: Thanks for the
6	clarification.
7	Anything further from staff before I turn this to
8	Council for further questions and discussion?
9	Nothing from staff.
10	Council. Mr. Chiles.
11	MR. CHILES: Thank you, Mr Chair
12	Beckett.
13	I have a question on adjudicated versus the
14	expedited. It seems to me that the expedited has
15	advantages over the adjudicated, in that the expedited
16	is a friendlier and more open place for people in the
17	community and such to be able to get their comments
18	forward.
19	Would you say that that is a correct thought, or
20	are they both kind of equal in that way, or is or am
21	I misreading things and adjudicated is actually an
22	easier way for the community to get their input in?
23	MR. THOMPSON: I'll try to address
24	that. Again, this is Jon Thompson.
25	The adjudicative process, as Chair Beckett alluded



1 to, is much more formal and requires parties to be represented by attorneys and so forth. And in -- and 2 3 in some cases, yeah, there may not be parties that want to make that investment to actually do that. 4 5 There is a public comment opportunity that's associated with the adjudication, but -- but it does 6 require anybody who wants to take advantage of that to 7 submit their issue in writing in advance, whereas 8 9 the -- the public comment opportunity that would be 10 afforded if you went with expedited process just allows 11 just anybody who wants to state a comment to do so or 12 submit comments in writing. 13 So it is -- I think it's accurate that it's --14 it's more kind of open process for the -- for the 15 less-formal approach. 16 Thank you, yeah, MR. CHILES: 17 Mr. Thompson. I can see where having to get an 18 attorney involved to get your point across suddenly 19 makes things exponentially more difficult, although in 20 the end, maybe that attorney can help you in whatever 21 your grievance may be. Thank you. 2.2 CHAIR BECKETT: Other questions or 23 comments from Council? 24 Anyone online that I'm missing? Ms. Grantham? 25 Okay. So with that, and also out of respect to



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1	if depending on the action here, we may or may not
2	move into public comment. So let me see if there is a
3	motion to try and read this correctly.
4	Is there a motion to move to expedited review for
5	the Carriger Solar project?
6	Anything else I need to add to that, Council, to
7	make sure this is accurate for the record?
8	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
9	(Unintelligible.)
10	CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. So I've
11	attempted the motion to state, appreciate if someone
12	would care to move a motion, and Mr. Pamplin.
13	MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you
14	CHAIR BECKETT: (Unintelligible.)
15	MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair.
16	I move that the Council grant the expedited
17	processing per as described under Council Order
18	No. 899. And if there's a second, I would like to
19	briefly comment about it.
20	CHAIR BECKETT: And we will take
21	Council discussion after
22	MR. PAMPLIN: (Unintelligible.)
23	CHAIR BECKETT: the motion if it
24	is put onto the table.
25	We have a motion. Is there a second?



1 MR. LEVITT: This is Eli Levitt. 2 I'll second. Thank you, Council 3 CHAIR BECKETT: 4 Levitt. We have a motion and a second to adopt the motion 5 to move to expedited review for the Carriger Solar 6 project. 7 We'll now move to Council discussion on the 8 9 motion. 10 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, thanks, 11 Mr. Chair. And appreciate the second. 12 My comments are just very brief. In reviewing 13 this project, note that the MDNS has already been 14 I'm interested in hearing from the public granted. this evening on the merits of the project as well as 15 16 appreciate, Chair Beckett, that you're going to be 17 meeting with Yakama Nation to understand further their 18 concerns, that you'd be bringing that back to the 19 Council for our deliberations if this order is granted. 20 So because we have a number of additional process 21 steps, I'm comfortable moving forward with the 2.2 expedited review. Thank you. 23 CHAIR BECKETT: Thanks for your 24 comment. Other Council members who wish to make a comment 25



1	before the motion is considered?
2	MS. BREWSTER: This is Stacey
3	Brewster.
4	CHAIR BECKETT: Council Brewster.
5	MS. BREWSTER: I would just second
6	Councilman Hamplin [sic] excuse me Nate's
7	comments. If we move forward with expedited
8	processing, I would do so with the expectation that we
9	address Yakama Nation's concerns through an option
10	other than adjudicative process.
11	CHAIR BECKETT: Very well noted.
12	Thank you.
13	Any other Council comments? Or, again, if there
14	are questions, we're happy to take them. But might be
15	a little more in the discussion mode here, comments.
16	Online? Okay.
17	Then I will call for action to be considered here
18	in a vote. So for all those in favor of moving to
19	the sorry. My new meeting and too many pieces of
20	paper. As we move to the expedited review for the
21	Carriger Solar project, all those in favor saying
22	"aye."
23	MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.
24	CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?
25	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Nay.



1 And help me on my CHAIR BECKETT: 2 To Abstain. Any abstentions? word. 3 Hearing none. 4 The motion, then, is adopted. And we will Okav. 5 move to expedited review, which then means that we will -- I will soon conclude this meeting, and we will 6 move to our public comment period. 7 So without further question or anything else from 8 our Council, I will close the special meeting where 9 10 we've taken action, and I will open the -- just make 11 sure I get my (unintelligible) right here -- our public 12 comment hearing on the Carriger Solar application. 13 So we will now be moving into the public comment 14 period as expected. The time for -- I'm sorry -- for concluding the last meeting was 6:32, and we have 15 16 opened at 6:33 p.m. to our special meeting for public 17 comments this evening. And I believe staff will help 18 me here in a moment with both those who have signed up 19 for public comment. 20 Please note that for those of you who may be 21 listening in but still wish to make a comment but 2.2 haven't signed up, you can phone (360) 664-1345. 23 Normally this is done before. Or you can e-mail EFSEC

at EFSEC@EFSEC.wa.gov. For anyone online as well as, Ithink, those who are in online, if you note you're

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1 interested in speaking, you might be able to capture 2 that in the chat. We'll do our best to make sure 3 everyone's heard.

In that regard, we will take comments for three minutes from each person this evening. We are scheduled to conclude at 8:00. If we do -- I think we can get through most of the comments in that same period of time. I just note that out of respect for the staff and others who have put this hearing on as well as our Council members, so we would like to conclude at 8:00.

12 But let's move to hear from folks so we can 13 accomplish that goal. And appreciate everyone speaking 14 to the project specifically, is what we will take testimony on. And, in particular, if there are local 15 16 considerations, things that in particular might be 17 comments that are relevant to a county commission 18 conditional use permit, so more local conditions, those 19 are in particular of not only interest, I think, always 20 to the Council but are comments in particular that are 21 appropriate for this public comment period especially.

22 So unless staff or Council would like to clarify 23 anything I've shared as to the purpose of this, I would 24 then note that Council Chiles would like to -- who 25 submitted a letter to the Council and is available for



Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 52 the public -- would like to speak to that letter first. 1 And as a member of the Council, while we'd like to 2 3 keep moving expeditiously, please take the time that you need, and then we will move into our public comment 4 5 period for three minutes. And the first person signed up just as a heads-up in a few minutes: Delmer Eldred. 6 And then Candy Magnusson. So you'll be our first two 7 speakers up, which, again, I'll call you up. 8 And 9 Andrea and Alex will help me with that as well. 10 So, Andrea, or Ms. Grantham. 11 MS. GRANTHAM: Yes. I would also 12 like to add that we also have a comment campaign live 13 right now online at comments.EFSEC.wa.gov. So anybody 14 online who doesn't want to speak at the meeting 15 tonight, they can also submit written comment. 16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. And, again, written comments, if you don't wish to 17 18 speak or supplement your verbal testimony, you also 19 have a comment box here physically in the room. 20 So with that, Council Chiles. 21 MR. CHILES: Thank you, Chair 2.2 This is -- for the record, this is Matt Beckett. 23 Chiles. And I am speaking on behalf of Klickitat 24 County as Klickitat County's representative for the 25 Carriger project on this board.



I'm going to basically be reading my letter that I have written, with a few adjustments, because some new stuff has come up today.

I'm writing today to clarify the concerns that Klickitat County still has regarding the Carriger Solar project and to propose various ways that those concerns can be mitigated. This project is going to have a large impact on the county, should it be built, and how it is executed will directly impact not only the greater project area but the willingness of the county to participate in future potential solar developments that the county may host.

Over the past few months, the County has been working on writing a solar and BESS ordinance. I am on the committee that is working to do that. And many of the mitigation requests that I'm going to be bringing before the Council today are a direct result of the stuff we have been learning and studying as we pursue that ordinance.

The direction that the committee is taking -- that is, the -- the county committee -- as it writes the ordinance is to allow solar and BESS projects in Klickitat County but with a lot of mitigations. It is our hope that EFSEC will, in fact, potentially be the lead on a number of these future projects, because the

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EFSEC process, we believe, is a good and secure way to really cover all the bases in a way that a small county like ours simply cannot staff as well as -- as the State can through EFSEC.

Moving on to concerns. Concern No. 1: The Carriger project is directly impacting adjacent residences. I am pleased to see that the setback from adjacent properties is up to 500 feet, so -- to nonparticipating homes. And I would hope that's to their nonparticipating property lines. Because just because a home isn't on one side of the property doesn't mean that the whole property is not impacted.

The second way that we can reduce that impact is by creating visual barriers, such as earthen berms, wooden fences, and vegetation that is planted and maintained so that it can mitigate that visual impact of the solar array.

Our next concern is that the project will look 18 19 industrial instead of rural. One of the things why 20 people live in a rural community is it is rural and 21 doesn't look like a center of industry. There's a 2.2 balance to that, because farms by their very nature are 23 industrial, and especially a successful farm has a lot of trucks going back and forth. It may have a lot of 24 25 buildings and equipment going at all hours. However,



Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 55 1 it's a little different for a true industry. So to avoid the industrial look, I would suggest 2 3 that -- building security fencing in an agricultural 4 I'm pleased to see that Cypress Creek is moving stvle. 5 that direction with the proposed game fence as opposed to barbed wire and -- excuse me -- chain link, razor 6 7 wire-type stuff. I -- I think the fence is too high at eight foot. 8 9 It's still going to look pretty industrial. And if we 10 could drop that height down to five or six feet, it 11 appears they are concerned about deer in there. Ι 12 would like to see all wildlife be able to move through 13 the property. Because when wildlife are pushed to 14 corridors, it changes everything about them. Τn particular, this Carriger project and future projects, 15 16 anything in a rural area, should not have razor wire, 17 chain-link fence, and other high-security-type fences. Woven wire that is typical in agricultural areas is 18 19 sufficient with a strand or two of barbed wire on top, 20 and that can be supplemented by modern technology of 21 motion sensors and cameras and such. 2.2

Third concern is the destruction of good agricultural land. Our solar and BESS ordinance is moving very strongly toward requiring agrivoltaics, which is that solar arrays need to coexist with



agriculture within the boundaries of the project and
 that solar arrays should not be set aside as a
 nonagricultural use.

We would request that the panels be designed in a way that can be tilted up to 90 degrees so that farm equipment and livestock can potentially move through when needed be, especially farm equipment.

Especially we want to require that any existing irrigation rights within the project area either be transferred or banked to remain in beneficial use within Klickitat County, because irrigation water is something that we do not have much of, we cannot get more of, and we can get less of if we lose it.

Another concern is the hazards of fighting grass fires under solar arrays. We are proposing solutions, again requiring that the panel design -- is designed in such a way that the panels can be tilted up easily to 90 degrees. Suddenly allows easy access for firefighting aircraft. And additionally designing a grazing component into agrivoltaics can facilitate vegetation reduction around the structures by allowing cows, sheep, whatever it is, to move in around there.

Another concern is -- and this is a big concern -is with the BESS units that are proposed. There is still no way to put out a BESS fire. We would request



and our proposed ordinance will probably require that
BESS systems need to use an inherently firesafe
engineering, a system that cannot catch fire, such as
lead-acid batteries, sodium liquid systems which are in
development and very close to being deployed
commercially, but the existing lithium technology has
been demonstrated over and over again to be unsafe.

If the lithium-type batteries are moved, or are 8 9 used, we would request that they be either secured in 10 an underground bunker or inside of some sort of 11 aboveground concrete bunker of some sort so that in the 12 inevitable event of fire, fumes cannot get out to 13 disturb the neighbors, to pollute the lands, and to 14 potentially endanger the community's health. The 15 community really does not want to accept this risk of -- of toxic fumes. 16

17 One other concern about BESS units is the noise. 18 I'm glad to see that that is also being addressed by Carriger, or by the Carriger project. Noise is a very 19 20 sensitive thing that a lot of people in urban areas 21 don't understand, but in a rural area, even a noise as 2.2 low as 35 or 40 decibels is a noticeable noise. The 23 crickets are making a noise of 35 or 40 decibels, and 24 they're -- they're very loud.

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In rural areas, we do not have a lot of background



noises a lot of the year. There's no freeway going by.
So at 50 or 60 decibels for fans, if you're hearing a
fan, that is going to drive you crazy. Because you're
not used to living next to a freeway or other -- other
things that are in urban areas.

One last concern is the impact on the community at large. We would like to see this and future projects engineered so that they can be integrated with the local Klickitat County PUD in such a way that, in an emergency, the county can directly tie to that grid to supply -- to supply electricity to the county.

When the big one comes and the -- the grid goes down on the west side, if we're not connected to the electricity here, we cannot help. And all the electricity that is being generated is -- is being lost and can't even help locally. As an emergency precaution, we want to see a way to -- for that electricity to be emergency transferred into the local grid.

We generate a lot of power in this county already between wind, existing solar, and especially the dams. And most of that county -- most of the electricity is shipped out of state and is not benefitting this county at all. We want to see benefits from the electricity that's produced here that is impacting all of our



We've lost our free-flowing rivers. 1 lives. We have lost our beautiful hills to blinking red lights and 2 3 wind turbines, and it is looking like many of our 4 valleys will soon be covered in solar arrays. So with 5 this cost, we want to see a benefit come back to 6 Klickitat County if this is a cost that we are going to 7 be required to bear.

In addition to tying into the grid, we would like 8 to see some percentage of that electricity, of the 9 10 electricity being generated, either financially or as 11 direct electricity, go to our local PUD so that 12 everyone can benefit from some sort of lowered rates. 13 This kind of thing has been done in Klickitat County 14 before. When the public landfill, regional landfill 15 came in about 35 years ago, that was something that 16 really impacts the whole county even though most the 17 county can't see it, because it's a huge environmental 18 thing that's waiting for a potential catastrophe.

We've all benefitted in the meantime, though, not just by taxes, but by seven cents per ton of fee that is collected by the County for every ton of waste that dumps into there. That benefits the whole county in reducing all our property taxes. Something that can benefit the whole county when so much of the county is impacted by the change in the nature of the county as



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it turns more industrial.

In conclusion, the Carriger project is a large and highly visible project, near many people and easily visible by many more. If this project is built, it should be built as a demonstration project so the people can positively see how solar can add to the environment.

There are many projects that many of us have 8 9 driven by around the Northwest that are lousy 10 demonstration projects. We can look just as far north 11 as Ellensburg and see beautiful alfalfa fields that are 12 now covered in gravel and solar panels. If you've been down near Salem recently, you'll see similar things. 13 14 We would like to see solar integrated with agriculture 15 instead of replacing agriculture.

16 If EFSEC and the solar industry do not address 17 these concerns, I am personally concerned that solar will become very much a pariah, not only in rural areas 18 19 like ours but even in urban areas, and that will be to 20 the detriment of not just us but to the whole nation, 21 because we do need electricity. And so if -- if we are 2.2 going to be doing solar, then we need to be doing it responsibly in a way that we can be proud of and not in 23 24 a way that it's going to be taking large tracts of agricultural land out of production. 25



1	Thank you very much.
2	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council
3	Chiles. And thank you as well for the time and thought
4	that you put into that letter that was submitted to the
5	Council for the record and is available to all members
6	of the public. So thank you, again.
7	So with that, let me turn to Alex and Andrea.
8	Pardon my first names as I try and get through here the
9	first go-around for me.
10	So I believe I read our first member of the public
11	to come forward is Delmer Eldred. Again, we'll be
12	taking your comments on the project for three minutes.
13	We see the clock is up here. We appreciate your
14	understanding and respect for that.
15	And Mr. Eldred. And then, Candy Magnusson, you
16	will be up next.
17	Welcome.
18	MR. ELDRED: Please consider not
19	approving the project on Knight Road. This is good,
20	valuable farm- and ranchland that needs to be preserved
21	for agricultural use. And placing a large industrial
22	solar site will make this land unusable for food
23	production forever. These solar sites will soon be
24	replaced with reliable, efficient form of energy, and
25	the destruction of good agricultural land will all be



for nothing.

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The only ones that will benefit are Carriger, making a fortune on our government subsidies. The end result and short life of these solar sites will be massive environmental disaster of millions and millions of decommissioned solar panels for the next generation to deal with.

Also the amount of devastation to the habitats and 8 9 wildlife as well. And I have not -- the solar sites 10 that I've looked at, the wildlife has not been able to 11 graze in these areas, which they have to try to move 12 and relocate in different locations, which make the 13 food source less and less for each of them. And also 14 the birds, that think that this solar panel is a body 15 of water, land on there and get fried. So this has a 16 very bad reputation for the habitat, the wildlife.

And, you know, the common-sense thing is not to allow this project to be approved. And I ask you to please deny this application. And if anybody thinks that the bottom line of Carriger is to spend as much money as possible to satisfy the people in the area that they're putting these solar sites in, you're living in a fantasy world.

These -- this company is dedicated to profit, and that's what it's all about. Anybody that has looked at



millions and millions of panels in California that are 1 sitting there, because they don't have anything to do 2 with these decommissioned. They're just going to let 3 4 them sit there. And who knows what will ever come of them? But that land is -- it's just sitting there with 5 panels that are not even being used. And we're going 6 to be in the same situation. It isn't going to be any 7 different here than it is there. 8

9 And so this is not beneficial. It stops all --10 any kind of productive thing that this county could do 11 will be sewed up with this solar that has taken the 12 area. And you can't have a subdivision. You can't 13 have anything else going, because you have solar. And 14 to think that they are going to try and work with the 15 community and spend an excess amount of money, I don't 16 That's not going to happen. know.

17 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for your18 comments, Mr. Eldred.

Ms. Magnusson, if you would, please.

MS. MAGNUSSON: I'm going to speak for myself but also for people that can't come here, that have given up speaking. They say it's a done deal. It's sad. And I hope you looked, when you came through, how beautiful this area is. 'Cause it's not going to be that way anymore. And I'll tell you why.

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1	Greg Wagner lives up there where it's going to be.
2	And I've been a Realtor for 27 years, and I know the
3	value of land. Okay? His property is going to
4	right now, if he put a "for sale" sign up on his
5	property, guess what. He's not going to sell it. He
б	can't sell it. Nobody's going to buy it, because he is
7	obligated to tell people, Hey, there's going to be a
8	couple thousand acres of solar right here across the
9	road. And knowing Greg, he would tell it. He wouldn't
10	lie. He would say that. Okay?
11	The secrecy. The secrecy of these people that's
12	come in here and sign up leases: Don't tell. Don't
13	tell. That's right on the leases. Don't tell.
14	So it took a while for people to wise up. Okay?
15	Because related friends and stuff like that. Well, it
16	so happens that now people I ask them, Do you know
17	where the leases are? Most people do not know where
18	their leases are. It's secret. There's going to be
19	2,000 acres or a thousand acres south of Goldendale
20	right up to the city limits. What do you think that's
21	going to be? That's going to affect the houses in
22	town, out of town, all the value. Businesses are going
23	to leave. Businesses aren't coming when they see this
24	mess. No.

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Schools. Going to affect the schools, the



1	hospital, and everybody that lives around them. Their
2	value of their land is going to be going down, and God
3	help them if they can sell it, because I don't think
4	they can.
5	The also it's going to affect those panels
б	have chemicals in them. If a hailstorm comes and wipes
7	out half of them which we've had hailstorms here,
8	okay? that leaks chemicals into the ground, into the
9	water. People living down below water runs
10	downhill, guys the wells are going to be
11	contaminated.
12	Do you think that he's going to say different.
13	Do you think that company is going to come and pick up
14	all those panels and take care of it? No. They're
15	going to go bankrupt. And the biggest, the biggest
16	solar company in the world, in the world, has gone
17	bankrupt last month. Okay? Thank you.
18	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much,
19	Ms. Magnusson.
20	Elaine Harvey and then Dave Barta.
21	MS. HARVEY: Good evening.
22	CHAIR BECKETT: Good evening.
23	MS. HARVEY: I hope you can hear me.
24	My name's Elaine Harvey. I'm a resident, a lifetime
25	resident of this area. I'm from the Ka-milt-pah Band.



1 My people's been here forever. I left to go to 2 college, and I came back. I work for my tribe for 20 years. My last two years, I was evaluating more than 3 40 projects that are impacting Yakama, ceded 4 5 territories, that are impacting our food, our salmon. These companies come. They suck the water out of 6 these giant creeks. There's steelhead in there. 7 Do 8 they care? No. Do they care about us and our food 9 that we gather? 10 I have big concerns with the MDNS decision. Т 11 live here. I live there at the proposed site. I chose to live there because of the food. Our traditional 12 13 foods and medicines. I gather food there. I'm a 14 walking, living specimen. I'm a Yakama tribal member. 15 Nobody can deny that. 16 This project is going through our -- our 17 traditional food-gathering route. There are many culturally significant plants in this area that's going 18 19 The state lands south of Fish Hatchery to be impacted. 20 Hill Road, along Hill Road. We gather there. I'm 21 worried about the water resources that's going to be 2.2 impacted, because the water resources impact our 23 cultural resources.

24The traditional cultural properties that Yakama25Nation spoke about in that letter. I live there. I



know there is state species of concern on the DNR list. 1 Ferruginous hawks. There is resident bald and golden 2 3 eagles there. There are many wildlife there. This is 4 a migratory corridor from the Simcoe Mountains to the 5 valley. And there is hunting that occurs, state hunting that's going to be impacted. And the hatchery. 6 Is all these getting taken under consideration in this 7 expedited process that you guys just voted on? 8

9 There are many residences that live there. There 10 is a BESS, two-acres lithium battery across the road 11 from me. I'm going to be impacted. I'm worried about 12 my children and grandchildren. What's going to happen 13 when there's a fire? I live there. What is EFSEC 14 going to do? What is the people leasing the land going 15 to do when something happens? Are you guys going to be 16 there to help? And my property values are going to go 17 down? I pay for views. My viewsheds are going to be And I don't want to go dig roots and look at 18 qone. 19 solar panels. And these solar panels are going to 20 impact our roots.

I know that. And it's really detrimental what's happening here, what's going to happen to this very important land, what we call home, and to the wildlife especially. And to our people who are here. We never moved to the reservation. We live here. We gather our



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1	foods here. People can say, yeah, Yakama's over there.
2	But no. We're here. We're the Ka-milt-pah Band, one
3	of the 14 tribes and bands that make the Yakama Nation.
4	We never relocated.
5	And this project will significantly impact our
б	cultural resources. And I'm speaking on behalf of my
7	band. And I have that right for my chief, Bronsco Jim,
8	Jr., Yúum Tiicám.
9	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
10	Ms. Harvey.
11	Mr. Barta. Dave Barta.
12	MR. BARTA: Good evening, Council
13	members. My name's Dave Barta. I live west of
14	Goldendale. Thanks for the opportunity to comment on
15	EFSEC's desire to expedite Carriger's permitting.
16	The original land-use consistency determination
17	was made largely based on EOZ document and the
18	conditional-use process present in the Klickitat County
19	Comprehensive Plan. The land-use consistency appears
20	to have appears to have ignored Klickitat County
21	Board of Commissioners Resolution 01121, which required
22	all projects hooking up to the Knight Road substation
23	be required to go through the conditional use process.
24	The BOCC Resolution 01121 states, whereas it's the
25	intent of the Klicki of Klickitat County Zoning



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Ordinance No. 62678 as amended to provide uniform,
 equitable, and reasonable standards to govern the usage
 of land and structures in the interest of public
 health, safety, and general welfare, et cetera.

And then the land-use order -- which I know isn't under debate now, but I'm just taking us back there a little bit -- goes on to say, well, quarrying is allowed, so solar panel should. I don't know of any 2,300-acre quarries in the county. I know of one that's maybe 40 acres, one that's five, and maybe one other that's ten. Reasonable standards.

The resolution does clearly -- 01121 does clearly address land-use planning, and it's not moratorium. It simply clarifies the application of the energy overlay zone, and the BPA substation is outside the EOZ. That this resolution may have been ignored in the land-use consistency order makes me wonder what else was.

You talked about cumulative impacts. A little while ago, I had the pleasure of having a toothache, I remember, about eight or nine years ago. And so I went to the dentist and of course took an x-ray. Oh, you got to have a filling. I have to have a filling. So I had a filling. Two days later, I got a great big thing swollen on my face. Eventually got about half the size of a hard ball and baseball because the x-ray didn't



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get the root of the tooth where there was an abscess. You can't look at one single thing like the Carriger project and say, Well, we can only determine one project at a time. I understand the law and the legal and all that. But you're ignoring a reality. We all know how many acres have been pre-optioned. It's pretty well-known. So you need to consider cumulative right now in this process.

9 In August of 2023, Director Bumpus wrote a letter 10 that said, We think there might be a determination of 11 significance. I felt like in reading through the MDNS. 12 It was -- her concerns, frankly, were largely ignored, 13 in my opinion. They generally were visual impacts. 14 We'll paint the batteries a different color. And --15 and they did move panels back a few dozen yards from 16 the road and -- from some residences. And then there 17 was also the tribal concerns, which you talked about at 18 length.

I suggest that you meet in person with the tribe.
If that's how they wish to communicate, please do that.
Doing it any other way, it does -- I'm sure there are
mechanisms in place that can make that happen.

The term "applicant" is used throughout the MDNS. It doesn't say "applicant owner." I know it's a minor point. It concerns me. Carriger sells projects. So



1	I'm hoping the term "applicant" applies to whoever's
2	down the road when you have to decommission it. I
3	don't know the answer to that, but I hope it's true.
4	I think for all these reasons, expedited
5	processing is a mistake. I hope that you will take
6	into account seriously the concerns that local citizens
7	and the tribe have concerning this project and the
8	future of Klickitat County. Thank you.
9	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
10	Mr. Barta.
11	Up next, we have Greg Wagner and Dave Thies. And
12	then Ms. Grantham will or Alex will assist me with
13	those who have also signed up.
14	MR. WAGNER: The name's Greg Wagner
15	with C.E.A.S.E.
16	A portion of this project is outside the energy
17	overlay zone. It's not consistent with land-use zoning
18	and would require a conditional use permit. This man
19	here said he got a conditional use permit. I don't
20	remember that ever happening at the County.
21	Issuing your land-use consistency decision was
22	wrong and should be null and void. The best system is
23	not a permitted use and the energy overlay zone and any
24	other zone in the county. It requires a County
25	conditional use permit. BESS cannot be permitted



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without a conditional use permit from the County.
 Proposed BESS has not been reviewed properly by EFSEC
 members.

You have failed to address the real dangers to the people. The people's safety, health, and welfare have not been taken in consideration. BESS dangers are real, as proven by the Moss Landing BESS fire that burned uncontrollably for five days, injured people, and forced them from their homes.

10 This Carriger -- this BESS was a state-of-the-art 11 facility, but that didn't prevent the fire, explosion, and release of deadly fumes. Carriger's BESS will have 12 13 the same dangers. Rural 7 Fire is unprepared 14 untrained, and ill-equipped to extinguish a BESS fire. The remote location does not have a water source for 15 fire suppression, and Rural 7 lacks enough tenders to 16 17 supply the needed water.

18 EFSEC required the Wautoma Solar Projects -- and it had BESS -- to have an artificial water source for 19 20 helicopter fire suppression and a 10,000-gallon water 21 cistern for fire suppression. Are these the same 22 requirements for the Carriger Solar and BESS project? 23 A fire at a Carriger BESS will pose a great danger to 24 the people, the wildlife, and the environment, and 25 these issues have not been addressed.



The inconsistent zone -- inconsistent zoning and BESS issues are significant, and your MDS -- MDNS was premature and improperly issued and must be rescinded. You cannot grant expedited processing, and this -- for this ill-conceived project. It must go through the adjudication process.

7 And I understand now we have this project here. 8 It's 2,008 acres. That's only Phase 1. Carriger plans 9 probably another 4,000 acres. There'll be a Phase 2 10 and a Phase 3 just like Avangrid's Lund Hill, Bluebird, 11 and now they have enough land for another project out 12 on the east end of the county.

And I think it's shameful for you folks to go to expedited processing when you still don't have all the conclusions from the Yakama Tribe concerns. I don't think that's fair. I don't believe you should be doing that.

18 We live here. You don't live here. We have to put up with this. You don't. You can go home. 19 You 20 don't have to look at this. Your property values, your 21 way of life will not change. I hate to say it, but I 22 don't think you care about us. All these renewables, 23 this useless renewables forced upon us by Governor 24 Inslee and now Ferguson, the Climate Commitment Act, 25 the Clean Energy Transformation Act, and all these



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policies that the County put in place is all
 detrimental. It's all focused to us on the east side
 of the state.

You guys don't have solar sites. You can't call 4 5 it a farm. It isn't growing nothing green. It's not growing anything good. It's all bad. These people are 6 7 takers, whether it's Cypress Creek, Avangrid, Invenergy, NextEra, ConnectGen. All these companies 8 9 that are wanting to lease land here, they're here to 10 take advantage of our county. They don't give nothing 11 back. When they leave, when they go bankrupt, all their mess will be on -- on us, and that includes 12 13 you-all.

And their high util- -- their energy is costly. And that comes to you at your house too. Your rates go up. We get impacted by it, negatively impact by it, and you-all are just going to pass it. You'll go home and just say, Well, boy, we got that done.

You don't seem to have any compassion for the people who are forced to live by this junk. And these guys that go back home to Santa Monica and his buddy Tai Wallace and all of them, they don't care either. If this is so good, build this by your house, and see how you like it. We don't want it. Thank you.

CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

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Mr. Thies.

Well, I wish I was as MR. THIES: good a speakers as the people that have gone before me. But I'm not. My name's Dave Thies. I'm representing the Columbia Gorge Audubon Society this evening.

First, your decision to dispose of the opportunity for the public to make judicial appeal. Gee, I wish that would have happened after we had a chance to talk. It just seems like that would have been the best way to do it. But, you know, there's a benefit to having the option at least of judicial appeal. And that benefit is that it reminds everybody both beforehand and after that there could be consequence to decisions. Okay? 14 That's a real benefit. Yeah, it's -- it's a tough thing to do. But it's a benefit. And it's a 15 16 constitutional-protected benefit to appeal, for the 17 right of the people to appeal. That's gone. Okay.

It seems like EFSEC has quite a lot of time to 18 19 hear from proponents of energy projects and very little 20 time to hear from the impacted public. We respectively 21 suggest that limiting the public comment to three days 2.2 on the critical design decisions you are making is 23 simply inadequate. This brief comment period suggests 24 to us that EFSEC fears public comment.

25

We request that you extend the public comment



1	period for writing letters so that our citizens can
2	feel we are actually being encouraged to participate
3	through this process. The comment period should be
4	long enough for us to provide a considered review and
5	have time to write by hand, as I have to do, our
6	letters and time for those letters to be mailed and
7	received by you.
8	As for myself representing Audubon, I have I
9	would like to write about three pages of comments. I
10	can't send it by computer. Perhaps you have a fax
11	number. We hope that this request does not sound
12	unreasonable to you. Thank you.
13	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. Thank
14	you, Mr. Thies.
15	Alex, if you could help us call the next two
16	people. And some of this may be online, just for
17	everyone's awareness here in a moment.
18	MS. SHILEY: Of course.
19	For the record, this is Alex Shiley. I will be
20	calling up our next signed-up speaker. That is Kim
21	McKune. Or Ken McKune. My apologies.
22	MR. McKUNE: (Unintelligible) right
23	here from Goldendale.
24	CHAIR BECKETT: Welcome.
25	MR. McKUNE: Have you guys checked



to see what's going on in Washington, D.C.? I thought President Trump was going to cut the alternative energy projects. Is Carriger or Cypress Creek still going to get subsidies to build this? You know, does that put a change in their plans if they're not going to get our taxpayer money for their projects?

And you might be thinking, Well, what do you got 7 bet- -- what do you got that's better than the solar 8 9 panels, you know, and BESS and -- and the site -- the 10 visual pollution, the seas of black glass? You know, 11 right now it's green grass and golden grass, and it's 12 pleasant to the eye. A sea of solar panels, it just 13 changes this area so greatly. It's just so unnatural 14 compared to what we're all so used to.

And so I was kind of wondering if I could submit an alternative for these fellows, these farmers. And I know a lot of them. And, you know, in a way, I can't blame them for wanting that money, but they can make more off of their land with hemp --

20UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go hemp.21MR. McKUNE: -- per acre than they22can the solar.

You seed it. You use a seeder. You get it in the ground. You watch it grow. It gets the best, the tallest and skinniest you can grow, the fibers. You



1 can make paper fiber, food. Some of the best -- you're not going to believe this one. Next to mother's milk, 2 3 there is nothing better for a baby than hemp milk made from soaking the seeds. And for all of us. 4 It's 5 healthy. It's got a natural antibiotic in it. And it also has a molecule that makes it good for developing 6 7 fuel, because it explodes.

It's just so multifaceted. It's been around for 8 thousands of years. Our forefathers promoted it. And 9 10 the only reason it isn't prominent in our society today 11 is because of the marijuana scare, the -- DuPont and 12 the -- the big -- can't think of his name from San 13 Francisco, who made newspapers. They all got it all 14 outlawed and brought a big -- the marijuana scare. And 15 they're use -- hemp farms used to be a mainstay of our 16 economy until -- until they made it illegal.

So can I submit this to you and have you take it back, take -- take it back and look at it and look at the possibilities of having a hemp -- hemp -- hemp economy? Hemp economy.

21 CHAIR BECKETT: We're certainly 22 happy to take the materials. Our staff in the back 23 have a box by which we can submit them. That'd be 24 fine. We appreciate your joining us tonight. 25 MR. McKUNE: Get through World War



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1 II. 2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, sir. 3 MS. SHILEY: Our next signed-up 4 speaker is Todd Andrews. CHAIR BECKETT: Mr. Andrews is 5 outside. 6 7 Is there the next speaker, and we can come back to Mr. Andrews? 8 9 MS. SHILEY: Of course. 10 The next speaker signed up is Gene Callan. 11 CHAIR BECKETT: I'm sorry. Could 12 you spell that last name for us. 13 Thank you, sir. 14 MR. SHILEY: Mr. Callan is quicker 15 on the gun than I am. It is C-a-l-l-a-n, for the 16 record. 17 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, sir. 18 MR. CALLAN: (Unintelligible) 19 adjacent to the project. I think three -- three of our 20 property lines abut it. In fact, I think one of our 21 family members has a 52-acre parcel that's completely 2.2 engulfed by it. I'm not sure what the access is. 23 I'll keep my comments really short, mainly because 24 as I was sitting there, thinking, I think this is the 25 sixth or seventh time I've testified at a variety of



sessions over the last few years, and at least that many or more letters written to all the various reports that have come out over the years. So in the spirit of that, I appreciate all the comments before me, and I agree with them, but my comment is basically this -this is -- this just -- this project is not sited properly.

Are there other locations in our county that could 8 9 have industrial solar? Possibly. Probably. But this is not the right location. I mean, it comes down to a 10 11 simple common-sense question. We can go through all 12 the engineering analysis, and we can spin all we want. 13 The bottom line is it doesn't belong in the Goldendale valley. So that's -- I'll summarize, and I'll save a 14 15 minute and a half. But it's just in the wrong place. 16 Thank you.

17 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. Thank18 you for attending.

MS. SHILEY: (Videoconference audiodistortion) Mr. Todd Andrews.

CHAIR BECKETT: Welcome, Mr. Andrews.

23 MR. ANDREWS: Thank you, Chair. 24 Bring the trash can up. Events like this are -- I 25 know that I -- kind of at that point where, about to

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2.2



throw up. I have a weak stomach for things like this.
 It saddens me. And so I'm Klickitat County
 commissioner only four months. Maybe I'll have thicker
 skin after another couple years.

So it saddens me because -- you know, so the 5 EFSEC, that whole process, it's a fine process, but to 6 expedite it to go against, you know -- and I heard all 7 the comments at the beginning. There seem to be a 8 great concern of dealing with Yakama Nation and dealing 9 10 with some of the residents, but then maybe not so much, 11 since you decided to expedite it. And they just 12 requested -- they just wanted their say-so as well as the citizens in this room. They just want a proper 13 14 process.

15 This county -- I've been in this county now 30 16 years, and they're not people that are "not in my backyard" kind of people. They are very common-sense, 17 18 great people. They -- they do not -- they don't mind 19 industry. They don't mind all these things. As long 20 as it -- if they have a say-so. That's the reason why 21 we have ordinances. That's the reason why we have 2.2 zoning.

And we have the EOZ for almost 20 years now, and it very clearly states that solar projects are anticipated to be small in size and number. This is



1 not small in size, and the projects will not be small in number. 2 3 There's a number of other things in the EOZ that state -- and I don't know how many of you people have 4 5 been to this site. I just -- just came, just left Knight Road right before coming here. Only my second 6 time that I was with people in the area that kind of 7 8 know it better, so we stopped. 9 So as you go there tomorrow, turn around multiple 10 My guess is you'll only go to one -- one times. 11 But as you drive that whole Knight Road, location. 12 make sure and turn around and look, because my quess is 13 50 to 75 percent of the homes on the east end, every 14 home in eastern Klickitat County you can see from these 15 sites. 16 So if -- you could not pick a better site if you 17 wanted to be the most intrusive and lower the most home 18 values that you could. This is the perfect site. Τf 19 that is the intent, to decimate home values, it's the 20 perfect site. 21 And so -- and the other thing, what Elaine stated, 2.2 was just wonderful. And I'd just like to reiterate

as long as their concerns are met. Reasonable

concerns. Thank you.

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that Klickitat County welcomes projects like this just

1 Thank you, CHAIR BECKETT: 2 Commissioner. 3 MS. SHILEY: Chair, this represents 4 the end of the speakers who've signed up to speak. At 5 this time, we usually ask people who are online and wishing to speak to use the Teams function to raise 6 your hand, or if you're calling in by phone, to go 7 ahead and speak up quickly so we can make a note that 8 9 you'd like to speak. If you're here in person and have 10 decided you'd like to share your thoughts, we ask that 11 you line up at the microphone, and if possible, state 12 and spell your name for the benefit of the court 13 reporter. 14 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Alex. Α 15 fine better -- fine job. Better than I would have 16 done. 17 Welcome. If you could -- if you could state your 18 name for the record. 19 MR. DAZEY: My name's Warren Dazey. 20 Last name's D-a-z-e-y. 21 And I was by that Knight Road project today as 2.2 well. I live next to it. It borders my property. 23 I've got 44 acres there. For the man from the Audubon 24 Society, I'm not a birder, but I've identified 35

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different species of birds on my property. I'm in a

major wildlife migration pattern. I get dozens of deer
 go through my place.

Any kind of change in the wind, if there's a problem with solar, is going to come my way. Where am I going to go? I didn't move here to have to hide in a motel or go out of state. I live here.

7 And as far as the presentation that was here when I walked in, was well said. Not all of it was true. 8 9 We talked about 300, 350 jobs. Are those going to come 10 from Klickitat County? No. You know that. They're 11 going to be out-of-state contractors. I mean, it's not 12 rocket science. The green energy tax credits are 13 drying up. The President says it's a scam. I believe 14 him. So we expedite things. We hurry up and try and 15 lock in as much funds as we can before it drys up.

16 Well, I don't know where it all started. I don't 17 know if it was commissioners, what happened. But 18 Klickitat County's been sold out. And if you think the 19 governor or the attorney general, anybody in Olympia 20 gives a rip about Klickitat County, think again. They 21 don't care about Klickitat County. It's full of people 2.2 that are uneducated like me. We don't know what's 23 going on. We know what's going on. And you do too. 24 You're sitting there, but you know what's going on.

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Anyway, I'm kind of fed up with the whole thing.



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I've testified at these things several times before
too. I'm not sure it does any good. You can make it
happen. You can you can change things, if you want
to. Common sense. It's been said before. Thank you.
CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
Mr. Dazey.
Were there others who wished to come forward?
Welcome. If you could state your name again for
the record, we'd appreciate it.
MR. THROOP: Luke Throop, Klickitat
County, resident of Goldendale. Got family out 142.
Drive by Knight Road all the time. Can't imagine
seeing all that solar out there. Kind of heartbreaking
really.
As I sit here and listen tonight, I wasn't going
to testify. I wasn't going to say anything, because
it's all been said before. What you're not seeing here
before are the hundreds of citizens in Klickitat County
who have attended meeting after meeting, public comment
after public comment, county commissioner meetings, all
the meetings.
I happened to sit on the BESS committee with
Mr. Chiles to help represent the citizens of Klickitat
County, and the overwhelming sense in Klickitat County
is it's it's not that we don't want solar. It's



Carriger Solar Meeting Public Comment Hearing, - May 05, 2025 Page 86 1 just let's -- we hear "common sense" time and time This is the worst possible place to put a great 2 aqain. 3 big solar farm. 4 There are places that nobody's going to argue, 5 Hey, yeah, we got land. Let's put it out there. That's going to work. But why are we putting it here? 6 Why are we taking on all this risk for so little or no 7 benefit? What's in it for us? Nothing? 8 It seems like 9 we're being exploited. 10 The question that comes to my mind this evening 11 is, is there anything, is there a word, an image, a 12 phrase, a song, a sonnet, is there anything that would 13 move you deeply to consider where everybody's coming 14 from? Not just the people in the room. These are the 15 vanguard here. These are the diehards. These are 16 people that are so committed to making sure that this 17 doesn't get pushed through, bulldozing over the EOZ, 18 bulldozing over the will of the people. We're here to 19 be heard. But we're representing thousands upon 20 thousands, a significant percentage of the population, 21 2,000 -- I'm sorry -- 27,000 people in Klickitat 2.2 That's not a lot, right? County. 23 But we're people. We're a community. We've got 24 identity. We've got cultural heritage that's being

25 | ignored completely. I heard it tonight. You guys say,



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Oh, you know, well, we got some concerns about this and that. Maybe we can mitigate that. Maybe we can't. Has it been mitigated? I don't know. I don't think it's been mitigated. Maybe. I don't know. Well, let's go ahead and expedite it.

I'm not sure that that's the wisest decision. Is that prudent? If it was to go to litigation, is that going to stand? That would be for counsel to decide. Just based on the minutes of the meeting tonight, I don't know that it would.

11 Please, to the voting members of the body, 12 consider you're making decisions on behalf of a lot of It's a touchy issue. People get emotionally 13 people. 14 charged because it touches their lives, their 15 livelihoods, their children, their grandchildren, their 16 cultural heritage. That's all at stake right now. 17 It's not a simple decision. It's not something we want 18 to just, you know, bulldoze, we want to just push it 19 through because time, we got a 60-day deadline end of 20 Things move fast. Sometimes the more prudent June. 21 option is to slow down, take a step back, and say, Are 2.2 we doing the right thing?

I just ask that you would sleep with that tonight.Consider that moving forward. Thank you.

CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

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1 MS. SHILEY: Ms. Grantham, do we 2 have anyone indicating they'd like to speak from 3 online? 4 MS. GRANTHAM: None that I am seeing 5 at the moment. 6 MS. SHILEY: All right. We would like to invite you, if you are calling in, to unmute 7 yourself and speak up if you're not able to use the 8 9 hand-raise function. If you are, please raise your hand. Otherwise, the meeting is scheduled to end after 10 11 the last speaker, so this would be the final call for 12 anyone who'd like to speak in person or online. If you'd like to speak, please feel free to just 13 14 approach the microphone. Just make sure to speak, and 15 if possible, spell your name for the benefit of our 16 court reporter. 17 CHAIR BECKETT: If you could make 18 sure the mike hears you in that way. 19 MS. FITZPATRICK: F-i-t-z --20 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 21 MS. FITZPATRICK: -- p-a-t-r-i-c-k. 2.2 And I live in Goldendale. And I agree with everything 23 I've heard here tonight. And we have. There's some 24 diehards of us that have written letters. We've 25 attended these meetings. It falls on deaf ears. Like,



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1	tonight, this is, to me, an exercise in futility. The
2	only thing I get out of it is you guys have to sit in
3	these hard chairs too, you know.
4	I mean, honest to God. You already voted. And
5	then you want our comments? I mean, I'm sorry. We're
6	not stupid here. We know what you're doing. So,
7	anyway, I hope you do listen to the last man and do
8	rethink your decision tonight. Thank you.
9	CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
10	MS. SHILEY: All right. With that,
11	Chair
12	CHAIR BECKETT: Any other comments?
13	MS. SHILEY: I don't believe we
14	have any more comments.
15	CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. I believe
16	that will nearly conclude us. Let me look to Council
17	if there were any quick comments that you wish to make.
18	Let me just, out of respect to each of you, ask. And
19	then I'll turn this to staff if there are other closing
20	comments after Council. None online, I take it.
21	Okay. Director Bumpus, any further closing
22	comment from staff? Or we'll soon wrap this up.
23	Okay. Well, thank you again. These are not easy
24	topics. We appreciate each of you having made the
25	effort to not only for those in attendance, for

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1 those who have listened in and participated online. Again, other comments are being gathered. They -- they 2 3 certainly will be considered of not only the record but 4 of this Council deliberation. 5 And also for everyone's awareness in the moment, the Council will be gathering tomorrow morning, May 6 6th, at 9:30 a.m., at World War II Park, where we 7 will -- at 213 East Burgen Street, which I'm sure many 8 9 of you know, in particular, and we will depart on the 10 site tour from there. It is an open public meeting. 11 You are welcome to attend. It will be more of 12 following along the Council as we are ultimately not 13 taking public comment as well as that we need to see the site with staff alone, as I understand it. 14 So, nonetheless, it is a public meeting with the 15

Council in full having gathered itself to take the tour. So, again, 9:30 tomorrow morning at World War II Park.

And with that, at 7:32, I will conclude this
public comment hearing. And thank you, again, for your
time and participation. We're adjourned at 7:32.
(Meeting adjourned at

7:32 p.m.)

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1	STATE OF WASHINGTON) I, John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR,) ss a certified court reporter		
2	County of Pierce) in the State of Washington, do hereby certify:		
3			
4	That the foregoing Special Council Meeting and Public Comment Hearing of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council were conducted in my presence, appearing remotely via videoconference, and adjourned on May 5, 2025, and thereafter was transcribed under my direction; that the		
5			
6			
7	transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of the		
8	said meeting and hearing, transcribed to the best of my ability;		
9	That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any party to this matter or relative or employee of any		
10	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 20th day of May, 2025.		
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16	/s/John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR		
17	Certified Court Reporter No. 2976 (Certification expires 5/26/2026.)		
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