

## AGENDA

### MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday September 17, 2025

1:30 PM

### **HYBRID MEETING**

621 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey WA 98503

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Conference number: 564-999-2000 ID: 141231937#

1. Call to Order .....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair
2. Roll Call .....Adrienne Barker, EFSEC Staff
3. Proposed Agenda .....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair
4. Minutes .....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair
  - August 20, 2025 monthly meeting minutes
5. Projects
  - a. **Kittitas Valley Wind Project**
    - Operational updates.....Jarred Caseday, EDP Renewables
  - b. **Wild Horse Wind Power Project**
    - Operational updates.....Jennifer Galbraith, Puget Sound Energy
  - c. **Chehalis Generation Facility**
    - Operational updates.....Jeremy Smith, Chehalis Generation
    - Update on water flow process.....Sara Randolph, EFSEC Staff
  - d. **Grays Harbor Energy Center**
    - Operational updates.....Eric Pace, Grays Harbor Energy
    - Title V update.....Sara Randolph, EFSEC Staff
    - NPDES update.....Sara Randolph, EFSEC Staff
  - e. **Columbia Solar**
    - Operational updates.....Elizabeth Drachenberg, Greenbacker Capital
  - f. **Columbia Generating Station**
    - Operational updates.....Kelly Elsethagen, Energy Northwest
  - g. **WNP – 1/4**
    - Non-operational updates.....Kelly Elsethagen, Energy Northwest
  - h. **Goose Prairie Solar**
    - Operational updates.....Nelson Jia, Brookfield Renewable
  - i. **Ostrea Solar**
    - Project updates.....Jon Voltz, Cypress Creek Renewables
  - j. **Carriger Solar**
    - Staff update on response to Governor, including upcoming public comment periods.....Joanne Snarski, EFSEC Staff
  - k. **Hop Hill Solar**
    - Project updates.....John Barnes, EFSEC Staff
  - l. **Wallula Gap Solar**
    - Project updates.....John Barnes, EFSEC Staff
  - m. **Goldeneye BESS**
    - Project updates.....Joanne Snarski, EFSEC Staff

**Notes:** The following projects are not on the agenda due to lack of project activity: Wautoma Solar and High Top Solar, and Badger Mountain

"**FINAL ACTION**" means a collective positive or negative decision, or an actual vote by a majority of the members of a governing body when sitting as a body or entity, upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance. RCW 42.30.020 This is not the final action on this application review, and there will be additional opportunities for public comment on this project.

**n. Transmission PEIS**

- Final EIS October issuance update.....Sean Greene, EFSEC Staff

**o. Horse Heaven Wind Farm**

- Executive session.....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair  
*The Council will discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation to which the agency is a party as authorized by RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)*
- Project updates and Council deliberation on species V issue.....Amy Moon, EFSEC Staff

**6. Adjourn**.....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair

**Notes:** The following projects are not on the agenda due to lack of project activity: Wautoma Solar, High Top Solar, and Badger Mountain..

**"FINAL ACTION"** means a collective positive or negative decision, or an actual vote by a majority of the members of a governing body when sitting as a body or entity, upon a motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance. RCW 42.30.020 This is not the final action on this application review, and there will be additional opportunities for public comment on this project.

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WASHINGTON STATE

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING

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August 20, 2025

Conducted Remotely via Microsoft Teams

Reporter: John M. S. Botelho, CCR, RPR

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<p>1 APPEARANCES</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:</p> <p>4 Kurt Beckett, Chair</p> <p>5 Elizabeth Osborne, Department of Commerce</p> <p>6 Eli Levitt, Department of Ecology</p> <p>7 Nate Pamplin, Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>8 Lenny Young, Department of Natural Resources</p> <p>9 Stacey Brewster,</p> <p>10 Utilities &amp; Transportation Commission</p> <p>11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OPTIONAL STATE AGENCIES:</p> <p>12 Badger Mountain:</p> <p>13 Jordyn Guilio, Douglas County</p> <p>14 Hop Hill Solar:</p> <p>15 Paul Krupin, Benton County</p> <p>16 Carriger Solar:</p> <p>17 Matt Chiles, Klickitat County</p> <p>18 Wallula Gap:</p> <p>19 Adam Fyall, Benton County</p> <p>20 Goldeneye BESS:</p> <p>21 Robby Eckroth, Skagit County</p> <p>22</p> <p>23 ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL:</p> <p>24 Jon Thompson</p> <p>25 Zack Packer</p>	<p>1 APPEARANCES (Continuing)</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 OPERATIONAL UPDATES (Continuing):</p> <p>4 Jon Voltz</p> <p>5 Ostrea Solar, Cypress Creek Renewables</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 COUNSEL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:</p> <p>8 Sarah Reyneveld</p> <p>9 Yuriy Korol</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>
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<p>1 APPEARANCES (Continuing)</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 COUNCIL STAFF:</p> <p>4 Sonia Bumpus Audra Allen</p> <p>5 Ami Hafkemeyer Maria Belkina</p> <p>6 Amy Moon Lisa McLean</p> <p>7 Joan Owens Adrienne Barker</p> <p>8 Andrea Grantham Catherine Taliaferro</p> <p>9 Sonja Skavland Alondra Zalewski</p> <p>10 Sean Greene Trevin Taylor</p> <p>11 Joanne Snarski Dave Walker</p> <p>12 Alex Shiley Nabila Gomes</p> <p>13 Ali Smith</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 OPERATIONAL UPDATES:</p> <p>16 Jarred Caseday</p> <p>17 Kittitas Valley Wind, EDP Renewables</p> <p>18 Jennifer Galbraith</p> <p>19 Wild Horse Wind Power Project, Puget Sound Energy</p> <p>20 Eric Pace</p> <p>21 Grays Harbor Energy Center, Grays Harbor Energy</p> <p>22 Jeremy Smith</p> <p>23 Chehalis Generation Facility, PacifiCorp</p> <p>24 Kelly Elsethagen</p> <p>25 Columbia Generating Station &amp; WNP-1/4, Energy</p> <p>Northwest</p> <p>Elizabeth Drachenberg</p> <p>Columbia Solar, Tuusso Energy</p>	<p>1 MEETING INDEX</p> <p>2 EVENT: PAGE NO.</p> <p>3 Call to order 7</p> <p>4 Roll call 7</p> <p>5 Proposed agenda 11</p> <p>6 Minutes</p> <p>7 July 16, 2025, monthly meeting minutes 12</p> <p>8 Projects</p> <p>9 Kittitas Valley Wind Project 13</p> <p>10 Wild Horse Wind Power Project 13</p> <p>11 Chehalis Generation Facility 15</p> <p>12 Grays Harbor Energy Center 17</p> <p>13 Columbia Solar 18</p> <p>14 Columbia Generating Station 18</p> <p>15 WNP - 1/4 18</p> <p>16 Goose Prairie Solar 19</p> <p>17 Ostrea Solar 20</p> <p>18 Carriger Solar 20</p> <p>19 Horse Heaven Wind Farm 21</p> <p>20 Hop Hill Solar 75</p> <p>21 Wallula Gap Solar 75</p> <p>22 Goldeneye BESS 76</p> <p>23 Transmission PEIS 77</p> <p>24 Badger Mountain Solar 80</p> <p>25</p>

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<p>1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Wednesday, Page 7</p> <p>2 August 20, 2025, at 1:31 p.m. Pacific time, the</p> <p>3 following Monthly Meeting of the Washington State</p> <p>4 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was held,</p> <p>5 remotely via Microsoft Teams videoconference, to wit:</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 &lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt;&lt; &gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;&gt;</p> <p>8</p> <p>9 CHAIR BECKETT: Good afternoon,</p> <p>10 everyone. This is Kurt Beckett, chair of the Energy</p> <p>11 Facility Site Evaluation Council, calling our</p> <p>12 Wednesday, August 20th, meeting to order at 1:31.</p> <p>13 And, Ms. Barker, if you could please call the</p> <p>14 roll.</p> <p>15 MS. BARKER: Certainly.</p> <p>16 Department of Commerce.</p> <p>17 MS. OSBORNE: Elizabeth Osborne,</p> <p>18 present.</p> <p>19 MS. BARKER: Department of Ecology.</p> <p>20 MR. LEVITT: Eli Levitt, present.</p> <p>21 MS. BARKER: Department of Fish and</p> <p>22 Wildlife.</p> <p>23 MR. PAMPLIN: Nate Pamplin,</p> <p>24 present.</p> <p>25 MS. BARKER: Department of Natural</p>	<p>1 Jon Thompson. Page 9</p> <p>2 MR. THOMPSON: Present.</p> <p>3 MS. BARKER: Zack Packer.</p> <p>4 MR. PACKER: Present.</p> <p>5 MS. BARKER: Talia Thuet.</p> <p>6 For the EFSEC staff, I will call those anticipated</p> <p>7 to speak today.</p> <p>8 Sonia Bumpus.</p> <p>9 MS. BUMPUS: Present.</p> <p>10 MS. BARKER: Ami Hafkemeyer.</p> <p>11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.</p> <p>12 MS. BARKER: Amy Moon.</p> <p>13 MS. MOON: I'm here, present.</p> <p>14 MS. BARKER: Sean Greene.</p> <p>15 MR. GREENE: Present.</p> <p>16 MS. BARKER: Joanne Snarski.</p> <p>17 MS. SNARSKI: Present.</p> <p>18 MS. BARKER: Trevin Taylor.</p> <p>19 MR. TAYLOR: Present.</p> <p>20 MS. BARKER: For operational</p> <p>21 updates: Kittitas Valley wind project.</p> <p>22 MR. CASEDAY: Jarred Caseday,</p> <p>23 present.</p> <p>24 MS. BARKER: Wild Horse Wind Power</p> <p>25 Project.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 10</p> <p>1 MS. GALBRAITH: Jennifer Galbraith, 2 present. 3 MS. BARKER: Grays Harbor Energy 4 Center. 5 MR. PACE: Eric Pace -- 6 MS. BARKER: Chehalis -- 7 MR. PACE: -- present. 8 MS. BARKER: I'm sorry. 9 MR. PACE: Pace, present. 10 MS. BARKER: Chehalis Generation 11 Facility. 12 MR. SMITH: Jeremy Smith, present. 13 MS. BARKER: Columbia Generating 14 Station. 15 MS. ELSETHAGEN: Kelly Elsethagen, 16 present. 17 MS. BARKER: Columbia Solar. 18 MS. DRACHENBERG: Elizabeth 19 Drachenberg, present. 20 MS. BARKER: Goose Prairie Solar. 21 Ostrea Solar. 22 MR. VOLTZ: Jon Voltz, present. 23 MS. BARKER: Is there anyone online 24 for the counsel for the environment? 25 MS. REYNEVELD: Yes. Sarah</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 12</p> <p>1 agenda, please say "aye." 2 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye. 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? 4 Thank you. We've adopted the agenda. 5 Next item up, we have the monthly meeting minutes 6 from our July 16th, 2025, EFSEC Council meeting. 7 Is there a motion to adopt the minutes? 8 MS. BREWSTER: Stacy Brewster. So 9 moved. 10 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, is there a 11 second? 12 MS. OSBORNE: Elizabeth Osborne. 13 Second. 14 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council 15 Osborne. 16 The minutes have been put on the table. Are there 17 any edits or discussion or amendments to the monthly 18 meeting minutes? 19 I did not have any. I will speak for myself 20 obviously. 21 Okay. With that, then, all those in favor of 22 adopting the July 16th meeting minutes, please say 23 "aye." 24 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye. 25 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 11</p> <p>1 Reyneveld and Yuriy Korol are present. 2 MS. BARKER: Chair, there is a 3 quorum for all councils. 4 MR. PAMPLIN: You're muted, Chair. 5 CHAIR BECKETT: Let's hope that's 6 the last time. Thank you, Council Pamplin. Saving me 7 as always. 8 Council, we have a agenda before us for today's 9 meeting. I would entertain a motion to adopt the 10 agenda. 11 Is there a motion? 12 MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young. So moved. 13 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 14 <b>A second?</b> 15 MR. PAMPLIN: Second. I'll second. 16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council 17 Pamplin. 18 Council, there's a motion and a second on the 19 table. 20 Are there any -- is there any discussion or 21 changes to the agenda? 22 Try and keep an eye on hands raised here. We are 23 virtual today, and my first time chairing a virtual 24 meeting. So thanks, everyone, for bearing with me. 25 Hearing none. All those in favor of adopting the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 13</p> <p>1 The minutes are adopted. 2 Moving on to project updates. The Kittitas Valley 3 wind project. Mr. Caseday. 4 MR. CASEDAY: Yes. Good afternoon, 5 Chair Beckett, EFSEC Council, and staff. This is 6 Jarred Caseday with EDP Renewables for the wind -- 7 excuse me -- for Kittitas Valley wind power project. 8 We had nothing nonroutine to report for the 9 period. 10 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 11 MR. CASEDAY: Thank you. 12 CHAIR BECKETT: Next up, Wild Horse 13 Wind Power Project. Ms. Galbraith. 14 MS. GALBRAITH: Yes. Thank you, 15 Chair Beckett, Council members, and staff. This is 16 Jennifer Galbraith with Puget Sound Energy representing 17 the Wild Horse wind facility. 18 The only nonroutine update I have is related to 19 the damaged wind turbine tower initially reported to 20 the Council on July 14th. As of today, there has been 21 no change to the damaged tower, and it remains 22 standing. PSE continues to monitor the turbine 24/7. 23 And emergency responders are still on standby in the 24 event of tower failure. 25 PSE is assessing options to safely decommission</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 the tower after the wildfire season has ended. For 2 public safety, Wild Horse will remain closed to the 3 public -- to public access for the remainder of 2025. 4 And we are coordinating with the Washington State 5 Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure hunters are 6 provided with advanced notice about the closure so they 7 can plan for alternate access during the upcoming 8 hunting seasons. 9 That's all I have. 10 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well. 11 Council members, are there any comments or 12 questions for Ms. Galbraith given the added issue 13 today? 14 Council Pamplin, I see your hand. Thank you. 15 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Chair. And 16 thanks for the update, Ms. Galbraith. 17 Is -- understanding that you're wanting to keep 18 the site closed for public access, is there areas 19 outside of the vicinity of the -- the turbine that can 20 be opened up? And if the turbine is successfully 21 decommissioned earlier in this fall, will you be able 22 to open it up through the remainder of the calendar 23 year? It sounds like it was -- you were saying it was 24 closed through December 31st of 2025, if I understood 25 your remarks correctly. Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 what's reported in the pamphlet. 2 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well. 3 And I believe, Ami Hafkemeyer, you may have a 4 further comment at this time as well, if I'm correct. 5 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Yes. Thank you, 6 Chair Beckett. And good afternoon, Council. 7 Recently the facility, operating under use of 8 their -- their reserve water, was tentatively going to 9 need to purchase water from the City. That did not end 10 up happening. We got sufficient rainfall that they 11 could resume regular water use. 12 But staff did want to take this moment to consider 13 modifying the process around this activity. We plan to 14 work with the facility and bring some more information 15 to the Council at a future meeting. 16 The first time that the facility needed to 17 purchase additional water was in 2021, and this was 18 before changes to the OPMA that prompted public comment 19 on Council actions. 20 Given the timeline spelled out in the site 21 certificate agreement of a 15-day notification, this 22 does put a bit of a constraint on the opportunity for 23 public comment ahead of Council action regarding 24 purchase of water for the facility. So staff propose 25 to work with the facility to see what we can do to make</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 MS. GALBRAITH: Yes, that's correct. 2 The site closes typically beginning December 1st for 3 the winter. So out of an abundance of caution, PSE has 4 determined to close the site during the hunting season. 5 So starting -- it's already closed, and it'll be closed 6 through the remainder of the year. 7 At this point, we do not have any plans for 8 reopening, just because there's too many unknowns at 9 this point and the risk is too high right now. So... 10 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you. 11 CHAIR BECKETT: Other questions? 12 Seeing none. 13 Thank you, Ms. Galbraith. Appreciate the update. 14 MS. GALBRAITH: Thank you. 15 CHAIR BECKETT: Moving on to the 16 Chehalis Generation Facility. Mr. Smith or -- 17 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon -- 18 CHAIR BECKETT: -- perhaps -- 19 MR. SMITH: -- Chair Beckett. 20 CHAIR BECKETT: Good afternoon. 21 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, Chair 22 Beckett, EFSEC staff, and Council. This is Jeremy 23 Smith, the operations manager for -- representing the 24 Chehalis Generation Facility. 25 I have no nonroutine items to report outside of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 this process a little bit more friendly to public 2 comments should the need arise again in the future. 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Certainly appreciate 4 that sentiment and effort. 5 Are there other comments or questions from 6 Council? 7 Ms. Hafkemeyer. 8 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I have nothing 9 further. But happy to -- 10 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. 11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- answer Council 12 questions. 13 CHAIR BECKETT: I don't see any at 14 the moment. Certainly someone -- any Council please 15 raise your hand if you like. Otherwise, I think most 16 likely you would be encouraged to do what you've 17 described, so -- certainly you do for me. So thank 18 you. 19 And seeing no other comments. We will then move 20 on to the Grays Harbor Energy Center. Mr. Pace. 21 MR. PACE: Good afternoon, Chair 22 Beckett, EFSEC Council, and staff. My name's Eric 23 Pace, the plant engineer for Grays Harbor Energy 24 Center, and I'm representing the site today. 25 Grays Harbor Energy has nothing nonroutine to</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 report for the period.</p> <p>2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.</p> <p>3 Next up, Columbia Solar. Ms. Drachenberg.</p> <p>4 MS. DRACHENBERG: Good afternoon,</p> <p>5 Chair, EFSEC Council, and staff. This is Elizabeth</p> <p>6 Drachenberg for Columbia Solar.</p> <p>7 And there are no nonroutine updates to report.</p> <p>8 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.</p> <p>9 Next up. And I'll offer to take two items as one.</p> <p>10 The Columbia Generating Station, WNP 1 and 4. Kelsey</p> <p>11 [sic] Elsethagen. Apologies if I got that off by a</p> <p>12 little.</p> <p>13 MS. ELSETHAGEN: Good afternoon,</p> <p>14 Chair Beckett, EFSEC Council, and staff. This is Kelly</p> <p>15 Elsethagen providing the update for Columbia Generating</p> <p>16 Station and WNP 1 and 4.</p> <p>17 We actually do have a issue that we'd like to</p> <p>18 report, an environmental compliance issue.</p> <p>19 On the evening of Friday, August 15th, based on a</p> <p>20 report of possible oil sheen seen in circulating water</p> <p>21 cooling towers, out of an abundance of caution, Energy</p> <p>22 Northwest secured and stopped the discharge to the</p> <p>23 Columbia River and made notifications to EFSEC and the</p> <p>24 Washington Department of Ecology.</p> <p>25 Energy Northwest, GrayMar Environmental, a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 Ami Hafkemeyer, you are providing that update today.</p> <p>2 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Yes. Thank you,</p> <p>3 Chair Beckett.</p> <p>4 The Council -- I'm sorry. The facility update is</p> <p>5 available in the Council pact. There were no</p> <p>6 nonroutine items for this period to report.</p> <p>7 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.</p> <p>8 Moving on to Ostrea Solar. Mr. Voltz.</p> <p>9 MR. VOLTZ: Good afternoon, Chair</p> <p>10 Beckett, Council members, and staff. This is Jon Voltz</p> <p>11 with Cypress Creek Renewables representing Ostrea</p> <p>12 Solar.</p> <p>13 This month, construction continues to progress.</p> <p>14 The eastern parcel is essentially complete, moving on</p> <p>15 all activities to the western parcel. Security fencing</p> <p>16 is complete around the perimeter.</p> <p>17 We did also receive the main power transformer at</p> <p>18 the end of July.</p> <p>19 So moving forward in all aspects. Nothing</p> <p>20 nonroutine to report.</p> <p>21 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well. Thank</p> <p>22 you.</p> <p>23 Moving, then, on to Carriger Solar.</p> <p>24 I believe Joanne Snarski will provide the update.</p> <p>25 MS. SNARSKI: Yes. Thank you, Chair</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 third-party cleanup contractor, and Washington State</p> <p>2 Department of Ecology inspected the Columbia River, the</p> <p>3 circulating water cooling towers, and the circulating</p> <p>4 water pump house the evening of August 15th. No oil</p> <p>5 sheen was observed.</p> <p>6 GrayMar Environmental indicated the foam we were</p> <p>7 seeing was likely biological based on their past</p> <p>8 experience. Circulating water discharges to the</p> <p>9 Columbia River were sampled for fats, oil, and grease.</p> <p>10 The results were below detection limits.</p> <p>11 During the investigation, Energy Northwest</p> <p>12 identified a potential oil loss in one of the reactor</p> <p>13 feed turbine heat exchangers and took the heat</p> <p>14 exchanger out of service over the weekend. Follow-up</p> <p>15 sampling results for fats, oil, and grease of</p> <p>16 circulating water were still below detection limits.</p> <p>17 Energy Northwest restored discharge to the</p> <p>18 Columbia River August 18th and will submit a five-day</p> <p>19 report detailing the incident and action taken to EFSEC</p> <p>20 by the end of today, August 20th.</p> <p>21 CHAIR BECKETT: Well, thank you for</p> <p>22 the update.</p> <p>23 Are there comments or questions from the Council?</p> <p>24 Seeing none.</p> <p>25 We will move on to Goose Prairie. And I believe,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 Beckett and Council members. For the record, this is</p> <p>2 Joanne Snarski, the siting specialist for the proposed</p> <p>3 Carriger Solar facility in Klickitat County.</p> <p>4 On June 25th, 2025, the Council voted to send a</p> <p>5 recommendation to approve the Carriger Solar facility</p> <p>6 to the governor. We sent that on the day following</p> <p>7 June 25th to the governor's office. And at that time,</p> <p>8 the governor has 60 days, or until August 25th, to</p> <p>9 review our recommendation and all the supporting</p> <p>10 documentation. To date, we have not had any response</p> <p>11 or requests from his office, but we anticipate that by</p> <p>12 next Monday.</p> <p>13 And that's all I have.</p> <p>14 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for the</p> <p>15 update.</p> <p>16 Moving on, then, to Horse Heaven wind farm.</p> <p>17 MS. MOON: Thank you, Council -- oh.</p> <p>18 CHAIR BECKETT: Please go ahead.</p> <p>19 MS. MOON: Okay. Thank you, Council</p> <p>20 Chair Beckett and EFSEC Council members. This is Amy</p> <p>21 Moon reporting on the Horse Heaven wind project, which</p> <p>22 is in Benton County, Washington.</p> <p>23 As a refresher, the site certification agreement,</p> <p>24 or SCA requires that the certificate holder work with</p> <p>25 the preoperational technical advisory group, which we</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 call the PTAG, to meet the conditions of the SCA 2 Articles IV(C) mitigation measures -- and that, for the 3 court reporter, "Article IV" is in Roman numerals -- 4 and Article IV(G) PTAG, which is also in the SCA, as 5 well as the Spec-5 mitigation measure. 6 As I reported at the July Council meeting, the 7 certificate holder, Scout Clean Energy, submitted a 8 recommendation to the EFSEC director, Sonia Bumpus, 9 regarding the mitigation measure Spec-5, ferruginous 10 hawk. 11 The certificate holder recommendation outline the 12 certificate holder's proposed locations for 13 infrastructure placement within the siting corridor to 14 meet the conditions of Spec-5, which is short for 15 "Species-5." I think we all probably are tracking 16 that. 17 The recommendation package also included a PTAG 18 facilitator report that presents both the Spec-5 19 recommendation areas of agreement as well as the areas 20 of disagreement. EFSEC staff reviewed the certificate 21 holder's Spec-5 mitigation recommendation as well as 22 the facilitator's report and supporting documents 23 associated with the PTAG Spec-5 discussions. 24 And for a better understanding of Spec-5 and the 25 EFSEC staff review of the certificate holder's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 advisory group, or PTAG, that the site certificate 2 holder -- that the site certificate agreement required 3 Scout to convene. This will include a refresher on the 4 project, the PTAG, and the relevant mitigation measure. 5 I will also walk the Council through several documents 6 produced by the PTAG and the certificate holder for the 7 Council to review and address the next steps 8 anticipated by EFSEC staff. 9 So I know that we have a few new Council members 10 since the Horse Heaven project was last considered by 11 the Council. And for those who are here, they can 12 probably use a refresher. 13 So Horse Heaven is a 1,150-megawatt mixed wind and 14 solar electric generating facility on 72,428 acres of 15 unincorporated Benton County that was initially 16 recommended for approval to the governor on April 29th 17 of 2024. Following a governor remand and Council 18 reconsideration, a revised recommendation for approval 19 was submitted on September 17th of 2024. The final 20 site certification agreement was signed by the governor 21 on October 18th of 2024. 22 For the executed site certification agreement, the 23 project will consist of one of two potential wind 24 turbine configuration options: One with more turbines 25 of a lower height, or one with fewer turbines but of a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 submittal, EFSEC's State Environmental Policy Act, or 2 SEPA, specialist Sean Greene has a presentation. I 3 have written here "short," but now I understand it may 4 not be as short as we would all anticipate. But it's a 5 lot of information to go over. 6 So, Sean Greene, if you're ready, I'll pass it off 7 to you. 8 MR. GREENE: Yes. Thank you. And I 9 don't know if "short" is accurate, but it is 10 comprehensive at least. 11 And let me share my screen now. 12 Okay. Can someone confirm that you're seeing the 13 first slide of the presentation? 14 Okay. Thank you, Chair Beckett. 15 Okay. So thank you, Amy. And thank you, Chair 16 Beckett and Council members. My name is Sean Greene. 17 I am the State Environmental Policy Act, or SEPA, 18 specialist for EFSEC. 19 And the purpose of this presentation is to 20 describe for the Council the recent submission by the 21 certificate holder, Scout Clean Energy, in relation to 22 the Species-5 mitigation measure included within the 23 project site certification agreement. 24 Scout's request includes advice for the Council's 25 consideration from the pre-operational technical</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 taller height. The first option would max out at 222 2 turbines, and the second option would not exceed 671 3 feet in height. 4 Additionally, the project will include up to three 5 solar arrays capable of producing no more than 800 6 megawatts of energy and up to two battery energy 7 storage systems, BESSes, with no more than 300 8 megawatts of storage capacity. 9 All of these components are reflected in the 10 figure to the right of this slide, though I should note 11 that some of this extent has subsequently been 12 restricted by multiple redesign and exclusion measures. 13 For reference, the black dots are the tentative 14 proposed locations of the wind turbines, specifically 15 the Option 1 -- the -- the Turbine Option 1. Please 16 note that I did say "tentative." Other than areas 17 excluded by various mitigation measures, the 18 certificate holder has the authority to site these 19 turbines anywhere within a designated and defined wind 20 micro-siting corridor that totals 11,850 acres that was 21 reviewed and analyzed during the SEPA review process. 22 Also shown in this figure are the proposed solar 23 arrays. The yellow highlighted areas are the solar 24 siting areas that have been assessed for potential 25 impacts associated with solar array siting.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 The hashed polygons within the solar siting areas 2 are the initial proposed locations of the solar arrays, 3 which will cover no more than 5,447 acres of land. 4 The final layout of the solar arrays will be 5 determined prior to construction but will not extend 6 outside of the solar siting areas. The east solar 7 array, meaning the hashed polygons to the bottom right 8 of this figure, will be of importance later in this 9 presentation. 10 The total project lease boundary, as I said 11 before, is 72,428 acres, though as you can see from the 12 figure, the final project footprint will be much 13 smaller than that total. The lease boundary is 14 generally located south and southwest of the city of 15 Kennewick and the larger Tri-Cities urban area. 16 So as part of the environmental review performed 17 by EFSEC staff and our consultants in preparation for 18 the final environmental impact statement, or FEIS, a 19 number of mitigation measures were developed and 20 recommended for inclusion within the final site 21 certification agreement. 22 One of these measures was one specific to the 23 ferruginous hawk, a state -- state endangered species, 24 and was titled Species-5. Following further 25 development of this measure as part of the Council</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 between 0.6 and two miles of that nesting site is 2 allowed. However, the certificate holder must develop, 3 in consultation with the PTAG, a ferruginous hawk 4 mitigation and management plan for approval by EFSEC 5 that would apply to the placement of primary 6 infrastructure in that 0.6- to 2-mile buffer area. 7 One caveat to this measure is that the east BESS 8 is specifically exempted. This was done because the 9 east BESS is planned to be colocated with the east 10 substation, which, as a secondary component to the 11 project, is not subject to the exclusion buffers from 12 Species-5. 13 Since relocating the east BESS away from that 14 substation would only result in an increase in 15 environmental impacts with no mitigative effect, it has 16 been exempted from Species-5 so long as it remains 17 colocated with the east substation. 18 The final critical element of Species-5 is the use 19 of a preoperation technical advisory group, or PTAG, to 20 provide EFSEC with technical support in administering 21 this measure. I will cover the PTAG in more detail in 22 the next slide, but I want to make it clear that they 23 are a purely advisory group that was developed to 24 assist EFSEC in effectively and efficiently managing 25 this and several other mitigation measures.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 deliberations, it was included within the site 2 certification agreement. 3 I won't go through the entirety of Species-5 here, 4 as it won't fit on a single slide, but the essential 5 elements are as follows. 6 First, no wind turbines, solar arrays, or BESS, 7 which are in combination referred to as primary project 8 components, shall be sited within 0.6 miles of any 9 documented ferruginous hawk nest. This includes all 10 historic nests documented in the priority habitat 11 species database administered by the Washington 12 Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as any nest 13 identified in the certificate holder's nest surveys and 14 any new nest established prior to the start of 15 construction. 16 Second, no primary project component shall be 17 sited within two miles of a documented nest unless one 18 of two -- one of two criteria is shown to be met: 19 Either the nesting site, meaning the structure, like a 20 tree or a cliff face that the nest was built on rather 21 than the nest itself, is no longer available or the 22 foraging habitat within the two-mile buffer around that 23 nest is no longer viable to support the species. 24 If a nesting site needs either of these two 25 criteria, the siting of primary project components</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 So the PTAG was established as part of the 2 Habitat-4 mitigation measure included within the site 3 certification agreement, or SCA. As I noted, this is a 4 purely advisory body and was put together to serve as a 5 technical sounding board for a variety of mitigation 6 measures included within the SCA, including in this 7 case Species-5. 8 The purpose of this group is to collect informed 9 guidance from a selection of technical experts so that 10 EFSEC could make informed and efficient regulatory 11 determinations. The PTAG has no regulatory authority 12 on its own. The membership of this group is composed 13 of 13 primary members, several alternatives, and two 14 observers, one of which was me in my role as a SEPA 15 specialist for EFSEC. 16 The membership drew from a variety of groups with 17 technical expertise on the relevant environmental 18 resources. These groups included state and federal 19 resource agencies, several affected tribes, regional 20 organizations like the Audubon Society, Benton County, 21 independent contracted ecologists, and a local 22 landowner. 23 Between February and May of 2025, this group 24 convened for eight three-hour biweekly virtual meetings 25 and one all-day in-person meeting and site tour.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 30</p> <p>1 During this period, these meetings primarily focused on 2 analyzing ferruginous hawk nests and habitat mapping 3 data, developing standardized tools to make 4 determinations on nesting site availability and 5 foraging habitat viability, and developing 6 recommendations on the application of Species-5 to 7 provide to EFSEC.</p> <p>8 There was a particular emphasis on seeking 9 consensus from the PTAG membership. This effort was 10 largely successful, as you will see when we start 11 discussing the ferruginous hawk nests. The PTAG was 12 able to reach consensus recommendation on 40 of the 45 13 nests considered.</p> <p>14 So the PTAG meetings and discussions resulted in 15 the production of three primary types of documents for 16 the Council's consideration. The first are the 17 presentations that were shown at the various PTAG 18 meetings and the minutes of those meetings. These are 19 largely self-explanatory and represent the exact record 20 of the figures and data shown and discussed by the PTAG 21 in their -- in their deliberations.</p> <p>22 The second document is the facilitator report. 23 This is a report from the independent facilitator who 24 organized the PTAG meetings. This report was developed 25 by the facilitator and was provided to the PTAG members</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 32</p> <p>1 recommendation agrees that a 0.6- to two-mile buffer 2 must be observed with respect to one of those five 3 nests. But with respect to the remaining four nests in 4 contention, the certificate holder recommendation 5 proposes a determination that the primary 6 infrastructure should be -- that primary infrastructure 7 should be allowed within that buffer.</p> <p>8 The certificate holder's recommendation on these 9 four nests asks the Council to balance what it asserts 10 to be the minimal impacts to the ferruginous hawk 11 against the considerable impacts to the project's 12 design and output if the full 0.6- to two-mile setbacks 13 were to be required for these nests.</p> <p>14 Now, before we move on to the background 15 information -- move on from the background information 16 and into the discussion of specific nests and 17 recommendations, I want to take a moment to remind the 18 Council of the confidential nature of the information 19 we'll be discussing.</p> <p>20 The location data for the ferruginous hawk nests 21 is largely drawn from the Washington Fish and 22 Wildlife -- Washington Department of Fish and 23 Wildlife's priority habitat and species database, which 24 is confidential. A few of these nests were 25 independently identified by the certificate holder in</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 31</p> <p>1 for review and edits prior to its distribution to 2 EFSEC.</p> <p>3 The report is intended to provide an objective 4 summary of the deliberations, findings, and 5 recommendations of the PTAG. It reflects both -- both 6 scenarios where the PTAG membership reached a consensus 7 view and scenarios where there was a diversity of 8 opinion among the membership. The report seeks to 9 provide context to those areas of disagreement and 10 directly references the PTAG meeting minutes where 11 appropriate so that Council members can see the 12 discussions verbatim.</p> <p>13 The final document provided as part of this 14 package is the certificate holder recommendation. 15 Certificate holder recommendation as to which 16 documented hawk nest locations EFSEC should determine 17 to require or not to require a 0.6- to two-mile setback 18 for primary infrastructure. This is a document 19 produced by the certificate holder following their 20 review of the PTAG's discussions and recommendations.</p> <p>21 45 total nest locations were evaluated by the PTAG 22 under the SCA Species-5 criteria. The evaluation of 23 five of these nests resulted in some of the PTAG 24 members providing an opinion that a 0.6- to two-mile 25 setback must be observed. The certificate holder's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 33</p> <p>1 their surveys. All of these nest location data, 2 regardless, are highly sensitive, and given the 3 nature -- the status of the species as endangered 4 within the state.</p> <p>5 Both this meeting and this presentation is 6 available to the public and will be recorded for future 7 reference. As such, staff would request that the 8 Council members be as circumspect as possible in their 9 discussion of the nests and their relation to nearby 10 geographic or project features.</p> <p>11 There is some leeway when necessary. For example, 12 there is some nest buffer interaction with the east 13 solar array that we will need to address. For that 14 case, just try to state as little location information 15 as practical. For instance, there shouldn't be a need 16 to state what direction the nest is or the exact 17 distance it is from the array.</p> <p>18 The Council has been provided several figures 19 showing the nest locations specifically and how their 20 various buffers interact with the project components. 21 Those figures will not be displayed in this 22 presentation, but I will try to display figures showing 23 the general region of discussion so that observers can 24 get a sense of the areas.</p> <p>25 Additionally, the Council figures include names</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 34</p> <p>1 for the nests that we will be discussing. As these  2 names are generally related to the geographic features  3 around the nests, the Council has been provided a -- a  4 Word document for this discussion where, for example,  5 something labeled as the Smith Road nest in the Council  6 figures would instead be identified a "Nest G" in  7 discussion. For all the nests that we'll be  8 discussing, they have been assigned a letter in that  9 Word document, and we would request that those nests  10 only be referred to by that letter designation.  11 Okay. Now that we've covered all of that, we can  12 proceed into the discussion of the PTAG's nest buffer  13 recommendations.  14 First, to address the figure being shown on the  15 screen right now, this is a figure with no confidential  16 data being displayed and is primarily included as a  17 placeholder for viewers of this presentation to look at  18 while I walk through the Council -- while I walk the  19 Council through several figures that do, in fact,  20 contain confidential data. These confidential figures  21 have been included within the Council packet.  22 So if the Council members can bring up Figure 1  23 from the Council packet. They should have also  24 received these at -- directly via e-mail yesterday. I  25 can make an effort to explain what you'll be looking</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 36</p> <p>1 decision at this point.  2 The green circles represent the two-mile buffers  3 around documented ferruginous hawk nests where the PTAG  4 unanimously recommended that primary project components  5 could be allowed. In total, 39 nests received this  6 recommendation from the PTAG. For one of those 39  7 nests, the nesting site was determined to no longer be  8 available. For the other 38, the foraging habitat  9 within two miles of the nesting site was determined to  10 not be viable for the species due to development and  11 habitat conversion in those areas.  12 As unavailable -- as unavailability of a nest site  13 or lack of viable foraging habitat are the two -- two  14 criteria that, if met, would allow placement of primary  15 infrastructure between 0.6 and two miles of the  16 documented nest location, the PTAG agreed that primary  17 components could be sited within that buffer for these  18 nests provided the certificate holder produces an  19 approved species-specific mitigation and management  20 plan.  21 CHAIR BECKETT: Hey, Sean.  22 MR. GREENE: Yes.  23 CHAIR BECKETT: Mr. Greene. I  24 believe Council Young has a question, but also there  25 may be an issue of what is appearing on the screen or</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 35</p> <p>1 at.  2 So, first, the steel blue shaded circles, which  3 are also being shown on the nonconfidential map up on  4 the screen right now, represent exclusion areas that  5 are unrelated to Species-5. These include  6 nonparticipating residences, which have a half-mile  7 setback, Webber Canyon, which has a one-mile setback to  8 address traditional cultural property impacts, and  9 areas of historic wildfires along the steep naturally  10 vegetated slopes near Benton City, which have a  11 quarter-mile setback to avoid interference with aerial  12 firefighting.  13 The small gray circles on the Council's Figure 1  14 represent the 0.6-mile buffers around documented  15 ferruginous hawk nests. The large gray circle around  16 Nest A is a unique scenario that I'll address in a  17 moment. Please refer to the cheat sheet that was  18 provided in your Council packet to see what Nest A is  19 labeled as in your figure.  20 So the small gray circles and all of the steel  21 blue circles combined represent areas of exclusion that  22 are either required by the terms of the SCA, or in the  23 case of Nest A, an area where the certificate holder is  24 not proposing to place any primary infrastructure.  25 Therefore, these areas are not subject to any Council</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 37</p> <p>1 not.  2 MR. GREENE: Okay.  3 CHAIR BECKETT: But, Council Young,  4 maybe if you want to jump in.  5 MR. YOUNG: Sure.  6 I'm looking at the materials that were sent to us.  7 If a green circle and a gray circle overlap, which of  8 those two classifications takes precedence?  9 MR. GREENE: Yes. That's a good  10 question. The gray circles and the steel blue circles  11 take precedence. So those are areas of absolute  12 exclusion. There is no scenario where primary project  13 components could be sited in those locations. So those  14 take --  15 MR. YOUNG: Okay.  16 MR. GREENE: -- precedence over the  17 green.  18 MR. YOUNG: So only -- if a gray  19 circle is overlapped by a green circle, only those  20 portions of the green circle that are outside the gray  21 circle would be in effect?  22 MR. GREENE: Yes, that's correct.  23 Only the areas of the green circles outside of the gray  24 and steel blue would, per -- would have received a  25 recommendation from the PTAG that primary project</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 38</p> <p>1 components be allowed.</p> <p>2 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>3 MR. GREENE: Yes.</p> <p>4 And, Chair Beckett, you had some question about</p> <p>5 what was being displayed on the screen right now?</p> <p>6 CHAIR BECKETT: No. I think we can</p> <p>7 dispense --</p> <p>8 MR. GREENE: Okay.</p> <p>9 CHAIR BECKETT: -- with that. Thank</p> <p>10 you for checking.</p> <p>11 MR. GREENE: For sure.</p> <p>12 Okay. So to continue, the pink circles around</p> <p>13 Nests B, C, D, E, and F represent the two-mile buffers</p> <p>14 around those nests where the PTAG -- PTAG membership</p> <p>15 did not arrive at a consensus recommendation. In other</p> <p>16 words, some of the PTAG members recommended a Council</p> <p>17 determination that nesting sites are available and the</p> <p>18 foraging habitat is viable and therefore the two-mile</p> <p>19 buffer be applied, and some recognized a Council</p> <p>20 determina- -- or recommended a Council determination</p> <p>21 that the foraging habitat is not viable for species and</p> <p>22 therefore only the 0.6-mile buffer be retained. It may</p> <p>23 look like only four nests are represented by those pink</p> <p>24 circles, but Nests E and F are essentially located in</p> <p>25 the same location, so their circles heavily overlap.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 40</p> <p>1 present to the east, west, and north of the nest --</p> <p>2 without unnecessary detriment to the project.</p> <p>3 Subsequent to receiving the PTAG's recommendation,</p> <p>4 EFSEC staff received guidance from our legal counsel</p> <p>5 and senior staff that Species-5 as written only allows</p> <p>6 for either a full 0.6 two -- pardon me -- either a full</p> <p>7 0.6-mile buffer or a full two-mile buffer, depending on</p> <p>8 the previously listed criteria. Any form of</p> <p>9 intermediate buffer would require an SCA amendment,</p> <p>10 which is an option the certificate holder is not</p> <p>11 pursuing at this time due to time and cost concerns.</p> <p>12 Regardless, EFSEC staff also received an opinion</p> <p>13 from our legal counsel that, because Species-5 is</p> <p>14 written so as to only apply to primary project</p> <p>15 components that are proposed within two miles of a</p> <p>16 documented ferruginous hawk nest and the SCA does not</p> <p>17 authorize the siting of primary project components</p> <p>18 within two miles of Nest A, there is no decision to be</p> <p>19 made by EFSEC with regards to the application of</p> <p>20 Species-5 to this nest. As a result, EFSEC staff is</p> <p>21 recommending that no decision be made on whether Nest A</p> <p>22 should receive a full -- a full two-mile buffer or not.</p> <p>23 So I know this is a lot of information and the</p> <p>24 Council's figure is pretty busy visually, so I want to</p> <p>25 pause here to see if there are any questions that I can</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 39</p> <p>1 All five of these nesting sites were determined to</p> <p>2 still be available by all members of the PTAG, but</p> <p>3 there was disagreement on whether the foraging habitat</p> <p>4 within two miles was viable or whether the future</p> <p>5 anticipated land-use changes in the area and the</p> <p>6 infrequency of ferruginous hawk presence indicated that</p> <p>7 the foraging habitat is not viable.</p> <p>8 One of these nests, Nest B, represents a new nest</p> <p>9 that was identified by the certificate holder in their</p> <p>10 regular report nest surveys in the middle of a series</p> <p>11 of PTAG meetings. This newly constructed nest had not</p> <p>12 previously been recorded in any database and was</p> <p>13 occupied by a nesting pair of ferruginous hawks who</p> <p>14 were, in fact, successful in fledging young this past</p> <p>15 nesting season.</p> <p>16 Now, regarding Nest A, the PTAG believed that, as</p> <p>17 written, Species-5 would allow for a segmented buffer</p> <p>18 so long as it held to the 0.6- or two-mile options from</p> <p>19 the mitigation measure. As a result, the PTAG's</p> <p>20 recommendation was that the application of a two-mile</p> <p>21 buffer for the northeast, northwest, and southwest</p> <p>22 quadrants around this nest and a 0.6-mile buffer in the</p> <p>23 southeast quadrant around this -- around the nest was</p> <p>24 viable. This was seen as a way of protecting areas of</p> <p>25 viable habitat around this nest -- which is mostly</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 41</p> <p>1 answer before I go through the remaining figures.</p> <p>2 As a summary, the small gray circles and steel</p> <p>3 blue circles are areas where primary components will</p> <p>4 not be allowed under any circumstance. The green areas</p> <p>5 are where the components are subject to Species-5 but</p> <p>6 all PTAG members are of the opinion that at least one</p> <p>7 of the criteria is met to allow primary infrastructure.</p> <p>8 And the pink are areas where the components are subject</p> <p>9 to Species-5 but some -- and some but not all of the</p> <p>10 PTAG members were of the opinion that some or all --</p> <p>11 that -- of -- pardon me -- that -- where some or all --</p> <p>12 okay. Some of the PTAG members were of the opinion</p> <p>13 that the full two-mile setback must be required because</p> <p>14 the nest sites are available and foraging habitat is</p> <p>15 viable.</p> <p>16 Okay. Council Member Young.</p> <p>17 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, again, summarizing</p> <p>18 the information that -- that you've presented and what</p> <p>19 we've received previously, am I correct in concluding</p> <p>20 that Nest B is the only active ferruginous hawk nest</p> <p>21 within the project area?</p> <p>22 MR. GREENE: That is correct.</p> <p>23 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.</p> <p>24 CHAIR BECKETT: Are there other</p> <p>25 questions of the presentation? We can certainly take</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 42</p> <p>1 comment or discussion as well, but let me see if we can 2 delineate on questions first. 3 Council Pamplin. 4 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Chair. 5 Mr. Greene, appreciate the context that you're 6 providing here as we look at these figures. 7 Considering that it sounds like the group had 8 consensus around what to do with 39 of the sites but 9 there is still five or six that are more challenging -- 10 and I haven't played with this at all here, but is 11 there -- is there a way to push some of the primary 12 components outside of those sites? Or, I mean, it's a 13 77,000-acre spot here. So what does that do as far as 14 reconfiguration, or is the -- is the project proponent, 15 you know, really married to that particular 16 configuration? 17 MR. GREENE: Yeah, so -- thanks for 18 the question. The -- the site certificate holder is 19 fully aware that there will be a substantial project 20 redesign to accommodate exclusion measures either both 21 from Species-5 and the other ones that were mentioned 22 before. And they are in the process of working through 23 those engineering redesigns now. 24 They have some more specific concerns associated 25 with the application of Species-5, both specific to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 44</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Yes. I know that those 2 are in the -- the studies that the applicant provide -- 3 or pardon me -- the certificate holder provided when 4 the FEIS was being complete and the SCA was being 5 drafted. They might also be included in -- in some of 6 the PTAG documents that were submitted, but I'm not 7 sure on that front. 8 I can say, prior to Nest B being occupied this 9 past nesting season, it had been several years -- I 10 don't -- I don't want to say the exact number, because 11 I'm not sure. But it had been several years before any 12 active ferruginous hawk nest had been identified within 13 the entire project area. And I think, on average, 14 they're seeing a single nesting pair of ferruginous 15 hawks active in this area every three to five years at 16 this point. 17 MR. YOUNG: Okay. If I wanted to 18 look at that historical information, what document 19 should I go back and look at? 20 MR. GREENE: I can look it up after 21 this presentation -- 22 MR. YOUNG: Yeah. 23 MR. GREENE: -- and let you know via 24 e-mail -- 25 MR. YOUNG: Thanks.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 43</p> <p>1 location of some of the nests in contention and also 2 large concerns for the -- the total production capacity 3 of the project just because of how much of the project 4 would be affected by these -- these full two-mile 5 exclusion areas of these five nests. 6 And -- and I know I mentioned 39 and the 40 number 7 for the nests. The PTAG came to a consensus on 40 of 8 the nests of the 45 nests in consideration. I said 39 9 before because Nest A, the PTAG did come into a 10 consensus viewpoint, but it was a viewpoint that EFSEC 11 subsequently determined to not be a viable option for 12 the application of Species-5. 13 So it is the five nests that are located in the -- 14 the center of the project area that you're looking at 15 that are the ones where there's still an open question 16 about how the Council wants to apply Species-5 or how 17 the Council has determined that Species-5 should be 18 most accurately applied. 19 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you. 20 MR. GREENE: Yes, Council Member 21 Young. 22 CHAIR BECKETT: Mr. Young. 23 MR. YOUNG: Is there historical 24 information on what years Nests B, C, D, E, and F were 25 active?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 45</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: -- if that works for 2 you. 3 MR. YOUNG: That's perfect. Thank 4 you. 5 CHAIR BECKETT: Are there other 6 questions or comments at this point from Council? 7 I see none at the moment. 8 Let me double-check with you, Mr. Greene. Did you 9 have other -- any other details or further context you 10 wanted to share based on the questions beyond what you 11 already have? 12 MR. GREENE: No. I think that's it 13 for Figure 1. And if there are no more questions, I 14 can move -- move on to Figure 2 and discuss the 15 specifics of that one. 16 CHAIR BECKETT: Let's proceed, then. 17 Yes. Thank you. 18 MR. GREENE: Okay. So moving on to 19 Figure 2. Council should have access to that in the 20 same location that they received Figure 1. This is 21 similar to Figure 1 that we just looked at but 22 represents what the exclusion areas would look like if 23 EFSEC were to implement the most restrictive nest 24 buffer recommendations proposed by some members of the 25 PTAG.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 46</p> <p>1 As you can see, Nests A, B, C, D, E, and F would 2 receive a two-mile setback in this scenario. Though, 3 again, staff is not recommending that EFSEC make a 4 decision on Nest A. 5 Are there any questions specific to this figure? 6 Okay. I see none. 7 CHAIR BECKETT: I see none, 8 Mr. Greene. 9 MR. GREENE: This was largely a 10 recap of the first figure as well, so we can move on to 11 Figure 3 now, if the Council is ready. 12 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Pamplin does 13 have a comment -- 14 MR. GREENE: Oh. Please. 15 CHAIR BECKETT: -- or question. 16 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, so on 17 the -- Mr. Greene, on the image that you have displayed 18 for everyone -- 19 MR. GREENE: Yes. 20 MR. PAMPLIN: -- and in the -- in 21 the Spec-5 requirements here, there is the exemption 22 for the east BESS. Could you comment about that, 23 please, as it relates to the nest discussion here. 24 MR. GREENE: Yes. 25 So the east BESS is, explicitly in the language of</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 48</p> <p>1 So the PTAG's discussions did not, like, revisit 2 the BESS 5 exemption, then, when I'm looking at 3 Figure 2 that you e-mailed us. 4 MR. GREENE: Correct. The east BESS 5 would -- would be allowed to be sited in that location 6 regardless of the application of Species-5 to other 7 primary -- primary project components. 8 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks. Thanks for 9 taking another lap around the track for me on that one. 10 MR. GREENE: Yeah. 11 MR. PAMPLIN: Appreciate it. 12 MR. GREENE: No worries. 13 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Young, I 14 believe you have your hand up. 15 MR. YOUNG: Sure. 16 Do you have any more specific information of, 17 within that east solar area, exactly where the BESS is 18 going to be located? 19 You're saying it would be colocated with the 20 substation. Does that mean it's immediately adjacent 21 to the substation or just some -- someplace within that 22 east solar area? 23 MR. GREENE: Yeah, so it is 24 immediately adjacent to the substation. It -- it can't 25 be moved outside if it were to be suggested to be</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 47</p> <p>1 Species-5, exempted from all of Species-5. I mentioned 2 in a previous slide that the proposed location of the 3 east BESS is colocated with the east substation that 4 the applicant -- or the certificate holder intends to 5 develop there. 6 For the purpose of Species-5, the -- the Council 7 at the time of the SCA determined that it should only 8 be applied to primary project components, so wind 9 turbines, solar arrays, and BESSes. Since the east 10 substation would not -- or would not be subject to 11 Species-5 and the east BESS was colocated with that 12 substation, there would be no additional environmental 13 impacts associated with locating the BESS there. 14 There was some discussion about what would 15 occur if the east BESS was subject to Species-5. It 16 would have to be located elsewhere, then -- the east 17 substation -- which would increase environmental 18 impacts but have no associated mitigative effect, and 19 it was determined by staff that there would be no 20 benefit to that, so it was explicitly exempted so long 21 as it remains colocated with the east substation. And 22 for the purposes of applying Species-5 here, it remains 23 exempted. 24 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Greene. 25 Just as a quick follow-up, then.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 49</p> <p>1 located elsewhere within that solar siting area. That 2 would not meet its criteria for exemption from 3 Species-5, and it would -- it would fall under the 4 application of Species-5 again. 5 MR. YOUNG: Okay. So we're kind of 6 looking at sort of a big red dot on the map for the -- 7 MR. GREENE: Correct. 8 MR. YOUNG: -- the substation. 9 With respect to that, where would the -- where 10 would the BESS show up, and how big would it be 11 compared to that red dot? 12 MR. GREENE: I don't have the 13 acreage of that BESS available, but it would be 14 relatively small. And it would be right next to the 15 substation, so it would be essentially part of that 16 same red dot. 17 MR. YOUNG: Okay. Thank you. 18 MR. GREENE: Yes. 19 CHAIR BECKETT: I don't see other 20 hands, Mr. Greene. So I don't know if you have other 21 slides you wanted to move to. 22 MR. GREENE: Not more slides, but 23 more discussion on the figures that Council has 24 available. 25 So we can proceed to Council Figure 3 now.</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 50</p> <p>1 Figure 3 is the first of several certificate 2 holder recommendations that represent their attempt to 3 balance the findings of the PTAG with the financial and 4 engineering needs of the project. 5 For Nests A, C, D, E, and F, the certificate 6 holder has recommended that primary project components 7 be allowed within 0.6 to two miles of the -- of the 8 nests. They have also proposed additional restrictions 9 as part of the hawk mitigation and management plan for 10 some of these nests that I will cover in our discussion 11 of the next figure. 12 For Nest B, which as a reminder was the nest that 13 was active and successfully fledged young this past 14 nesting season, the certificate holder has recommended 15 a full two-mile buffer commensurate with the most -- 16 more conservative opinions from PTAG membership. 17 The certificate holder's rationale for these 18 recommendations was largely based on their 19 determination that the foraging habitat surrounding 20 these five nests is not viable for the species, noting 21 that prior to Nest B, there had only been one active 22 ferruginous hawk nest within the area in the previous 23 five-year span. The certificate holder argues that the 24 factors that have contributed to the decline of nesting 25 activity in this region, including land conversion to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 52</p> <p>1 CHAIR BECKETT: I do not see any 2 hands raised, Mr. Greene. 3 MR. GREENE: Okay. So moving on, 4 then. 5 As I mentioned in the discussion of the last 6 figure, the certificate holder has proposed some 7 additional restrictions on their recommendations that 8 would be codified in the hawk mitigation and management 9 plan. For -- sorry. We've moved on to the next figure 10 now, I should point out. 11 For Nest A, the certificate holder recommends a 12 determination that no 0.6- to two-mile buffer is 13 required but would nonetheless voluntarily exclude the 14 siting of any primary project components in the 15 northeast, northwest, or southwest quadrants of the 16 0.6- to two-mile buffer represented in this figure by 17 the bright blue circles. 18 This would result in an exclusion area that 19 matches the consensus recommendation of the PTAG in 20 Figure 1 but would not require an SCA amendment. 21 For Nest C, the certificate holder proposes a 22 determination that no 0.6- to two-mile buffer is 23 required but would similarly voluntarily exclude 24 primary project components in the northern half of the 25 0.6- to two-mile buffer as shown with the bright blue</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 51</p> <p>1 agricultural and urban and residential development 2 pressure, have not been addressed by conservation 3 actions in the area, and the area will only continue to 4 grow less suitable for this species. 5 The certificate holder has stated that applying 6 the larger buffers would reduce the project's 7 generating capacity by approximately 348 megawatts, or 8 about 33 percent of the nameplate generating capacity, 9 and restricting the project to the extent envisioned by 10 the PTAG members from WDFW, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the 11 Yakama Nation, the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon 12 Society, the Umatilla, and others, would represent a 13 severe curtailment of the project's renewable energy 14 production for the purpose of protecting historic, 15 largely unsuitable habitat for a species that only 16 nests in the region every few years. 17 Further information supporting the certificate 18 holder's recommendation can be found in their 19 certificate holder recommendation document, which is 20 uploaded to the Council SharePoint, and -- or rather 21 might be on the Council SharePoint. If not, it will be 22 uploaded by the end of today. 23 Are there any figures regarding -- or any 24 questions regarding this figure before I move on to the 25 next figure?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 53</p> <p>1 voluntary exclusion area. 2 Finally, for Nests E and F, the certificate holder 3 would propose a voluntary exclusion area for all areas 4 within the 0.6- to two-mile buffer other than those 5 that overlap with the two-mile buffer of Nest D. No 6 voluntary exclusion areas are proposed for Nest D, and 7 the certificate holder still recommends a determination 8 that no 0.6- to two-mile buffer be required for that 9 nest. 10 This figure represents the certificate holder's 11 preferred application of Species-5, as they believe 12 that it best represents the balance of the 13 environmental needs of the ferruginous hawk with the 14 financial and engineering needs of the project. 15 If this layout is not approved by the Council, 16 however, the certificate holder has prepared a less 17 preferred option with some additional restrictions that 18 I'll cover in our final recommendation figure, 19 Figure 5. 20 Before that, are there any questions specific to 21 this figure, Figure 4? 22 CHAIR BECKETT: I do not see any 23 hands raised, Mr. Greene. 24 MR. GREENE: Okay. 25 CHAIR BECKETT: Proceed.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 54</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Okay. So to reiterate, 2 certificate holder's preferred recommendation was that 3 represented in Figure 4. If that were not to be 4 approved by EFSEC, however, the certificate holder has 5 proposed an additional restriction specific to Nest D, 6 shown here in Figure 5. 7 The yellow and purple hashed area around Nest D is 8 the 0.6- to two-mile buffer area. The certificate 9 holders's alternate proposal would be a determination 10 that no 0.6- to two-mile buffer be required for this 11 nest but that a commitment from the certificate holder 12 that they -- that would be codified in their hawk 13 nest -- hawk mitigation and management plan to not site 14 any wind turbines within the 0.6- to two-mile buffer 15 would be sufficient. This proposal would still allow 16 for the siting of solar arrays within the 0.6- to 17 two-mile buffer. 18 And this is where we have to touch on some 19 intentionally obfuscated location information. 20 Nest D's 0.6- to two-mile buffer area would include 21 potential restrictions to the east solar array. The 22 certificate holder has stated that the development of 23 the east solar array is critical to the project for 24 both financial and site design reasons. As noted in 25 the figure, the BPA substation and east BESS are not</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 56</p> <p>1 made the decision to include both types of components 2 in the initial version of Species-5. 3 As Species-5 went through further development as 4 part of Council deliberations, the Council was 5 specifically prompted by staff as to whether the 6 updated version of Species-5 should apply to wind 7 turbines only or to all primary project components. 8 The Council at that time made the decision to apply it 9 to all primary project components in recognition that 10 they all could have substantial, if different, impacts 11 on the ferruginous hawk. 12 Additionally, formalizing any of the certificate 13 holder's recommendations that include a voluntary 14 exclusion area or the solar-only option for Nest D 15 would require a determination from EFSEC that either 16 the nesting sites are no longer available, which no one 17 is asserting to be the case, or that the foraging 18 habitat within two miles of that nest is not viable. 19 Without such a determination, a full unmodified 20 two-mile buffer is required per the language of 21 Species-5. 22 Are there any questions on this figure? 23 CHAIR BECKETT: Mr. Greene, I do not 24 see any hands raised. 25 MR. GREENE: Okay. So I can move on</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 55</p> <p>1 subject to Species-5. 2 For economy-of-scale reasons, a sizable portion of 3 the power generation from this project is designed to 4 enter the grid through the east BPA substation while 5 the remainder enters the grid through the BPA 6 substation located in the western extreme of the 7 project area. 8 The certificate holder has stated that the east 9 solar array is responsible for approximately 100 10 megawatts of this portion. And in order for the 11 project to replace the lost input from the east -- into 12 the east substation, extensive collector lines would 13 need to be run from turbines in the western part of the 14 project area to the east substation. 15 The certificate holder argues that the east solar 16 array, which will be sited exclusively on agricultural 17 lands, would be less impactful to ferruginous hawks 18 than the lengthy overhead collection lines that would 19 need to be constructed to replace the lost production. 20 Further discussion of this proposal can be found in the 21 certificate holder's recommendation document. 22 So a few notes on this proposal. The final 23 environmental impact statement did identify that there 24 are different types and magnitudes of environmental 25 impacts between wind and solar energy development but</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 57</p> <p>1 to the final figure that we'll be discussing, and that 2 is Figure 6. 3 Figure 6 is a land cover map showing several types 4 of native land cover. This is a pretty large map, so 5 the PDF may take a moment to load, and I would 6 recommend that you zoom in to look at areas of interest 7 in more detail. 8 The native land covers identified in this map are 9 not intended to represent the only areas of ferruginous 10 hawk habitat, as that species will use agricultural 11 lands as marginal habitat. The native land covers are, 12 however, areas of inherently higher-quality habitat for 13 ferruginous hawks than other land covers in the area. 14 Ferruginous hawks primarily predate on small 15 mammals and reptiles like ground squirrels, pocket 16 gophers, and snakes, which are generally found in 17 higher densities in the types of native land covers 18 displayed on this map. 19 This map does not include any recommendations but 20 is meant as a tool for the Council to get a general 21 idea of where higher-quality ferruginous hawk habitat 22 is present and where that habitat is constrained. And 23 this data feeds into the determination of habitat 24 viability that is one of the two determining factors 25 for whether nests should or should not receive a 0.6-</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 58</p> <p>1 to two-mile buffer.</p> <p>2 Are there any questions on this figure?</p> <p>3 CHAIR BECKETT: I do not see any</p> <p>4 hands, Mr. Greene.</p> <p>5 MR. GREENE: All right. With that,</p> <p>6 staff believes it would be beneficial for the Council</p> <p>7 to deliberate on the various recommendations before</p> <p>8 them. Staff is available to answer any questions that</p> <p>9 you may have, and it is our intent to develop a formal</p> <p>10 decision document based on today's discussion that will</p> <p>11 provide the certificate holder with EFSEC's</p> <p>12 determination on the application of Species-5 to</p> <p>13 primary project components.</p> <p>14 Staff is expecting to develop this document</p> <p>15 subsequent to this meeting and will publish it for</p> <p>16 public comment with the expectation that the Council</p> <p>17 may vote on whether to formalize the decision document</p> <p>18 at the Council's regularly scheduled September 17th,</p> <p>19 2025, meeting.</p> <p>20 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,</p> <p>21 Mr. Greene.</p> <p>22 Council Young.</p> <p>23 MR. YOUNG: I'd like to thank you</p> <p>24 for your presentation. The graphics are excellent, and</p> <p>25 your explanation has been very clear. Thank you.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 60</p> <p>1 For -- for the six nests in particular where there is</p> <p>2 some level of disagreement by the PTAG, staff is hoping</p> <p>3 that the Council will give staff an indication of what</p> <p>4 the Council believes is the appropriate application of</p> <p>5 Species-5 to those nests.</p> <p>6 Again, the -- for Nest A, staff is recommending</p> <p>7 that the Council does not take any action. But for</p> <p>8 Nests B, C, D, E, and F -- I think that's all of</p> <p>9 them -- staff would appreciate it if the Council had</p> <p>10 some discussion on those topics that staff could</p> <p>11 formalize into that document.</p> <p>12 CHAIR BECKETT: So, I guess, as a</p> <p>13 facilitation comment and question, because I think</p> <p>14 Mr. Greene acknowledged earlier there's -- there's a</p> <p>15 lot of graphics, a lot of information that -- which is</p> <p>16 on screen and that which is appropriately before you</p> <p>17 confidentially.</p> <p>18 Are you -- I guess if you have further questions</p> <p>19 as you digest all of that, I think certainly the staff</p> <p>20 are available to receive your questions and, you know,</p> <p>21 work with you individually to -- to help answer those.</p> <p>22 Obviously if there's general questions or, I think,</p> <p>23 feedback you have in the moment here that is feasible,</p> <p>24 then staff would welcome that.</p> <p>25 If ultimately -- as chair, I would say, if you</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 59</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Thank you.</p> <p>2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council</p> <p>3 Young.</p> <p>4 Council members, are there comments, questions, or</p> <p>5 any discussion that you wish to have amongst</p> <p>6 yourselves? In our public forum, just to be clear,</p> <p>7 but...</p> <p>8 Okay. Mr. Greene, I see no other hands. And we</p> <p>9 thank you for the very fine update, as Council Young</p> <p>10 articulated.</p> <p>11 Last call for any further hands or items.</p> <p>12 Council Pamplin.</p> <p>13 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks. Thanks,</p> <p>14 Mr. Chair.</p> <p>15 So, Mr. Greene, I mean, there's -- there's quite a</p> <p>16 few places it sounds like your -- your memo back to</p> <p>17 EFSEC could go. And my understanding is you're looking</p> <p>18 for us right now for -- for -- to kind of talk through</p> <p>19 some of the preliminary figures that you've described</p> <p>20 to kind of telegraph perhaps where you should go as far</p> <p>21 as writing up a memo. Is that correct? 'Cause I</p> <p>22 just -- I feel like there's still some work to be done</p> <p>23 here by the Council, but I want to make sure I</p> <p>24 understand your request.</p> <p>25 MR. GREENE: Yes, that's correct.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 61</p> <p>1 feel you need to digest this more and, you know, have a</p> <p>2 further discussion, I think that's part of the ultimate</p> <p>3 plan here as well currently and for September. But,</p> <p>4 you know, ultimately we would want to hear your</p> <p>5 feedback and reflect how you want to proceed in terms</p> <p>6 of pace. So hope that makes sense.</p> <p>7 I know, Council Pamplin, since you were up last,</p> <p>8 still on screen, if you have any -- you and Council</p> <p>9 Young have been understandably active on this topic</p> <p>10 today, so I might look to you two if there were other</p> <p>11 discussion points you thought or at least a flag that</p> <p>12 were on your minds, again, just so that it can be</p> <p>13 transparent and that staff would have better guidance,</p> <p>14 I think, as to --</p> <p>15 MR. PAMPLIN: Well, thanks --</p> <p>16 CHAIR BECKETT: -- what things to</p> <p>17 do.</p> <p>18 MR. PAMPLIN: -- Mr. Chair. I</p> <p>19 appreciate -- and I don't mean to dominate and use all</p> <p>20 my questions here, but I do appreciate the opportunity</p> <p>21 to visit here publicly with everybody and with</p> <p>22 Mr. Greene.</p> <p>23 Mr. Greene, on Figure 5 -- and part of my -- my</p> <p>24 challenge here is I am -- I am color-blind, and so</p> <p>25 I'm --</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 62</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Ah.</p> <p>2 MR. PAMPLIN: -- trying to interpret</p> <p>3 the circles, and so your verbal description was very</p> <p>4 helpful for me. And then using the decoder ring here.</p> <p>5 So the northern part of Nest C is -- under Figure 5</p> <p>6 would not have the siting of primary components; is</p> <p>7 that correct? And the components in Nest D would be</p> <p>8 solar. Am I interpreting that correctly?</p> <p>9 MR. GREENE: Sorry. I'm trying to</p> <p>10 do this mostly through my head because I don't want to</p> <p>11 inadvertently show one of the PDFs while I'm sharing my</p> <p>12 screen.</p> <p>13 Yes, so the -- the certificate holder's</p> <p>14 recommendation in Figure 5 is that Nest C receive -- or</p> <p>15 be determined to not contain -- or not possess viable</p> <p>16 habitat for the species within the two-mile range of</p> <p>17 that nest and therefore only receive a 0.6-mile buffer.</p> <p>18 And then applicant, in their management and mitigation</p> <p>19 plan, would voluntarily exclude siting any components</p> <p>20 in the northern half of that 0.6- to two-mile buffer</p> <p>21 area.</p> <p>22 The -- app- -- or the certificate holder's</p> <p>23 recommendation would allow for them to site components</p> <p>24 in the southern half of that 0.6- to two-mile buffer</p> <p>25 area.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 64</p> <p>1 allowed to site solar within that 0.6- to two-mile</p> <p>2 buffer of Nest "delta."</p> <p>3 MR. PAMPLIN: And in your</p> <p>4 description of Figure 5, you were talking about the</p> <p>5 challenge of, you know, transferring -- and I'm using</p> <p>6 the wrong verbs here. I apologize, Mr. Greene. But</p> <p>7 the ability to route the energy into the substation.</p> <p>8 And so without having wind turbines there, it'd be some</p> <p>9 more work to get it over to the western BPA substation,</p> <p>10 and thus that's why the -- you know, increase the</p> <p>11 density of solar in that eastern portion of the range;</p> <p>12 is that correct?</p> <p>13 MR. GREENE: Yes, I believe so. So</p> <p>14 the -- as it's design -- as the project is</p> <p>15 engineering -- design and engineering, it is up -- it</p> <p>16 is connecting to the grid via two substations: One on</p> <p>17 the western extreme of the project area and then one in</p> <p>18 the east substation which is colocated with the east</p> <p>19 BESS.</p> <p>20 The project generally needs to split its</p> <p>21 production -- energy production between those two</p> <p>22 substations. For the east substation, I think -- I</p> <p>23 don't remember the number. I said it earlier. Might</p> <p>24 have been a hundred megawatts. I think it's a hundred</p> <p>25 megawatts. But a substantial portion of the energy</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 63</p> <p>1 And in Nest -- or sorry. In Figure 5, the</p> <p>2 certificate holder's recommendation would be for -- for</p> <p>3 nest -- oh, goodness. I need to pull up my decoder</p> <p>4 ring now. Let me stop sharing my screen for a moment</p> <p>5 just in case.</p> <p>6 MR. PAMPLIN: Because it looks to me</p> <p>7 like it would be voluntarily proposing solar in the --</p> <p>8 the surrounding area of Nest B.</p> <p>9 MR. GREENE: Nest B or D?</p> <p>10 MR. PAMPLIN: Protecting Nest "beta"</p> <p>11 and then --</p> <p>12 MR. GREENE: Okay.</p> <p>13 MR. PAMPLIN: -- solar in Nest</p> <p>14 "delta."</p> <p>15 MR. GREENE: Yes. So Nest</p> <p>16 "delta" -- and the recommendation outlined in Figure 5</p> <p>17 from the certificate holder would prohibit the</p> <p>18 siting -- formally would recon- -- would make a</p> <p>19 determination that there's not sufficient viable</p> <p>20 habitat for the species within two miles of that nest,</p> <p>21 and therefore it would only receive a 0.6-mile buffer.</p> <p>22 The applicant, in their management and mitigation</p> <p>23 plan, would voluntarily commit to not siting any wind</p> <p>24 turbines within the 0.6- to two-mile buffer of Nest</p> <p>25 "delta." They, in this recommendation, would be</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 65</p> <p>1 production that was intended to enter the grid via the</p> <p>2 east substation is to be produced by the east solar</p> <p>3 array.</p> <p>4 So in order to offset the potential loss of that</p> <p>5 energy production, the certificate holder would have to</p> <p>6 run collection lines from turbines in the western part</p> <p>7 of the project area. Overhead connector lines. They</p> <p>8 would have to run those east across the site to connect</p> <p>9 to the east substation to continue to split the energy</p> <p>10 production between those two substations.</p> <p>11 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you.</p> <p>12 CHAIR BECKETT: So I know you're</p> <p>13 digesting all this, so I don't want to rush anybody by</p> <p>14 any means in terms of other questions or just comments,</p> <p>15 discussion you wish to share.</p> <p>16 Okay. Mr. Greene, we may be coming close here to</p> <p>17 ending this portion of the meeting.</p> <p>18 Anything else that you wanted to share upon</p> <p>19 further reflection of comments or discussion,</p> <p>20 Mr. Greene?</p> <p>21 MR. GREENE: Just so it -- for --</p> <p>22 for staff's clarification: It's -- it sounded like the</p> <p>23 Council wants to take more time to consider these</p> <p>24 recommendations before providing staff guidance on a</p> <p>25 decision document?</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 66</p> <p>1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. 2 CHAIR BECKETT: Mr. Young. 3 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, that -- that's 4 correct. I understood that you were not seeking a 5 decision or a recommendation from the Council 6 immediately this afternoon. 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's 8 correct. 9 MR. YOUNG: I'd like to go back and 10 more thoroughly review parts of the PTAG materials and 11 then that -- the information on historical activity and 12 occupancy patterns that you said you could send me an 13 e-mail on. 14 Or have I -- have I misunderstood? Are you asking 15 for a Council recommendation this afternoon? 16 MS. BUMPUS: Chair Beckett, this is 17 Sonia Bumpus, if I may respond. 18 CHAIR BECKETT: Please. 19 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you for the 20 question, Council Member Young. 21 So that's correct. We are not -- we're not 22 expecting a decision today. We were just looking to 23 brief the Council on what the recommendations are that 24 came from the PTAG and also came from the certificate 25 holder and to share with you-all how some of those,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 68</p> <p>1 meantime to help -- help the Council digest this and 2 whether it's, you know, preparing this or preparing 3 other materials to help understand the options that are 4 presented here. 5 MR. YOUNG: I think you've done an 6 admirable job this afternoon of presenting the options. 7 The -- the graphics are great. The explanation has 8 been really good. I'm just not sure how much further 9 we need you to try to go on our behalf this afternoon. 10 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, yeah, 11 thanks -- 12 CHAIR BECKETT: Please -- 13 MR. PAMPLIN: -- Director Bumpus. 14 CHAIR BECKETT: -- Council Pamplin. 15 MR. PAMPLIN: And also agreed with 16 Council Member Young about how helpful this 17 presentation has been. 18 I do think, you know -- I would recommend as far 19 as thinking about what can be provided to the Council 20 to then tee up a decision. And I'm wondering, Director 21 Bumpus, if there's not a memo that just outlines some 22 key bullets associated with each figure. And in 23 particular, when it gets down to, like, Figure 5 or so, 24 there was some nuances that were -- that were provided 25 about here are things that are -- that are being done,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 67</p> <p>1 most of them -- most of them, there was a consensus 2 reached, but there are a few, as Mr. Greene discussed, 3 where there are differences in the PTAG recommendations 4 and the recommendations from the certificate holder. 5 So what we're looking for today is -- is some 6 direction. 7 One thing that we could do is, recognizing that 8 the Council are trying to digest this information, a 9 lot of it's technical -- we -- you know, staff are here 10 and available to help draft materials that might help 11 the Council digest this, might help to sort of 12 conceptualize the -- the versions -- right? -- the two, 13 you know, sort of recommended paths. And so I'm a 14 little hesitant to offer that we -- that we draft, you 15 know, sort of two versions of -- of a decision. 16 MR. YOUNG: I think that would -- I 17 think that would be premature. And I'm not -- I mean, 18 we've got six -- or five options that have been 19 presented and a lot of material to go with that. I'm 20 not ready to try to boil that down into two draft -- 21 two draft recommendations this afternoon. 22 MS. BUMPUS: Okay. And that's fine. 23 But I'm throwing that out there because we -- you know, 24 the staff understand that this is a lot to digest, and 25 we're happy to, you know, do what we can in the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 69</p> <p>1 and it's consistent with the -- with Spec-5, but then 2 here's an additional provision that the -- the site 3 certificate holder would do voluntarily and kind of 4 what are those parameters that stays within the 5 flexibility of us approving this as it's kind of a 6 stand-alone decision that does not require going back 7 and revising the -- the overall site certificate. 8 So I just felt like there was probably some 9 explanation there that I know I would benefit by 10 probably seeing that written down and having it 11 crosswalked with Spec-5, please. 12 MS. BUMPUS: Okay. Yes, I think -- 13 and I'll probably ask Mr. Greene for his input on this 14 as well. But I do think that we could put some 15 material together to -- to basically frame up the -- 16 what the recommendation is, what it would be, what it 17 would mean. And it sounds like what we would be 18 looking for is to stay within parameters that would not 19 trigger an amendment, kind of starting there with. And 20 I know that, yes, I see -- 21 MR. PAMPLIN: Yes, please. 22 MS. BUMPUS: Oh, I see Council 23 Member Young's hand is up. 24 MR. YOUNG: I would -- I would 25 vigorously oppose that we land on that -- any</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 70</p> <p>1 particular course of action and ask staff to draft that 2 up. 3 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, Council Member 4 Young, yeah, if it sounded like that's what I was 5 offering, absolutely not. What I'm trying to ask is 6 that we have bullets for each of the options that were 7 presented and some additional context relative to what 8 can or can't be done that could stay within not having 9 to revise the overall site certificate. Just so 10 that -- so that when it does come to narrowing or 11 making a decision, we have that as a background 12 document. 13 MR. YOUNG: So are -- thanks, Nate. 14 And I didn't hear that so much from you. I thought I 15 heard a little bit of that more in what Director Bumpus 16 said about drafting an actual recommendation. But I'm 17 not sure we're ready to even say that, whatever we end 18 up doing, that it is -- that we've already decided that 19 whatever we recommend must not result in a change to 20 the site certification agreement. That -- it seems 21 like you are maybe advancing that idea as one baseline 22 component of anything we do, is that it has to result 23 in no modification of the SCA. 24 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, thanks. Thanks, 25 Council Member Young. I -- I guess I'm trying to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 72</p> <p>1 your -- your remarks and discussion here, I do think 2 that staff can put something together that does that, 3 that discusses the -- the different options, and also 4 identifies are these things that fall within the 5 parameters of the site certification agreement, or are 6 they options or components of an option that do not, 7 right? 8 And so just putting all those out in a succinct 9 way. As succinct as we can -- right? -- given that it 10 is highly technical. But I think we can try to distill 11 that down and indicate where those areas are. 12 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, that's great. 13 That would be helpful. 14 MS. BUMPUS: Mr. Greene -- I will 15 check with my staff here. Mr. Greene, do we think that 16 we can do that? I just want to double-check with you 17 that -- are there any other considerations to this 18 idea? 19 MR. GREENE: No, I think what 20 Council Member Pamplin discussed about kind of a 21 crosswalk document where we can go through each of the 22 nests and describe the various options and how they fit 23 or do not fit within the -- the framework of Species-5 24 as -- as written into the site certification agreement 25 could work. And I think staff can have that prepared</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 71</p> <p>1 exhaust or explore options within the existing SCA 2 first, recognizing that an amendment might be needed, 3 but wanting to understand some of the things that 4 Mr. Greene was presenting to us that still fell within 5 the four corners of the site certificate agreement. 6 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, I think getting 7 that -- maybe that kind of stuff, like, broken down, 8 like you're saying, coming up with some bullet points, 9 I think that would -- that would be helpful. 10 And maybe one thing that I'm pulling away from 11 today is that there are certain things out of what's 12 been moving forward with all five of these 13 possibilities, there -- there may be something that -- 14 something in there that has to be -- cause an SCA 15 modification, but then there are other things that 16 could be done voluntarily in terms of the site-specific 17 management plans that are not related to the SCA. 18 So we -- we may be looking at a hybrid here 19 anyway. And to break that all down and organize it, I 20 agree with you. I think that would be helpful. 21 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks. 22 CHAIR BECKETT: Director Bumpus. 23 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair 24 Beckett. 25 Yes, so I think that having heard and listened to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 73</p> <p>1 for the next Council meeting, and the Council can go 2 through it then and potentially come to a determination 3 on the -- the final application of Species-5 to each of 4 these nests. 5 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you. Thanks for 6 that. I appreciate it. 7 CHAIR BECKETT: Anything further, 8 Director Bumpus, before we double-check with Council? 9 MS. BUMPUS: No. 10 MR. GREENE: And sorry. Just while 11 I'm here, Council Member Young. 12 CHAIR BECKETT: Sure. Please. 13 MR. GREENE: I did confirm that 14 the -- the history of nest activity for ferruginous 15 hawks is present in the facilitator report within the 16 PTAG documents, but I will -- I will send that to you 17 directly via e-mail after this -- this meeting as well. 18 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. 19 MR. YOUNG: Thank you. 20 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, especially 21 any others who haven't weighed in, any further comment, 22 including based on the discussion between Council Young 23 and Pamplin and staff? 24 And seeing and hearing none. I believe we will 25 wrap the Horse Heaven project up.</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 MR. GREENE: Sorry. One quick 2 question. 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Sure. 4 MR. GREENE: Council Member Pamplin, 5 would it assist you if we try to prepare versions of 6 the figures that don't use colors as much? 7 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Greene. 8 This is a lifelong challenge of interpreting species 9 distribution maps, so thank you. I will pull in one of 10 my admin assistants as I did earlier this morning and 11 ask them to help me interpret those maps. Thank you 12 for the outreach on that, but it's just a challenge 13 that I have especially during a live presentation. 14 Thank you. 15 MR. GREENE: Okay. Thank you. 16 CHAIR BECKETT: I would thank you, 17 Council Pamplin. I think it's also an important 18 reminder of, you know -- many of us take things for 19 granted that others just don't have, and so how we 20 best, you know, reflect on that, including in our 21 processes, I think is always healthy. So thanks for 22 being open about that and unto itself. 23 Okay. Last call for any comments or questions on 24 Horse Heaven. 25 All right. Seeing none.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 update. 2 On August 11, 2025, EFSEC staff met with staff 3 from Yakama Nation to discuss the findings of 4 traditional cultural properties study, or TCPs, 5 conducted by the Yakama Nation. Results of the study 6 and meetings with the Yakama Nation are helping to 7 recognize any SEPA mitigation measures that may be 8 appropriate for the impacts identified. 9 We continue to coordinate and review the 10 application with our contracted agencies and tribal 11 governments. 12 Are there any questions? 13 CHAIR BECKETT: Council? I do not 14 see any. Okay. 15 MR. TAYLOR: Okay. 16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, 17 Mr. Taylor. 18 And we will move on to our Goldeneye BESS project. 19 Joanne Snarski, please. 20 MS. SNARSKI: Hello again. This is 21 Joanne Snarski, the siting specialist for the proposed 22 Goldeneye battery energy storage facility in Skagit 23 County. 24 Staff are continuing to work with our partnering 25 agencies to review and seek information on the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 We will move on to Hop Hill solar, and I believe 2 Trevin Taylor will provide the update. 3 MR. TAYLOR: This is Trevin Taylor 4 for John Barnes on -- for Hop Hill application update. 5 Thank you, Chair Beckett and Council members. 6 This application is pending supplemental materials 7 concerning project enlargement. The applicant has 8 informed EFSEC during a biweekly meeting that they 9 anticipate delivering this material in late fall of 10 '25. Once the material has been received, staff will 11 review and determine if the submitted materials contain 12 adequate information to issue SEPA threshold 13 determination for the project. 14 We continue to coordinate and review the 15 application with our contractor, contract agencies, and 16 tribal governments. 17 Are there any questions? 18 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, any 19 questions on Hop Holar -- Hop Hill solar? Excuse me. 20 I see none, so I believe then we will move on to 21 Wallula Gap. And, again, Mr. Taylor, I believe you're 22 up. 23 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you again, Chair 24 Beckett and Council members. This is Trevin Taylor on 25 behalf of John Barnes for the Wallula Gap application</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 application for site certification. Staff are 2 continuing to work with the Washington Department of 3 Fish and Wildlife on clarifying issues related to the 4 drainage ditch within the project boundary to the 5 adjacent Hansen Creek. As a reminder, Hansen creek is 6 a tributary to Skagit River. 7 I have no further updates. But I'm available for 8 questions. 9 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, 10 Ms. Snarski. 11 Any comments or questions from Council? 12 And seeing none. We will then move on to our 13 transmission programmatic environmental impact 14 statement update. And I believe, Mr. Greene, you are 15 back with us here on this one. 16 MR. GREENE: Yes. Thank you. This 17 will be much more brief. 18 So thank you, Chair Beckett and Council members. 19 This is again Sean Greene, SEPA specialist for EFSEC. 20 EFSEC staff continues to work with our consultant 21 WSP to make edits, revisions, and refinements to the 22 draft programmatic EIS. This work includes a digital 23 version of the programmatic EIS that will be hosted 24 online titled as the e-programmatic and other 25 associated tools intended to make the programmatic EIS</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 78</p> <p>1 more accessible to users. We currently anticipate 2 publishing the final programmatic EIS on October 1st of 3 2025. 4 Are there any questions? 5 CHAIR BECKETT: I guess, if I may, I 6 would -- oh. Please. Council Levitt. 7 MR. LEVITT: Yeah, I guess I just 8 want to offer that I know there has been some interest 9 from tribes for a specific transmission project along 10 the Columbia River. And so I know this one is more 11 broad and general in its approach, but I guess I would 12 offer that I think it would be worthwhile to try to 13 involve tribal staff or representatives in getting 14 feedback. Because although it's general, it will 15 eventually be applied to specific projects. 16 MR. GREENE: Yes. And so a couple 17 points there. We have received requests for formal 18 consultation from the confederated tribes of the 19 Umatilla and Yakama Nation, and we are currently 20 working with them to try to schedule those formal 21 consultations regarding the transmission programmatic 22 EIS. 23 And specifically the project that you're 24 discussing along the Columbia River, while it is a 25 high-voltage transmission project, it's not within the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 80</p> <p>1 next? 2 On to Badger. 3 MS. SNARSKI: I think that's me, 4 then. Okay. 5 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah, let me just -- 6 MS. SNARSKI: Thank you. 7 CHAIR BECKETT: Sorry. Let me do a 8 proper introduction. I -- 9 MS. SNARSKI: Okay. 10 CHAIR BECKETT: -- made the mistake 11 of not printing out a hard copy agenda in my first 12 online meeting this morning, so apologies to the public 13 and Council about that. 14 So, yes, let's move to the Badger Mountain Solar 15 project, and Joanne Snarski will provide the update. 16 MS. SNARSKI: Very good. Thank you, 17 Chair Beckett. For the record, this is Joanne Snarski, 18 the siting specialist for the proposed Badger Mountain 19 Solar facility in Douglas County. 20 At the previous Council meeting in June, I 21 explained that the applicant had requested all project 22 activities continue to be placed on hold and that an 23 extension for the application review be granted. 24 On July 29th, Avangrid provided us with a formal 25 request for a one-year extension, siting the factors of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 79</p> <p>1 technical scope of this programmatic, because this 2 programmatic is -- doesn't -- it's the -- the types of 3 impacts that are associated with that project are very 4 site-specific and very technology-specific. It's a 5 type of construction that has never been used for 6 transmission projects in this state before, at least at 7 that scale. 8 So the programmatic EIS does discuss that those 9 types of projects would need an independent 10 project-level SEPA review as they exceed the -- the 11 technical specifications of this programmatic. 12 MR. LEVITT: Thank you, Mr. Greene. 13 CHAIR BECKETT: There any questions 14 from Council? 15 While I'm waiting, I'll just also note for both 16 Council, especially certainly members of the public as 17 well, the conversation with staff, I believe there's 18 understandable intent to have a solid briefing on the 19 programmatic in the October Council meeting, which I 20 believe is October 17th, the third Wednesday. So just 21 a heads-up in that regard. And appreciate the efforts 22 there. 23 Seeing no other hands raised. Then we will move 24 on to Desert Claim, I believe. And -- oh. Yes. 25 Sorry. I have an old agenda here. What do we have</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 81</p> <p>1 site control, federal regulatory uncertainty, tax 2 changes, and other policy-related concerns. They also 3 noted that due to the proposed site's location and the 4 extensive efforts that have been taken on the project 5 to date, they continue to consider it an asset to their 6 portfolio. 7 We opened the extension request for public comment 8 between August 4th and 17th, and we received 18 9 comments. Comments included those from the Yakama 10 Nation as well as the Colville Confederated Tribes, 11 other conservation groups, and local residents. 12 All were opposed to the project and requested 13 denial of the extension. The primary reasons cited 14 were unresolved issues with traditional cultural 15 properties, lack of site control, impacts to sensitive 16 habitats and species, they do not support the 17 development of solar facilities in general, extension 18 requests are not substantive, and the site is 19 inconsistent with the WSU no-conflict siting. 20 As was stated at the April 16th, 2025, Council 21 meeting, EFSEC does not require site control be 22 demonstrated for the -- for review of the project. 23 However, this is one item the letter from the developer 24 indicated they are working to resolve during this 25 pause. This is relevant to EFSEC's review because when</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 82</p> <p>1 the project requested the pause in 2024, staff were in 2 the midst of developing a draft environmental impact 3 statement. 4 While site control is not required for review of 5 an application, the developer will need site access to 6 gather the remaining information needed for the SEPA 7 review. It is through the SEPA process and the 8 adjudicative process that EFSEC expects to continue to 9 receive meaningful public input should the project 10 resume. 11 With regards to the substantive -- substance of 12 the extension request and how it fits into the overall 13 EFSEC process, Revised Code of Washington 80.50.100 14 states that the recommendations shall be made to the 15 governor within 12 months of receipt of a complete 16 application deemed complete by the director or such 17 later time as is mutually agreed by the Council and the 18 applicant. 19 There are no terms in Revised Code of Washington 20 or EFSEC rules as to what conditions apply to a 21 mutually agreed upon extension. This leaves the 22 details of the timeline and circumstances surrounding 23 the extension agreements at the discretion of the 24 Council and the applicant. 25 I understand that EFSEC's legal counsel, Jon</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 84</p> <p>1 There's no -- yeah, there's no rule or precedent 2 really as to, like, if it -- if the applicant isn't -- 3 isn't moving forward toward -- or providing the 4 information necessary to proceed to a recommendation, 5 you know, is there some point at which the Council 6 would not agree to an extension and thereby, you know, 7 effectively dismiss the -- the application. 8 There's -- there's plenty of precedent in my 9 reading of, you know, past Council review processes 10 over the decades of it taking -- of these processes 11 generally stretching out over several years sometimes 12 just because of the fits and starts of development 13 processes or applicant, you know, needs. 14 So I don't know there has been an instance of the 15 Council declining to grant an extension. I think it 16 basically comes down to as a practical matter that if 17 the Council weren't to agree to an extension, that 18 wouldn't preclude the applicant from coming back when 19 it's ready and filing a application for the same 20 project again, but -- but in that case you'd be in the 21 position of arguably having to -- to reconduct the 22 public informational meeting that's required within 60 23 days of the filing of an application and the -- and the 24 land-use consistency determination that the Council 25 does on a similar time frame.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 83</p> <p>1 Thompson, is available online and may be able to expand 2 a little bit more on these subjects, or either of us 3 can answer additional questions you may have. 4 That's all I have. 5 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 6 Yes, if we could hear from Counsel Thompson, 7 please. 8 MR. THOMPSON: Let me see here. 9 There we go. 10 Yeah, so I would just -- on this point, I guess 11 there's been questions about, you know, what's sort of 12 the applicable law to this kind of a request, if any, 13 and maybe what might the considerations be from a legal 14 standpoint. So if you'd like, I can speak to that. 15 As Ms. Snarski mentioned, there's the -- there's 16 the one reference in the statute to, you know, getting 17 a recommendation to the governor within a year or such 18 other time as is mutually agreed to by the Council and 19 the applicant. I've always looked at that as a -- it's 20 basically a directive to EFSEC to develop a 21 recommendation within that -- within that kind of rapid 22 time frame as long as that's what the applicant is 23 asking for or -- or as long as the applicant is 24 forthcoming with whatever information is necessary to 25 get to such a recommendation.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 85</p> <p>1 And as far as I know, there hasn't been any change 2 in the -- the zoning that applies to this site, so 3 there -- there wouldn't be a different conclusion that 4 the site is -- the conclusion of this site was that the 5 zoning was -- basically prohibited the project at the 6 site, so it's inconsistent with the local zoning, and 7 therefore there's going to need to be an adjudication 8 on whether to -- whether the Council should recommend 9 preemption of the local zoning to authorize the 10 project. 11 Most of the really substantive public input and 12 comment opportunity still lies ahead in terms of the 13 adjudication and comment on a draft environmental 14 impact statement, which hasn't been published yet. So, 15 yeah, I'm not -- I mean, it's -- I'm not sure that 16 there's -- yeah, I think that maybe it boils down to a 17 question of does it make sense to have the applicant 18 have to go back and reapply and go through those just 19 initial stages of the application process again. I'm 20 not sure there'd be much utility in that. 21 The SEPA work that's already been done, of course, 22 could be re- -- kind of reused for new SEPA work. But, 23 I mean, I think that's -- I don't think there's 24 necessarily a prejudice to any party from a procedural 25 standpoint of granting an extension. Because, like I</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 86</p> <p>1 said, there is that -- a lot of additional process and 2 input that would -- would need to be taken going 3 forward. And all of the input in terms of SEPA and 4 adjudicative hearings and so forth would have to be 5 up-to-date as of the current -- current time. 6 So, anyway, that's some -- that's some -- some 7 thoughts on this topic. Hopefully that's helpful. I'm 8 happy to answer questions too. 9 CHAIR BECKETT: Yes, that is helpful 10 and was intended to help, you know, clarify as well as 11 acknowledge the public comments. Certainly I've read 12 those amongst other Council members and staff. Which 13 appreciate the staff review here before today's meeting 14 as well. So thanks for trying to draw out some of 15 ultimately what Council should be considering here as 16 well as trying to answer some of the public concern and 17 ultimately criticism of this potential action. 18 So I do see a hand raised. I'm not tracking who 19 that is on my screen. If staff could clarify for me. 20 And in the meantime, were there other Council 21 members who wish provide any further comment back to 22 staff and Council's... 23 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I believe the hand 24 raised is Council Member Guilio, the project -- 25 County-appointed Council member for this project.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 88</p> <p>1 please. 2 MS. BUMPUS: Okay. Well, so that 3 can happen. There can -- you know, if it were to go on 4 for many, many years you have fieldwork that you've 5 done, you've done surveys of the site, and now it's 6 been several years since and so now the question 7 becomes is that the actual situation on the site at the 8 time of permitting. So I think that that's a very good 9 consideration. 10 In this case, we were in the midst of preparing an 11 environmental impact statement. And there were, as I 12 understand it, multiple studies that needed to be done, 13 needed to be prepared, that have not been. And that's 14 where we have the connection to the issue of site 15 control where they need to be able to access the site 16 in order to do those studies and gather that 17 information that will then inform the EIS. 18 So I think -- I think that in this case we are at 19 a stage where we may not be running up against that 20 risk very much, because that -- that work has not all 21 been completed. I think if we were further along in 22 the process and we had already done our SEPA review, 23 that, you know, then pausing at that point and waiting 24 several years, I think that would present more 25 challenges potentially. But I think in this case we're</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 87</p> <p>1 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 2 My apologies, Council member. I try to keep track 3 of everyone here on each project, but obviously that's 4 a work in progress. So my apologies. Please proceed 5 with your question or comment. 6 MS. GUILIO: No worries. I 7 understand there's lots of moving parts. 8 I did have a question. Even if we extend the 9 request, are there parts of the background work or 10 studies that, if this were to continue past a year or 11 two years if they did an additional extension, would 12 any of that work have to be redone anyways? 13 Is there, like, a period of validity essentially 14 where some of those, if you're four years out, you're 15 five years out, given that there's no completed 16 project, there's no draft EIS, none of that is compiled 17 and commented upon and accepted basically, will there 18 come a point where the extensions has -- is so long at 19 the front end that they would have to start some 20 aspects over anyways? 21 MR. THOMPSON: Should I field that, 22 or -- 23 MS. BUMPUS: I can -- 24 CHAIR BECKETT: Director Bumpus, why 25 don't you go ahead and jump in since you've started to,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 89</p> <p>1 still early in the process where work is pending, that 2 we probably aren't going to run into that. 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Guilio, does 4 that cover your -- 5 MS. GUILIO: That makes sense to me. 6 Yeah. So in some ways it's kind of an asset that 7 they're early on as far as the continuation of the -- 8 the work. Makes sense. 9 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well. 10 Ms. Hafkemeyer. 11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you. 12 I'd just like to add, for the -- for the work and 13 the documents that have been prepared to this point, 14 staff would, as part of resuming project work, revisit 15 those completed documents and identify whether or not 16 it's appropriate to -- to update studies, update 17 fieldwork, update documents for the time that has 18 lapsed. 19 CHAIR BECKETT: Very good. 20 Are there other comments or discussion from 21 Council members? On both the briefing -- there is 22 obviously the question of action here today on a motion 23 to grant the 12-month extension request. Having noted 24 that, if there's other further discussion or 25 reflections Council would like to share, certainly</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 90</p> <p>1 entertain that now.</p> <p>2 Council Pamplin.</p> <p>3 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Chair.</p> <p>4 You know, I just -- I know we have some time on</p> <p>5 our agenda to talk about our public comment period, so</p> <p>6 maybe this -- maybe this observation is -- is better in</p> <p>7 just a few minutes.</p> <p>8 But I just -- as we think about how EFSEC notifies</p> <p>9 public comments or request for public comments, having</p> <p>10 that -- the background information that this was --</p> <p>11 this -- this public comment period was -- was really</p> <p>12 about a process item and not soliciting comments on --</p> <p>13 necessarily on the merits of the project.</p> <p>14 I mean, people will interpret it as they see fit,</p> <p>15 but there was a lot of concerns about the merits of</p> <p>16 this particular application and the impacts to -- to</p> <p>17 sage grouse and shrub-steppe and other really valid</p> <p>18 concerns. And based on the briefing today, we are</p> <p>19 going to get to those at another subsequent step for --</p> <p>20 for the review of this project. But I guess I'm --</p> <p>21 from a process standpoint, I would be endorsing the</p> <p>22 extension. Thanks.</p> <p>23 CHAIR BECKETT: Appreciate the</p> <p>24 input.</p> <p>25 Any other comments from Council? Or questions.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 92</p> <p>1 would note, you know, that their concerned and ongoing</p> <p>2 participation through an elongated application period</p> <p>3 is ultimately an impact, you know, as well.</p> <p>4 So would encourage all of us, including the</p> <p>5 applicant, to consider those things. And that would be</p> <p>6 my set of comments.</p> <p>7 Are there others from Council or questions? And</p> <p>8 otherwise I would soon move to state a motion for, you</p> <p>9 know, for potential action. But before I do that,</p> <p>10 anything else from Council members for the Badger</p> <p>11 Mountain Solar project?</p> <p>12 Okay. Then is there a motion to approve a</p> <p>13 12-month extension for the Badger Mountain Solar site</p> <p>14 certification, site certificate application? I'm happy</p> <p>15 to restate that if that's helpful.</p> <p>16 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, I will --</p> <p>17 this is Nate. I move that we grant the 12-month</p> <p>18 extension on the Badger Mountain application.</p> <p>19 MR. YOUNG: Lenny Young. Second.</p> <p>20 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. The</p> <p>21 motion has been moved and seconded.</p> <p>22 I would note for the court reporter and for the</p> <p>23 record that I tried to state the motion as it would be</p> <p>24 taken up.</p> <p>25 Thank you for restating it, Council Pamplin. I</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 91</p> <p>1 Okay. Well, I would just say for my comments</p> <p>2 that, much as I believe in trying to move things, you</p> <p>3 know, through but ultimately ensure that we're</p> <p>4 providing objective review and not rushing to</p> <p>5 prejudgment -- those are some of the issues I've -- you</p> <p>6 know, have passed through my mind in various</p> <p>7 considerations, and so I guess I would certainly</p> <p>8 encourage the applicant to reflect on this discussion,</p> <p>9 certainly obviously the comments that have been</p> <p>10 submitted.</p> <p>11 And I agree with you, Council Pamplin, that</p> <p>12 ultimately we are trying to go step by step here. And</p> <p>13 much as, you know, people have their rights and should</p> <p>14 put -- you know, in many respects put their comments</p> <p>15 into the record along the way, at the end of the day</p> <p>16 the Council is to make sure that we're, you know,</p> <p>17 taking this through proper procedures and steps</p> <p>18 ultimately so that we can make the final decision</p> <p>19 should we reach that point.</p> <p>20 So knowing there are other issues certainly</p> <p>21 affecting markets and, you know, other considerations</p> <p>22 that the applicant has listed in their letter. And at</p> <p>23 the same time at the end of the day, as we've heard</p> <p>24 from many of our important -- all voices are important,</p> <p>25 but those who have chosen to weigh in with EFSEC, I</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 93</p> <p>1 think we have it covered between the two of us. Let me</p> <p>2 double-check with counsel, Mr. Thompson, in case</p> <p>3 anything needs to get restated. But, again, the motion</p> <p>4 is to approve a 12-month extension for the Badger</p> <p>5 Mountain Solar site certificate application. And we</p> <p>6 have a motion to that effect and a second. So it is on</p> <p>7 the table.</p> <p>8 Let me first check for Jon Thompson, counsel, if</p> <p>9 he has any issues with what I've stated. Otherwise, I</p> <p>10 will then take it up for any further comment or</p> <p>11 discussion by the Council. But, first, Mr. Thompson, I</p> <p>12 see you off mike.</p> <p>13 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I think that</p> <p>14 was generally well stated. I mean, it's technically</p> <p>15 for review of the application. That's the request.</p> <p>16 So, yeah, with that clarification, I think -- I think</p> <p>17 that language works.</p> <p>18 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.</p> <p>19 Council members, any further discussion on the</p> <p>20 motion that is on the table?</p> <p>21 MS. SNARSKI: Can I just ask --</p> <p>22 CHAIR BECKETT: Ms. Snarski.</p> <p>23 MS. SNARSKI: -- a clarifying --</p> <p>24 yeah -- clarifying question.</p> <p>25 So that 12-month extension would begin today and</p>



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 94</p> <p>1 extend through next August; is that correct?</p> <p>2 CHAIR BECKETT: The intent, I</p> <p>3 believe, is to pick it up from the time that it -- that</p> <p>4 the prior expired, which I did not have in front of me.</p> <p>5 MS. SNARSKI: Yes. Okay. And I</p> <p>6 think that's technically July. And that's why I asked.</p> <p>7 Do you have a sense of that, Jon, of the</p> <p>8 appropriateness of that? There's someone else.</p> <p>9 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Young.</p> <p>10 MR. YOUNG: Just as a point of</p> <p>11 order. Is it appropriate to extend an application</p> <p>12 that's expired?</p> <p>13 CHAIR BECKETT: Mr. Thompson.</p> <p>14 MR. THOMPSON: Well, so another</p> <p>15 aspect of this -- of this statute we were referring to</p> <p>16 that says 12 months or as long as is agreed to by the</p> <p>17 Council and the applicant, there's no -- there's no</p> <p>18 consequence of -- provided in the statute of exceeding</p> <p>19 that.</p> <p>20 So, and for example, sometimes statutes will say,</p> <p>21 you know, if the agency doesn't take action within some</p> <p>22 period of time, then -- then a, you know,</p> <p>23 application -- or a permit request or something is</p> <p>24 deemed granted or something, or it's deemed denied.</p> <p>25 Anyway, neither of those is the case.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 96</p> <p>1 is still accurate and subject to action, or if it needs</p> <p>2 to be stated differently, then please let me know how</p> <p>3 it should be stated.</p> <p>4 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I apologize.</p> <p>5 Now I'm a little -- I think we may have a lingering</p> <p>6 question of when does this 12-month extension start.</p> <p>7 And I guess I might ask Ms. Hafkemeyer if -- if -- was</p> <p>8 there a -- was there then an expiration date of the</p> <p>9 prior extension, or was it -- it sounded as if you were</p> <p>10 saying there was just a check-in date.</p> <p>11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: The April extension</p> <p>12 request letter that we received was open-ended, and so</p> <p>13 staff recommended setting an extension period through</p> <p>14 the end -- or through July. I think, ultimately,</p> <p>15 between staff and Council discussion, it was decided</p> <p>16 that the end of July would be an appropriate extension</p> <p>17 period for that request. And since this request letter</p> <p>18 came in with the 12-month extension ahead of July 30th,</p> <p>19 perhaps it would be appropriate to consider this</p> <p>20 current extension from August 1 through July 30th of</p> <p>21 next year.</p> <p>22 MR. THOMPSON: That makes sense.</p> <p>23 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay.</p> <p>24 All right. So --</p> <p>25 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, if I can --</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 95</p> <p>1 So, yeah, in effect, you'd be -- you'd be kind</p> <p>2 of -- since the prior extension already -- already ran</p> <p>3 out, you'd kind of be retroactively, you know, That's</p> <p>4 okay, and we're going to extend it 12 months beyond</p> <p>5 that date, if that's -- it seems like probably the most</p> <p>6 accurate interpretation of what the request is here.</p> <p>7 And I think that's -- that's okay from a legal</p> <p>8 standpoint.</p> <p>9 MR. YOUNG: Thank you.</p> <p>10 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council</p> <p>11 Young, for the question. Appreciate it.</p> <p>12 Ms. Hafkemeyer.</p> <p>13 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I just wanted to</p> <p>14 add for some additional context with the expiration,</p> <p>15 that is to some degree self-imposed. The initial</p> <p>16 request received from the developer in April was</p> <p>17 open-ended. And so staff, when bringing that request</p> <p>18 to the Council, had recommended a shorter-term</p> <p>19 extension to work out something more definitive with</p> <p>20 the applicant. The Ju- -- I'm sorry. The July 30th</p> <p>21 deadline was not something that was proposed by the</p> <p>22 applicant initially; rather, a -- a checkpoint where we</p> <p>23 expected to have more information.</p> <p>24 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>25 So, Mr. Thompson, the motion that's on the table</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 97</p> <p>1 if it's okay with Council Member Young, who seconded my</p> <p>2 motion, I guess I would revise my motion to state that</p> <p>3 the -- the request for a 12-month extension of the</p> <p>4 Badger Mountain Solar permit application review is</p> <p>5 approved through July 31st of 2026.</p> <p>6 MR. YOUNG: I concur.</p> <p>7 CHAIR BECKETT: And the chair would</p> <p>8 note that would be a friendly amendment, and I believe</p> <p>9 it is welcome from Council Young, who provided your</p> <p>10 second, just for the record.</p> <p>11 So the motion is on the table, has been seconded.</p> <p>12 Are there any questions or further clarifications</p> <p>13 Council wish, given the extended discussion here,</p> <p>14 before I call the vote?</p> <p>15 Okay. All in favor of approving the motion,</p> <p>16 please say "aye."</p> <p>17 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.</p> <p>18 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?</p> <p>19 Motion is approved. Thank you, staff. Thank you,</p> <p>20 Council members.</p> <p>21 And with that, Ms. Snarski, is there any other</p> <p>22 remaining item for Badger Mountain Solar? I don't know</p> <p>23 of any, but let me double-check.</p> <p>24 MS. SNARSKI: No, there are no</p> <p>25 further updates. Thank you for the clarification as</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 98</p> <p>1 well.</p> <p>2 CHAIR BECKETT: No. Appreciated the</p> <p>3 question. I assure you.</p> <p>4 Okay. Then we will move to our final item, which</p> <p>5 I believe is the update on comment periods by Director</p> <p>6 Bumpus.</p> <p>7 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>8 Beckett and Council members. Good afternoon.</p> <p>9 Just an update on activities that staff are</p> <p>10 involved in with respect to the way in which EFSEC</p> <p>11 conducts public comment under the OPMA.</p> <p>12 So just a bit of a recap here. And this is</p> <p>13 something that's come up in prior meetings more</p> <p>14 recently with the public comment that was conducted for</p> <p>15 the delegation of authority to the director from the</p> <p>16 Council. I believe that was Policy 16-01.</p> <p>17 So the OPMA requires that we hold public comment</p> <p>18 before taking final action. And the comment can be</p> <p>19 done, prior to the final action, you can request that</p> <p>20 written comments be submitted in advance and notice,</p> <p>21 you know, the public comment opportunity. You can also</p> <p>22 take verbal comment at the meeting prior to taking</p> <p>23 final action.</p> <p>24 So given that EFSEC has received many comments</p> <p>25 particularly recent that take issue with the duration</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 100</p> <p>1 that not all of the final actions that come before the</p> <p>2 Council may warrant that long. So we are looking at</p> <p>3 having some categories of materials like housekeeping</p> <p>4 items, administrative actions, those types of things</p> <p>5 that might only need, you know, say a week. But we</p> <p>6 will be setting, I think, a one-week minimum for this</p> <p>7 and -- and really with the goal of providing everybody</p> <p>8 a pretty consistent two-week comment opportunity.</p> <p>9 And I want to add also, you know, this is in the</p> <p>10 works. This is something that we haven't finalized.</p> <p>11 But we also recognize that there may be cases where we</p> <p>12 think we need longer than two weeks because of the</p> <p>13 nature of the action. So the idea, the behind-the-</p> <p>14 scenes work with -- between myself and staff is to</p> <p>15 identify what types of materials, you know, require</p> <p>16 what duration of comment and make sure that the comment</p> <p>17 periods are more commensurate with the nature of the</p> <p>18 action.</p> <p>19 So, again, lots -- lots happening with respect to</p> <p>20 this. I will be providing more information to the</p> <p>21 Council once we have identified more of the -- nailed</p> <p>22 down more of the details around how this will work.</p> <p>23 And we will be, as I said, making changes to the</p> <p>24 website to also make sure we're communicating this.</p> <p>25 And this -- you know, this will include</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 99</p> <p>1 of the comment period, the noticing of the comment</p> <p>2 period, and also just information about what the</p> <p>3 comment period is in relation to, we are working to</p> <p>4 revamp how we carry out our public comment</p> <p>5 opportunities under the OPMA. And one of the things</p> <p>6 that we think we need to do is to set a time frame.</p> <p>7 We're looking at doing two weeks, providing two weeks</p> <p>8 public comment for most materials that are associated</p> <p>9 with a final action.</p> <p>10 The -- one of the benefits we think to doing this</p> <p>11 is that it provides a longer period of time than we've</p> <p>12 typically been providing for different documents.</p> <p>13 It's -- it's been -- it has not been consistent in</p> <p>14 terms of the amount of time we've provided for</p> <p>15 different opportunities for public comment, so we want</p> <p>16 to be more consistent with that.</p> <p>17 We also are working to make changes to our new</p> <p>18 website that's recently come online to create a page</p> <p>19 that's going to provide more information and more</p> <p>20 detail about what the public comment period is about,</p> <p>21 what the final action is associated with, what it</p> <p>22 means, and again, providing more time for public</p> <p>23 comment in general.</p> <p>24 So the idea is that we'll provide 14 days public</p> <p>25 comment for most materials. We also recognize, though,</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 101</p> <p>1 communicating to our facilities, communicating to all</p> <p>2 of the clients that we work with. Because it does mean</p> <p>3 that they will need to get their deliverables and</p> <p>4 certain information to us by a pretty -- pretty hard</p> <p>5 deadline in order to make sure that we have enough time</p> <p>6 to conduct the public comment opportunities and also</p> <p>7 very importantly so that Council and staff have enough</p> <p>8 time to review the comments that come in and think</p> <p>9 about those comments and if we need to get advice from</p> <p>10 our assistant attorney generals.</p> <p>11 So these are things that I think are going to</p> <p>12 improve -- improve our work and the engagement of the</p> <p>13 public. So happy to answer questions.</p> <p>14 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Director</p> <p>15 Bumpus.</p> <p>16 Mr. -- Council Levitt. Take you first.</p> <p>17 MR. LEVITT: Yeah. Director Bumpus,</p> <p>18 thank you so much for taking the time to work on this.</p> <p>19 Both, you know, my appreciation to you and to staff.</p> <p>20 I do think we, during my tenure as a Council</p> <p>21 member, have received considerable feedback about, you</p> <p>22 know, communication around comment periods and the</p> <p>23 length of comment periods. So I am hoping this, you</p> <p>24 know, providing more consistency, hopefully a general</p> <p>25 rule of thumb that most comment periods should be two</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 102</p> <p>1 weeks or longer especially if they're not 2 administrative in nature. 3 And, you know, for things that are really quite 4 complex or potentially contentious, highly detailed in 5 terms of technical information, you know, I hope those 6 will be two weeks or longer. And I look forward to 7 seeing what you and staff recommend. So, yeah, again, 8 thank you for working on it. 9 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you. 10 CHAIR BECKETT: Other comments, 11 questions from the Council? 12 I will add one before I double-check again. But, 13 yes, thank you as well, Director Bumpus and staff. I 14 would note thank you on the Badger Mountain item, 15 obviously one that has certainly attention to it that 16 did provide 14 days today. That's just one step in the 17 larger commitment and description that you provided us, 18 Director Bumpus, so -- and ultimately there are, as 19 within most organizations, many moving pieces in terms 20 of how things come forward and materials and posting. 21 And at the end of the day, that's just part of our 22 obligation and job obviously as the agency is entrusted 23 on behalf of the public, which I know staff are 24 committed to and understand, and certainly I am as 25 chair, and I believe my fellow Council members as well.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 104</p> <p>1 Friends of the Columbia Gorge. 2 And the claims were basically to the effect that 3 the delegation policy should have been adopted through 4 formal rule making or that the Council lacked the 5 authority to delegate certain decisions to the 6 director. There also was a claim in there about the 7 length of the comment period that was -- that was 8 provided under the OPMA. 9 So those are the topics. And like Ms. Bumpus 10 said, my thought was we could put this on the agenda 11 perhaps for the next Council meeting to have a 12 executive session discussion of options on that. So... 13 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well. 14 Appreciate you both bringing that forward here in 15 our -- in our shared forum, obviously public forum. So 16 appreciate that. 17 Let me double-check. Anything else, Director 18 Bumpus, on that or any others? 19 MS. BUMPUS: Nothing else. Thank 20 you. 21 CHAIR BECKETT: With that, Council 22 members, any closing comments from -- or questions for 23 the record? 24 Well, I would just close by saying thank you, all, 25 especially Council members for your time today, as well</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 103</p> <p>1 So just note that for the collective as well as for the 2 record. 3 So any further comments on the public comment 4 briefing that we've had? 5 Seeing none. 6 Director Bumpus, anything else from you today on a 7 closing note? Or I will adjourn the meeting. Let me 8 check with you first. 9 MS. BUMPUS: I did just have one 10 update, and there will be more information to follow. 11 There were two lawsuits filed with respect to 12 EFSEC's decision to approve the delegation authority. 13 This was the policy I mentioned earlier. One was 14 file -- one county that the challenges were filed in 15 was Clark County, and the other was Yakima County. 16 We are consulting with our legal counsel on next 17 steps, and we'll be providing more information to the 18 Council about how you can engage with the -- the legal 19 counsel team on what our options are. So I -- I'll 20 leave it to Jon Thompson if he'd like to add anything 21 to that. 22 MR. THOMPSON: I don't have anything 23 to add. I would just say that the suit in Yakima 24 County was brought by the Yakama Nation, and the suit 25 in Clark County was brought by Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. and</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 105</p> <p>1 as ultimately all our participants, whether as project 2 members or members of the public. 3 So, with that, at 3:41, our meeting is adjourned. 4 Thank you very much. 5 (Meeting adjourned at 6 3:41 p.m.) 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25</p>



Page 106	
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	
5	That the foregoing Monthly Meeting of the Washington
6	State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was conducted
7	in my presence and adjourned on August 20, 2025, and
8	thereafter was transcribed under my direction; that the
9	transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of the
10	said meeting, transcribed to the best of my ability;
11	That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel
12	of any party to this matter or relative or employee of any
13	such attorney or counsel and that I am not financially
14	interested in the said matter or the outcome thereof;
15	
16	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
17	this 3rd day of September, 2025.
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
<hr/>	
/s/John M. S. Botelho, CCR, RPR	
Certified Court Reporter No. 2976	
(Certification expires 5/26/2026.)	

## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update Format

Facility Name: Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project

Operator: EDP Renewables

Report Date: September 08, 2025

Reporting Period: August 2025

Site Contact: Jarred Caseday, Operations Manager

Facility SCA Status: Operational

### Operations & Maintenance (only applicable for operating facilities)

- Power generated: 28,630.30 MWH.
  - Wind speed: 8.29 m/s.
  - Capacity Factor: 40.82 %.
- 

### Environmental Compliance

- No incidents

### Safety Compliance

- Nothing to report

### Current or Upcoming Projects

- Nothing to report

### Other

- No sound complaints
- No shadow flicker complaints

## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update

**Facility Name:** Wild Horse Wind Facility  
**Operator:** Puget Sound Energy  
**Report Date:** September 5, 2025  
**Report Period:** August 2025  
**Site Contact:** Jennifer Galbraith  
**SCA Status:** Operational

---

### Operations & Maintenance

August generation totaled 35,544 MWh for an average capacity factor of 17.53%.

### Environmental Compliance

The Wild Horse Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met on August 21, 2025 for the annual meeting. In an effort to increase collaboration and shared understanding of grazing management at Wild Horse, the TAC meeting was held jointly with the Wild Horse Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) group to review history, agreements, processes, and results of grazing management since inception of the Wild Horse CRM in 2006. This was an informational meeting. There were no items that required formal actions/recommendations from the TAC for the Council's consideration.

### Safety Compliance

Nothing to report.

### Current or Upcoming Projects

As requested in a letter received from Ami Hafkemeyer, EFSEC Director of Siting and Compliance, on August 29, 2025, PSE provided a status update on our plans to install FAA approved light-mitigating technology at the Wild Horse Wind Facility in accordance with new legislative requirements to reduce light pollution at wind energy facilities in Washington State. As required by RCW 70A.550, PSE will apply to the FAA prior to January 1, 2028 and will install a new light-mitigating system within 24 months of receiving FAA approval.

### Other – Turbine Damage Update

As of September 5, 2025 there has been no change to the damaged wind turbine tower initially reported to the Council on July 14, 2025. We continue to monitor the turbine 24/7 and are assessing options to safely decommission the tower after the wildfire season ends. Emergency responders remain on stand-by in the event of tower failure and the site will remain closed to public access for the remainder of 2025.

## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update

Facility Name: Chehalis Generation Facility  
Operator: PacifiCorp  
Report Date: September 2, 2025  
Reporting Period: August 2025  
Site Contact: Jeremy Smith, Operations Manager  
Facility SCA Status: Operational

### Operations & Maintenance

-Relevant energy generation information, such as wind speed, number of windy or sunny days, gas line supply updates, etc.

- 230,739 net MWhrs generated in the reporting period for a capacity factor of 65.77%
- 

**The following information must be reported to the Council if applicable to the facility:**

### Environmental Compliance

-Monthly Water Usage: 4,352,612 gallons

- Chehalis Generation Facility is operating with intermittent water purchasing due to river flow as of July 15, 2025.

-Monthly Wastewater Returned: 1,203,981 gallons

-Permit status if any changes.

- No changes.

-Update on progress or completion of any mitigation measures identified.

- Nothing to report

-Any EFSEC-related inspections that occurred.

- Nothing to report.

-Any EFSEC-related complaints or violations that occurred.

- Nothing to report

-Brief list of reports submitted to EFSEC during the monthly reporting period.

- Nothing to report

### Safety Compliance

-Safety training or improvements that relate to SCA conditions.

- Zero injuries this reporting period for a total of 3,684 days without a Lost Time Accident.

### **Current or Upcoming Projects**

-Planned site improvements.

- No planned changes.

-Upcoming permit renewals.

- Nothing to report.

-Additional mitigation improvements or milestones.

- Nothing to report.

### **Other**

-Current events of note (e.g., Covid response updates, seasonal concerns due to inclement weather, etc.).

- Nothing to report.

-Personnel changes as they may relate to EFSEC facility contacts (e.g., introducing a new staff member who may provide facility updates to the Council).

- Nothing to report.

-Public outreach of interest (e.g., schools, public, facility outreach).

- Nothing to report.

Respectfully,



Jeremy Smith  
Gas Plant Operations Manager  
Chehalis Generation Facility

### EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update

Facility Name: Grays Harbor Energy Center

Operator: Grays Harbor Energy LLC

Report Date: Sep 17, 2025

Reporting Period: August 2025

Site Contact: Eric Pace

Facility SCA Status: Operational

#### Operations & Maintenance

-GHEC generated 309,293 MWh during the month and 2,489,442 MWh YTD.

---

**The following information must be reported to the Council if applicable to the facility:**

#### Environmental Compliance

- There weren't any outfall or storm water deviations during the month.
- Routine monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting submissions to EFSEC Staff.
  - Monthly Discharge Monitor Report (DMR).
  - Semi-Annual Monitoring Report.
- Relative Accuracy Test Audit (RATA) Test Plan Notification for Rescheduled Test Dates

#### Safety Compliance

- None.

#### Current or Upcoming Projects

- Submitted the application to renew the Air Operating Permit (AOP) for Grays Harbor Energy Center (GHEC) that is currently authorized to operate under PSD Permit EFSEC/2001-01, Amendment 5 and Federal Operating Permit EFSEC/94-1 AOP Modification 1.
- Submitted the Acid Rain Permit Application for permit renewal in accordance with Permit Requirements 1(i) of Acid Rain Permit No. EFSEC/10-01-AR.
- NPDES permit renewal application submitted to EFSEC in December 2023 in accordance with Section S6.A of NPDES Permit No. WA0024961.

#### Other

-None.

## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting Facility Update

Facility Name: Columbia Solar Projects (Penstemon, Camas and Urtica)

Operator: Tuusso Energy, LLC

Report Date: August 7, 2025

Reporting Period: 31 Days ending August 31, 2025

Site Contact: Liz Drachenberg & Brendan Clemente

Facility SCA Status: Operation

### Construction Status

- Penstemon
    - Currently operational
    - Total Generation during the month was 1,261 Megawatt hours
  - Camas
    - Currently operational
    - Total Generation during the month was 1,306 Megawatt hours
  - Urtica
    - Currently operational
    - Total Generation during the month was 1,384 Megawatt hours
-



## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting

Facility Name: **Columbia Generating Station and Washington Nuclear Project 1 and 4 (WNP-1/4)**  
Operator: **Energy Northwest**  
Report Date: **September 8, 2025**  
Reporting Period: **August 2025**  
Site Contact: **Josh LaPorte**  
Facility SCA Status: **Operational**

CGS Net Electrical Generation for **August 2025**: **840,476.59 Mega Watt-Hours.**

---

**The following information must be reported to the Council if applicable to the facility:**

### **Environmental Compliance:**

The following information was provided during the August 2025 meeting:

*On the evening of Friday, August 15th based on a report of possible oil sheen in circulating water cooling towers, out of an abundance of caution Energy Northwest secured and stopped the discharge to the Columbia River and made notifications to EFSEC and the Washington Department of Ecology.*

*Energy Northwest, GrayMar Environmental (3rd party cleanup contractor), and Washington State Department of Ecology inspected the Columbia River, the circulating water cooling towers, and the circulating water pump house the evening of August 15th. No oil sheen was observed. GrayMar Environmental indicated the foam we were seeing was likely biological based on their past experience.*

*Circulating water discharges to the Columbia River were sampled for fats, oil and grease. The results were below detection limits.*

*During the investigation, Energy Northwest identified a potential oil loss in one of the reactor feed turbine heat exchangers, and took the heat exchanger out of service over the weekend.*

*Follow-up sampling results for fats, oil and grease of circulating water were below detection limits.*

*Energy Northwest restored discharge to the Columbia River August 18<sup>th</sup> and will submit a 5-Day Report detailing the incident and action taken to EFSEC by the end of today, August 20<sup>th</sup>.*

The 5-Day Report was submitted to EFSEC August 20<sup>th</sup>. The oil loss investigation is ongoing, with no further updates at this time.

### **Safety Compliance**

No update.

**Current or Upcoming Projects**

The IDC Landfill Phase II investigation to characterize the unknown debris discovered during Closure construction is still ongoing. The post-closure activities defined in the IDC Landfill Closure Post Closure Plan will begin after the results of this analysis have been reviewed by the Certifying Engineer, and concurrence from EFSEC and Ecology has been received on the cleanup path forward.

**Other**

No update.

## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update Format

Facility Name: Goose Prairie Solar

Operator: Brookfield Power US Asset Management

Report Date: 9/3/2025

Reporting Period: 8/1/2025 to 8/31/2025

Asset Manager: Nelson Jia

Facility SCA Status: Operational

### **Construction Status**

- N/A

### **Operations & Maintenance**

- Total generation for the month of August-2025 was approximately 21,667 MWh
  - All inverters on site online for the month of August. 100% inverter availability
- 

**The following information must be reported to the Council if applicable to the facility:**

### **Environmental Compliance**

Permit status if any changes.

- None

Update on progress or completion of any mitigation measures identified.

- No Discharge on the site reported

Any EFSEC-related inspections that occurred.

- None

Any EFSEC-related complaints or violations that occurred.

- None

Brief list of reports submitted to EFSEC during the monthly reporting period.

- None

### **Safety Compliance**

- There were no non-routine events to report during this period.

### **Current or Upcoming Projects**

- None

### **Other**

Current events of note (e.g., Covid response updates, seasonal concerns due to inclement weather, etc.).

- None

Personnel changes as they may relate to EFSEC facility contacts (e.g., introducing a new staff member who may provide facility updates to the Council).

- None

Public outreach of interest (e.g., schools, public, facility outreach).

- None

## EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update

Facility Name: Ostrea Solar  
Operator: Cypress Creek Renewables  
Report Date: 9/2/2025  
Reporting Period: 8/1/2025-8/31/2025  
Site Contact: Fred Hageman  
Facility SCA Status: Construction

### Construction Status (only applicable for projects under construction)

- Solar module deliveries have been fully completed.
- Pile, tracker, and solar module installation is in full swing with the East parcel complete and the West Parcel nearing completion.
- Module wiring and DC cable installation is continuing in the East parcel, with the West parcel soon to follow.
- Overhead AC lines from West to East are complete with only minimal punch list work.
- Substation construction has all steel complete, MPT delivered, and civil is up to final grade.
- All inverters have been delivered and welded onto their locations.

### Operations & Maintenance (only applicable for operating facilities)

- Not yet operational.

---

**The following information must be reported to the Council if applicable to the facility:**

#### Environmental Compliance

-Permit status if any changes.

- N/A

-Update on progress or completion of any mitigation measures identified.

- TRC taking over weekly SWPPP inspections from EFSEC.
- BMP installations per Exhibits continue.

-Any EFSEC-related inspections that occurred.

- Site inspections performed on a weekly basis without any non-compliant elements being discovered

-Any EFSEC-related complaints or violations that occurred.

- Nothing in the month of August

-Brief list of reports submitted to EFSEC during the monthly reporting period.

- Nothing in the month of August

#### Safety Compliance

- Safety training or improvements that relate to SCA conditions
- Occasional high winds caused dust to impact work area, dust mitigation and safety measures reinforced
- No recordable incidents to note for August

## **Current or Upcoming Projects**

### **-Planned site improvements**

- Current:
  - Array Pile, Racking, and module installation
  - DC cable installation
  - Substation component installation
  - O&M building civil work
- Upcoming Projects
  - Substation control house delivery and installation
  - AC and DC final terminations
  - O&M shop building construction
  - MPT Dress and Test

### **-Upcoming permit renewals.**

- None.

### **-Additional mitigation improvements or milestones.**

- West property Basin and Swells
- Application of 70/30 blend on Center Road to improve dust mitigation.

## **Other**

### **-Current events of note.**

- N/A

### **-Personnel changes as they may relate to EFSEC facility contacts:**

- None

### **-Public outreach of interest**

- Back to School classroom supply drive Yakima County

# Carriger Solar Project

## General Description:

A proposed 160 megawatts (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) electric generating facility. Includes a proposed 63 MW of battery energy storage system (BESS). Project area: 2,108- acres of privately owned land.

## Location:

Unincorporated Klickitat County. Approximately 2 miles west of Goldendale.

## Applicant:

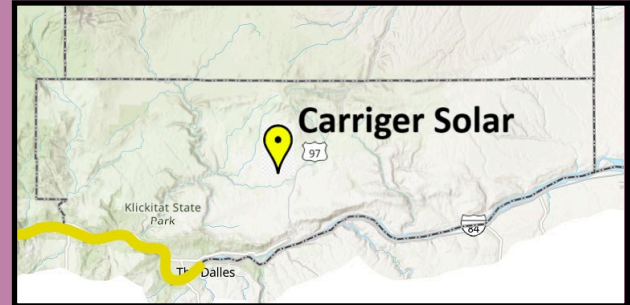
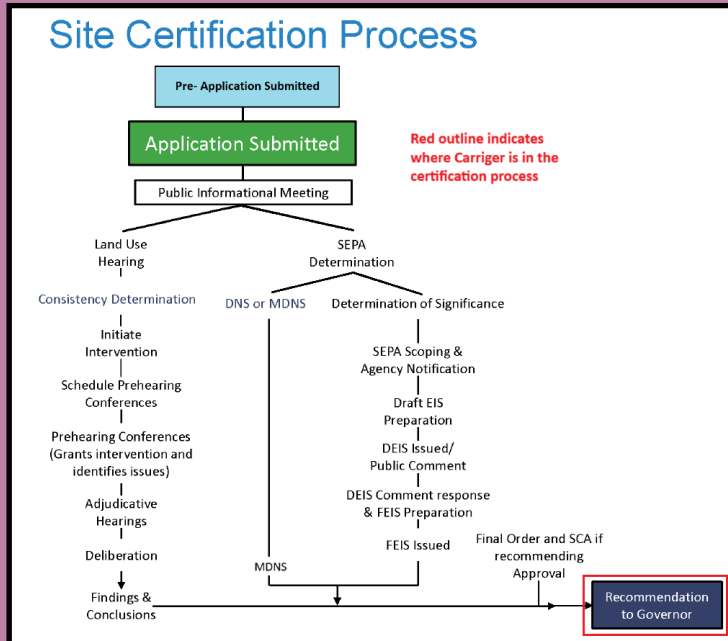
Carriger Solar, LLC.

## Milestone Dates:

- February 10, 2023, Original ASC Submitted
- September 25, 2023, Council issues Order No. 889 Granting a Finding of Land Use Consistency.
- April 7, 2025, SEPA Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance published.
- May 5, 2025, Council granted Expedited Process.
- June 25, 2025, Recommendation to the Governor submitted.

## Status:

## Location Map:



# Hop Hill Solar Energy Project

## General Description:

HOHI bn, LLC (Applicant), a subsidiary of BNC DEVCO, LLC, which is a joint venture between BrightNight, LLC and Cordelio Power. Hop Hill Solar project is an up to 500-megawatt<sup>2</sup> (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility coupled with an up to 500-MW battery energy storage system (BESS). The Solar Array Siting Area encompasses approximately 11,179 buildable acres and the overhead 230-kV gen-tie line will be developed within a 150-foot-wide corridor and micrositied within the approximately 10,841-acre Transmission Line Corridor Siting Area). The final solar array area anticipated to be approximately 6,000 acres.

## Location:

Benton County, Washington.

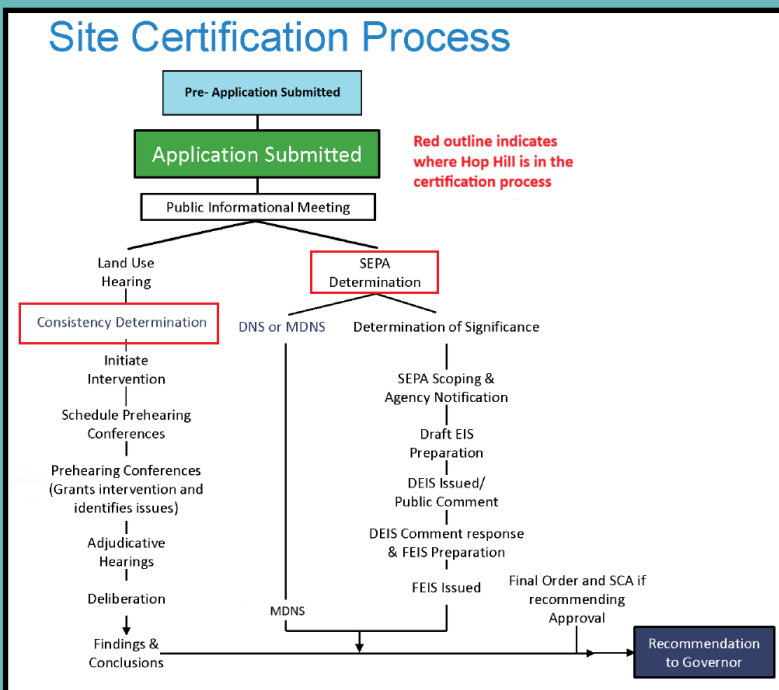
## Applicant:

BrightNight, LLC.

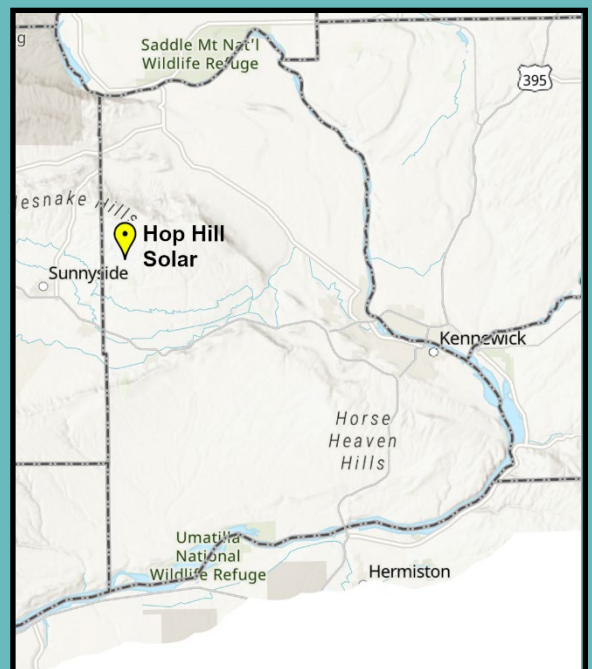
## Milestone Dates:

- December 22, 2022, Original ASC Submitted
- February 23, 2023, Public Comment Hearing, Land Use Consistency Hearing
- November 3, 2023, Brightnight requests application review extension (original date:12/22/23 to 12/22/24)
- November 15, 2023, Order finding Project Inconsistent with Land Use (Benton County) Regulations, setting the matter for adjudication.

## Status:



## Location Map:



# Wallula Gap Solar Energy Project

## General Description:

Wallula Gap Solar, a 60-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) project with an optional battery energy storage system (BESS). The Facility would be located across a portion (approximately 437 acres) of three parcels. The optional BESS would not exceed the nominal 60-MW capacity of the Facility. Facility would interconnect through a line tap to Benton Public Utility District's (PUD) 115-kV line near the Prior #2 substation. The generation would then be connected to the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) facilities at the Plymouth tap (aka Paterson Tap), where Benton PUD and BPA facilities connect at BPA's McNary substation.

## Location:

Unincorporated community of Plymouth, Benton County, Washington.

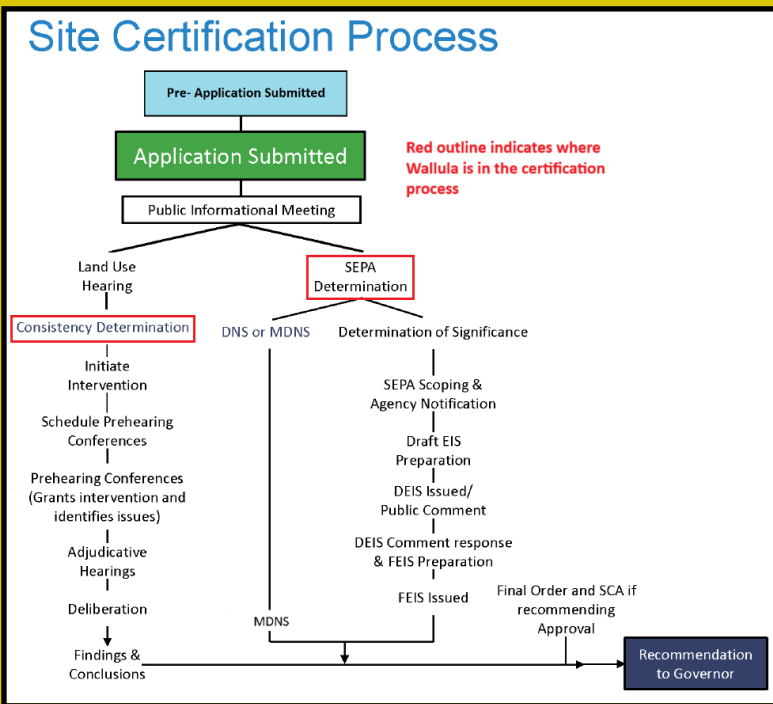
## Applicant:

OneEnergy Development LLC

## Milestone Dates:

- February 23, 2024, Original ASC Submitted
- April 23, 2024, Public Comment Hearing, Land Use Consistency Hearing

## Status:



## Location Map:





# Goldeneye Battery Storage Project

## General Description:

A 200-megawatt (MW)/800-megawatt hour (MWh) battery energy storage system (BESS) project. The Project will not generate electricity, but instead provide a buffer for Skagit County's (County) electrical grid. The Project will accomplish this by receiving energy (charging) from the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) electric transmission system, storing energy on site, and then later delivering energy (discharging) back to the point of interconnection Project area: approximately 16 acres, privately owned land.

## Location:

Unincorporated Skagit County, Washington.

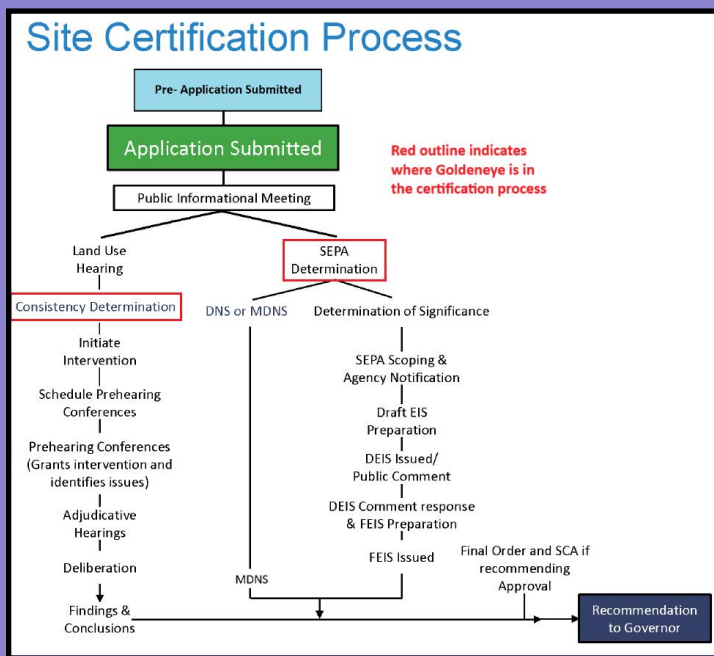
## Applicant:

Goldeneye Battery Storage, LLC

## Milestone Dates:

- June 27, 2024, Original ASC Submitted
- August 13, 2024, Public Information Meeting and Land Use Consistency Hearing

## Status:



## Location Map:



# Transmission Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

## General Description:

A Programmatic EIS to assess probable significant adverse environmental impacts from electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230 kilovolts (kV) or greater at a broad level and identify avoidance, minimization, and other mitigation measures. EFSEC was directed to conduct this nonproject environmental review under RCW Chapter 43.21C.405.

## Location:

Statewide

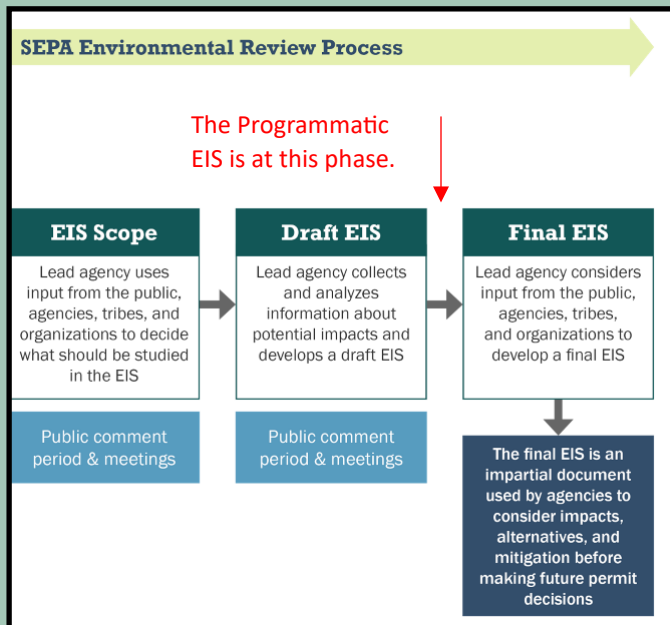
## Originating Legislation:

Senate Bill 5165, Chapter 229, Laws of 2023

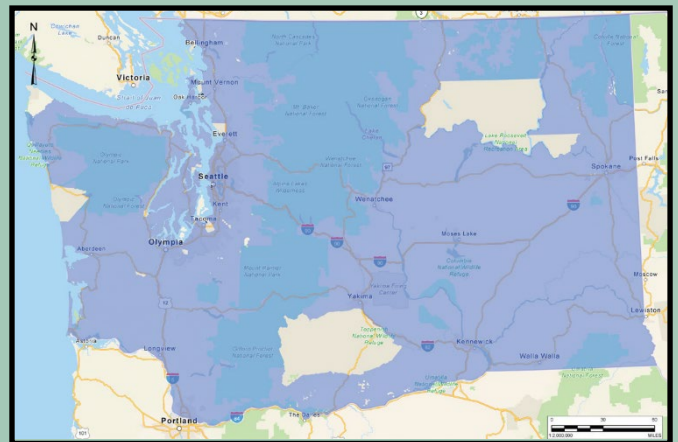
## Milestone Dates:

- July 23, 2023, Effective Date of Originating Legislation
- June 28, 2024, EIS Scoping Memo Issued
- March 31, 2025, Draft EIS Issued
- April 8, 2025, Public Informational Meeting
- April 22 – 24, 2025, Public Comment Hearings
- May 15, 2025, End of Draft EIS Public Comment Period
- Late September, 2025, Anticipated Final EIS Issuance

## Status:



## Location Map:



## Horse Heaven Wind Project

### General Description:

Proposed construction of a renewable energy facility that would have a nameplate energy generating capacity of up to 1,150 megawatts (MWs) for a combination of wind and solar facilities as well as battery energy storage systems (BESS). Meteorological Towers (MET), overhead transmission lines, and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Facilities are also proposed.

Project area: 72,428 acres, privately owned land in which five DNR parcels are located within.

### Location:

Unincorporated Central Benton County south of the Tri-Cities.

### Applicant:

Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC.

### Milestone Dates:

- February 8, 2021, Original ASC Submitted
- May 17, 2022, Council issues Order No. 883 of Land Use Consistency – Finding Proposed Site Consistent with Land Use Regulations.
- October 31, 2023, Final Environmental Impact Statement Issued.
- April 17, 2024, Adjudicative Order Resolving Contested Issues.
- April 29, 2024, Recommendation to the Governor Submitted.
- May 25, 2024, Governor Remanded the Council's Recommendation.
- September 17, 2024, Final Recommendation to the Governor Submitted.
- October 18, 2024, Received Signed SCA and Final Decision from the Governor.
- November 21, 2024, Applicant Signed the SCA.

### Status:

Application Approved
SCA Signed
Pre-Construction
Construction
Prior to Commercial Operations
Operations
Termination, Decommissioning, and Site Restoration

### Location Map:

