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October 7, 2025

Dear Reader,

The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) is pleased to present this Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that evaluates electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230 kilovolts (kV) or greater (transmission facilities) throughout the State of Washington. Through publication of this Final Programmatic EIS, EFSEC is fulfilling the mandate issued to it by the passage of Washington State Senate Bill 5165 – 2023-24, which was subsequently codified into Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapters 43.21C.405 and 43.21C.408.

EFSEC has prepared this Final Programmatic EIS in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), as outlined in Washington Administrative Code Chapter 197-11, EFSEC's authorities defined in RCW 80.50, and the directives in RCW 43.21C.405.

This Final Programmatic EIS generally evaluates adverse environmental impacts associated with different types of transmission facility developments; it does not propose, evaluate, or approve a specific project or project-specific application. As acknowledged in RCW 43.21C.408(2), project-level SEPA environmental review will still be required. As a nonproject environmental review document, this Final Programmatic EIS is intended for use in future planning and development of transmission facilities and during subsequent project-level environmental review of proposed transmission projects 230 kV or greater.

The Final Programmatic EIS evaluates direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts from the future construction, operation and maintenance, upgrade, and modification of transmission facilities located within the entire State of Washington excluding tribal lands and underwater work. In addition to the use of this Final Programmatic EIS, a no-action alternative was assessed which evaluates the present conditions wherein this

Programmatic EIS would not be used for project-specific SEPA compliance or technical assistance.

The following resource areas were evaluated in the Final Programmatic EIS:

- Earth Resources
- Air Quality, including Greenhouse Gases
- Water Resources
- Vegetation
- Habitat, Wildlife, and Fish
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Public Health and Safety
- Land and Shoreline Use
- Transportation
- Public Services and Utilities
- Visual Quality
- Noise and Vibration
- Recreation
- Historic and Cultural Resources, including Tribal Rights, Interests, and Resources
- Socioeconomics, Environmental Justice, and Overburdened Communities

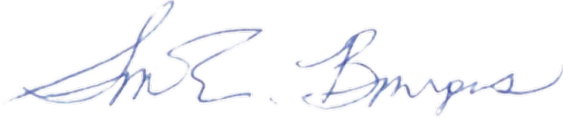
The Determination of Significance and Scoping Memo were issued on June 28, 2024 with a 30-day public comment period, with two virtual public scoping meetings to present information on and solicit comments on scoping for the Programmatic EIS. The Draft Programmatic EIS was issued on March 31, 2025. A 30-day comment period, subsequently extended to a 45-day period upon request, began on March 31, 2025 and concluded on May 15, 2025. A public informational meeting was held as well as two virtual public comment hearings.

During EFSEC's SEPA scoping phase and following the publication of the Draft Programmatic EIS, comments identifying areas of concern associated with the proposed geographic and technical scope of this Programmatic EIS were received and subsequently addressed in this Final Programmatic EIS. This Final Programmatic EIS was prepared with information received from agencies, Tribes, stakeholders, and members of the public.

Significant adverse environmental impacts are defined in WAC 197-11-794 as those with a reasonable likelihood of more than moderate adverse effects on environmental quality or those that would be severe, even if their chance of occurrence is not great. The Final Programmatic EIS identifies recommended mitigation measures to address potentially significant adverse environmental impacts from transmission facilities. As dictated in RCW 43.21C.408, this Final Programmatic EIS has been structured so that future transmission projects that follow the recommendations developed within are considered to have mitigated for all probable significant adverse environmental impacts addressed in the Final Programmatic EIS.

The Final Programmatic EIS is available on EFSEC's website at <https://efsec.wa.gov/transmission-programmatic-environmental-impact-statement-peis>. For further information regarding this document or to request a physical copy of the Final Programmatic EIS, you may contact the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council at (360) 664-1345 or efsec@efsec.wa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sonia E. Bumpus".

Sonia E. Bumpus
EFSEC Director and SEPA Responsible Official