

Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement High-Voltage Transmission Facilities in Washington

Purpose & Need

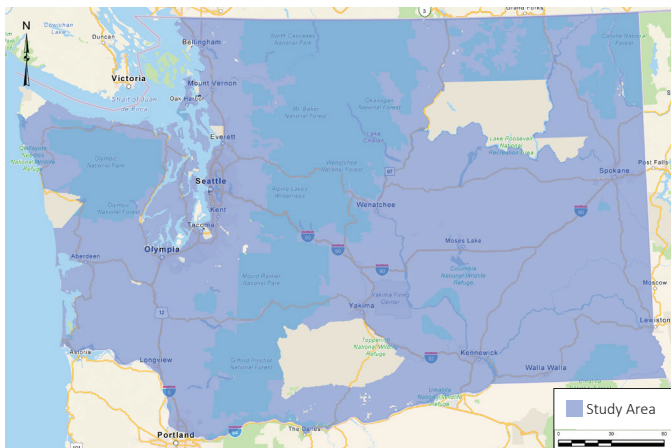
As directed by the Washington State Legislature in RCW 43.21C.405, this Programmatic EIS analyzes potential direct, indirect, and cumulative adverse impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance, upgrade, and modification of high-voltage transmission facilities in the State of Washington.

The Programmatic EIS includes an analysis of potential adverse environmental impacts on the elements of the natural and built environment specified under RCW 43.21C.405(3), WAC 197-11-444, and WAC 463-60-535.

Location

This Programmatic EIS analyzes siting across all geographic areas of Washington that are suitable for such linear facilities, excluding:

- Tribal lands,
- Undersea cables, and
- In-water trenching or burial within freshwater bodies (e.g., lakes and rivers).



Alternatives

The Programmatic EIS evaluates two alternatives:

- **Action Alternative:** use of this Programmatic EIS to evaluate potential adverse environmental impacts associated with the development of high-voltage transmission facilities.
- **No Action Alternative:** no use of this Programmatic EIS, with environmental review for project-level applications continuing in its current form.

Implementation and Subsequent Environmental Review

This Programmatic EIS will be used in accordance with RCW 43.21C.408 by applicants and SEPA lead agencies planning a transmission facility to:

- Avoid highly environmentally sensitive areas,
- Incorporate identified mitigation, and
- Site and design a more environmentally-friendly proposal.

Project-specific applications would include an analysis to identify the site-specific adverse highly environmentally sensitive impacts on resources to determine the suitability of applying this Programmatic EIS. The environmental review may be phased by adopting or incorporating relevant information by reference from this Programmatic EIS while evaluating site-specific adverse impacts of individual project applications. For more information on phased reviews, please refer to Chapter 1 of the EIS.



Licenses, Laws and Regulations

Because this is a programmatic EIS and the specific nature of projects that would be proposed is not yet known, it is not possible to present a complete list of permits, licenses, and approvals that could be required for project-specific applications. This Programmatic EIS includes a list of common regulatory, siting, and design considerations that projects would be expected to adhere to. Any project that would be subject to this Programmatic EIS would be required to receive all licenses and permits identified during the project-level environmental review.

Contributors

This document has been prepared under the direction of EFSEC. All chapters and appendices have been prepared for and approved by EFSEC. Key authors and principal contributors to the Programmatic EIS analyses include:

STATE OF WASHINGTON

- Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
- Department of Commerce
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

- Department of Transportation
- Utilities and Transportation Commission

FEDERAL:

- U.S. Department of Defense

CONTRACTORS:

- WSP USA Inc
- WSP Canada

Additional information on the authors and principal contributors is presented in Chapter 8 of the Programmatic EIS.

Responsible Official Contact Information

WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL (EFSEC)

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Accessing the Final Programmatic EIS



The Programmatic EIS and associated resource reports developed specifically for this environmental review are available at no cost on EFSEC's Programmatic EIS website, and on the eProgrammatic, an

online version with tools to assist in the use of the Programmatic EIS.

To obtain a printed copy, CD, or USB drive of the Programmatic EIS (for the cost of production), please contact efsec@efsec.wa.gov or 360-664-1345.

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[View the Final Programmatic EIS](#)