

AGENDA

MONTHLY MEETING
Wednesday, January 21, 2026
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: 100581938#

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 17, 2025, monthly meeting minutes |
| 5. Council Member Resolutions | Resolutions for Lenny Young, Eli Levitt, and Stacey Brewster.....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair |
| 6. Projects | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Kittitas Valley Wind Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Jarred Caseday, EDP Renewables b. Wild Horse Wind Power Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Jennifer Galbraith, Puget Sound Energy c. Chehalis Generation Facility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Jeremy Smith, Chehalis Generation d. Grays Harbor Energy Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Eric Pace, Grays Harbor Energy e. Columbia Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Katy Esper, Greenbacker Capital f. Columbia Generating Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Kelly Elsethagen, Energy Northwest g. WNP – 1/4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-operational updates.....Kelly Elsethagen, Energy Northwest h. Goose Prairie Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational updates.....Nelson Jia, Brookfield Renewable i. Ostrea Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates.....Jon Voltz, Cypress Creek Renewables j. Carriger Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates.....Joanne Snarski, EFSEC Staff k. Horse Heaven <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ferruginous Hawk Nest Mitigation Plan and project updates.....Amy Moon, EFSEC Staff
 <i>The Council may take FINAL ACTION on the Horse Heaven Ferruginous Hawk Nest Mitigation Plan.</i> l. Hop Hill Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates.....John Barnes, EFSEC Staff m. Wallula Gap Solar <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project updates.....John Barnes, EFSEC Staff |

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

"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. Goldeneye BESS

- Project updates.....Joanne Snarski, EFSEC Staff

o. Cascade Renewables Transmission

- Project updates.....Maria Belkina, EFSEC Staff

7. Other

- Cost allocation update.....Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Director
- Director update.....Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Director
- New employee introduction - Noel Sharp.....Lisa McLean, EFSEC Staff

8. Adjourn.....Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair

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

"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.



ONE-WEEK TRANSCRIPT TURNAROUND

Digital Transcripts • Internet Realtime • HD Legal Video • Picture-in-Picture Depositions
Remote Depositions • Designation Editing • Nationwide Scheduling • HD Videoconferencing

In the Matter of:

EFSEC 2025 Monthly Meetings

MONTHLY MEETING

December 17, 2025

Thank you for choosing BA Litigation Services for your court reporting, legal video, and deposition technology needs. It is always our goal to provide you with exceptional service. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Sarah Fitzgibbon, CCR
Vice President



The Premier Advantage™
PDF transcript bundle contains:

- Full-size and condensed transcripts
- Printable word index
- Hyperlinked selectable word index
- Embedded printable exhibit scans
- Hyperlinked selectable exhibit viewing
- Common file formats: txt, lrf, mdb
accessed via *paperclip* icon

WASHINGTON STATE

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING

December 17, 2025

Lacey, Washington

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

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 2</p> <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 Blake Nelson, Department of Ecology</p> <p>7 Nate Pamplin, Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>8 Brian Rybarik,</p> <p>9 Utilities & Transportation Commission</p> <p>10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OPTIONAL STATE AGENCIES:</p> <p>11 Carriger Solar:</p> <p>12 Matt Chiles, Klickitat County</p> <p>13 Wallula Gap:</p> <p>14 Adam Fyall, Benton County</p> <p>15 Goldeneye BESS:</p> <p>16 Robby Eckroth, Skagit County</p> <p>17 Cascade Renewable Transmission:</p> <p>18 Asa Leckie, Skamania County</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL:</p> <p>21 Jon Thompson</p> <p>22 Zack Packer</p> <p>23 Talia Thuet</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 4</p> <p>1 APPEARANCES (Continuing)</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 COUNSEL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:</p> <p>4 Sarah Reyneveld</p> <p>5</p> <p>6 IN ATTENDANCE:</p> <p>7 Mike Ritter</p> <p>8 Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife</p> <p>9</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>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 3</p> <p>1 APPEARANCES (Continuing)</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 COUNCIL STAFF:</p> <p>4 Sonia Bumpus Sean Greene</p> <p>5 Ami Hafkemeyer John Barnes</p> <p>6 Amy Moon Joanne Snarski</p> <p>7 Joan Owens Ali Smith</p> <p>8 Andrea Grantham Maria Belkina</p> <p>9 Sara Randolph</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 OPERATIONAL UPDATES:</p> <p>12 Jarred Caseday</p> <p>13 Kittitas Valley Wind, EDP Renewables</p> <p>14 Jennifer Galbraith</p> <p>15 Wild Horse Wind Power Project, Puget Sound Energy</p> <p>16 Adam Abel</p> <p>17 Grays Harbor Energy Center, Grays Harbor Energy</p> <p>18 Jeremy Smith</p> <p>19 Chehalis Generation Facility, PacifiCorp</p> <p>20 Kelly Elsethagen</p> <p>21 Columbia Generating Station & WNP-1/4, Energy</p> <p>22 Northwest</p> <p>23 Sara Randolph</p> <p>24 Columbia Solar, Tuusso Energy</p> <p>25 Sara Randolph</p> <p>26 Goose Prairie Solar, Brookfield Renewable</p> <p>27 Jon Voltz</p> <p>28 Ostrea Solar, Cypress Creek Renewables</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 5</p> <p>1 MEETING INDEX</p> <p>2</p> <p>3 EVENT: PAGE NO.</p> <p>4 Call to order 7</p> <p>5 Roll call 7</p> <p>6 Proposed agenda 12</p> <p>7 Minutes</p> <p>8 October 21, 2025, Carriger special 13</p> <p>9 meeting minutes</p> <p>10</p> <p>11 November 17-19, 2025, Cascade Renewable 14</p> <p>12 Transmission Informational Public Hearing</p> <p>13 minutes</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 November 17-19, 2025, Cascade Renewable 15</p> <p>16 Transmission Land-Use Hearing minutes</p> <p>17</p> <p>18 November 19, 2025, monthly meeting minutes 16</p> <p>19</p> <p>20 Projects</p> <p>21 Kittitas Valley Wind Project 17</p> <p>22 Wild Horse Wind Power Project 18</p> <p>23 Chehalis Generation Facility 19</p> <p>24 Grays Harbor Energy Center 19</p> <p>25 Columbia Solar 20</p> <p>26 Columbia Generating Station 20</p> <p>27 WNP - 1/4 20</p> <p>28 Goose Prairie Solar 20</p> <p>29 Ostrea Solar 21</p> <p>30 Carriger Solar 21</p> <p>31 Horse Heaven 23</p> <p>32 Hop Hill Solar 26</p>

<p>1 MEETING INDEX (Continuing) Page 6</p> <p>2 EVENT: PAGE NO.</p> <p>3 Projects (Continuing)</p> <p>4 Wallula Gap 27</p> <p>5 Goldeneye BESS 28</p> <p>6 Cascade Renewable Transmission 29</p> <p>7 Transmission PEIS 52</p> <p>8 Other</p> <p>9 End-of-year director update 54</p> <p>10 Website update presentation 65</p> <p>11 DFW wind and solar guidelines presentation 81</p> <p>12 Adjournment 102</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>	<p>1 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Page 8</p> <p>2 Natural Resources.</p> <p>3 CHAIR BECKETT: Absent today.</p> <p>4 MS. GRANTHAM: Utilities and</p> <p>5 Transportation Commission.</p> <p>6 MR. RYBARIK: Brian Rybarik,</p> <p>7 present.</p> <p>8 MS. GRANTHAM: For local government</p> <p>9 and optional State agencies: For the Hop Hill solar</p> <p>10 project, Paul Krupin.</p> <p>11 For the Carriger Solar project, Matt Chiles.</p> <p>12 MR. CHILES: Matt Chiles, present.</p> <p>13 MS. GRANTHAM: For the Wallula Gap</p> <p>14 project, Adam Fyall.</p> <p>15 MR. FYALL: Adam Fyall is here.</p> <p>16 Thank you.</p> <p>17 MS. GRANTHAM: For the Goldeneye</p> <p>18 BESS project, Robby Eckroth.</p> <p>19 MR. ECKROTH: Robby Eckroth,</p> <p>20 present.</p> <p>21 MS. GRANTHAM: And for the Cascade</p> <p>22 Renewable Transmission Project, Asa Leckie.</p> <p>23 MR. LECKIE: Asa Leckie, present.</p> <p>24 MS. GRANTHAM: Moving on to</p> <p>25 assistant attorney generals.</p>
<p>1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Wednesday, Page 7</p> <p>2 December 17, 2025, at 621 Woodland Square Loop</p> <p>3 Southeast, Lacey, Washington, at 1:31 p.m., the</p> <p>4 following monthly meeting of the Washington State</p> <p>5 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was held, to</p> <p>6 wit:</p> <p>7</p> <p>8 <<<<<< >>>>>></p> <p>9</p> <p>10 CHAIR BECKETT: Good afternoon.</p> <p>11 This is Kurt Beckett, chair of the Energy Facility</p> <p>12 Site Evaluation Council, calling to order our regular</p> <p>13 monthly Wednesday, December 17th meeting.</p> <p>14 And, Ms. Grantham, if you'd please call the roll.</p> <p>15 MS. GRANTHAM: Certainly, Chair.</p> <p>16 Department of Commerce.</p> <p>17 MS. OSBORNE: Elizabeth Osborne,</p> <p>18 present.</p> <p>19 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of</p> <p>20 Ecology.</p> <p>21 MR. NELSON: Blake Nelson, present.</p> <p>22 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Fish</p> <p>23 and Wildlife.</p> <p>24 MR. PAMPLIN: Nate Pamplin,</p> <p>25 present.</p>	<p>1 Jon Thompson. Page 9</p> <p>2 MR. THOMPSON: Present.</p> <p>3 MS. GRANTHAM: Zack Packer.</p> <p>4 MR. PACKER: Present.</p> <p>5 MS. GRANTHAM: And Talia Thuet.</p> <p>6 MS. THUET: Present.</p> <p>7 MS. GRANTHAM: Council staff.</p> <p>8 Sonia Bumpus.</p> <p>9 MS. BUMPUS: Present.</p> <p>10 MS. GRANTHAM: Ami Hafkemeyer.</p> <p>11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.</p> <p>12 MS. GRANTHAM: Amy Moon.</p> <p>13 MS. MOON: Present.</p> <p>14 MS. GRANTHAM: Sara Randolph.</p> <p>15 MS. RANDOLPH: Present.</p> <p>16 MS. GRANTHAM: Sean Greene.</p> <p>17 MR. GREENE: Present.</p> <p>18 MS. GRANTHAM: John Barnes.</p> <p>19 MR. BARNES: Present.</p> <p>20 MS. GRANTHAM: Joanne Snarski.</p> <p>21 MS. SNARSKI: Also present.</p> <p>22 MS. GRANTHAM: Ali Smith.</p> <p>23 MS. SMITH: Ali Smith, present.</p> <p>24 MS. GRANTHAM: Maria Belkina.</p> <p>25 MS. BELKINA: Present.</p>

Page 10

1 MS. GRANTHAM: Let me make sure I
2 got everybody on my list. I believe that is everyone
3 for staff.
4 Moving on to operational updates. For Kittitas
5 Valley Wind Project.
6 MR. CASEDAY: Jarred Caseday,
7 present.
8 MS. GRANTHAM: Wild Horse Wind
9 Power Project.
10 MS. GALBRAITH: Jennifer Galbraith,
11 present.
12 MS. GRANTHAM: Grays Harbor Energy
13 Center.
14 MR. ABEL: This is Adam Abel for
15 Grays Harbor Energy Center.
16 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.
17 Chehalis Generation Facility.
18 MS. SMITH: Jeremy Smith, present.
19 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Generating
20 Station.
21 MS. ELSETHAGEN: Kelly Elsethagen,
22 present.
23 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Solar.
24 And, Ms. Randolph, I believe you'll be giving the
25 update for Columbia Solar; is that correct?

Page 11

1 MS. RANDOLPH: Yes, it is. Thank
2 you.
3 MS. GRANTHAM: No problem.
4 And moving on to Goose Prairie Solar. Is that
5 you as well, Sara?
6 MS. RANDOLPH: It is.
7 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.
8 And then last is Ostrea Solar.
9 MR. VOLTZ: Jon Voltz, present.
10 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.
11 And is there anyone available for the counsel for
12 the environment?
13 MS. REYNEVELD: Sarah Reyneveld is
14 present.
15 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.
16 Chair, there is a quorum for all councils.
17 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very
18 much.
19 I might just exercise prerogative of the chair
20 for just a moment. And given the holiday season that
21 is -- regardless of what we believe or celebrate,
22 holiday season is time of joy for some and a very
23 hard time for others. And on top of that regular
24 dynamic, we have those Washingtonians who have
25 unfortunately lost their lives in the challenge of

Page 12

1 the floods and snow as well as who have lost their
2 livelihoods and are just deeply impacted. So I want
3 to recognize that on behalf of all of us at EFSEC.
4 And certainly want to also thank our Council
5 members, whether they're local representatives or
6 those on permanent Council, whose agencies have been
7 very much on the front lines in many cases, serving
8 the people of Washington the best they can, both as
9 State employees but as well as just humans.
10 And certainly there are other agencies --
11 probably Ecology would be one that comes to mind --
12 whose job really begins when the floods dissipate and
13 the cleanup begins and other infrastructure that
14 needs to be restored.
15 So I just want to recognize that time in which we
16 find ourselves here today and, with that, would turn
17 to the regular business of the day.
18 So, with that, Council members, we have a
19 proposed agenda before us. I would entertain a
20 motion to adopt the agenda.
21 Is there a motion?
22 MR. RYBARIK: So moved.
23 CHAIR BECKETT: Second?
24 MR. PAMPLIN: Second.
25 CHAIR BECKETT: Are there edits or

Page 13

1 additions to the agenda?
2 Hearing none. All in favor of adopting the
3 agenda as proposed, say aye.
4 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.
5 CHAIR BECKETT: Oppose?
6 Abstentions?
7 Agenda is adopted.
8 Next, we'll move on to the minutes. And as you
9 can see, we have a longer list than normal.
10 So let me just note at the outset for our Council
11 members that I will entertain a motion, but I'll do
12 so by reading the item that we are going to take up.
13 And if you so choose to move it, you can just say,
14 "So moved," and a second. And I will basically put
15 the motion language that we need into the record as I
16 read it.
17 So, with that suggested advice, the chair would
18 entertain a motion to adopt the October 21st, 2025,
19 Carriger special -- special meeting minutes.
20 Is there a motion?
21 MR. PAMPLIN: So moved.
22 CHAIR BECKETT: Second?
23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Seconded.
24 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
25 Are there any edits or additions to the minutes?

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 It is on the table now. This is again the Carriger 2 special meeting minutes. I did not have any. 3 Hearing none. All those in favor of adopting the 4 motion, please say "aye." 5 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye. 6 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? Abstain? 7 Very well. 8 The minutes for the Carriger meeting are adopted. 9 Next up, the chair would entertain a motion to 10 adopt the November 17, 18, and 19, 2025, Cascade 11 Renewable Transmission Informational Public Hearing 12 minutes for each of the following counties: Clark 13 County, Skamania County, and Klickitat County. 14 Is there such a motion? 15 MR. LECKIE: This is -- 16 MR. RYBARIK: So moved. 17 MR. LECKIE: -- Asa Leckie. So 18 moved. 19 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. Thank 20 you, Commissioner Leckie. 21 Is there a second? 22 MR. RYBARIK: I'll second that. 23 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council. 24 The motion -- the motion is on the table to adopt 25 these hearing minutes for the public informational</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 Hearing none. All in favor of adopting the 2 minutes as before us, please say "aye." 3 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye. 4 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? Any 5 abstentions? 6 Okay. Thank you. 7 Our last item is the chair would entertain a 8 motion to adopt the November 19th, 2025, monthly 9 meeting minutes of the EFSEC Council. 10 Is there such a motion? 11 MR. RYBARIK: So moved. 12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Motion -- 13 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council 14 Rybarik. 15 And I'm sorry. The other voice, was that a 16 second? 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It can be 18 now. I second. 19 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 20 All right. The minutes are on the table. Are 21 there any changes from other Council members? 22 I will add one. And on Page 31, in Horse Heaven, 23 which obviously has an ongoing focus, understandably, 24 and I just wanted to note -- minor, but nonetheless 25 as part of my piece of the record -- on top of</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 meeting again as I read it. 2 Are there any edits or changes to the minutes? 3 Hearing none. All those in the favor, please say 4 "aye." 5 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye. 6 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? Abstain? 7 Okay. The informational public meeting minutes 8 are adopted. 9 The chair will entertain a motion to adopt the 10 November 17, 18, and 19, 2025, Cascade Renewable 11 Transmission Land-Use Hearing minutes for the 12 counties of Clark County, Skamania County, and 13 Klickitat County. 14 Is there such a motion? 15 MR. PAMPLIN: So moved. 16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. 17 Is there a second? 18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second. 19 Second. 20 CHAIR BECKETT: Did the clerk get 21 the second? Thank you. 22 The minutes are on the table. Are there any 23 edits or changes to the transmission land-use hearing 24 minutes for the Cascade Renewable Transmission 25 Project?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 Page 31, Line 3, "Based on Council input, my ability 2 to help facilitate as chair is within scope," just 3 want to clarify that's "counsel" in with an "S." 4 MR. RYBARIK: Yes. 5 CHAIR BECKETT: And I think in the 6 future, I'll try to say "legal counsel" just to help 7 make that more clear. So change is, "Based on," 8 c-o-u-n-s-e-l, "counsel input." 9 With that change, any others? 10 Hearing none. All those in favor of adopting the 11 regular meeting minutes for the November 19th Council 12 meeting, please say "aye." 13 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye. 14 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? 15 Abstentions? 16 Okay. Minutes are adopted. 17 With that, we will move on to project updates, 18 starting with the Kittitas Valley wind project. And, 19 Mr. Caseday, if you wanted to share any updates with 20 us. Thank you. 21 MR. CASEDAY: Yes. Good afternoon, 22 Chair Beckett, EFSEC Council, and staff. This is 23 Jarred Caseday with EDP Renewables for the Kittitas 24 Valley wind power project. 25 We had nothing nonroutine to report for the</p>

Page 18

1 period.
2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
3 Moving on to the Wild Horse wind power project.
4 Jennifer Galbraith.
5 MS. GALBRAITH: Yes. Can you hear
6 me?
7 CHAIR BECKETT: We can.
8 MS. GALBRAITH: Excellent.
9 Thank you, Chair Beckett, Council members, and
10 staff. This is Jennifer Galbraith with Puget Sound
11 Energy representing the Wild Horse wind facility.
12 I have one nonroutine update for the reporting
13 period. On October 25th, the spill release following
14 collapse of the damaged turbine was cleaned up in
15 accordance with the Wild Horse Spill Prevention,
16 Control, and Countermeasures Plan and in coordination
17 with the Department of Ecology.
18 As of today, approximately 85 percent of the
19 turbine components have been removed and transported
20 off-site for recycling or disposal. The remaining
21 components are scheduled to be removed before the end
22 of December, dependent on wind conditions.
23 PSE is working to complete a root cause analysis
24 of what caused the initial damage to the tower, and
25 we will keep the Council informed as we learn more

Page 19

1 and as final cleanup activities are completed.
2 Thank you.
3 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very
4 much.
5 Since this had a little more attention on it of
6 late, are there any questions for Ms. Galbraith by
7 Council?
8 MR. RYBARIK: No. Looking forward
9 to the root cause analysis.
10 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well. Thank
11 you, Council Rybarik.
12 Moving on to the Chehalis Generation Facility.
13 Jeremy Smith.
14 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, Chair
15 Beckett, Council members, and staff. This is Jeremy
16 Smith, the operations manager representing Chehalis
17 Generation Facility.
18 I have nothing nonroutine to report for this
19 period.
20 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
21 Moving on to Grays Harbor Energy Center. Adam
22 Abel.
23 MR. ABEL: Yes, this is Adam Abel
24 for Grays Harbor Energy.
25 And we have nothing nonroutine to report for this

Page 20

1 period.
2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
3 Moving on to Columbia Solar. Sara Randolph of
4 the EFSEC staff.
5 MS. RANDOLPH: Thank you. Good
6 afternoon, Chair Beckett, Council members, and staff.
7 For the record, this is Sara Randolph, site
8 specialist for Columbia Solar.
9 The facility update is provided in your packet.
10 There are no nonroutine updates to report.
11 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
12 Moving on to the Columbia Generating Station and
13 WNP 1 and 4. Kelly Elsethagen. Elsethagen. I
14 usually get it right, Kelly. I'm sorry.
15 MS. ELSETHAGEN: That's no worries.
16 Good afternoon, Chair Beckett, Council members,
17 and staff. This is Kelly Elsethagen for Columbia
18 Generating Station.
19 We have nothing nonroutine to report for the
20 period.
21 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well.
22 Moving on to Goose Prairie Solar. Sara Randolph
23 again.
24 MS. RANDOLPH: Thank you again.
25 For the record, this is Sara Randolph, site

Page 21

1 specialist for Goose Prairie.
2 The facility update is provided in your packet.
3 There are no nonroutine updates to report.
4 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
5 Moving on to Ostrea Solar. Jon Voltz.
6 MR. VOLTZ: Thank you, Chair
7 Beckett, Council members, and staff. This is Jon
8 Voltz with Cypress Creek Renewables, representing
9 Ostrea Solar.
10 Construction continues. We are complete with
11 most of the mechanical connections. Two of the three
12 circuits have been fully mechanically completed.
13 Site roads are complete. The substation activity is
14 coming -- approaching the mechanical completion. We
15 have begun construction of the O&M facility.
16 Other than that, there -- there is nothing
17 nonroutine to report for the period.
18 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very
19 much.
20 Moving on to Carriger Solar. Joanne Snarski.
21 MS. SNARSKI: Oh. Thank you, Chair
22 Beckett and Council members. This is Joanne Snarski,
23 the siting specialist for proposed Carriger Solar
24 facility -- excuse me. It's no longer proposed --
25 for the Carriger Solar facility in Klickitat County.

Page 22

1 In fact, on December 2nd, 2025, the governor's
 2 office notified Chair Beckett that the Carriger Solar
 3 site certification agreement was approved by the --
 4 by Governor Ferguson. The agreement was executed by
 5 both parties and became effective on December 15th,
 6 2025.
 7 Carriger Solar and their contractors are in the
 8 process of developing schedules and drafting plans.
 9 We will be meeting with them soon to begin to discuss
 10 those items.
 11 May I answer any questions?
 12 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
 13 Ms. Snarski.
 14 And you were -- did receive a bless from Council
 15 Rybarik. We hope your cold doesn't get worse.
 16 Council members, more seriously, are there any
 17 comments or questions that you had, given the recent
 18 official decision by Governor Ferguson?
 19 Okay. We appreciate the clarity and the ability
 20 to move forward. So look forward to doing so and
 21 including, as was noted in our press release, some of
 22 the follow-up that's intended by the governor's
 23 office in terms of tribal engagement, and we
 24 certainly welcome that further guidance and our
 25 shared path ahead.

Page 23

1 So, with that, moving on to the Horse Heaven
 2 project update. Amy Moon.
 3 MS. MOON: Thank you.
 4 Good afternoon, Council Chair Beckett and EFSEC
 5 Council members.
 6 EFSEC staff continue to work with the certificate
 7 holder reviewing preconstruction survey requirements
 8 and proposed mitigation plans that are being
 9 developed in coordination with the Pre-operational
 10 Technical Advisory Group, or PTAG.
 11 This work is a key component for refining the
 12 micro-siting of infrastructure and informs the
 13 placement of wildlife and habitat buffers as well as
 14 informing seasonal mitigation plans. Examples of
 15 such plans include a burrowing owl mitigation plan
 16 and a wildlife movement corridor mitigation plan.
 17 EFSEC staff will continue to work with the
 18 certificate holder to review survey plans and PTAG
 19 facilitator reports and for approval by the EFSEC
 20 Executive Director Bumpus per EFSEC Policy 16-01
 21 delegating certain plan approvals to the EFSEC
 22 director.
 23 On October 15th, the Council voted to approve
 24 Resolution 357, determining the buffers required for
 25 the wind turbines under Mitigation Measure Species-5.

Page 24

1 This mitigation measure contained two parts.
 2 The first part is the identification of the
 3 required turbine buffers for the purpose of
 4 ferruginous hawk mitigation, either a minimum of 0.6
 5 miles or two miles, based on criteria defined within
 6 the mitigation measure. The second part is a
 7 mitigation and monitoring plan for all turbines
 8 permitted to be built closer than two miles of a
 9 historic ferruginous hawk nest.
 10 The certificate holder has worked with the PTAG
 11 to develop this plan, and staff have reviewed it.
 12 Delegation Policy 16-01 delegates authority to the
 13 EFSEC director for approval of this plan, but the
 14 director has discretion to elevate plans back to the
 15 Council.
 16 Director Bumpus is currently reviewing this plan
 17 and anticipates elevating it to the Council for
 18 review and consideration at the January Council
 19 meeting. Staff expect this to be posted for public
 20 comment December 29th of 2025 through January 11th of
 21 2026 under the Open Public Meetings Act requirements
 22 for final action.
 23 The citation for that is Chapter 42.30 -- 42.30
 24 of the Revised Code of Washington. The Council would
 25 then have a week for comment review prior to taking

Page 25

1 action at the January 21st Council meeting.
 2 Does the Council have any questions?
 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Members of the
 4 Horse Heaven Council, comments or questions?
 5 MR. RYBARIK: The only question I
 6 have: Is that -- is that consistent with timelines
 7 that we've used in the past? I presume it is. It's
 8 just, I having newly joined this, is that -- is that
 9 kind of out of typical timeline of -- of prior to
 10 the -- the Council meeting to have that, that time?
 11 MS. MOON: Oh. The amount of time
 12 for our -- for Council review of public --
 13 MR. RYBARIK: Exactly.
 14 MS. MOON: -- comments?
 15 MR. RYBARIK: Yep.
 16 MS. MOON: I would say yes. We
 17 have, unfortunately, had tighter review comment -- or
 18 time for Council members to review comments, and we
 19 are now committing to a longer review period.
 20 Because we did have some shorter reviews, and those
 21 have been very challenging for -- for the Council to
 22 read all the comments as well as for staff and the
 23 public.
 24 Does that answer your question?
 25 MR. RYBARIK: Yeah, it does. Yeah.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 26</p> <p>1 Very good.</p> <p>2 MS. MOON: Okay.</p> <p>3 MR. RYBARIK: Appreciate you.</p> <p>4 MS. MOON: You're welcome.</p> <p>5 CHAIR BECKETT: Other comments or</p> <p>6 questions from the Council?</p> <p>7 MR. NELSON: Hey, this is</p> <p>8 Councilperson Nelson. I just wanted to add I very</p> <p>9 much appreciate, like, just, like, the heads-up of</p> <p>10 how long it is we'll be -- you know, about an</p> <p>11 approximation there just so we can plan accordingly.</p> <p>12 So just wanted to thank you very much for that.</p> <p>13 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.</p> <p>14 MS. MOON: You're welcome.</p> <p>15 CHAIR BECKETT: Other Council</p> <p>16 comments, questions?</p> <p>17 Okay. Then we will move on to the Hop Hill solar</p> <p>18 project. And John Barnes is with us from the EFSEC</p> <p>19 staff for the update.</p> <p>20 MR. BARNES: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>21 Beckett and Council members. This is John Barnes,</p> <p>22 EFSEC staff, for the Hop Hill application.</p> <p>23 Staff continue to work with the applicant on its</p> <p>24 mission of additional application materials for the</p> <p>25 Hop Hill project. The applicant is anticipating a</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 28</p> <p>1 determination process for this project.</p> <p>2 Are there any questions?</p> <p>3 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members,</p> <p>4 any questions?</p> <p>5 Okay. We'll then move on to the Goldeneye</p> <p>6 battery storage project. And Joanne Snarski will</p> <p>7 provide the update.</p> <p>8 MS. SNARSKI: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>9 Beckett. Again, this is Joanne Snarski, the siting</p> <p>10 specialist for the proposed Goldeneye battery energy</p> <p>11 storage facility in Skagit County.</p> <p>12 The applicant recently submitted a revised site</p> <p>13 plan for the facility that incorporates a significant</p> <p>14 increase to restoration of the adjacent Hansen Creek</p> <p>15 and a stream that flows into that creek. A meeting</p> <p>16 was held with DFW, Department of Fish and Wildlife,</p> <p>17 and other interested partners, including tribal</p> <p>18 representatives, to go over the revised plan.</p> <p>19 Based on this revision and other identifying data</p> <p>20 needs, staff are developing an additional data</p> <p>21 request for the applicant. This information is</p> <p>22 needed to help us complete our State Environmental</p> <p>23 Policy Act determination for the project.</p> <p>24 May I answer any questions?</p> <p>25 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 27</p> <p>1 spring 2026 submission for these materials. Staff</p> <p>2 are working with the applicant to finalize the</p> <p>3 submission and ensure the application will provide</p> <p>4 adequate information to reach a SEPA threshold</p> <p>5 determination for this project.</p> <p>6 Staff will update the Council with</p> <p>7 recommendations for next steps after the applicant</p> <p>8 submits the new application materials that reflect</p> <p>9 the details of project's expansion.</p> <p>10 Are there any questions?</p> <p>11 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,</p> <p>12 Mr. Barnes.</p> <p>13 Council?</p> <p>14 Seeing none. We'll move on to, I believe, the</p> <p>15 Wallula Gap project. John Barnes as well.</p> <p>16 MR. BARNES: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>17 Beckett and Council members. This is John Barnes,</p> <p>18 EFSEC staff, for the Wallula Gap application.</p> <p>19 Staff are continuing to coordinate with the</p> <p>20 applicant and the Yakama Nation cultural resource</p> <p>21 program staff following receipt of the TCP study</p> <p>22 regarding identified impacts from the project and</p> <p>23 potential mitigation.</p> <p>24 This coordination with the tribe and the</p> <p>25 mitigations that can be resolved is part of the SEPA</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 29</p> <p>1 Any questions, Council members?</p> <p>2 Okay. Then we will move on to the Cascade</p> <p>3 Renewable Transmission Project. And Maria Belkina</p> <p>4 will kick us off on that update.</p> <p>5 MS. BELKINA: Thank you, Chair</p> <p>6 Beckett and Council members. For the record, my name</p> <p>7 is Maria Belkina, siting specialist assigned to and</p> <p>8 reporting on the Cascade Renewable Transmission</p> <p>9 Project.</p> <p>10 CHAIR BECKETT: Ms. Belkina, you</p> <p>11 might just try and up your voice just a little bit --</p> <p>12 MS. BELKINA: Okay.</p> <p>13 CHAIR BECKETT: -- for us all.</p> <p>14 Thank you.</p> <p>15 MS. BELKINA: Following the public</p> <p>16 informational hearings and land-use consistency</p> <p>17 hearings held November 17th through 19th, EFSEC staff</p> <p>18 have continued formal review activities for the</p> <p>19 Cascade Renewable Transmission Project. Staff are</p> <p>20 currently reviewing the application for site</p> <p>21 certification for compliance with WAC 463-60 and</p> <p>22 evaluating whether the application contains</p> <p>23 sufficient information to support the next phase of</p> <p>24 review.</p> <p>25 As part of this effort, staff are identifying</p>

Page 30

1 subject areas where additional information or
2 clarification may be requested through future data
3 requests, consistent with EFSEC's statutory process.
4 EFSEC staff continue to coordinate closely with
5 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is expected to
6 serve as NEPA lead agency, as well as with Washington
7 Department of Ecology and Oregon Department of Energy
8 and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, to
9 support alignment across state and federal review
10 process. This coordination includes early discussion
11 related to Clean Water Act permitting, water quality
12 certification, and sequences of state and federal
13 reviews.
14 Staff also continue to support ongoing tribal
15 engagement and preparation for government-to-
16 government consultations, consistent with the
17 Centennial Accord and RCW 43.376, in coordination
18 with EFSEC's tribal liaison Lisa McLean. Outreach
19 and coordination activities are being aligned with
20 the broader environmental review timeline.
21 And now Ami Hafkemeyer had some additional
22 information regarding questions that were raised in
23 the public informational hearings and land-use
24 consistency hearings in November.
25 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

Page 31

1 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Before I jump --
2 CHAIR BECKETT: Ms. Hafkemeyer.
3 MS. HAFKEMEYER: --- into my
4 update, are there questions for Ms. Belkina?
5 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah. Please
6 proceed. Probably after kicking the rest of it off.
7 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you.
8 CHAIR BECKETT: Mm-hmm.
9 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Good afternoon --
10 MS. GRANTHAM: Chair.
11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- Council. I
12 would like to provide an update --
13 CHAIR BECKETT: Sorry.
14 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Oh. I'm sorry.
15 MS. GRANTHAM: We have Asa Leckie
16 raised his hand.
17 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Oh. I'm sorry.
18 CHAIR BECKETT: Sorry, Council
19 Leckie. Please proceed with your question or
20 comment.
21 MR. LECKIE: Yeah. After our --
22 our last hearings, I had some locals approach me
23 about some information. Was -- was there a previous
24 permit submitted to the Army Corps of Engineers that
25 was denied?

Page 32

1 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I don't believe we
2 have any information on that.
3 MS. BUMPUS: No.
4 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Not that we're
5 aware of.
6 MR. LECKIE: Okay. Thank you.
7 And also some other locals brought up some
8 concerns about the -- the DC current and effect on
9 fish, that sometimes -- some projects they pointed
10 out, that they use AC current because there's
11 negligible effect on fish, but DC current can force
12 the fish to align with the transmission line. It's
13 like an involuntary process.
14 Has there been any information on that? Thank
15 you.
16 MS. HAFKEMEYER: We're in the midst
17 of reviewing the application, so I cannot point you
18 to information on that in the application offhand.
19 But we can look into that and --
20 MR. LECKIE: Yeah.
21 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- add it to
22 future data requests if it's --
23 MR. LECKIE: Yeah. I will clarify
24 my -- my questions. I'll just say these are
25 questions that locals are bringing up to me. I don't

Page 33

1 expect answers here on the spot. I'm just wondering
2 if there's data on some of this. That's all. Thank
3 you.
4 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you.
5 CHAIR BECKETT: And, Council
6 Leckie, let me just affirm, I think on behalf of all
7 the Council members but certainly as chair, you know,
8 you as a representative of this project Council
9 living in the community where those kinds of
10 questions that you encounter just on your daily basis
11 are appreciated and certainly encouraged.
12 And at the same time, obviously how that's done
13 as a member of the Council is -- is sometimes another
14 matter. So I want to acknowledge some of those
15 limitations that come with you as a member of the
16 project Council.
17 But, most importantly, both the staff and -- and
18 the Council, you know, want to continually capture
19 those, and I don't think there's any doubt that --
20 that electromagnetic pulse impacts into the
21 environment, especially on other fish species, will
22 be a primary issue, it already feels like to me. So
23 appreciate that.
24 MR. LECKIE: Thank you. And I know
25 a lot of these things, just a little bit of

Page 34

1 information can -- can prevent some headaches down
 2 the road too. So I appreciate it. Thank you.
 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Early information
 4 is always very vital.
 5 So I think Director Bumpus wanted to jump in as
 6 well, so please.
 7 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
 8 Beckett. And good afternoon, Council members.
 9 Council Member Leckie's question reminded me, and
 10 given that we do have new Council members who are
 11 still in the process of orientating with EFSEC and
 12 its process, when you are out in the community and
 13 you're being asked questions or given input, please
 14 feel free to direct those folks to EFSEC to connect
 15 them with us. That way the people that are reaching
 16 out to you can start to engage with us.
 17 In some cases, they may not be on the public
 18 notice list or something like that. And so just a
 19 reminder to encourage them to reach out to us
 20 directly and submit their concerns, their comments to
 21 EFSEC so that we can get them in the record. Thank
 22 you.
 23 CHAIR BECKETT: Appreciate that,
 24 Director Bumpus. It jogs my mind too of one thing
 25 that, in a moment here, I'll go ahead and put into

Page 35

1 the record.
 2 And, Council Leckie, I'm happy to take this, you
 3 know, kind of offline between you and the staff. But
 4 in particular, in rural communities -- and having
 5 grown up one not as remote at times as counties on
 6 the Columbia -- word of mouth is important. And
 7 other means, nontraditional means of finding, you
 8 know, vital voices and questions are to be
 9 encouraged.
 10 And so if you -- you know, anyone, not just to
 11 just put all that on you, Council Leckie, but, you
 12 know, resources in each county, in each community
 13 that we can be aware of. Obviously places like
 14 libraries or the community centers are -- are always
 15 important. But as we continue to extend our ability
 16 to do outreach as well as notice people when we're
 17 having hearings and public comment periods, there
 18 will be much more to come. So we'll note that, I
 19 guess, for the collective going-forward effort.
 20 So, with that --
 21 MR. LECKIE: Well, that's -- no,
 22 you're spot-on. And -- and I did share those
 23 resources and contacts, but also they see my name on
 24 the -- on the list, and I'm ten minutes down the
 25 road. So when they're going to Vancouver, they

Page 36

1 always stop in and share your concerns too. But,
 2 yeah, you're spot-on. I appreciate that. Thank you.
 3 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah. Thank you.
 4 Of course, it makes me think that you're the new
 5 version of first responder here, so...
 6 With that, Director Bumpus, if there's anything
 7 else for you... I think we'll go back to
 8 Ms. Hafkemeyer.
 9 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you.
 10 I would like to provide an update for the record
 11 on the preapplication activity that occurred prior to
 12 the formal application submission.
 13 Within our statute and rules, there are
 14 requirements specific to the preapplication of
 15 transmission facilities which do not apply to the
 16 preapplication of generation facilities. The Cascade
 17 Renewable Transmission staff and EFSEC staff met for
 18 an initial consultation in September of 2023, and
 19 after this required meeting, in December of 2023,
 20 Cascade Renewable Transmission submitted its
 21 preapplication request, preapplication plan, and
 22 preapplication deposit of \$10,000.
 23 Shortly after this submission, preapplication
 24 stakeholder notifications occurred with notice --
 25 preapplication notices being mailed to landowners

Page 37

1 within 300 feet of the proposed corridor, seven
 2 cities and three counties along the river corridor,
 3 as well as tribes, many other State agencies, and
 4 other stakeholders.
 5 Public informational hearings were also held
 6 under the preapplication requirements for the
 7 transmission lines in Clark County, Skamania County,
 8 and Klickitat County on February 6th, 7th, and 8th of
 9 2024, respectively. These were attended by
 10 then-Chair Kathleen Drew and EFSEC staff.
 11 Documents pertaining to these initial meetings
 12 and the route negotiations that are required for
 13 preapplication of transmission are found in the
 14 preapplication section of the Council SharePoint.
 15 Staff are working to post these materials onto the
 16 EFSEC website, and they will be available for public
 17 access by the end of this week. Additionally, a
 18 summary of this preapplication activity is found in
 19 Section 2.5 of the publicly available application for
 20 site certification.
 21 So I'll pause here if there are any questions for
 22 preapplication before moving on. Is there any
 23 questions on what I've captured so far?
 24 CHAIR BECKETT: Are there any
 25 online hands, Ms. Grantham?

Page 38

1 Hearing none. No. I think, go ahead and
2 proceed, please.
3 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you.
4 I would also like to provide some information
5 regarding the comments received during the November
6 2025 public hearings.
7 As to comments that the application is a draft
8 and that the hearings were scheduled prematurely, we
9 recognize the application materials were marked with
10 the term "draft." However, EFSEC consider these
11 materials received to be the formal application
12 submission based on our authorizing statute.
13 In addition to presubmission communications with
14 the applicant confirming application details, we also
15 received a transmittal memo marking the packages for
16 EFSEC's use as well as a deposit of \$50,000, which
17 RCW 80.50.071 requires an applicant to submit at the
18 time of application submission.
19 Additionally, we have traditionally used the date
20 of receipt of application materials and the deposit
21 as the relevant date for scheduling public
22 informational meetings as required by our statute.
23 The relevant statute, RCW 80.50.090, states that
24 the Council shall conduct an informational public
25 hearing in the county of the proposed site as soon as

Page 39

1 practicable but not later than 60 days after receipt
2 of an application for site certification. The
3 requirement does not make reference to whether or not
4 the application is complete. This is in contrast
5 with the language in RCW 80.50.100 that states EFSEC
6 shall report to the governor its recommendation
7 within 12 months of receipt of an application deemed
8 complete by the director.
9 The completeness review can take months due to
10 the length and complexity of most applications before
11 EFSEC. If we were to hold off scheduling the initial
12 informational hearings until the determination that
13 an application is complete enough to proceed, there
14 would be risk of violating RCW 80.50.090, stating
15 that the hearing shall occur within 60 days following
16 the receipt of an application.
17 With respect to our current work, since holding
18 the public informational and land-use hearings on
19 November 17th, 18th, and 19th, staff have completed a
20 review of the comments received at those hearings
21 alongside our review of the application materials,
22 which is ongoing. We are working with our consultant
23 as well as legal counsel to develop a land-use-
24 specific data request to be sent to the applicant.
25 We believe this additional information is necessary

Page 40

1 to have a complete record in support of the Council's
2 land-use consistency determination. We will be
3 providing the applicant's responses to both the
4 Council and the public in early 2026, likely in late
5 January or February.
6 The Council may wish to afford these parties that
7 commented on land-use consistency a chance to respond
8 to the additional information provided by the
9 applicant in response to the data requests and for
10 the applicant to reply to those responses before an
11 ALJ -- before the ALJ drafts the determination on
12 land-use consistency for the Council's consideration.
13 Are there any questions on what I've covered to
14 this point?
15 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Pamplin.
16 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
17 And thanks, Ms. Hafkemeyer, for this update here and
18 review and bringing us up to speed of what the plans
19 are.
20 I did have a question relative to the statements
21 here that EFSEC staff are working with the AG's
22 office to submit land-use-specific data requests to
23 the applicant. But also are we directing any
24 questions to the local jurisdictions so that we can
25 understand directly from those with the

Page 41

1 jurisdictional authority what they think the project
2 applicant's proposal is and whether or not it's
3 consistent with their land-use ordinances? Thanks.
4 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Yeah, so the short
5 answer is, yes, we are reaching out to the local
6 jurisdictions. We have had the most communication to
7 this point with the City of North Bonneville, and
8 their City planner is evaluating the applicability in
9 particular where the proposal passes through the city
10 of North Bonneville. It passes through on federal
11 land, and so we are working with that City staff to
12 evaluate the applicability of those land-use
13 provisions.
14 We are still working on coordinating with the
15 local jurisdictions, offering interagency agreements
16 where they may be desired to work with the local
17 jurisdictions' planning departments as well as other
18 departments like fire departments and whatnot.
19 MR. PAMPLIN: So then we can
20 anticipate that we'll not only hear from the
21 applicant as far as what they think their project is
22 consistent with land-use regulations, but we'll also
23 hear from those jurisdictions directly?
24 MS. HAFKEMEYER: We are requesting
25 that information. It will ultimately be up to those

Page 42

1 jurisdictions as to how they want to participate or
2 what information they would like to provide or not.
3 MR. PAMPLIN: Okay. Thank you.
4 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Rybarik.
5 MR. RYBARIK: Just a couple of
6 quick questions on the draft information. That did
7 come up at the public hearings. And I think what I'm
8 understanding -- I just want to make sure I'm
9 understanding correctly -- is we're looking at the
10 contents of the documents rather than kind of the
11 names of the documents in order to identify what it
12 is included in there, and we're seeing indicia of --
13 of a applicant providing information that is an
14 application before EFSEC.
15 Am I hearing that correctly? Am I understanding
16 the situation correctly?
17 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Correct. Yes.
18 The term "draft" on the document is a term that's on
19 the document. Frankly, throughout the review
20 process, we work continually with the developer to
21 identify impacts, gather more information, develop
22 mitigation measures. So the process, itself, is by
23 its nature very iterative, and there are provisions
24 in our statute where there are milestones for a
25 concise updated application both prior to and

Page 43

1 following adjudication.
2 And so we expect, as we move through this
3 process, to receive periodic supplemental
4 information, perhaps revisions to the application,
5 and all of those will be made available as they're
6 received.
7 MR. RYBARIK: And has this -- has
8 this happened before? Have we seen a document
9 entitled "draft" or at least listed as draft where
10 EFSEC has processed that as an application, or is --
11 is this kind of an identification of first
12 impression?
13 MS. BUMPUS: So it's -- I would say
14 it's not uncommon for applicants to submit their
15 applications and indicate in the document that this
16 is a draft. Just as an example, you know, there'll
17 be plans that may be in the appendices, and they'll
18 all be labeled draft plan and, you know, with the
19 title.
20 So -- and as Ms. Hafkemeyer was saying, the
21 application continues to be supplemented as we move
22 through the process of siting. And there are -- one
23 thing that comes to mind too that I wanted to make
24 sure I mentioned is that there are what I would call
25 checkpoints along the way in the siting process where

Page 44

1 the applicant needs to submit an updated application
2 before we move to the -- through that next milestone.
3 So just as an example, we're going to be
4 generating data requests as we're doing the
5 environmental review. In this case, what we're
6 talking about today, the land-use consistency
7 determination, getting enough information for the
8 Council to make that decision.
9 But prior to adjudication, the applicant's
10 required to update their application with --
11 basically go back, and all the data requests,
12 responses that they provided to us, they have to go
13 into their application and update it so that the
14 Council is starting the adjudicative record with a --
15 basically a clean and current version of the
16 application proposal before it goes into
17 adjudication.
18 After adjudication is the next checkpoint. After
19 adjudication, they have to then update their
20 application again. And this time it's to update
21 it -- they can of course update it if other things
22 have occurred. But one of the reasons that that is
23 the case is so that they can take all of the
24 information from the adjudicative record and then
25 make sure that the -- any changes they want to make,

Page 45

1 mitigation measures that they might want to now
2 include based off the adjudicative hearing, can now
3 be reflected in that application.
4 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. That's
5 helpful.
6 MR. RYBARIK: So do --
7 CHAIR BECKETT: I don't mean to
8 jump in on your question.
9 MR. RYBARIK: Do -- I guess, just
10 from a timeline perspective, are we considering the
11 application complete at this point, or...?
12 MS. HAFKEMEYER: We're still
13 evaluating that.
14 MR. RYBARIK: Still evaluating.
15 Okay.
16 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I would go so far
17 as to say that I would expect we would need at least
18 one, if not more, data request to be able to deem the
19 application complete enough for the next step.
20 MR. RYBARIK: Okay. And just
21 new-guy questions.
22 Do we send a letter saying we now deem it to be
23 complete? Is there a point in time where the
24 applicant and other participants in the process know,
25 okay, it is complete for purposes of timelines that

Page 46

1 come from -- from that going forward?
2 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Because our
3 process is so iterative and we do have these
4 milestones where there is -- are statutory
5 requirements for updated applications, letters that
6 we send generally refer to the application being
7 complete enough to take the next step --
8 MR. RYBARIK: Take -- okay.
9 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- so that, you
10 know, we're ready for the next phase of the process
11 with the amount of information submitted.
12 MR. RYBARIK: Very good. Thank
13 you.
14 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for the
15 questions.
16 Are there others, or comments, from Council
17 members?
18 MS. GRANTHAM: I see Asa Leckie has
19 his hand raised.
20 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
21 Go ahead, Council Leckie.
22 MR. LECKIE: Yeah. I just had a
23 quick question. In the hearing, there was -- I
24 forget the term, but there was some sort of
25 certificate that was -- that was already sought by

Page 47

1 the County.
2 And I had a meeting with one of our planners, and
3 they indicated that there was still one more
4 outstanding requirement to meet with the planner, our
5 public works director, and our -- and our prosecuting
6 attorney, and that meeting hadn't happened yet.
7 Is that going to be scheduled here shortly in the
8 future? Thank you.
9 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Are you referring
10 to a meeting with EFSEC and those parties or with the
11 applicant and those parties?
12 MR. LECKIE: Sorry. The -- the
13 applicant.
14 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I think we can
15 reach out to the applicant and find out their
16 schedule for those activities. I don't think that we
17 have that information on hand.
18 MR. LECKIE: Okay. Thank you.
19 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well.
20 Other Council comments or questions?
21 None online?
22 MS. GRANTHAM: Blake Nelson.
23 MR. RYBARIK: Blake Nelson.
24 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Nelson.
25 Thank you.

Page 48

1 MR. NELSON: Thank you. Thank you.
2 This is really an administrative comment. But I'm
3 also a new councilperson. Have been on the Council
4 for, I think, three months now. I was able to attend
5 the Cascade Renewable Transmission land-use hearings
6 and informational meetings in person in all three
7 counties. And I just -- that was a huge undertaking.
8 I don't know that folks get to see the technical,
9 logistical, as well as the process side of it.
10 So perhaps it's the season talking, but I just
11 wanted to take a minute and thank EFSEC staff for
12 pulling that off. Because, you know, I was pretty --
13 pretty amazed at how well they did go.
14 I know people have strong opinions and feedback,
15 and that's what we're there to collect -- and thank
16 you for every bit of it -- about the projects,
17 themselves. But just wanted to say, as far as the
18 hearings themselves went, that was no small
19 undertaking and just wanted to thank EFSEC staff for
20 their professionalism and hard work.
21 MR. RYBARIK: Hear, hear.
22 CHAIR BECKETT: Appreciate that
23 very much. Thank you, Council Nelson.
24 MS. BUMPUS: Really appreciate
25 that. Yes.

Page 49

1 CHAIR BECKETT: It is not easy for
2 sure, so...
3 MS. BUMPUS: Absolutely not easy.
4 CHAIR BECKETT: Other comments or
5 questions? Okay.
6 And nothing online? All right.
7 Then we will conclude the update on Cascade
8 Renewable Transmission, or CRT as we often refer to
9 it and, I think, will increasingly.
10 And next up is the --
11 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair.
12 CHAIR BECKETT: Sure. Please.
13 Council Pamplin.
14 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks. Yeah, when
15 Ms. Hafkemeyer was kind of going through the
16 briefing, there was still another section regarding
17 the -- the full composition of the CRT project
18 Council. And just wanted to invite any remarks on
19 that relative to the memo that you had. Thanks.
20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Certainly.
21 So although notification letters went out upon
22 receipt of the application, we identified that some
23 of the notifications were not as explicit,
24 particularly to the cities, with regards to whether
25 or not they would appoint a councilperson. So we

Page 50

1 have sent additional communications indicating, you
2 know, if this proposal passes through your city
3 limits, statute says you shall appoint somebody.
4 We have identified some cou- -- or some cities
5 where, per our evaluation, it does not look like the
6 project passes through their city limits. However,
7 if they feel like it does, we certainly want to have
8 that conversation to make sure that the Council is
9 comprised of everybody who has jurisdiction over some
10 portion of this project.
11 As I mentioned, we have been in touch with City
12 of North Bonneville, again with those questions about
13 the application of, you know, the portion of that
14 project passing through and what that means for their
15 participation going forward.
16 We've also notified or invited the Port of
17 Skamania. In the application, they are identified as
18 a landowner. And as such, they are invited to
19 appoint a nonvoting Council member.
20 We have not heard responses to these additional
21 notifications yet, and I think with the initial
22 notifications that came out, some of the counties are
23 still considering their local appointees as well. So
24 the full composition of the Council is still pending.
25 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you.

Page 51

1 CHAIR BECKETT: No, thank you for
2 going into that topic.
3 Were there other comments or questions
4 accordingly?
5 MS. GRANTHAM: Council Member Asa
6 Leckie.
7 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Leckie.
8 MR. LECKIE: Yeah, I'm sorry.
9 My -- my Internet cut out there for a second.
10 Was Stevenson consulted also, or is there a
11 requirement to consult with the City of Stevenson?
12 Thank you.
13 MS. HAFKEMEYER: They were also
14 reached out to. And because it very clearly goes
15 through the city of Stevenson, we requested in the
16 letter that they appoint a councilperson.
17 MR. LECKIE: Thank you. Yeah,
18 their mayor and some of the council seats are in
19 transition, so you may not get a reply until the
20 first part of January. Just letting you know. Thank
21 you.
22 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I appreciate that.
23 Thank you.
24 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah, that's
25 helpful for sure. So thank you, Council Leckie.

Page 52

1 Any other comments or questions from that good
2 discussion?
3 Okay. Then, with that, we will move to the
4 transmission programmatic EIS. And Sean Greene of
5 the EFSEC staff will provide our update. Thank you.
6 MR. GREENE: Thank you.
7 Good afternoon, Chair Beckett and Council
8 members. This is Sean Greene, SEPA specialist for
9 EFSEC.
10 Following the issuance of the final transmission
11 programmatic EIS on October 7th of 2025, staff have
12 been working to finalize the publication of several
13 support tools that have been developed to assist in
14 future use of this document, including the
15 e-programmatic and a resource sensitivity online GIS
16 tool.
17 As a reminder, the e-programmatic is an
18 interactive website that will provide checklists,
19 bookmarking tools, and cross-references for resource
20 impacts and mitigation strategies discussed in detail
21 within the programmatic EIS, while the resource
22 sensitivity online GIS tool is an interactive map
23 showing environmental resources across the state that
24 would be sensitive to environmental impacts that
25 result from transmission projects.

Page 53

1 For both of these online tools, EFSEC staff is
2 working with WaTech to implement hosting support on
3 EFSEC's website. We have encountered a set of
4 technical hurdles that are delaying this process and
5 have subsequently reached out to the consultant that
6 developed these tools for us to explore a solution
7 where they host them for us in the interim.
8 The objectives would still be to complete our
9 process with WaTech to host these tools on the EFSEC
10 website with in-house oversight. Once finalized, we
11 anticipate having both the e-programmatic and the GIS
12 tool available in January of 2026 and will provide a
13 live demonstration of them at the February Council
14 meeting.
15 We are also continuing to coordinate a staff from
16 the Department of Ecology to schedule a joint
17 outreach campaign where our staff will visit with
18 planning departments across the state to introduce
19 our programmatic EISs and provide guidance on their
20 purpose and anticipated use.
21 Are there any questions?
22 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members,
23 questions or comments?
24 Appreciate the ongoing engagement with WaTech and
25 certainly appreciate continued updates on that, but

Page 54

1 thanks for this one, so...
2 Hearing no other comments. Nothing online,
3 Ms. Grantham?
4 All right. Then we will --
5 MR. RYBARIK: Should we also note
6 for the record, excellent color coordination on this
7 side of the EFSEC staff table here at the hearing
8 room. Maroon is the color of the day.
9 CHAIR BECKETT: I was going to say,
10 I've been focused on other things evidently, and
11 appreciate that lighter moment. I would have gone
12 with plum.
13 MR. RYBARIK: Okay.
14 CHAIR BECKETT: But I'm sure it's
15 open for debate. So they're looking sharp
16 nonetheless.
17 All right. With that, let's move to our "Other,"
18 both category as well as in this case starting with
19 our end-of-the-year director update by Director
20 Bumpus.
21 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
22 Beckett.
23 CHAIR BECKETT: Yes.
24 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Council
25 members.

Page 55

1 So 2025 has been just really a tremendous year
2 for EFSEC. I want to make a couple of comments also
3 before I get into 2025.
4 Just to, you know, given that we have new Council
5 members, talk a little bit about our history and
6 where we started. Because I think that's really
7 relevant, and it -- it also highlights some of the
8 things I'm going to talk about with respect to the
9 website redesign and branding that we've done for
10 2025.
11 So when I came to EFSEC, EFSEC basically was --
12 you know, had been since its creation in the 1970s
13 nested with other larger agencies. Was more or less
14 treated as a -- as another program and operated with
15 administrative oversight of the larger agency and I
16 would say that for many years really did not have the
17 resources commensurate with the role that it has and
18 the responsibility that it has, the tasks that it has
19 to meet, right?
20 So when EFSEC became an independent agency in
21 June of 2022, we really needed to distinguish
22 ourselves as an independent agency. And that's kind
23 of where this website redesign and branding and logo
24 creation come in. We just really did not have a
25 distinctive identity, having been for so many years

Page 56

1 part of larger agencies, first at Commerce and then
2 at the Utilities and Transportation Commission. So
3 just a little bit of history about us.
4 Going back to January 2025, though, it's been a
5 huge year. We welcomed our new chair, Chair Beckett,
6 to the agency. It's our first new chair in over
7 seven years. When Chair Beckett came to EFSEC, the
8 agency was already diving into a number of changes
9 that we were making, strategic planning for the
10 following two years being underway. We also were
11 developing a project dashboard, a list of projects
12 that we needed to undertake to stand the agency up.
13 And so we are starting to see results, and I
14 would say 2025 has been one of those years where
15 there are just so many things coming together.
16 The work on the website redesign started in
17 October of 2024, and it was a huge project where all
18 of our staff were collaborating with our contractor,
19 but we were also reaching out to stakeholders and
20 getting input from them on the functionality of the
21 website and what we needed to do to improve it. It
22 included partner agencies, tribal members, who
23 participated in several user experiments to see how
24 they were experiencing the survey or -- sorry --
25 website and let us know what we could do to improve

Page 57

1 it.
2 And so that was launched in June of 2025. And
3 we're continuing to see things that we need to tweak.
4 We have a presentation here in a little bit to show
5 you some of the functionality of the -- of the
6 website since it went live.
7 But do know that, as we move forward into 2026,
8 we're still anticipating making changes. There's
9 other things that we want to add to the website to
10 improve its functionality. But it's -- it's huge
11 that we've gotten that done.
12 I've already talked a little bit about the logo
13 and the -- and the rebranding. You know, we have our
14 own logo. Prior, it was the Washington State seal.
15 And staff had input into this logo, and I think that
16 this is good in terms of helping to distinguish us
17 from other agencies, and I think that it helps with
18 our public outreach and letting people know who we
19 are and who to contact when they want to engage with
20 us.
21 For regulatory reform, we completed a yearlong
22 effort to update agency rules, which are found in
23 Title 463 of the Washington Administrative Code. The
24 changes that took effect in June of '22 -- sorry --
25 June '22 aligned our rules with the statutory changes

Page 58

1 that were effective in -- became effective in June of
2 2022 when we became an independent agency.
3 We -- as far as the -- the changes to the rules,
4 these were aligning with things like the Public
5 Records Act and the Environmental Health Law
6 Reorganization Act, both of which impact our
7 operations.
8 For preapplication, I think we may have talked
9 about this a little bit in the past. A lot is
10 happening with preapplication. The EFSEC siting and
11 compliance team has made great strides in developing
12 a preapplication tool kit for prospective applicants
13 to use. There's also a preapplication form. And
14 we're planning to post the tool kit and the
15 preapplication form on the website next year.
16 So there'll be more information about this.
17 We're not done, but we -- we've made great strides,
18 and we have a final draft application -- I keep
19 saying "application" -- I mean preapplication form
20 that we're going to put on our website next year.
21 And we're going to be developing narrative to go
22 on this preapplication page for our website so that
23 we can explain to prospective developers what this is
24 and really encourage them to take advantage of the
25 opportunity to work with us early on before they

Page 59

1 start the formal application process.
2 We also completed the transmission programmatic
3 environmental impact statement. On October 7th, we
4 released the document. It studied the effects of
5 building, upgrading, and operating electrical
6 transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of
7 230 kV or greater.
8 This was mandated by legislation. And we
9 coordinated with the Department of Ecology, as they
10 were developing their programmatic EISs that were
11 released earlier this year, June 2025. And I think
12 as Mr. Greene mentioned, we're planning to do
13 coordinated outreach, bring our programmatic in
14 combination with theirs to do this outreach campaign
15 and educate people and inform them about these
16 programmatic and how to use them.
17 Let's see. What else? Oh. Projects. Projects
18 certified.
19 So January 9th, we talked a little bit about this
20 as part of the Carriger update. Oh. Sorry. I'm on
21 the wrong one here.
22 This is in reference to the Wautoma Solar
23 Project. So January 9, we had the governor sign the
24 Wautoma Solar Project, which was the 470-megawatt
25 solar project that was permitted. And then December

Page 60

1 2nd, we had the notification for the Carriger
2 certification being approved.
3 Sorry. As I was going into that next page, I
4 thought that we were talking about Carriger first,
5 being that it had just happened. But don't want to
6 forget about Wautoma.
7 So, anyway, but having said all that, I just want
8 to thank the Council and the staff for all of the
9 hard work in 2025. It's been a really tremendous
10 year for us. There are a number of projects that
11 we're working on that are going to continue into
12 2026. We know that there are several preapplicants
13 that are considering applying to us. And so I think
14 all of these changes that we've implemented this year
15 are going to really help facilitate a more efficient
16 and more predictable review process.
17 So thank you. And please let me know if you have
18 any questions about any of the updates for 2025. And
19 if none today, feel free to reach out to me any time
20 if you have questions about what's going on. Thank
21 you.
22 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Director
23 Bumpus, for the good update. And I certainly will
24 quickly turn this to my fellow Council members. But
25 I think it'd probably be inappropriate if I didn't,

Page 61

1 one, thank you for all your work, Director Bumpus, in
2 all that you just listed.
3 And I think, as importantly, and if not more,
4 probably from your perspective and certainly mine as
5 well, is "thank you" to all the staff for years of
6 hard work long before I came here and continued
7 certainly effort in that regard and especially
8 with -- with me here now this year.
9 So I think I would also add on your list the
10 onboarding of the new chair was part of the journey
11 for you amongst others this year. So I want to thank
12 you in that regard and acknowledge that.
13 And so, I guess, with that, let me just stop, and
14 I'll turn it to Council Pamplin, Council Rybarik, or
15 others. Or questions.
16 MR. RYBARIK: No questions. Sort
17 of on that -- on that note, first, thank you, Sonia,
18 for the -- for the update. And obviously that's
19 continuing my own onboarding, is to hear the work
20 that's happened here in 2025, but did want to take a
21 moment, in 2025 includes me joining the EFSEC as the
22 UTC's representative. And I'm participating in this
23 for the UTC because I -- as I took the role of UTC
24 chair, it was important to me to be firsthand
25 involved in this work.

Page 62

1 But I step into that space having had a UTC
2 employee, Stacey Brewster, who was deeply involved in
3 this work for many years. And I don't want to take
4 away from that having stepped in here. I just want
5 to recognize I stand on the shoulders of the work
6 that she did.
7 And we got to celebrate her yesterday at the UTC
8 for 25 years of State service. And just a dedicated
9 State employee. I know she'll continue to be
10 involved in this work from the UTC's perspective and
11 supporting us. And just wanted to recognize the
12 great work she's done in 2025 and in many years
13 before that and will continue to help support this
14 work as we go forward. So thank you, Stacey, for all
15 the great work.
16 CHAIR BECKETT: And I only had the
17 pleasure of knowing Stacey here for the year, but
18 she's been clearly a tremendous pillar of the Council
19 for a long time. And I certainly benefitted from
20 that with -- and with all the Council members, but
21 certainly Chair Brewster on occasion and just, you
22 know, general -- just acknowledge the depth that she
23 brings.
24 So anyone else at the moment? I have one more
25 comment before we go. But, Ms. Grantham, anyone

Page 63

1 online at the moment?
2 Well, very well. Director Bumpus, I will kick
3 this back to you in just a second, but let me just
4 note the topic and kind of speak to it briefly.
5 Preapplication. And you certainly emphasize that
6 in your comments. As chair, let me further
7 reemphasize that, including for current participants
8 with EFSEC, but future participants with EFSEC, it is
9 a critical part of the path. And I don't think it's
10 new, but I think it is only becoming more vital in
11 the ability to sort through these complicated issues
12 up front and in a more transparent and consistent way
13 for all members of the public regardless of, you
14 know, what input they may have to the EFSEC record.
15 And so it just -- and, I guess, Commissioner
16 Leckie, or Council Leckie, you know, noted this in
17 his own way in certain comments that he was making.
18 And so I think that will be a further dedicated part,
19 including for tribal consultation. And just would
20 like to kind of note that on a year-end and
21 year-ahead basis and encourage all parties to help
22 work with EFSEC know that we're listening, we're
23 anxious to better shape that process into something
24 that is clear and accountable that works for
25 everyone.

Page 64

1 And so, with that, the one item I was going to
2 kick back to you, Director Bumpus, was I believe we
3 have a public meeting or informational meeting on
4 January 8th, if memory serves. And just wanted to
5 note that there is a near-term preapplication
6 milestone that's very the beginning of the beginning,
7 but I don't know if there's anything you'd like to
8 clarify for the record on that one.
9 MS. BUMPUS: I don't have anything
10 to add. Do you?
11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I don't. Thank
12 you.
13 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Well --
14 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you for
15 mentioning it.
16 CHAIR BECKETT: -- I think it will
17 be further, you know, further pushed out in the
18 various usual communication channels. But since it
19 will be the beginning and early in the year, just
20 wanted to note it here in December since we're a few
21 weeks out. But as always, that will soon be here
22 tomorrow.
23 So all right. Seeing no other hands raised, then
24 we will move on to our partners in the Washington
25 Department of Fish and Wildlife and their wind and

Page 65

1 solar guidelines that have been, I think,
2 promulgated, or you can help correct the right word I
3 should be using, Council Pamplin.
4 MS. GRANTHAM: Chair, this is
5 Ms. Grantham. We actually have Ali Smith giving a
6 quick website --
7 CHAIR BECKETT: Oh. I'm sorry.
8 MS. GRANTHAM: -- presentation
9 first.
10 CHAIR BECKETT: Apologies. Getting
11 ahead of myself.
12 So further heads-up I'm going to kick this to
13 you, Council Pamplin, soon when we get to the -- to
14 the final item. But thank you for saving me from
15 myself.
16 So, with that, and a special thanks to Ali Smith,
17 amongst others, who were deeply involved in the Web,
18 not only redesign and most importantly launch and now
19 the continued nursing of how the functionality
20 actually works in the real world. So apologies, Ali,
21 but with that, please proceed.
22 MS. SMITH: Thank you. I am -- can
23 I just get confirmation that everybody can hear me?
24 CHAIR BECKETT: We can hear you
25 very well.

Page 66

1 MS. SMITH: Very good.
2 CHAIR BECKETT: So thank you.
3 MS. SMITH: Thank you. Thank you.
4 And if I can get confirmation that you can see
5 the slide show.
6 CHAIR BECKETT: We can see it.
7 MS. SMITH: Awesome. Thank you --
8 MR. RYBARIK: We can --
9 MS. SMITH: -- so much.
10 MR. RYBARIK: We can see a slide
11 show. Whether it's the slide show, Ali..
12 CHAIR BECKETT: It's a conspiracy.
13 MS. SMITH: Well, I hope that we
14 are looking at the same slide show: EFSEC Council
15 meeting, December 2025, search functionality on our
16 redesigned website.
17 MR. RYBARIK: That's the one.
18 Thank you.
19 MS. SMITH: Awesome. Thank you.
20 Thank you.
21 Well, good afternoon and welcome. My name is Ali
22 Smith, and I am the management analyst here at EFSEC.
23 Thank you for taking a few extra minutes out of your
24 day to listen to our presentation on our public
25 website search functionality.

Page 67

1 So I'm expecting that walking through this slide
2 deck will take about 10 or 15 minutes. This slide
3 deck is available in the Council packet. I do ask
4 that we hold any Council questions until the end.
5 And for tracking purposes, we are really encouraging
6 public input and questions to be sent to our
7 dedicated e-mail address, which will be provided at
8 the end of the presentation. We'll leave that up for
9 a few minutes just to make sure you have time to
10 capture it. It is also at the top of our website,
11 should you need it there as well.
12 For the agenda, a few key pieces I will be
13 talking through include changes to our public website
14 specific to searching.
15 So the goal of this presentation is to socialize
16 searching in our new website. We hope you walk away
17 with a greater understanding of how to look for the
18 events and documents that you're interested in.
19 So on the slide, on the right side, there is an
20 image of the top of our home page on our website. We
21 will see this image a few times in this presentation.
22 **A bit of background to help set the stage. As**
23 **you have noticed, we have been doing work on our**
24 **public website and implemented a redesigned site in**
25 **the summer of 2025, so just six months ago at this**

Page 68

1 point.
2 **Over the last year, we at EFSEC have been working**
3 **with Anthro-Tech. They are a human-centered design**
4 **consultancy who has also done work with Washington**
5 **Department of Transportation, Washington State**
6 **Legislature, and many more. Together we have done**
7 **user surveys with them, contact review and inventory**
8 **activities, workshops, focus group feedback sessions,**
9 **accessibility evaluations, and EFSEC training.**
10 **So right now we are kind of in that second bullet**
11 **there, that post-launch phase. And moving forward,**
12 **starting in January, we're going to continue**
13 **stabilization efforts and enhancements.**
14 **In the next two slides, let's think about the two**
15 **versions of our website. So we have past and**
16 **current. And why does the change to searching really**
17 **matter?**
18 **Before, the old website, some struggles we**
19 **encountered were staff time was spent manually**
20 **updating, assigning, reassigning information,**
21 **directing, redirecting users to the right places.**
22 **This also resulted in a siloed and information that**
23 **was inconsistent and outdated.**
24 **So a key benefit of this redesign is what we are**
25 **calling interconnectedness. So what that means is**

Page 69

1 **the information is stored once. And whenever that**
2 **information is referenced, the system will pull from**
3 **that central source.**
4 **So a good example of what that means in**
5 **real-world terms is think of your phone or your phone**
6 **contacts. So when you go into your phone contacts**
7 **and you update somebody's name, you'll see their name**
8 **updated in many areas, such as text threads,**
9 **favorites list, group chats, et cetera, but you only**
10 **updated it that one time in the contact. So that**
11 **means that resources now talk to each other across**
12 **sections of the website.**
13 **So for a user -- that is anybody who accesses our**
14 **website is our user. What does that mean for their**
15 **experience? Thinking about the old model and the new**
16 **model, we are moving from static to connected page**
17 **elements.**
18 **In the old model, the experience was more linear.**
19 **The pages were longer. Content was siloed, meaning**
20 **it didn't talk to each other. There were**
21 **underutilized tabs, and links would become broken.**
22 **In the new model, the experience is more intuitive**
23 **with that human-centered design element. It is**
24 **interactive, direct. There's less layers, and**
25 **there's improved tag uses and linking.**

Page 70

1 **So if you find yourself wondering what is a tag,**
2 **that's okay. I'll explain that now.**
3 **Think of it as a way of labeling and putting**
4 **items into categories. It helps people find what**
5 **they are looking for faster. So a key takeaway of**
6 **these two slides is the new website behaves more like**
7 **an interactive ecosystem, whereas the old website**
8 **kind of read like a pamphlet that you would have to**
9 **click through.**
10 **And how does -- how does all this relate to**
11 **searching? We're getting there.**
12 **So with the redesign, our team has been working**
13 **to add more tags and metadata. So the tags will help**
14 **the user find what they're looking for faster, and it**
15 **also allows a greater control over what they may be**
16 **looking for. With connections, the user has many**
17 **ways to find the same thing. 'Cause as we know, a**
18 **document might have many connections. It might be**
19 **related to a facility. It might be related to an**
20 **event, such as a meeting or a hearing. And it might**
21 **also be related to a milestone.**
22 **Think of the connection as a direct relationship**
23 **between two items and the tag is the description of**
24 **that thing. By creating more tags and connections,**
25 **users will experience more relevant search results.**

Page 71

1 **Oops. I apologize. I think I skipped ahead.**
2 **All right. So we are still on that same slide.**
3 **So searching within the website can be done in**
4 **multiple ways. I'm going to pull up a laser pointer**
5 **here, so you'll see a red image on the screen. So**
6 **you have this white search box at the top right.**
7 MS. GRANTHAM: Ali.
8 MS. SMITH: The tabs just below --
9 MR. RYBARIK: Hey, Ali. Ali, I'm
10 not sure we've progressed to the thing that you're --
11 MS. SMITH: Oh.
12 MR. RYBARIK: -- looking at. We
13 still see the "wait" slide.
14 MS. SMITH: Oh. The "wait" slide.
15 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
16 MS. SMITH: Okay. And if I click
17 forward, are you on the search -- searching slide?
18 MS. BUMPUS: No.
19 CHAIR BECKETT: Says, "Wait. What
20 does this mean for searching?" Yeah.
21 MS. BUMPUS: Yeah.
22 CHAIR BECKETT: We've been on
23 that -- we've been on that for a little bit now.
24 MS. SMITH: I'm sorry. Let me --
25 CHAIR BECKETT: No, it's --

Page 72

1 MS. SMITH: -- go ahead and end the
2 slide show and then reshare.
3 And are you on the searching slide now?
4 MS. BUMPUS: No. It's the EFSEC
5 Council meeting December 2025 slide. The first slide
6 is what it's showing.
7 MS. SMITH: Okay. Andrea, would
8 you mind pulling up, and I will just go ahead and say
9 "next slide" to you so we can stay on target here?
10 MS. GRANTHAM: Yeah, I can do that.
11 MS. SMITH: Thank you so much.
12 Yes, that should be --
13 MR. RYBARIK: Yep.
14 MS. SMITH: Yes, that's the one
15 we're on there. So I apologize.
16 So we'll start from the top of my notes here just
17 so we are all on the same page, looking at the same
18 thing.
19 So with the redesign, our team has been working
20 to add more tags and metadata.
21 So the tags will help the user find what they're
22 looking for faster, but also gives them greater
23 control over what they're looking for.
24 As we know, a document can have many connections,
25 and so the user has many ways to find the same thing.

Page 73

1 Sorry. Got a little flustered because things went
2 out of whack there. That's okay.
3 So think of the connection as a direct
4 relationship between two items and the tag as a
5 descriptive label. By creating more tags and
6 connections, the users will experience more relevant
7 search results.
8 So, no, you can't see my pointer here, but at the
9 top, very top right of that image, there's a white
10 search box. Just below that, there is some tabs.
11 There's a yellow box there. That's the second way to
12 search.
13 And the third way to search is that big box in
14 the center. There's a yellow box there that you can
15 select tabs from. Thank you, Andrea.
16 So the white box at the top, that very top right
17 one, that is a general search that just searches page
18 content. Today we're going to focus on two targeted
19 searches, so one would be for hearings and meetings
20 and the other which would be for documents. You can
21 access that search in two ways, and those are both
22 available in those yellow boxes. So one is that top
23 ribbon, and the other is towards the bottom left of
24 that image, in the search area. Thank you.
25 Go ahead and move on to the next slide.

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 74</p> <p>1 So searching for hearings and meetings, which I 2 might also call events, and documents are among the 3 top tasks for our users. Based on the user survey 4 that we did with our consultancy, users are most 5 interested in the following four tasks: Looking up 6 information about a specific project or facility; 7 finding information about an upcoming meeting, 8 hearing, or proceeding; finding information about a 9 past meeting, hearing, or proceeding; and then 10 reviewing comments from a comment period. 11 Translating these broad tasks into context: 12 James wants to read about the Cascade Renewable 13 Transmission informational hearing and land-use 14 consistency hearing meeting in November of 2025. 15 James would be able to navigate to that information 16 from the tabs at the top, so in that top yellow box, 17 or the middle, using that bottom yellow box. 18 Based on this example, James may wish to look at 19 the event, itself, to read a summary about it, watch 20 the recording, access relevant documents, and more. 21 James could navigate to the event search from either 22 of those sections. If James was interested in going 23 directly to the documents, James could select the 24 document search either at the top under "Find 25 documents" or in the bottom left, using the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 76</p> <p>1 down your search. 2 Move on to the next slide, please. 3 If the user happened to go to the -- the document 4 search using that "Find documents," they are 5 presented with a similar experience. They have the 6 basic keyword search and then the advanced search by 7 selecting "More ways to search." The functionality 8 between the event search and document search is very 9 similar. So due to the content needs and the 10 metadata associated with these two items, the 11 searches are targeting two different pools of 12 information. But with interconnectedness, if you get 13 access to one, you can get to the other. 14 The recommendations that we have for the advanced 15 search function would be using filters such as 16 facility name, document type, and language. 17 Move on to the next slide, please. 18 So I do apologize. These images are small, but 19 these are live on the website now. So if you would 20 like a higher resolution, please feel free to 21 navigate to those. They are -- they are linked in 22 the pictures there. 23 So what does this mean for James? So James was 24 able to find the event Cascade Renewable Transmission 25 informational hearing, land-use consistency hearing</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 75</p> <p>1 "Documents" tab in the middle section. With 2 interconnectedness, James would be able to navigate 3 to his desired advanced search, perform the search, 4 and then find the related content within that. 5 Go ahead and scroll down to the next slide, 6 please. 7 The page for all hearings and meetings -- like I 8 said, also known as events -- has some presorted tabs 9 at the top there, so that would be just under -- 10 Andrea, if you could point it out for me where it's 11 the "Public hearings," "Council" -- go up a little 12 bit more; there you go -- using the tabs "Public 13 hearings," "Council meetings," and "Public comment 14 periods." So these are presorted results if the user 15 wants to look at these specific things. 16 Just below that, there is a basic keyword search, 17 which people can type just a text-based search. Or 18 if they select the "More ways to search," there is 19 filters that they can use. 20 The advanced search uses tags, those tags we 21 mentioned earlier, as filter criteria to give the 22 user more control over search results. We recommend 23 using the facility name, the meeting type, which 24 could be informational -- informational public 25 hearing, as an example, or date ranges to help narrow</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 77</p> <p>1 and for Klickitat County from the event search and 2 navigated to it. So that's that image that you're 3 seeing there, is he navigated to that event, and that 4 was what was presented when he opened it. 5 As a result of the connections, James can access 6 the most up-to-date information for the related 7 comment periods, so that's going to be that blue box 8 in the middle. He can navigate to that. He can 9 navigate to the facility page, which in this example 10 is for Cascade Renewable Transmission. He can access 11 documents and many more through this event. 12 If James happened to go to the Cascade Renewable 13 Transmission facility page, this event would be 14 presented there. And he can also navigate to the 15 documents associated with it and so forth. So 16 instead of the isolated pages that users experienced 17 in the past, the connections behave more like that 18 ecosystem, where it's all connected together. 19 Go on to the next slide, please. 20 So what does this mean for our users? Again, our 21 users are anybody that goes to our public website. 22 This means that information is correct, up-to- 23 date, and easier to find. Related topics have better 24 visibility due to their connected -- connections and 25 tags. So you might see that if somebody went to the</p>

Page 78

1 facility page and saw something they might not have
2 been looking for or didn't realize would be there.
3 They'd be presented with that information because
4 it's interlinked.
5 Once learned, the navigation feels more intuitive
6 with many paths to the same results. And then the
7 user experience is more consistent across the site
8 over time.
9 Go on to the next slide, please.
10 So up next for -- for us. Keeping a
11 human-centered design and user-focused website will
12 continue to play a large part in our website work.
13 So we are expecting to continue gathering feedback
14 and monitoring user needs and enhance functionality
15 based on user input and feedback.
16 All right. If we can go to the next slide.
17 Thank you.
18 As I mentioned, this is the -- our -- our e-mail
19 address for the website. I thank you so much for the
20 time today, and I really hope that you have learned
21 about the connections and ways to search on our
22 updated website.
23 We are encouraging support from the public. And
24 for tracking and retention purposes, we do ask to
25 submit through our dedicated e-mail address. So

Page 79

1 that's that one there on the screen. It is also at
2 the top of our website.
3 At this time, is there any questions from the
4 Council?
5 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members, I
6 guess, let me first say thank you, Ali, for not only
7 the presentation, but also I would note the very wise
8 choice of Cascade Renewable Transmission as kind of
9 your user, you know, example. And I couldn't have
10 asked for, you know, a better top-of-mind selection.
11 So appreciate that.
12 I certainly use the website, and even though we
13 have some internal resources here. So it's -- it's
14 been a pleasure to see that evolving, knowing it's a
15 work in progress.
16 So with my, I'm sure, too long of comments today,
17 Council members, other questions, comments?
18 MR. RYBARIK: Other than just
19 the -- I like the language, and I like the concept of
20 human-centered approaches to technology. And just
21 really appreciate -- I cannot imagine the amount of
22 work that went into getting something that is this --
23 has this type of functionality to it and just getting
24 data connected, given the data that probably already
25 existed. So appreciate it very much and look forward

Page 80

1 to being a superuser of this website.
2 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well.
3 All right. I don't think I see anything online.
4 Let me double-check.
5 And anything else, Director Bumpus, as a close to
6 that? Or I will wrap this up.
7 MS. BUMPUS: I don't have
8 anything --
9 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay.
10 MS. BUMPUS: -- to add. Just --
11 CHAIR BECKETT: I'm trying to put
12 you on the spot.
13 MS. BUMPUS: No. Just thanks to
14 the Council and the staff for a wonderful year. And
15 please give us feedback on the website as you're
16 using it, as you're -- I'll admit I'm often -- I
17 mean, I'll just admit: Sometimes I go to the website
18 rather than our S drive.
19 MR. RYBARIK: Yeah.
20 CHAIR BECKETT: That's why it
21 evolved.
22 MS. BUMPUS: So no. Thank you,
23 though.
24 CHAIR BECKETT: All right. Thank
25 you again very much for the presentation.

Page 81

1 And evidently my overexuberance on getting to
2 wind and solar guidelines. I do want to note for our
3 other Council members that both the "Other" section,
4 in general as much as we try to, you know, put this
5 out in public and information we think that's --
6 that's relevant both to Council and the public, this
7 outside presentation is one that maybe hasn't been
8 done in a while and to the degree that it's kind of
9 at the tail end of the meeting in case someone needs
10 to depart a little early, I think this is where we
11 have everyone's attention as a topic, but just want
12 to acknowledge this was something that we were trying
13 to do in our evolution here.
14 And, with that, I would turn this to Council
15 Pamplin to really just kick us off. Thank you so
16 much for helping to facilitate this today. And we
17 have Mike Ritter from the department as well who's
18 going to make the presentation. So I want to thank
19 Mike in advance, or Mr. Ritter in advance.
20 So, with that, Council Pamplin, whatever you'd
21 like to say and kick us off here.
22 MR. PAMPLIN: Great. Well, thank
23 you, Mr. Chair. And, yeah, really appreciate this,
24 the opportunity. I think this is -- this is
25 something I see in other forums that I'm on, so I

Page 82

1 appreciate that there's this opportunity here at
2 EFSEC to bring related items, useful information,
3 whether it's an energy forecast or an agency update.
4 And here the Department of Fish and Wildlife has
5 updated our wind and solar energy guidelines. Our
6 guidelines for wind energy had come out in 2009, so
7 it was -- it was time to refresh that. And Mr. Mike
8 Ritter, who's based in the Tri-Cities, and his team
9 in our habitat program did a tremendous amount of
10 work here over the past year. And just would like to
11 turn it over to Mr. Ritter to walk us through the
12 guidelines. Thank you.
13 MR. RITTER: Good afternoon. Can
14 everyone hear me okay?
15 MR. PAMPLIN: Yep. You're coming
16 through.
17 MR. RITTER: Awesome.
18 And, EFSEC, if you could run my slide show for
19 me. I'll just tell you, "Next slide, please." Good
20 enough?
21 MS. GRANTHAM: Will do.
22 MR. RITTER: Awesome.
23 Well, good afternoon, everyone, Chair Beckett,
24 EFSEC Council members. Thank you so much for
25 inviting us to your meeting.

Page 83

1 As Mr. Pamplin said, I'm Mike Ritter. I'm our
2 lead planner for solar and wind energy development.
3 And I, along with Emily Grabowsky and Michelle
4 Huppert, make up the solar and wind unit within the
5 department. Got just a short presentation for you
6 today on how we develop these guidelines and the
7 current state of affairs.
8 Next slide, please.
9 Mr. Pamplin kind of alluded to it: Why update
10 and write new guidelines? Well, the 2009 wind power
11 guidelines were very old and outdated. We have no
12 solar guidelines. And over the last six years, there
13 has been an incredible increase in the amount of
14 utility-scale solar projects in the state. And
15 presently we're managing -- you know, you can see
16 there -- 95 solar and 58 wind projects.
17 I'd like to point out that about three of those
18 solar projects and 28 of the wind are operational.
19 So the majority of the projects are still in some
20 type of planning or preplanning stage.
21 Next slide, please.
22 So we started on this process back in Janu- --
23 January of 2004. And early on, we decided to publish
24 one document with specific callouts for guidance
25 related to wind or solar. And we wanted this to be a

Page 84

1 broad cast out into the planning world to target
2 tribes, renewable energy developers, environmental
3 consultants, permitting authorities, and other
4 external stakeholders.
5 **A key partnership we had through this whole thing**
6 **was consulting assistance from Ross Strategic and**
7 **Kramer Consulting. We conducted extensive internal**
8 **and external engagement, and the process basically**
9 **lasted about 20 months.**
10 **Next slide, please.**
11 **Just want to kind of give you a check of where**
12 **we're at. So there we go. We're starting to write**
13 **all these new guidelines, and the world didn't stop.**
14 **We still continue to manage a great deal of solar and**
15 **wind projects. And about 124 of all these projects**
16 **came in within the last six years, so there's quite a**
17 **bit of interest in the state of Washington.**
18 **We have chosen to permit -- work with permitting**
19 **authorities on all of these projects. And as you can**
20 **see, that quite a few of them are unknown, where**
21 **they're going to go through permitting. So they're**
22 **kind of in the preplanning stages at this point. But**
23 **there's a fair number that are going through EFSEC**
24 **and a fair number going through county permitting.**
25 **Next slide, please.**

Page 85

1 **So our engagement was extensive. It covered the**
2 **whole pretty much 20-month process. We had four**
3 **tribal forums, four stakeholder workshops, two joint**
4 **feedback workshops, one industry-specific workshop,**
5 **three hypothetical scenario workshops. We developed**
6 **a Web-based public input survey for community members**
7 **to tell us how they felt about renewables on the**
8 **landscape, and we also conducted individual outreach.**
9 **Next slide, please.**
10 **And key to this document was internal engagement,**
11 **working with our WDFW colleagues. And we had seven**
12 **internal focus group meetings. I believe these were**
13 **held every two, maybe every three weeks for quite**
14 **some time. We -- we went through the whole gamut of**
15 **working out all the issues on biological survey**
16 **methods, construction buffers and timing, cumulative**
17 **impacts, best management practices, habitat**
18 **classification, mitigation, and operational**
19 **monitoring and adaptive management.**
20 **We conducted quite a few individual meetings with**
21 **species specialists. And towards the end, we briefed**
22 **the director and gained support from upper management**
23 **for our approach to conservation and supporting**
24 **renewable energy development.**
25 **And in the end, there were really no surprises.**

Page 86

1 Everyone saw everything we were doing along the
2 entire way.
3 Next slide, please.
4 So we were on an aggressive timeline there for a
5 bit. And just eight months after starting the
6 process, we put out a draft for review in October of
7 2024. We had quite a few of distinct comments. We
8 responded to virtually every one of them,
9 incorporating things into the draft.
10 And then we did a lot of rewriting, redrafting,
11 internal discussions, and we decided on a second
12 day -- a second 30-day comment period several months
13 later. That really kind of extended our timeline,
14 but it greatly improved the document.
15 Next slide, please.
16 So what did we get out of all this?
17 Next slide, please.
18 We have a document structure that's focused on
19 seven steps of exploratory planning, preliminary
20 project planning, assessing wildlife and habitat on
21 the site, minimization, mitigation, buffers for
22 construction and operation, and operational
23 monitoring and adaptive management.
24 Now, through all of this, these are guidelines.
25 And our role is to provide technical assistance and

Page 87

1 recommendation to EFSEC and other permitting
2 authorities. So this seven-step process is
3 complementary to the EFSEC process but also
4 SEPA-based permitting through counties and cities and
5 the new programmatic EISs from the Department of
6 Ecology.
7 Next slide, please.
8 Well, since there was -- this is a really
9 comprehensive document, we decided instead of putting
10 it in the document, we'd put some appendices in there
11 that really show the detail that we put into this.
12 And we have a section, an appendices on best
13 management practices, one for survey protocols,
14 another on mitigation, one for buffers around
15 construction and operation, and a cumulative impacts
16 assessment section.
17 Next slide, please.
18 So, well, great. We've got this great document.
19 What are some of the important features that we want
20 people to really focus in on?
21 We think the document has a great flow to it and
22 readability. There is a flowchart that visualizes
23 the seven-step process, which I think is really
24 useful. It's a one-page, colored, coded document
25 with arrows on it. Pretty simple to read. And the

Page 88

1 guidelines include icons for specific solar or wind
2 content. We added a new section on operational
3 monitoring and adaptive management.
4 Remember, these projects are permitted for
5 decades. And not only do habitats change, but
6 wildlife populations fluctuate. So we want to be
7 able to continue to interact with projects and their
8 consultants on how we might better address any issues
9 that might arise with habitat or wildlife. And then,
10 finally, we added a section on cumulative impacts and
11 how to assess them.
12 And next slide, please.
13 Couple more important sections. Minimization.
14 We put in a lot of effort on this best management
15 practices to minimize impacts to wildlife and for
16 vegetation management. We think this is really
17 important as these facilities are kind of green
18 energy and we're in the proc- -- we're in the line of
19 work to, you know, conserve and perpetuate natural
20 resources. So I think we got to work together on
21 these best management practices.
22 We also included a mitigation section. And we
23 discuss mitigation throughout the entire duration of
24 the development of these guidelines. And what we
25 ended up with were some ratios that go up to 5-to-1.

Page 89

1 And the ratios relate to the types of mitigation.
2 It's based on species, or wildlife, I should say, and
3 habitats. It's based on best available science. And
4 we decreased our emphasis on in-lieu fees. Instead,
5 put more effort and emphasis on acquisition of
6 conservation easements -- acquisition or conservation
7 easements with restoration.
8 Next slide, please.
9 So we -- I don't -- implementation is kind of
10 weird. It's, like, did we just start doing this?
11 No. We've been doing this for a long time. But
12 we've -- we've kind of formalized it here in these
13 guidelines. It's impress. It's for people to read.
14 And guidelines are useful.
15 I'd like to note that our interactions with a lot
16 of these entities -- whether it be the consultants,
17 the projects, themselves, the permitting officials --
18 is time-tested. We go through a process of how to
19 evaluate a project, and this is probably one of the
20 first places that it's really been formalized in a
21 seven-step process.
22 Again, we developed a new solar guidelines and
23 revised the wind guidelines. We provided a lot of
24 online resources to help with your desktop
25 analysis -- so issue -- or conservation areas,

Page 90

1 **wildlife areas in Washington -- so you're aware of**
2 **things before you make a decision on land**
3 **commitments.**
4 **Again, I can't overemphasize the early engagement**
5 **with WDFW to address any issues. And something we**
6 **had had on the back burner for quite some time for**
7 **this whole process was getting a dedicated website to**
8 **our solar and wind energy development. And we**
9 **launched that, I believe in October. So within a**
10 **month of publishing the guidelines, we launched the**
11 **Web page.**
12 **And, with that, I would like to conclude, finish**
13 **our presentation. And, once again, thank you for**
14 **your time and attention.**
15 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very
16 much, Mr. Ritter. Certainly a --
17 MR. RITTER: You're welcome.
18 CHAIR BECKETT: -- pleasure having
19 you here today. We appreciate you and those around
20 you making time instead of the priorities we know
21 that you certainly have.
22 Let me first turn this to members of the Council
23 for comments or questions first.
24 So, Mr. Pamp- -- Council Pamplin, go ahead and --
25 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah. Thanks.

Page 91

1 CHAIR BECKETT: -- lead us in here.
2 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Chair.
3 And thanks, Mr. Ritter.
4 When we -- when we talk about cumulative
5 impacts -- and maybe I'll ask Ms. Hafkemeyer a little
6 bit about this as well. When we're analyzing
7 cumulative impacts for an EFSEC project, are we
8 considering those projects that we're just aware of
9 at EFSEC, or are you also working with the major
10 projects team at the Department of Fish and Wildlife?
11 Because as Mr. Ritter indicated, over 90 solar
12 projects that's potentially coming our way. Over 50
13 wind projects are also coming our way. Just wanted
14 to know the level of coordination between the two
15 agencies. Thank you.
16 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you, Council
17 Pamplin. We do ask and coordinate with Department of
18 Fish and Wildlife on projects that they may be aware
19 of. We also ask other agencies, particularly
20 Department of Archaeology and Historic Reservation,
21 Department of Ecology, Department of Natural
22 Resources, the local planning department.
23 One of the aspects of cumulative impacts
24 particularly in projects that are more rural is not
25 only additional wind and solar development but as it

Page 92

1 may relate to disturbance of native vegetation or
2 wildlife migration corridors, other types of
3 development. So would there be cumulative impact
4 loss to migration corridors as an example from not
5 only a solar development but housing development.
6 So there are different lenses from which to look
7 at cumulative impacts, and it is part of our process
8 to try and open all those boxes, as it were, to make
9 sure we're being comprehensive.
10 CHAIR BECKETT: Please.
11 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Chair.
12 And for -- to Mr. Ritter, just from your
13 experience, when you think about 90 different project
14 applicants approaching the department on solar
15 projects, how much of that is prospecting versus how
16 much of that is a project coming to fruition?
17 So is it, of the 90 solar projects, do you
18 anticipate 80 being proposed for development, or does
19 some of that, after the consult with the Department
20 of Fish and Wildlife, does it come to a dead end for
21 a variety of reasons? Thank you.
22 MR. RITTER: Thank you for the
23 question, Mr. Pamplin.
24 I've been working wind and solar for 16 years
25 with the agency. And I'm only aware of two projects

Page 93

1 that have ended, not because of us, but I think just
2 their time ran out, so to speak.
3 And when you say "prospecting," the projects I --
4 the numbers I shared with you are projects that have
5 some type of land agreement already in place. That
6 is the -- and we know this because they've made a
7 sensitive data request to our agency. And to make
8 that data request, they have to have control of an
9 area, specific area.
10 So their claim has already been made. Yes, are
11 there others prospecting out there? So prospecting
12 now with the new guidelines. Through this whole
13 process, we've been saying engage with WDFW early.
14 So through the guidelines process, we have been
15 contacted by consultants who represent multiple
16 developers, saying, I have a client who is interested
17 in X, Y, and Z areas. What can you tell us about
18 them?
19 And we would meet internally, provide them
20 information, and they would either modify their
21 proposed area. Again, they have no land control at
22 this point. Just areas they're interested in.
23 So I don't know if that helps answer the
24 question. I don't see any of them going away, I
25 guess is what I'm saying, at this point.

Page 94

1 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Ritter.
2 That makes sense.
3 MR. RITTER: Yes.
4 CHAIR BECKETT: Other questions
5 from the Council?
6 Well, I have one. And we won't draw this out too
7 long, but appreciate everyone's participation.
8 And I think you've partially answered this,
9 Mr. Ritter, but I'll put it in a question I've been,
10 you know, pointing to others, like our transmission
11 programmatic EIS. Department of Ecology has -- has
12 three others.
13 Is there a notable what I'll call first mover
14 that you've seen, you know, kind of move through all
15 the seven steps? Knowing much of that ultimately is
16 not in your control, as -- as you've noted. But is
17 there an example that stands out at this point that's
18 also appropriate to be shared in a public forum like
19 this?
20 MR. RITTER: Going through the
21 seven -- yes, there -- there are projects that have
22 contacted us early, even before -- just -- just right
23 before the guidelines were published, because, you
24 know, they were aware of the seven-step process, and
25 they say, We're looking at these areas. What can you

Page 95

1 tell us? So that's Step No. 1.
2 Step No. 2 is for them to take it back to
3 their -- their teams, use our information, and see if
4 they can make the site work or say, We're not going
5 to develop there.
6 So all the projects I shared with you earlier,
7 the 90 number and the -- the 28 new or the 30 new
8 wind projects, those are almost, like, all
9 pre-guideline, because they have site control. And
10 now we're looking for this next slug of projects that
11 want to start off on Step 1 with us, which is
12 difficult for industry because there's a lot of
13 security around their decisions about what they're
14 going to do on the land.
15 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.
16 MR. RITTER: You're welcome.
17 CHAIR BECKETT: That makes sense.
18 MR. RYBARIK: And just --
19 CHAIR BECKETT: Please.
20 MR. RYBARIK: -- by se- --
21 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Rybarik.
22 MR. RYBARIK: Mr. Ritter -- thank
23 you --
24 CHAIR BECKETT: Mm-hmm.
25 MR. RYBARIK: -- Mr. Chairman.

Page 96

1 By "security," you mean in that case financial
2 security?
3 MR. RITTER: I almost said the word
4 "secrecy" as well.
5 MR. RYBARIK: Ah. Okay.
6 MR. RITTER: You know. Yeah, I
7 think there's a lot -- yeah. Yeah. And it's -- yes,
8 there's a lot --
9 MR. RYBARIK: Meaning it's a --
10 MR. RITTER: -- riding on --
11 MR. RYBARIK: -- competitive --
12 MR. RITTER: Oh.
13 MR. RYBARIK: -- industry and that's
14 the reason that you're seeing some --
15 MR. RITTER: Extremely. Yes.
16 MR. RYBARIK: Thank you. That's
17 it, yeah.
18 CHAIR BECKETT: I guess I would
19 just add, you know, by -- probably different words we
20 can attribute to it, some of which is, you know,
21 competitive environment and commercially sensitive
22 information, things like that. But it ultimately --
23 MR. RITTER: Yes.
24 CHAIR BECKETT: -- is different
25 forms of risk management.

Page 97

1 MR. RYBARIK: Sure.
2 CHAIR BECKETT: How does that --
3 MR. RITTER: Yes.
4 CHAIR BECKETT: -- play out, so...
5 Director Bumpus.
6 MS. BUMPUS: Given the
7 conversation, I just wanted to mention one or two
8 things.
9 And I really appreciate the presentation. I
10 think this is a very good -- it's -- EFSEC -- EFSEC
11 staff were attending some of these meetings when
12 outreach was going on to help inform the -- the
13 update to the guidelines, and -- and we've really
14 appreciated DFW's efforts and their continued
15 coordination to provide input into the process, so --
16 and congratulate the agency on that accomplishment.
17 What I want to just share with Council, and
18 really just to bring it to your attention as you
19 think about the guidelines that are developed, will
20 in the future be developed at other agencies who have
21 those particular expertise: EFSEC does have
22 construction and operation standards, if you're
23 interested. It's Title 463.62. And there is
24 WAC 463-62-040 that is the fish and wildlife
25 construction and operations standard. And

Page 98

1 essentially it says that the Council's intent is to
2 achieve a no net loss of habitat function and value
3 with respect to siting energy facilities.
4 And so as DFW has updated their guidance, we --
5 as was talked about earlier in this meeting and as
6 discussed in the presentation, there is support from
7 Ecology and the Department of Fish and Wildlife. And
8 we reach out to Department of Natural Resources. And
9 essentially we reach out to whoever we need to reach
10 out to who has that expertise, right?
11 But we do have our construction and operations
12 standards that we look to, and we'll also take into
13 consideration the -- the other guidance that's out
14 there.
15 And as -- as the regulatory thresholds change,
16 EFSEC will also have to, you know, update. And so
17 that's another big part of our job -- right? -- now
18 that we're an independent agency.
19 CHAIR BECKETT: Right.
20 MS. BUMPUS: We're not connected to
21 a bigger agency to kind of have those tendrils out,
22 so we're plugged in with other agencies to make sure
23 we know what they're doing with respect to protecting
24 resources and changing their rules, so -- but I just
25 wanted to draw your attention to the construction and

Page 99

1 operations standards and specifically the -- the fish
2 and wildlife bit.
3 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you
4 for adding. Good comment for sure.
5 I will soon try and wrap us up here, much as I
6 was going to add another comment. I'm sure you're
7 shocked. But others first, please.
8 Well, without extending it too much, I guess,
9 one, Director Bumpus hits on a -- on a key reminder
10 that has its reasons. There's other reasons to, you
11 know, not come to EFSEC and, hence, local pathways
12 that are open or --
13 MR. RYBARIK: Sure.
14 CHAIR BECKETT: -- the Department
15 of Ecology, you know, are important for sure. And
16 I'm sure there's other examples of this in other
17 permit pathways.
18 But EFSEC, by design, as the director just, you
19 know, just highlighted, as I like to call it
20 hopefully appropriately, it's a swaddle-to-grave
21 place. So once the project is proposed, and if it is
22 ultimately granted a site certification agreement,
23 which is not a given, obviously, but once that is in,
24 we will have you, you know, through the life of that
25 project.

Page 100

1 And I think there's some strengths and benefits
2 to that. I think there's best practices that can be
3 both further, I'm sure, enhanced or -- you know, or
4 clarified, made easier in some cases, in EFSEC, but
5 as we do that, if there's things that -- that we've
6 developed, much as Fish and Wildlife has done in your
7 new guidelines, you know, we can help push those or
8 just be aware of those practices in other -- in other
9 places.
10 And EFSEC ultimately, by design, is the, you
11 know, state permit integrator. And so as different
12 pieces of these requirements are then amalgamated
13 inside the EFSEC permit process -- one that's a
14 little complicated at times, in fairness to the
15 mission of the agency -- but I think there's further
16 opportunity to leverage exactly that fact, whether
17 inside EFSEC where appropriate or, you know, in
18 partnership outside.
19 And I'll just close with noting, you know, as --
20 as was on full display, I think, to all of us,
21 there's a lot of things in lots of different places
22 in terms of where they show up, and sometimes they're
23 early and kind of in the rumor stage. But
24 nonetheless, there's an inquiry going, testing, and
25 using the new seven-step or at least the first step,

Page 101

1 if I heard it right, and, you know, and using some of
2 the limited resources that the staff of Fish and
3 Wildlife have.
4 MR. RYBARIK: Right.
5 CHAIR BECKETT: So we appreciate
6 that. But, ultimately, if the State family can help
7 keep a more integrated eye on that collective, you
8 know, not only activity that's going on, but I
9 certainly, you know, understand that the sum of that
10 from a cumulative impacts type of issue, no matter
11 which habitat or species, you know, is a very vital
12 part of what I think has been being worked on long
13 before I came, you know, to EFSEC in this case.
14 But I do think it's part of the next wave of
15 shared work that we can use to make this hopefully
16 smoother, clearer, and hopefully find the least
17 impact or no-impact alternatives certainly that we
18 can.
19 So, with that, last call for questions or
20 comments?
21 Okay. Well, then, I had one closing word that I
22 meant to make in my opening comment about our
23 challenging flood conditions, but it's probably
24 perhaps even more appropriate as we wrap this meeting
25 and the various kind of year-end and little bit of

Page 102

1 year-ahead comments and updates we've had, is
2 certainly I think we just, in this challenging times,
3 the most key thing is to stick together and to work
4 together.
5 And that doesn't always mean universal agreement
6 about things by any means. But if we don't stick to
7 it and keep working it together with discipline and
8 rigor and just shared commitment to one another,
9 which I certainly see in this room today, and I
10 appreciate that -- and those online, thanks for
11 participating, this more extended period here on our
12 "Other" section today.
13 So, with that, a safe and happy holiday and best
14 wishes soon to the New Year.
15 And at 3:23, we are adjourned. Thank you.
16 (Meeting adjourned at
17 3:23 p.m.)
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

Page 103

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
State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was conducted
6 in my presence and adjourned on December 17, 2025, and
thereafter was transcribed under my direction; that the
7 transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of the
said meeting, transcribed to the best of my ability;
8 That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel
of any party to this matter or relative or employee of any
9 such attorney or counsel and that I am not financially
interested in the said matter or the outcome thereof;
10
11 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
this 31st day of December, 2025.
12
13
14
15
16 _____
/s/John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR
Certified Court Reporter No. 2976
(Certification expires 5/26/2026.)
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25



RESOLUTION NO. 358

COMMENDING SERVICES OF LENNY YOUNG

WHEREAS, Lenny Young was appointed to the EFSEC Council by the Department of Natural Resources effective March 5, 2021; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young served his term with great distinction until October 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young brought his considerable knowledge and experience to the Council; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young actively participated in Council deliberations in gathering information and balancing impacts and mitigation measures and arriving at clear decisions and recommendations for the Governor on a number of projects; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young attended approximately 80 regular and special council meetings as an active listener, and thoughtfully and carefully reviewed thousands of pages of technical application documents, State Environmental Policy Act reviews, adjudication exhibits and testimony, and thousands of public comments; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young ably and objectively represented the interests of the people of the State of Washington on the Council, providing clear and thoughtful advice to the Council and the EFSEC staff; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young contributed his expertise during the review eleven applications for site certification, including Badger Mountain, Carriger Solar, Goldeneye BESS, Goose Prairie Solar, High Top Solar, Hop Hill Solar, Horse Heaven Wind, Ostrea Solar, Wallula Gap Solar, and Wautoma Solar; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young participated in the Horse Heaven project and Wautoma Solar project adjudication meetings, including public comment hearings for each, with insightful questions and focus; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young contributed great attention to detail for the preparation of six recommendations to the governor, including draft Site Certificate Agreements for the Goose Prairie Solar, High Top Solar, Ostrea Solar, Horse Heaven Wind, Wautoma Solar, and Carriger Solar projects; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young provided thoughtful input and careful consideration during the Council reconsideration of the Horse Heaven project; and,

WHEREAS, Lenny Young's participation was always characterized by challenging assumptions and examining multiple angles of an issue during Council deliberations; and,


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council hereby recognizes Lenny Young's outstanding, unwavering, and faithful contribution to the Council's siting and regulatory activities, and gratefully expresses its sincere gratitude for the commitment, dedication, and effort he has shown over the past four and a half years.

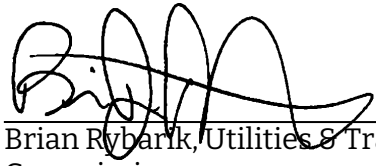
Dated this 21st day of January, 2026.

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

By: 
Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair

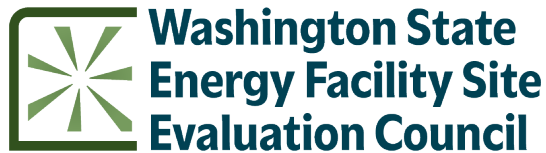

Maverick Ryan, Department of Natural Resources


Blake Nelson, Department of Ecology


Brian Rybarik, Utilities & Transportation Commission


Elizabeth Osborne, Department of Commerce


Nathan Pamplin, Department of Fish and Wildlife



RESOLUTION NO. 359

COMMENDING SERVICES OF ELI LEVITT

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt was appointed to the EFSEC Council by the Department of Ecology effective January 10, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt served his term with great distinction until September 30, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt brought his considerable knowledge and experience to the Council; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt actively participated in Council deliberations, both gathering information and balancing impacts and mitigation measures and arriving at clear decisions and recommendations for the Governor on a number of projects; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt attended approximately 58 regular and special council meetings as an active listener, and thoughtfully and carefully reviewed thousands of pages of technical application documents, State Environmental Policy Act reviews, adjudication exhibits and testimony, and thousands of public comments; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt ably and objectively represented the interests of the people of the State of Washington on the Council, providing clear and thoughtful advice to the Council and the EFSEC staff; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt contributed his expertise during the review of eleven applications for site certification, including Badger Mountain, Carriger Solar, Goldeneye BESS, Goose Prairie Solar, High Top Solar, Hop Hill Solar, Horse Heaven Wind, Ostrea Solar, Wallula Gap Solar, and Wautoma Solar; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt participated in the Horse Heaven project and Wautoma Solar project adjudication meetings, including public comment hearings for each, with great attention and diligence; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt contributed expertise and attention to detail for the preparation of six recommendations to the governor, including draft Site Certificate Agreements for the Goose Prairie Solar, High Top Solar, Ostrea Solar, Horse Heaven Wind, Wautoma Solar, and Carriger Solar projects; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt provided thoughtful input and careful consideration during the Council reconsideration of the Horse Heaven project; and,

WHEREAS, Eli Levitt's participation was characterized by attentiveness to public comment and thoughtful questions and attention to detail in permitting and compliance activity; and,


WHEREAS, Eli Levitt consistently advocated for continual improvement and expansion of public outreach and solicitation of public input from across Washington's diverse communities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council hereby recognizes Eli Levitt's outstanding, unwavering, and faithful contribution to the Council's siting and regulatory activities, and gratefully expresses its sincere gratitude for the commitment, dedication, and effort he has shown over the past three and a half years.


Dated this 21st day of January, 2026.

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

By: 
Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair


Maverick Ryan, Department of Natural Resources


Blake Nelson, Department of Ecology


Brian Rybark, Utilities & Transportation Commission


Elizabeth Osborne, Department of Commerce


Nathan Pamplin, Department of Fish and Wildlife



RESOLUTION NO. 361

COMMENDING SERVICES OF STACEY BREWSTER

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster was appointed to the EFSEC Council by the Utilities and Transportation Commission effective January 8, 2019; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster served her term with great distinction until November 1, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster brought her considerable knowledge and experience to the Council; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster actively participated in Council deliberations gathering information and balancing impacts and mitigation measures and arriving at clear decisions and recommendations for the Governor on a number of projects; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster attended approximately 73 regular council meetings and 31 special council meetings as an active listener, and thoughtfully and carefully reviewed thousands of pages of technical application documents, State Environmental Policy Act reviews, and thousands of public comments; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster ably and objectively represented the interests of the people of the State of Washington on the Council, providing clear and thoughtful advice to the Council and the EFSEC staff; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster contributed her expertise during the review of eleven applications for site certification, including Badger Mountain, Carriger Solar, Cascade Renewable Transmission Project, Columbia Solar, Goldeneye BESS, Goose Prairie Solar, High Top Solar, Hop Hill Solar, Horse Heaven Wind, Ostrea Solar, Wallula Gap Solar, and Wautoma Solar; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster participated in the Horse Heaven project and Wautoma Solar project adjudication meetings, including public comment hearings for each, with thoughtful inquiry and engagement; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster contributed expertise and thoughtfulness for the preparation of six recommendations to the governor, including draft Site Certificate Agreements for the Goose Prairie Solar, High Top Solar, Ostrea Solar, Horse Heaven Wind, Wautoma Solar, and Carriger Solar projects; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster provided thoughtful input and careful consideration during the Council reconsideration of the Horse Heaven wind and Carriger Solar projects; and,

WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster ably and with careful consideration guided Council discussion as acting chair for Horse Heaven, Wallula Gap, Goldeneye BESS, and Hop Hill; and,

WHEREAS Stacey Brewster thoughtfully engaged in Government-to-Government consultation on the Goldeneye BESS application; and,


WHEREAS, Stacey Brewster's participation was always characterized by a carefully considered approach, and particularly insightful questions in adjudicative processes and Council deliberations; and,


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council hereby recognizes Stacey Brewster's outstanding, unwavering, and faithful contribution to the Council's siting and regulatory activities, and gratefully expresses its sincere gratitude for the commitment, dedication, and effort she has shown over the past seven years.


Dated this 21st day of January, 2026.

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

By: 
Kurt Beckett, EFSEC Chair


Maverick Ryan, Department of Natural Resources


Blake Nelson, Department of Ecology


Brian Rybarik, Utilities & Transportation Commission


Elizabeth Osborne, Department of Commerce


Nathan Pamplin, Department of Fish and Wildlife

EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update Format

Facility Name: Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project

Operator: EDP Renewables

Report Date: Jan 09, 2026

Reporting Period: December 2025

Site Contact: Jarred Caseday, Operations Manager

Facility SCA Status: Operational

Operations & Maintenance (only applicable for operating facilities)

- Power generated: 14,068 MWH.
 - Wind speed: 5.27 m/s.
 - Capacity Factor: 18.76 %.
-

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: January 8, 2026
Report Period: December 2025
Site Contact: Jennifer Galbraith
SCA Status: Operational

Operations & Maintenance

December generation totaled 68,538 MWh for an average capacity factor of 33.79%.

Environmental Compliance

Nothing to report.

Safety Compliance

Nothing to report.

Current or Upcoming Projects

Nothing to report.

Other – Turbine Damage Update

No new updates.

As of today, approximately 85% of the turbine components have been removed and transported off-site for recycling or disposal. Due to weather and equipment delays, the remaining components are now scheduled to be removed before the end of January.

We will keep the Council informed as final clean-up activities are completed.

EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update

Facility Name: Chehalis Generation Facility
Operator: PacifiCorp
Report Date: January 3, 2026
Reporting Period: December 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.

- 139,856 net MWhrs generated in the reporting period for a capacity factor of 37.37%
-

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

Environmental Compliance

-Monthly Water Usage: 1,398,012 gallons

- No changes

-Monthly Wastewater Returned: 1,006,733 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 3,806 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: January 21, 2026

Reporting Period: December 2025

Site Contact: Eric Pace

Facility SCA Status: Operational

Operations & Maintenance

-GHEC generated 225,168 MWh during the month and 3,670,579 MWh YTD.

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

Environmental Compliance

- There weren't any outfall or stormwater deviations during the month.
- Routine monthly, quarterly, and annual reporting submissions to EFSEC Staff.
 - Monthly Discharge Monitor Report (DMR).

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. New permit is anticipated to be issued January 15th, 2026 with an effective date of February 1, 2026.

Other

-None.

EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting Facility Update

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

Operator: Tuusso Energy, LLC

Report Date: January 6th, 2026

Reporting Period: 31 Days ending December 31, 2025

Site Contact: Nehal Ahmed

Facility SCA Status: Operation

Construction Status

- Penstemon
 - Currently operational
 - Total Generation during the month was 242 Megawatt hours

 - Camas
 - Currently operational
 - Total Generation during the month was 206 Megawatt hours

 - Urtica
 - Currently operational
 - Total Generation during the month was 249 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: **January 12th, 2026**

Reporting Period: **December 2025**

Site Contact: **Kelly Elsethagen**

Facility SCA Status: **Operational**

CGS Net Electrical Generation for **December 2025: 842,776.11 Mega Watt-Hours.**

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

Environmental Compliance:

No update.

Safety Compliance

No update.

Current or Upcoming Projects

No update.

Other

No update.

EFSEC Monthly Council Meeting – Facility Update Format

Facility Name: Goose Prairie Solar

Operator: Brookfield Power US Asset Management

Report Date: 1/7/2026

Reporting Period: 12/1/2025 to 12/31/2025

Asset Manager: Nelson Jia

Facility SCA Status: Operational

Operations & Maintenance

- Total generation for the month of December-2025 was approximately 3140 MWh
- 12/1/2025-12/13/2025, site offline (curtailed) due to BPA work on the Midway-Moxee 115KV Line. Work performed included dispatch control of disconnects, relay install, termination, end to end trip checks and in-service checks.

Goose BESS Construction

- None
-

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: 1/6/2026
Reporting Period: 12/1/2025-12/31/2025
Site Contact: Fred Hageman
Facility SCA Status: Construction

Construction Status (only applicable for projects under construction)

- O&M facility construction ongoing.
- Mechanical Completion of the PV and the HV facilities complete.
- Preparations made to receive backfeed energy from the utility in January.

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.

- BMP installations per Exhibits continue.

-Any EFSEC-related inspections that occurred.

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

-Any EFSEC-related complaints or violations that occurred.

- Nothing in the month of December.

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

- Nothing in the month of December.

Safety Compliance

- Nothing to report in the month of December.

Current or Upcoming Projects

-Planned site improvements

- Current:
 - O&M shop construction
- Upcoming Projects
 - Commissioning works of PV and HV facility
 - Energization of plant
 - First testing with BPA

-Upcoming permit renewals.

- None.

-Additional mitigation improvements or milestones.

- Active BMP monitoring and maintenance
- Additional BMP added internal to Arrays for added support.

Other

-Current events of note.

- N/A

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

- None.

-Public outreach of interest

- Time donated to Sunrise Outreach Food bank for help in storage clean up, food organizing, and handing out donated food.

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.

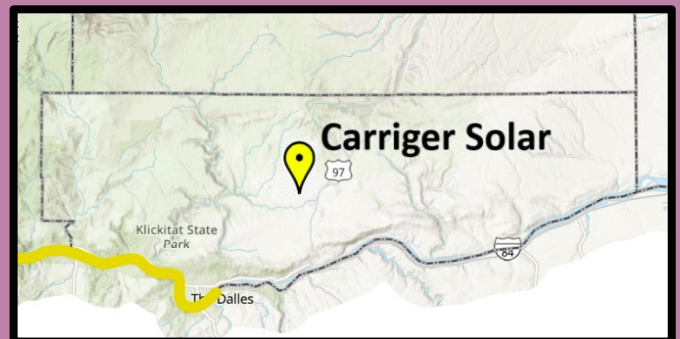
Applicant: Carriger Solar LLC

- 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, Council approved Draft Site Certification Agreement (SCA) be sent to the Governor for approval.
 - August 22, 2025 Governor Ferguson remanded the SCA to EFSEC for further consideration.
 - October 21, 2025 Council approved Revised Draft SCA for re-submission to Governor Ferguson.
 - On December 2, 2025 the Governor approved the SCA for execution.

Status:

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

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.

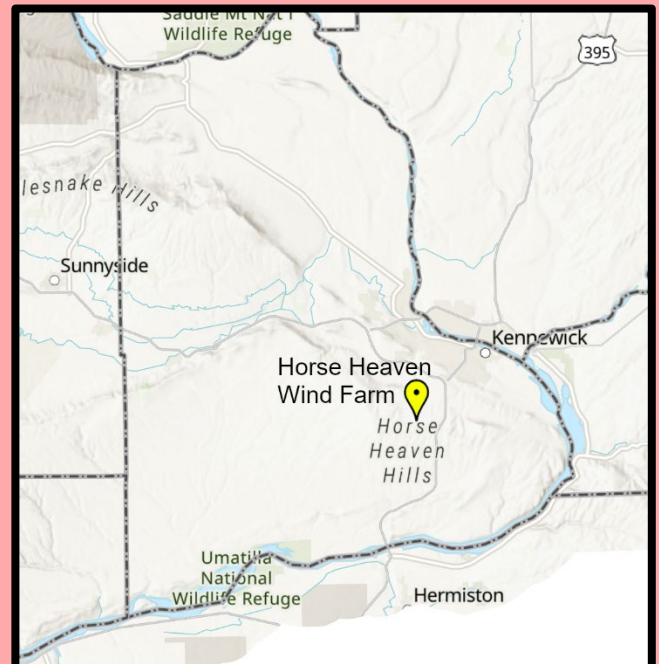
Milestone Dates:

- 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, Certificate Holder Signed the SCA.

Status:

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

Location Map:



Horse Heaven Wind Farm

Ferruginous Hawk Nest Mitigation Plan

Prepared for:

Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC

Prepared by:



November 2025

This page intentionally left blank

Table of Contents

1.0	Introduction.....	3
2.0	PTAG Review of Project Design.....	4
3.0	Impacts and Mitigation	5
	Avoidance and Minimization of Habitat Within Core Areas.....	5
	Core Area Impact Calculations.....	5
	Mitigation and Monitoring of Impacts in Core Areas	6
	Mitigation Actions	7
	Artificial Nest Platforms	8
	Monitoring of Management Actions.....	8
	Restoration of Habitat Following Decommissioning.....	8
4.0	Monitoring of Ferruginous Hawk Nesting Activity	9
5.0	Minimization of Ferruginous Hawk Mortality Through Operational Changes.....	9
	Construction.....	9
	Operations.....	9
6.0	Post-construction Mortality Monitoring.....	10
7.0	Reporting.....	10

List of Tables

Table 1. Impacts Within Ferruginous Hawk Buffers by Land Cover Type.....	6
Table 2. Summary of Mitigation Acres by Vegetation Type Needed to Offset Habitat Impacts in Ferruginous Hawk Nest Buffers	7

This page intentionally left blank

1.0 Introduction

The Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's (EFSEC) Site Certification Agreement (SCA) for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm included a mitigation measure (Spec-5 Ferruginous Hawk) aimed at avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating impacts on the state endangered ferruginous hawk (*Buteo regalis*) during facility construction and operations. Spec-5 required that no primary facility infrastructure (i.e., wind turbine generators (WTGs), solar arrays, or battery energy storage facilities¹) are built within 2.0 miles of any ferruginous hawk nests documented in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) database, documented by the Certificate Holder's pre- construction raptor nest surveys, or established by the species prior to construction.

Spec-5 does allow the Certificate Holder to propose primary infrastructure between 0.6 – 2.0 miles of ferruginous hawk nest locations, but requires an assessment of nest site availability and habitat viability, in order to inform whether the proposed primary infrastructure should be allowed. In the Horse Heaven SCA habitat considered no longer available for ferruginous hawk would include habitat that has been altered by landscape-scale development (conversion to cropland, residential development, industrial development) rendering the territory non-viable. This could include habitats that have been altered such that insufficient native or foraging habitat remains.

Those nest site assessments are required to be reviewed by a Pre-operational Technical Advisory Group (PTAG), which will then make a recommendation to the Certificate Holder regarding where primary infrastructure should be allowed, and ultimately EFSEC would consider the evaluations completed by the PTAG and make a final decision on where primary infrastructure may be built in locations between 0.6 miles and 2.0 miles of any nest location.

Spec-5 further requires that in the event that a Project component is proposed for siting within the 2.0-mile buffer, the Certificate Holder shall, in consultation with the PTAG, develop a Project-specific ferruginous hawk mitigation and management plan (plan) for approval by EFSEC.

As described in the Horse Heaven SCA Spec-5 the plan shall include:

1. A description of efforts to site Project infrastructure to avoid core habitat, identified as the area within 2.0 miles of nests documented in PHS data and the Certificate Holder's nest surveys:
 - a. If Project wind turbines, solar arrays, or BESS are sited within 2.0 miles of a ferruginous hawk nest, the infrastructure shall be reviewed by the PTAG and approved by EFSEC.¹
 - b. Additional mitigation measures shall be developed to reduce potential ferruginous hawk strikes with wind turbines, including curtailing wind turbine operation within the 2-mile core habitat of any actively occupied nests diurnally during the breeding and rearing periods when ferruginous hawks are present in Benton County.

¹ There is an exception from this requirement for the battery energy storage system that is proposed adjacent to the substation, just east of I-82.

Ferruginous Hawk Nest Mitigation Plan

- c. The plan shall explain how and where the Certificate Holder will create new offset habitat to mitigate for direct and indirect impacts within the 2.0-mile core area of ferruginous hawk nests documented in PHS data and the Certificate Holder's nest surveys.
2. A description of when construction activities will be undertaken to avoid sensitive timing periods for ferruginous hawks.
3. A description of pre- and post-monitoring programs that will be conducted to establish:
 - a. Habitat use within the Lease Boundary.
 - b. Mapping of ground squirrel colonies and other prey.
 - c. Identification of potential flyways between nest sites and foraging habitat and monitoring of potential flyways to inform final wind turbine siting and orientation.
 - d. Ongoing monitoring of nest use and territory success.
4. A description of restoration activities that will be undertaken during Project decommissioning to enhance ferruginous hawk habitat in disturbed areas. Results of ferruginous hawk monitoring programs and adaptive management.

This Ferruginous Hawk Mitigation Plan has been completed to fulfill this requirement.

2.0 PTAG Review of Project Design

The PTAG provided recommendations on where primary infrastructure could be sited, relative to documented ferruginous hawk nest locations. Those recommendations were included in the Horse Heaven Spec-5 Facilitator Report, which supported the EFSEC Council decision on Resolution 357, *Horse Heaven Wind Farm Site Certificate Agreement Implementation* (Resolution 357). These recommendations, along with other exclusion areas identified in the Horse Heaven SCA (i.e., historic fire setbacks, residential setbacks, and cultural resource setbacks) will require exclusions on areas of the originally proposed Project. The Certificate Holder will revise the Project design to avoid the required setback areas included in the Horse Heaven SCA and any additional setbacks approved by EFSEC regarding ferruginous hawk core areas. As required by the Horse Heaven SCA, the PTAG will review any revised Project design to confirm it is consistent with Spec-5, and to ensure that it minimizes potential impacts to ferruginous hawks to the extent practicable.

While the PTAG was reviewing ferruginous hawk nest information that led to their recommendations in the Spec-5 Facilitator Report, the group also reviewed the required Ferruginous Hawk Nest Mitigation Plan (Mitigation Plan) because it was required by Spec-5 should any primary infrastructure be allowed within 2.0 miles of ferruginous hawk nest locations. PTAG comments were considered, discussed, and integrated into the draft Mitigation Plan. However, at the time, the PTAG decided that it was pre-decisional to attach the Mitigation Plan to the Spec-5 Facilitator Report because it made assumptions about what EFSEC Council might ultimately decide. Now that EFSEC Council has released Resolution 357 regarding determinations about where primary infrastructure can be built, this Mitigation Plan can be submitted as required. No Horse Heaven Wind Farm

substantive changes have been made to the Mitigation Plan since the PTAG reviewed it in May 2025, except the impact numbers associated with primary infrastructure within 2.0 miles of ferruginous hawk nest locations, reflecting the EFSEC Council's decision in Resolution 357 have now been included.

3.0 Impacts and Mitigation

The Horse Heaven SCA requires the Certificate Holder to quantify the impacts by Project infrastructure, in locations that are within 2.0 miles of ferruginous hawk nests, in order to allow the PTAG and EFSEC to evaluate whether those impacts are adequately mitigated. EFSEC Council Resolution 357 determined where primary infrastructure can be built within 2.0 miles of ferruginous hawk nest locations. The anticipated infrastructure that is allowed within 2.0 miles of ferruginous hawk nest locations, as the result of that resolution, are the basis for the assessment in this Plan.

Avoidance and Minimization of Habitat Within Core Areas

Due to the determinations in EFSEC Council Resolution 357 primary infrastructure cannot be built within 0.6 miles of 38 ferruginous hawk historical nest locations or within 2.0 miles of four ferruginous hawk nest locations, which had been utilized at some point within the last 10 years. The Certificate Holder committed to no primary infrastructure within 2.0 miles of one nest location, which was active in 2025, meaning that the total number of nest locations subject to a 2.0-mile buffer is five. In a sixth location EFSEC Council chose not to make a determination because the Certificate Holder had not proposed any infrastructure within 2.0 miles of the historical nest location in the Project application, effectively retaining the potential for a 2.0-mile no primary infrastructure buffer around that nest, in the future. The result of the EFSEC Council resolution and Certificate Holder commitments resulted in 53 WTGs being removed from locations where primary infrastructure is now disallowed due to buffers on ferruginous hawk nest locations.

In most cases, secondary infrastructure, such as roads and underground collection lines associated with those WTGs, will also be removed. Because the Project still needs to be connected across the ferruginous hawk exclusion areas some roads and underground collection lines will still be needed, as will previously proposed overhead transmission lines. In these cases, all attempts will be made to co-locate facilities (e.g., roads, underground collection, or overhead transmission lines) whenever possible.

Core Area Impact Calculations

EFSEC approved primary infrastructure between 0.6 – 2.0 miles in 38 ferruginous hawk nest locations in Council Resolution 357. Since ferruginous hawk nest locations are typically close together, it is not uncommon for infrastructure proposed in one location to actually be within the core area of several ferruginous hawk nests. The total acres of impact that would occur in ferruginous hawk core areas is provided in Table 1. Impact calculations include both permanent

and temporary impacts and are summarized by land cover type, in order to allow for an examination of whether the impacts would result in impacts to ferruginous hawks, resulting in a mitigation need.

Table 1. Impacts Within Ferruginous Hawk Buffers¹ by Land Cover Type

Vegetation Type	Permanent Impacts (acres)	Temporary Impacts (acres)
Agricultural Land	61	557
Developed/Disturbed	1	7
Grassland ²	23	105
Shrubland ³	4	31
Total	89	700

¹ Reflects impacts located within ferruginous hawk nest buffers as allowed by the Site Certificate and through follow-on action by EFSEC on Spec-5.

² Includes eastside grassland, planted grassland, and non-native grassland.

³ Includes rabbitbrush shrubland and sagebrush shrub-steppe.

Mitigation and Monitoring of Impacts in Core Areas

Mitigation of impacts in ferruginous hawk core areas will be consistent with mitigation outlined in the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Draft Habitat Mitigation Plan (HMP), provided as Appendix L in the Project’s ASC. The Draft HMP includes mitigation ratios for each habitat type and specifies that the mitigation will occur in a location that is within the core area of a ferruginous hawk nest location.

Note that mitigation does not have to occur within the core area of a ferruginous hawk nest in the Horse Heaven Hills. Mitigation could occur within the core area of a nest located somewhere else, outside of the Project Area. The Draft HMP includes three mitigation options: 1) conservation easement, 2) mitigation payment to WDFW, or 3) mitigation payment to a local conservation entity.

Mitigation Actions

The preferred option in the Draft HMP was to execute a conservation easement over lands that could mitigate the loss of functions and values of habitat that are permanently or temporarily impacted by the Project. Since then, the Certificate Holder has engaged in discussions with local conservation districts to determine if there are areas outside of the Project Area where mitigation dollars could be allocated (i.e., dollars that are equivalent to placing a conservation easement on lands, as described in the HMP) in order to implement more meaningful habitat protection and management in the ecosystem. In either case, mitigation actions will be completed within home ranges of existing or historic ferruginous hawk nests, preferably within Core Area, provided opportunities exist. Based on the mitigation ratios included in the Draft HMP, and agreed to by WDFW and EFSEC, Table 2 summarizes the acres of habitat mitigation that would occur as a result of impacts within ferruginous hawk core areas. Refer to Table 1 for impact acres in ferruginous hawk core areas.

Mitigation actions will include a combination of protection of an area, either directly or through a third-party entity (e.g., resource conservation district or non-profit) that supports sufficient habitat and that will achieve the mitigation acreage target, based on the mitigation ratios (Table 1).

Mitigation actions can include a combination of protection of existing habitat and restoration of degraded habitat back to a higher quality habitat condition. The activities needed to improve and maintain habitat quality will depend on the baseline conditions of the location, but will generally include 1) management of noxious weeds, 2) management of informal and illegal trespassing that degrades habitat quality, 3) restoration or enhancement of grassland or shrubsteppe vegetation communities, and 4) management to reduce fire risk.

Table 2. Summary of Mitigation Acres by Vegetation Type Needed to Offset Habitat Impacts Within Ferruginous Hawk Buffers¹

Vegetation Type	Permanent Impacts Mitigation Ratio²	Permanent Impact Mitigation Acres	Temporary Impacts Mitigation Ratio²	Temporary Impacts Mitigation Acres	Total Mitigation Acres
Agricultural Land	0:1	0	0:1	0	0
Developed/Disturbed	0:1	0	0:1	0	0
Grassland ³	1:1	23	0.1:1	10	33
Shrubland ⁴	2:1	8	0.5:1	16	24
Total	--	31	--	26	57

¹ Reflects impacts located within ferruginous hawk nest buffers as allowed by the Site Certification Agreement and EFSEC Resolution 357 regarding Spec-5.

² Ratios are consistent with those approved by EFSEC and WDFW in the Habitat Mitigation Plan.

³ Includes eastside grassland, planted grassland, and non-native grassland.

⁴Includes rabbitbrush shrubland and sagebrush shrub-steppe.

Artificial Nest Platforms

The Draft HMP also describes the potential for installation of artificial nesting platforms (ANPs) in locations where nesting locations are limited. The Certificate Holder could install ANPs either in a mitigation area or in a location where WDFW has high confidence that the ANP could be used by ferruginous hawks. This would include locations where ferruginous hawks had been documented nesting in the past and the supporting nest structure was no longer available. Typically, this would be in situations where the ferruginous hawk was nesting in a tree, which had blown down or been removed. In the Project Area ferruginous hawks have been documented nesting in trees, but it is rare. At some point those trees will die and fall down and there is no recruitment of new trees into those locations. Those would offer opportunities to install an ANP, to replace the tree, as long as the ANP is sited in a location acceptable to landowners. ANPs could also be installed in other locations, outside of the Project Area or even outside of Benton County, in locations where they are needed and where landowners are willing to host them.

Monitoring of Management Actions

Implementation of habitat mitigation activities will be accompanied by a monitoring program. The monitoring program will aim to document the effectiveness of mitigation actions over time in order to ensure that the impacts within core areas are fully offset. In existing shrubsteppe and grassland habitats, monitoring will include documentation of management activities, such as ongoing invasive species control, maintenance of fire breaks, and any overseeding of existing habitat in order to increase vegetation cover or diversity. In areas that will be restored from agricultural uses to shrubsteppe or grassland, monitoring will include changes in vegetation cover and diversity over time, ongoing invasive species management, any necessary reseeding in locations that were less successful, and documentation of changes in wildlife use as the landscape transitions from agricultural use to more natural grassland or shrubsteppe habitat.

Restoration of Habitat Following Decommissioning

An initial site restoration plan was completed as required, in support of the ASC. The requirements for site restoration following decommissioning are included in that plan. In summary, following decommissioning all Project infrastructure will be removed, potentially with the exception of some roads that will be retained for farm use or long-term fire management and control. Once Project infrastructure is removed the land will be returned to pre-project conditions. In most cases this will result in the land being returned to an agricultural condition, but in locations where non-agricultural land uses or vegetation types were removed by the Project, those vegetation types will be restored.

4.0 Monitoring of Ferruginous Hawk Nesting Activity

The Certificate Holder has conducted annual raptor nest surveys in the Project Area from 2017 through 2025, with the exception of two years (2020 and 2021) due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. These surveys will also be conducted for three of the first five years of Project operations. These surveys are conducted twice within each study year, once in March or early April and a second time in late- April or May. This allows surveyors to detect both early and late season nesting species. These surveys are only intended to document the presence or absence of nesting activity and not to fully document nesting outcomes or productivity. This survey methodology is consistent with standard practices for the renewable energy industry nationally, and also consistent with WDFW protocols for Washington State. The surveys consist of general searching for raptor nesting activity, combined with targeted surveys of known ferruginous hawk nest locations in order to document any activity at those locations. Nesting activity is recorded, including species using a nest, any observed behaviors, especially those indicative of nesting activity, and nest condition.

5.0 Minimization of Ferruginous Hawk Mortality Through Operational Changes

In instances where an active ferruginous hawk nest is observed, Project-related activities will be modified to avoid human disturbance to the nesting birds and reduce the risk of wind turbine strikes. Project activities would be modified during construction and operational phases of the Project.

Construction

If an active ferruginous hawk nest is documented during the construction phase of the Project any construction activities within 2.0 miles of the active nest, or within line of sight of the nest, whichever is greater, will be maintained as a no-activity buffer, while the nest is active. The nest will be considered active as long as at least one adult is tending the nest or incubating eggs, the nest contains nestlings, or fledged young and adults are in the vicinity of the nest during the post-fledging period. Once a nest fails or fledglings leave the nest and are no longer seen in the nesting tree (i.e., are free flying and foraging on their own), construction activities may resume within the no-activity buffer. The nest status will be determined by a qualified biologist in coordination with WDFW and EFSEC.

Operations

If an active ferruginous hawk nest is documented during the operational phase of the Project, any wind turbine generators within 2.0 miles of the active nest will be curtailed during daylight hours (i.e., time of day when ferruginous hawks are foraging and could be at risk of wind turbine strike) for as long as the nest remains active. There could be two exceptions to this requirement.

The first exception to this requirement would be if a qualified biologist, in coordination with WDFW and EFSEC, established through field observations, determines that the nesting ferruginous hawks were routinely foraging in locations that do not overlap with wind turbine locations. This could be all of the wind turbines within 2.0 miles of a nest location or a subset, depending on behavioral patterns of the nesting ferruginous hawks.

The second exception to the requirement would be if technology could be deployed that would automatically shut wind turbines down if a ferruginous hawk was observed within some predetermined distance. These automated technologies are routinely used for other species, such as eagles and condors. At present, some technologies do not have the ability to differentiate species and instead rely on size and shape of birds to trigger a curtailment. That means that other similarly sized raptor species could also trigger a shutdown of wind turbines. This overly conservative approach would be protective of ferruginous hawks. Through machine learning, future technology may be able to better differentiate by species based on photographic images.

If automated curtailment technology was used, it would initially be accompanied by a human observer in contact with remote operations staff with the ability to shut down WTGs, as a safeguard against any system failures, until or unless it has been well established through research that automatic curtailment was effective for ferruginous hawks. Any use of automated curtailment would be coordinated with WDFW and EFSEC.

6.0 Post-construction Mortality Monitoring

The Certificate Holder is required to conduct post-construction mortality monitoring at the facility, during operations, as described in Horse Heaven SCA Mitigation Measure Wild-1 Post-construction Bird and Bat Fatality Monitoring Program. The details of this monitoring plan are outlined in the revised Bird and Bat Conservation Strategy, which is provided under separate cover. As required by Wild-1, at a minimum the Certificate Holder will conduct post-construction mortality monitoring in three of the first five years of operations.

7.0 Reporting

Results of ferruginous hawk nest surveys, and any associated adaptive management measures implemented to minimize impacts on nesting ferruginous hawks during construction or operation of the facility, will be shared with the PTAG or Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), whichever is convened at the time the report is completed. The PTAG will cease to exist just prior to operations and will be replaced by the TAC. In addition, the results of post-construction mortality monitoring will be shared with the TAC, which will work with the Certificate Holder and EFSEC on any necessary adaptive management actions in response to the monitoring results.

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-megawatt² (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 micro-sited 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.

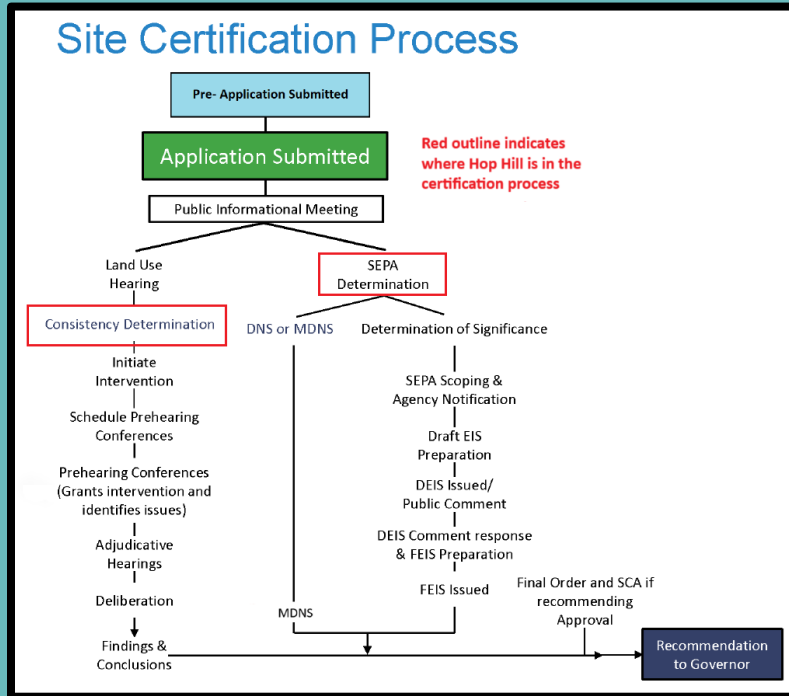
Applicant:

BrightNight, LLC.

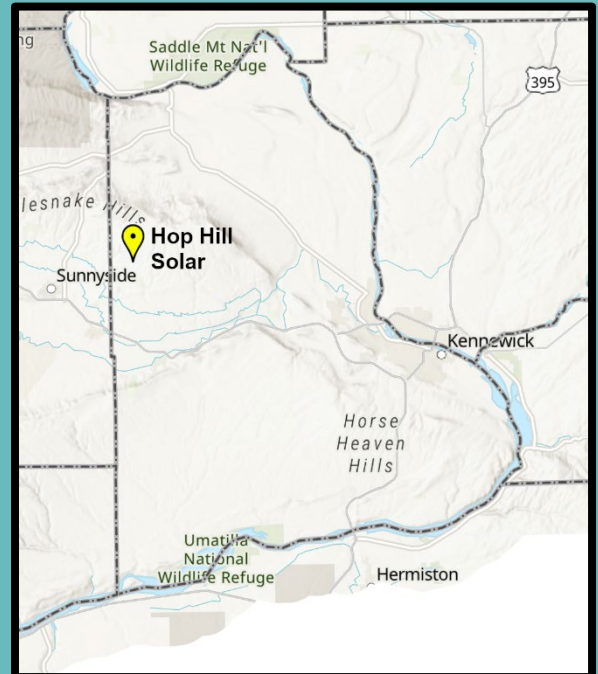
Milestone Dates:

- 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.

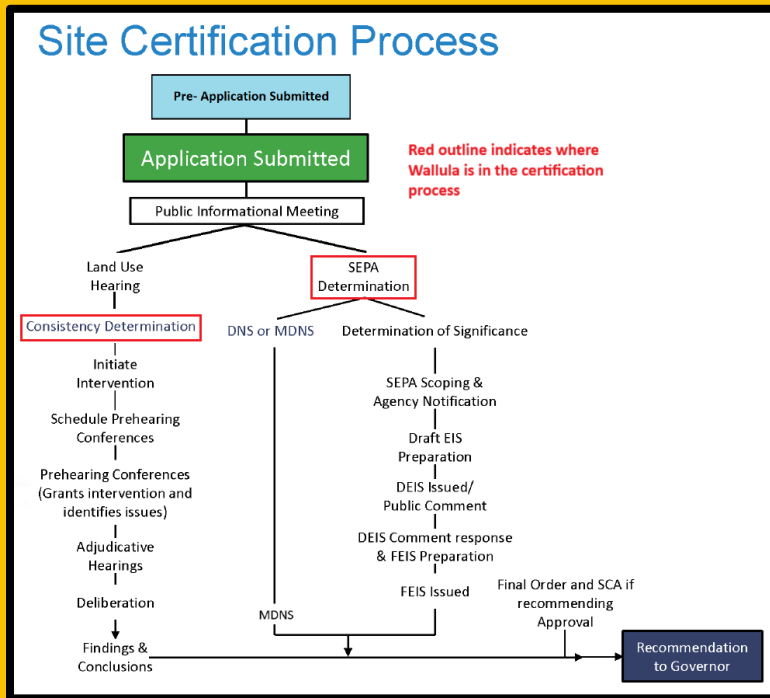
Applicant:

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:

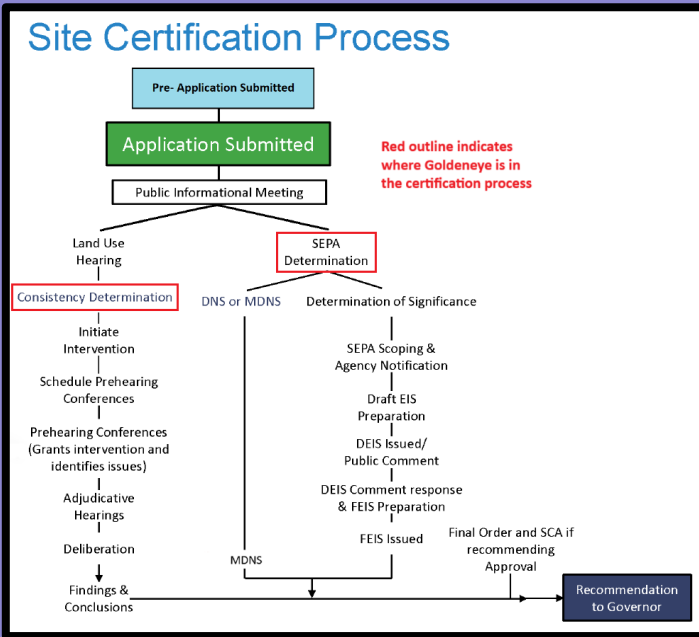
Goldeneye Battery Storage, LLC.

Milestone Dates:

- June 27, 2024, Original ASC Submitted
- August 13, 2024, Public Information Meeting and Land Use Consistency Hearing.
- February 19, 2025, Council approved Order 898 for project's Land Use Consistency

Status:

Location Map:



Cascade Renewable Transmission Project

General Description:

Request to construct and operate a high-voltage direct current (HVDC) (400-kilovolt [kV]), 1,100-megawatt (MW) electric transmission facility. The facility would interconnect the existing Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Big Eddy substation, located near The Dalles, Wasco County, Oregon (Eastern Interconnection), and the existing Portland General Electric (PGE) Harborton substation, located in Portland, Multnomah County, Oregon (Western Interconnection). The Project would be constructed primarily in the bed of the Columbia River in both Oregon and Washington, with approximately 40.2 route miles located in Washington and approximately 58 route miles and two converter stations located in Oregon. The Project includes exiting and re-entering the Columbia River in Washington to place approximately 7.6 miles of overland buried transmission cable in Washington, primarily in road ROW, to avoid the Bonneville Locks and Dam.

Location:

Skamania, Klickitat, and Clark Counties, Washington.

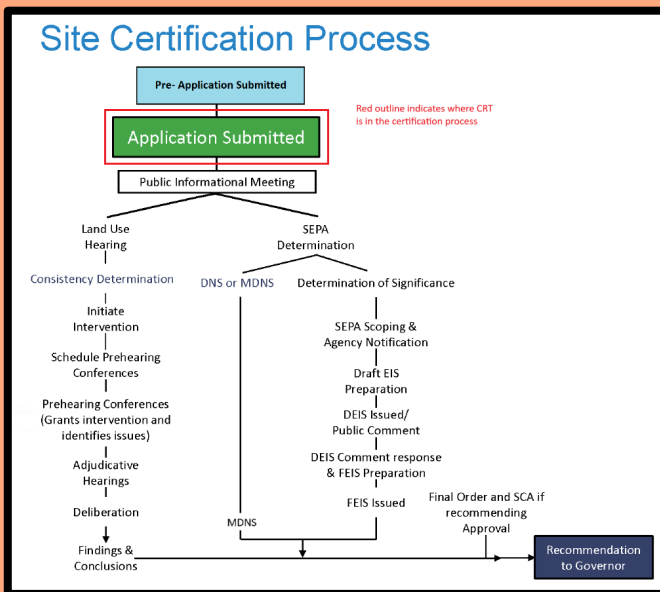
Applicant:

Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC.

Milestone Dates:

- October 6, 2025, Original ASC Submitted
- November 17-19, 2025, Public Informational Meetings and Land Use Consistency Hearings

Status:



Location Map:



Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council

Non-Direct Cost Allocation for 3rd Quarter FY 2026

Jan 1, 2026 – March 31, 2026

The EFSEC Cost Allocation Plan (Plan) was approved by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council in September 2004. The Plan directed review of the past quarter's percentage of EFSEC technical staff's average FTE's, charged to EFSEC projects. This along with anticipated work for the quarter is used as the basis for determining the non-direct cost percentage charge for each EFSEC project.

Using the procedures for developing cost allocation, and allowance for new projects, the following percentages shall be used to allocate EFSEC's non direct costs for the 3rd quarter of FY 2026.

Columbia Generating Station	20%
Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project	10%
Cascade Renewable Transmission	8%
Chehalis Generation Project	6%
Grays Harbor 1&2	6%
Carriger Solar	6%
Goldeneye	5%
Wallula Gap	5%
Columbia Solar	4%
CCR Ostrea	4%
Goose Prairie Solar Project	4%
Hop Hill	4%
Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project	4%
Wild Horse Wind Power Project	4%
Wautoma Solar Project	3%
WNP-1	3%
Badger Mountain	2%
CCR High Top	2%



Sonia E. Bumpus, EFSEC Manager

Date: 01/21/2026