

Date 21 November 2025

To: EFSEC and Staff

From: Mary Repar
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Subj: November 18, 2025 alleged informational meeting in Stevenson, WA, Skamania

On Tuesday, Nov. 18th, 2025 I attended what was billed as a public informational and land use consistency meeting sponsored by EFSEC, in Stevenson, WA, on the Cascade Transmission Project: "On October 6, 2025, we received an Application for Site Certification (ASC) from Cascade Renewable Transmission, LLC, for the construction and operation of a 400-kilovolt high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission line located within the bed of the Columbia River and along the shores of Klickitat, Skamania, and Clark counties. The project also proposes approximately seven miles of underground upland trenching in Skamania County." There were supposed to be three of these meetings, one in Clark county, one in Skamania, and one in Klickitat county. The Skamania meeting was NOT noticed in our paper of record, The Skamania Pioneer, and I informed EFSEC of this at the meeting in Stevenson and urged them to postpone the Skamania meeting until it was properly noticed in our legal paper of record. The Board had two judges on Nov 18th, one ran the "informational" meeting and took public comment, and the other judge ran the land use consistency portion of the meeting. This was, apparently, a pre-application which is "Pre-application offers a chance to share information and data about a project before applying. While optional, it can help ensure that, when submitted, an application is complete." This is a DRAFT proposal and I believe, under WA law, is not eligible for these public hearings, especially on land use consistency. Also, although one of the Skamania County commissioners was selected for the EFSEC board a few weeks before the meeting, neither of the impacted cities, Stevenson and N. Bonneville, were represented on the board, as they should have been. This meeting was run as if it was a done deal with two judges adding supposed weight to the process! Since the meeting was not noticed in our paper of record, the people of Skamania county have been thwarted and their rights abrogated. The land use consistency hearing was a joke since Skamania residents did not have a opportunity to research all the pertinent land use laws for consistency. Apparently, neither the city of Stevenson nor N. Bonneville have been given any notice and have not granted a certificate of land use consistency to EFSEC or the project. This whole process is not transparent and there is no accountability to the peoples of Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties. This project is NOT a done deal and it will most probably NOT come to fruition because of all the horrible environmental impacts and cumulative effects. However, at the very least the entire process should be very transparent and the people should be informed in a timely manner about what EFSEC is doing. Just because someone proposes a project does not mean that it has to happen. There are better alternatives to

this project than plowing up the bottom of the Columbia River and raising sediments and toxins that impact the river and its inhabitants all the way to the ocean. Transmission lines get hot and the temperature of the Columbia River does not need to be hot. I'm pretty sure the salmon, lamprey, and other wildlife would not appreciate it. Also, this is in the Columbia River National Scenic Area and the Gorge Commission should be involved in the process. Apparently, they did not get invited, either. We can do better: plug in solar is now a thing, and batteries are also technically feasible. We can put solar panels on all our municipal buildings and on individual houses. Make people independent of the grid.

Until there is actually an application for this proposal, these meetings are a waste of our time, although the proponent is getting a lot of information from opponents! Perhaps that is what the proponent is counting on. People will think that this is a done deal and not pay attention. I want to dissuade EFSEC about this: this is the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area and such a project is not welcome in this environment. EFSEC has an ethical duty to the people of Washington State to have transparent meetings where EFSEC and the proponent are held accountable for their actions during any process. I urge EFSEC to wait to have hearings when there is an actual application on which we the people can comment. Thank you.

/e-signature/Mary Repar