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EFSEC 2026 Monthly Meetings v.

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WASHINGTON STATE

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING

January 21, 2026

Lacey, Washington

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

1 APPEARANCES

2
3 STATE AGENCY MEMBERS:

4 Kurt Beckett, Chair

5 Blake Nelson, Department of Ecology

6 Nate Pamplin, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

7 Maverick Ryan, Department of Natural Resources

8 Brain Rybarik,
9 Utilities & Transportation Commission

10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND OPTIONAL STATE AGENCIES:

11 Hop Hill Solar:

12 Paul Krupin, Benton County

13 Carriger Solar:

14 Matt Chiles, Klickitat County

15 Goldeneye BESS:

16 Robby Eckroth, Skagit County

17 Cascade Renewable Transmission:

18 Asa Leckie, Skamania County

19 Jeff Breckel, City of Stevenson

20
21 ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL:

22 Jon Thompson

23 Zack Packer

1 APPEARANCES (Continuing)

2 COUNCIL STAFF:

3 Sonia Bumpus Karl Holappa
4 Ami Hafkemeyer Audra Allen
5 Amy Moon Maria Belkina
6 Joan Owens Lisa McLean
7 Andrea Grantham Catherine Taliaferro
8 Sonja Skavland Alondra Zalewski
9 Sean Greene Sairy Reyes
10 Lance Caputo Trevin Taylor
11 John Barnes Dave Walker
12 Joanne Snarski Nabila Gomes
13 Ali Smith Noel Sharp
14

15 OPERATIONAL UPDATES:

16 John Barnes
17 Kittitas Valley Wind, EDP Renewables
18 Jennifer Galbraith
19 Wild Horse Wind Power Project, Puget Sound Energy
20 Eric Pace
21 Grays Harbor Energy Center, Grays Harbor Energy
22 Jeremy Smith
23 Chehalis Generation Facility, PacifiCorp
24 Kelly Elsethagen
25 Katie Hall
Columbia Generating Station & WNP-1/4, Energy
Northwest

1 APPEARANCES (Continuing)

2
3 OPERATIONAL UPDATES (Continuing):

4 John Barnes
Columbia Solar, Tuusso Energy

5 Nelson Jia
6 Goose Prairie Solar, Brookfield Renewable

7 Jon Voltz
8 Ostrea Solar, Cypress Creek Renewables

9
10 COUNSEL FOR THE ENVIRONMENT:

11 Sarah Reyneveld

12 Yuriy Korol

13
14 IN ATTENDANCE:

15 Lenny Young

16 Eli Levitt

17 Stacey Brewster
18
19
20
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1 BE IT REMEMBERED that on Wednesday,
2 January 21, 2026, at 621 Woodland Square Loop
3 Southeast, Lacey, Washington, at 1:31 p.m., the
4 following monthly meeting of the Washington State
5 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was held, to
6 wit:

7
8 <<<<<< >>>>>>

9
10 CHAIR BECKETT: Good afternoon.
11 This is Kurt Beckett, chair of EFSEC, calling our
12 January 21st meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

13 And, Ms. Grantham, if you could call the roll,
14 please.

15 MS. GRANTHAM: Certainly, Chair.
16 Department of Commerce.
17 Department of Ecology.

18 MR. NELSON: Councilman Nelson
19 here.

20 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Fish
21 and Wildlife.

22 MR. PAMPLIN: Nate Pamplin,
23 present.

24 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of
25 Natural Resources.

1 MR. RYAN: Maverick Ryan, present.

2 MS. GRANTHAM: And Utilities and
3 Transportation Commission.

4 MR. RYBARIK: Brian Rybarik,
5 present.

6 MS. GRANTHAM: For local government
7 and optional State agencies. For the Hop Hill solar
8 project, for Benton County, Paul Krupin.

9 For Carriger Solar, for Klickitat County, Matt
10 Chiles.

11 For Wallula Gap, for Benton County, Adam Fyall.

12 For Goldeneye BESS, Skagit County, Robby Eckroth.

13 MR. ECKROTH: Robby Eckroth,
14 present.

15 MS. GRANTHAM: Cascade Renewable
16 Transmission, for Skamania County, Asa Leckie.

17 MR. LECKIE: Asa Leckie, present.

18 MS. GRANTHAM: And City of
19 Stevenson, Jeff Breckel.

20 MR. BRECKEL: Jeff Breckel, present.

21 MS. GRANTHAM: Assistant attorney
22 generals.

23 Jon Thompson.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Present.

25 MS. GRANTHAM: Zack Packer.

1 MR. PACKER: Present.
2 MS. GRANTHAM: And Talia Thuet.
3 Moving on to Council staff.
4 Sonia Bumpus.
5 MS. BUMPUS: Present.
6 MS. GRANTHAM: Ami Hafkemeyer.
7 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.
8 MS. GRANTHAM: Amy Moon.
9 MS. MOON: Present.
10 MS. GRANTHAM: Sara Randolph.
11 Sean Greene.
12 MR. GREENE: Present.
13 MS. GRANTHAM: John Barnes.
14 MR. BARNES: Present.
15 MS. GRANTHAM: Joanne Snarski.
16 MS. SNARSKI: Present.
17 MS. GRANTHAM: Maria Belkina.
18 MS. BELKINA: Present.
19 MS. GRANTHAM: Lisa McLean.
20 MS. McLEAN: Present.
21 MS. GRANTHAM: And Noel Sharp.
22 MS. SHARP: Present.
23 MS. GRANTHAM: Operational updates.
24 For Kittitas Valley wind project.
25 Wild Horse Wind Power Project.

1 MS. GALBRAITH: Jennifer Galbraith,
2 present.

3 MS. GRANTHAM: Grays Harbor Energy
4 Center.

5 MR. PACE: Eric Pace, present.

6 MS. GRANTHAM: Chehalis Generation
7 Facility.

8 MR. SMITH: Jeremy Smith, present.

9 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Generating
10 Station.

11 MS. HALL: Katie Hall for Columbia,
12 present.

13 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Solar.
14 Goose Prairie Solar.

15 MR. JIA: Yeah. Nelson here.

16 MS. GRANTHAM: And Ostrea Solar.

17 MR. VOLTZ: John Voltz, present.

18 MS. GRANTHAM: And do we have anyone
19 present for the counsel for the environment?

20 MS. REYNEVELD: Yeah.

21 MR. KOROL: Yuriy Korol.

22 MS. REYNEVELD: Sarah Reyneveld and
23 Yuriy Korol are present.

24 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.

25 Chair, there is a quorum for all councils.

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much.
2 Moving on. Chair would entertain a motion to
3 adopt today's meeting agenda.

4 MR. RYBARIK: So moved.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Is there a second?

6 MR. PAMPLIN: Second.

7 CHAIR BECKETT: The agenda's been
8 moved and seconded. Are there any additions or changes
9 to the agenda?

10 Hearing none.

11 All in favor of moving the agenda forward, please
12 say "aye."

13 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? Abstain?

15 Okay. Agenda is adopted.

16 Moving on to the minutes. We have before us the
17 minutes from our December 17th meeting. Chair would
18 entertain a motion to adopt the minutes.

19 MR. RYBARIK: So moved.

20 CHAIR BECKETT: Second?

21 MR. PAMPLIN: Second.

22 CHAIR BECKETT: The minutes have
23 been moved and are on the table. Are there any edits
24 to the minutes? I know of none from my review.

25 MR. RYBARIK: I specifically

1 reviewed for the spelling of "counsel" this time, but I
2 did not notice any modifications needed.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for
4 bringing that forward, future review.

5 So all right. Then, with that, I'll call for the
6 vote to approve the minutes.

7 All in favor, say aye.

8 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

9 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?

10 Okay. Minutes are adopted.

11 And a special privilege for all of us today. We
12 have before us three resolutions, one each for former
13 Council members: Lenny Young from the Department of
14 Natural Resources, Eli Levitt from the Department of
15 Ecology, and Stacey Brewster from the Utilities and
16 Transportation Commission.

17 And so the chair would entertain a motion to adopt
18 Resolutions 358, 359, and 361.

19 MR. PAMPLIN: So moved.

20 CHAIR BECKETT: Is there a second?

21 MR. RYBARIK: Second.

22 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

23 The resolutions are now on the table. And the
24 chair will do his best to try and appropriately
25 highlight a few specific items for each of our former

1 Council members. For the members of the public, you'll
2 find a full description for each of their activities
3 and service here on the EFSEC Council and a general
4 consensus -- I will not read the full resolution or let
5 alone all three, but will enable -- will endeavor to
6 highlight a few special things for each of them and
7 then would welcome other comments from Council members,
8 and then ultimately we'll call the question and
9 certainly would welcome hearing from our special guests
10 here today.

11 So starting with Lenny Young. And we'll go in
12 numeric order here. For resolution 358, Lenny was
13 appointed on March 5th, 2021, served nearly five years,
14 and certainly brought a tremendous depth of knowledge
15 and background in many respects but especially given
16 his natural resources focus at the Department of
17 Natural Resources.

18 Each of these former Council members participated
19 in six reviews -- or excuse me -- in six site
20 certificate agreements. Those are Goose Prairie Solar,
21 High Top Solar, Ostrea Solar, Horse Heaven Wind,
22 Wautoma Solar, and Carriger Solar. And certainly
23 several of those -- in particular, Horse Heaven --
24 stand out, even more extra work than I think any of us
25 can fully appreciate. So I want to thank all of you

1 for that.

2 The other thing that Lenny was certainly known for
3 was characterized by challenging assumptions and
4 examining multiple angles of an issue during Council
5 deliberations. And let me note that for each of you,
6 the resolution on this is that the Energy Facility Site
7 Evaluation Council recognizes your outstanding,
8 unwavering, and faithful contribution to the Council's
9 siting and regulatory activities and gratefully
10 expresses its sincere gratitude for the commitment,
11 dedication, and effort that each of you have shown
12 through your service.

13 Moving on to Eli Levitt, who began his service
14 with EFSEC on January 10th, 2022. And each of these
15 Council members certainly brought, you know, diligence
16 in their deliberation on how best to balance many of
17 the different impacts and mitigation measures that
18 every project deserves.

19 And I'm sure we'll catch a "mute" there when we
20 can.

21 Eli contributed, again, to the same six eventual
22 site certificate agreements in addition to his
23 thoughtful focus on the review, his attentiveness to
24 public comment, thoughtful questions, and continual
25 advocacy for continuous improvement and expansion of

1 public outreach was certainly noted, and solicitation
2 of public input from across Washington's diverse
3 communities was an area of focus for Council Member
4 Levitt.

5 And, lastly, and saving the distinction of the
6 longest-serving Council member, at least that I'm aware
7 of, for nearly seven years, Stacey Brewster on behalf
8 of the Utilities and Transportation Commission, who
9 started with the EFSEC Council on January 8th, 2019.
10 She also gets the high award for 73 regular Council
11 meetings and 31 special meetings.

12 And I should have noted that Eli had 58, but Lenny
13 had a full 80. So I think you're still on No. 2,
14 Lenny. But each of you, you know, deserve praise for
15 even a handful of those.

16 So let me also especially say here in the past
17 year that Stacey, Council Brewster, was ably and with
18 careful consideration guided Council discussion as
19 acting chair for Horse Heaven, including on the
20 Species-5 issue that is also before the Council today,
21 Wallula Gap, Goldeneye BESS, and Hop Hill. And she has
22 participated -- and I had the honor of doing so
23 alongside her -- in a government-to-government
24 consultation for the Goldeneye BESS project.

25 So, in particular, a closing comment was just

1 particularly insightful questions in adjudicative
2 processes and deliberations were noted as an area of
3 extra expertise that Council Brewster brought to the --
4 to the effort.

5 So, with that, certainly a closing just heartfelt
6 "thank you" to each of you for all your service. I
7 learned a lot from you and appreciated just in the time
8 in the past year that I was able to share with each of
9 you. I can't thank you enough, and especially Stacey
10 for grabbing that gavel on my behalf, which was always
11 going to be an extra ask of someone, and it came to be
12 you. So thank you for that.

13 And, with that, I would turn this to my fellow
14 Council members, and I would actually maybe start with
15 Council and Chair Rybarik, who has a member of the UTC
16 here being honored, so...

17 MR. RYBARIK: Thank you,
18 Mr. Chairman. Do want to just thank everybody for
19 their -- for their service here. And I think you've
20 paraphrased those very well in just the great work
21 that's gone on here. I want to additionally appreciate
22 Stacey's work for the UTC here in the room with us,
23 with us today. Want to just give a great shout out to
24 her. The resolution outlines some of the projects, as
25 you mentioned, Mr. Chairman, some of the work very

1 specifically in the chair's spot in the last -- last
2 year or so.

3 But I think it cannot capture, even though it
4 attempts to, just the thoughtfulness and the
5 preparation that Stacey brings to her work and the
6 perspectives she offers. We're very thankful that
7 she'll continue to be here at the UTC, continue to
8 support the work that we're doing here with EFSEC and
9 my participation here. But just wanted to thank her
10 again, and just grateful for her perspectives and
11 knowledge. And thank you, Stacey.

12 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well.

13 Let me continue, then. I guess, Council Ryan, did
14 you want to make a comment on behalf of your agency as
15 well.

16 MR. RYAN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair.

17 Lenny: Big shoes, huge opportunity to follow in
18 the footsteps of someone like yourself and appreciate
19 all the insight leant to the Council over the years.
20 Everything that's been mentioned, your role in these
21 deliberations, it's really the model of public service,
22 both your record of service here as well as at the
23 agency. So I appreciate the opportunity to step in
24 your footsteps and appreciate everything you've done.

25 CHAIR BECKETT: And, Council Nelson,

1 did you want to make a comment on behalf of the
2 Department of Ecology?

3 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Chair
4 Beckett. I sure do.

5 Just want to thank all three Council members
6 receiving a commendation here: Young, Brewster, and
7 Levitt.

8 Eli's dedication to public comment and open
9 process and all that, that transcends his entire
10 career, not just his time on the EFSEC Council. And
11 just wanted to publicly thank him for that.

12 You know, I'd like to think that Eli walks so I
13 could run, but he's about a foot taller than me, so in
14 my analogy here, we're going at about the same rate of
15 speed. Thank you, Eli.

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

17 Council Pamplin or other Council members, any
18 other comments?

19 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
20 Yeah, great appreciation for all three Council members.
21 And I'd just like to specifically mention Mr. Young.

22 He's been an executive at DNR for a lot of years,
23 and our orbits have overlapped and intersected on a
24 variety of other forums outside of the EFSEC process.
25 Always found his style of engagement being curious,

1 articulating very complex and difficult discussions in
2 a way that brought further understanding across the
3 meeting.

4 And I always thought he was very fair and just an
5 active listener. And I've always appreciated just
6 working with you, Mr. Young. So thank you for all of
7 your years of service. Thanks.

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

9 And, Director Bumpus, I apologize for not giving
10 you a heads-up earlier. I would turn this to you just
11 to see if there's any comment you want to make on
12 behalf of yourself and/or the staff and the agency,
13 so -- and it's okay if not, but...

14 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you. No.

15 CHAIR BECKETT: I should have added
16 your name in that list earlier, so...

17 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
18 Beckett. I appreciate the opportunity.

19 No, I just wanted to say thank you for all of the
20 work and the dedicated time and attention to EFSEC over
21 those years that you served, and also to thank you --
22 each of you were always very respectful to staff and
23 worked very well and very collaboratively with the
24 EFSEC staff, and we really appreciate that. So thank
25 you.

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for the
2 good comments.

3 All right. Members of the Council, with that, I
4 will call the question. Again, we have
5 Resolutions 358, 359, and 361 on the table. All in
6 favor of passing those resolutions, please say "aye."

7 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?
9 Abstentions?

10 Okay. Unanimous of course.

11 I don't know if there's any comments our guests
12 would like to make from the floor. I would certainly
13 welcome that. No obligation. Otherwise, we do have
14 resolutions here that are actually framed, and we would
15 present those to you and probably grab a quick photo.
16 So if you wish.

17 MR. YOUNG: Just --

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Former Council
19 Young, please.

20 MR. YOUNG: -- quick remarks from
21 me.

22 I first would like to thank our outstanding
23 commissioners, Public Lands Commissioner Hilary Franz,
24 former commissioner, and Commissioner Dave Upthegrove,
25 our current commissioner, for having the confidence to

1 give me the opportunity to represent them and the
2 department, and thank both the former chair, Kathleen
3 Drew, and the current chair, Kurt Beckett, Director
4 Bumpus, and all the EFSEC staff, including our counsel
5 from the attorney general's office, Jon Thompson, for
6 the tremendous support that they've provided during the
7 time that I served.

8 And not the least the incredible thoughtfulness
9 and dedication of my fellow Council members when we
10 were dealing with very complex issues with competing
11 priorities. I was always impressed by the dedication
12 and the thoughtfulness and the seriousness with which
13 they took these important issues and how they
14 discharged their duties. So tremendous experience, and
15 I'm very thankful for the opportunity to have been on
16 the Council.

17 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much.

18 Anyone else? No obligation.

19 MS. BREWSTER: Well --

20 CHAIR BECKETT: Stacey Brewster.

21 MS. BREWSTER: -- Lenny said it very
22 well. Thank you to all of you for leadership, to
23 staff. You guys -- it wasn't easy, but it wasn't
24 impossible. You did -- you prepared us well. Always
25 had information for us. I really appreciate your

1 dedication, your integrity, all consummate
2 professionals, leadership, Chair Beckett, Chair Drew.
3 Learned so much during this opportunity, and I really
4 appreciate the honor to serve.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Levitt.

6 MR. LEVITT: Yeah, I guess I feel
7 obligated to also say something.

8 No, I just thank you very much for the opportunity
9 to serve. I believe very much in the mission of the
10 agency and the Council. I have a child with asthma and
11 have friends and family with asthma. I look forward to
12 a future where there is more solar, there's more
13 geothermal, there's more wind, there's more battery
14 storage, more smart grid, and hopefully our skies will
15 be clearer, we'll have less smog, and a new future to
16 look forward to.

17 I certainly respect that all these decisions are
18 tough. I strongly recommend the importance and the
19 value of doing site visits together, staff and Council
20 members and the public doing those site visits,
21 listening to each other, talking to each other. Those
22 to me are extremely valuable, and I hope those continue
23 into the future.

24 I was mentored briefly by Hedia Adelsman at
25 Ecology, and she always had so many stories and talked

1 so much about the site visits to reinforce their --
2 their importance. So, yeah, good luck with the
3 decisions ahead of you, and thank you to the staff and
4 the Council members for continuing to work.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much,
6 each of you, for your good and meaningful comments.

7 With that, I would ask that, Council Rybarik, if
8 you would grab --

9 MR. RYBARIK: Yeah.

10 CHAIR BECKETT: -- the resolution
11 for Stacey. And, Maverick, if you would grab Lenny's.
12 And I will -- Council Nelson, on your behalf from the
13 Department of Ecology, I will carry Eli's. And so
14 we'll present these to you, and hopefully someone could
15 help with the photo from out there. And then we'll
16 resume the rest of our meeting here in less than five
17 minutes. The meeting is still going. We haven't
18 adjourned, or recessed, I should say, so...

19 (Discussion off the record.)

20

21 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

22 (Applause.)

23

24 CHAIR BECKETT: And as we pick back
25 up here, let me just note for our honored guests that

1 you have more than earned the right to leave
2 immediately. You are welcome, of course, in this
3 public meeting at any time. But you have earned the
4 right to walk out the door. So I leave that to your
5 good judgment.

6 All right. With that, we will move to our project
7 updates at 1:50. And let me -- on behalf of my fellow
8 Council members as well as our project participants and
9 members of the public, I have kind of a broader
10 announcement to share and certainly welcome comments
11 from Council in particular as we go through this
12 portion of the meeting.

13 I believe Director Bumpus or Ami Hafkemeyer will
14 add a further word here. But basically there's a
15 proposed change that would be being implemented in
16 February which would evolve these project updates
17 essentially that, for the normal updates that have
18 nothing to report other than what's already in our
19 packet, that that in-meeting verbal, whether virtually
20 or rarely on occasion here in the meeting, that we
21 would suspend that in-meeting reporting-out process and
22 instead have those same written reports in our packet.

23 And those -- that would be done to maintain our,
24 you know, continuing our compliance standards that are
25 associated with each of the site certificate

1 agreements, but ultimately I think achieving a more
2 easier, more efficient way of our work.

3 And so that's the underlying intent in changing
4 from having to come down the roll with not always
5 things to report. Certainly the ability for any of our
6 project participants to highlight something that they
7 choose to highlight or something that we mutually
8 believe needs more discussion in a meeting, that can
9 always be done quickly just before the meeting, but
10 otherwise I think we would try to consistently note
11 these are the projects that are just going to have
12 written reports, and then obviously we would focus on
13 the balance that would receive the normal verbal
14 update, whether that was by a project participant or
15 staff.

16 So, with that, let me turn to Director Bumpus and
17 Ami Hafkemeyer to see if there was any further
18 additional kind of context you wanted to provide on how
19 that new system will work and continue to maintain our
20 compliance, so...

21 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
22 Beckett. And good afternoon, Council members.

23 Yes, so just a couple of things. In looking at
24 ways to have the Council meetings run a little bit more
25 efficiently and spending our time together focused on

1 applications that are under review and on facilities
2 that maybe have compliance issues that we need to
3 address, we think that this is going to add some
4 efficiency to the meetings.

5 We -- we being staff -- looked at the site
6 certification agreements for our operating facilities
7 to ensure that if making this change is still compliant
8 with the terms and conditions of those SCAs -- and it
9 is -- and so we did double-check that, and we think
10 that this is -- this is consistent with their
11 compliance requirements.

12 As to how it will work, I'll punt over to Ami
13 Hafkemeyer to see if she wants to add any additional
14 details about how this would function.

15 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Thank you.

16 So in the background, very little will change.
17 Staff are in regular communication with our operational
18 facilities. And so if there are compliance activities
19 pending or something arises unexpectedly, that will
20 continue to be communicated with staff and brought
21 forward to the Council as things arise.

22 And staff will continue to review these monthly
23 updates and coordinate with the facilities on these
24 regular updates. That will still be provided monthly
25 as they are now. And so with that respect, compliance

1 oversight is not diminishing in any way. We are still
2 verifying compliance with permits, with SCA
3 requirements, and so on and so forth.

4 Really the only change will be on the -- in the
5 meeting where, if there is nothing nonroutine to
6 report, we will not continue to say that every meeting.
7 Rather, indicate which facilities have nothing
8 nonroutine to report, but their update will still be
9 available in the Council packet for your review. And
10 facilities that do have something nonroutine to report
11 or an upcoming permit renewal or mitigation activity
12 that they're providing a report on, those will still be
13 verbally provided at the Council meetings.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: Great. Thank you
15 for that.

16 And I should just also acknowledge a couple of
17 other folks in this. One, Director Bumpus had
18 confirmed with me that the suggestion had certainly
19 pre-existed my arrival at the agency maybe some years
20 back certainly. And a question I had in, you know,
21 kind of coming to EFSEC.

22 I do reflect that ultimately these project updates
23 don't often take a lot of time, because I kind of
24 annotate, you know, how much time we're spending, but
25 ultimately I am mindful of, you know, the time it takes

1 for the participants to log in and others and call the
2 roll, and so hopefully we can, you know, again, do good
3 work and maintain our compliance with high confidence
4 here but still have that benefit of a little easier
5 work.

6 Council Pamplin has certainly asked this question
7 and suggestion, made a suggestion along these lines, so
8 I just want to just recognize that shared intent and
9 good suggestion.

10 On a closing note -- well, let me say, one, let me
11 see if there's comments from our Council, and I would
12 also note for our project report-outs here coming up,
13 if you -- as you do each of your project up-to-dates,
14 as I call on you, if you have any question or comment
15 you want to make while we're all here kind of in this
16 transition, please do that today as I call through the
17 projects here momentarily.

18 But with that heads-up to our project
19 participants, let me turn this first to the Council for
20 any quick comments they'd like to share.

21 Council Pamplin.

22 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, thanks,
23 Mr. Chair.

24 Just really appreciate you-all taking a look at
25 this and seeing if this change could be implemented. I

1 appreciate where we're landing and the direction we're
2 headed. So thank you.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Rybarik.

4 MR. RYBARIK: Appreciate the focus
5 on efficiency and looking at that efficiency for all
6 parties involved and appreciate the change. I support
7 it. Thank you.

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Anyone else?

9 Oh. Council Pa- -- Nelson. Excuse me.

10 MR. NELSON: Excellent. Yeah, thank
11 you, Chair Beckett.

12 Yes, I appreciate the efficiency, and, yeah, let's
13 let her rip.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: On that note. All
15 right.

16 Moving on to project updates. The Kittitas Valley
17 wind project. Mr. Caseday.

18 We will move on for now and can come back to
19 Kittitas Valley, if need be.

20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Council Beckett.

21 CHAIR BECKETT: Oh.

22 MS. HAFKEMEYER: John Barnes is able
23 to --

24 CHAIR BECKETT: Oh.

25 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- speak to the

1 facility updates.

2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you,
3 Mr. Barnes.

4 MR. BARNES: Thank you, Chair
5 Beckett and Council. This is staff for the Kittitas
6 Valley project. I will be speaking on behalf of Sara
7 Randolph.

8 There's no updates to -- or the facility update is
9 provided in your packet. There is no nonroutine
10 updates to report.

11 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Thank you.

12 Moving on to the Wild Horse Wind Power Project.

13 MS. GALBRAITH: Yes.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: Ms. Galbraith.

15 MS. GALBRAITH: Thank you. Thank
16 you, Chair Beckett. Can you hear me all right?

17 CHAIR BECKETT: Yes, we can.

18 MS. GALBRAITH: Excellent.

19 So thank you, EFSEC Council and staff. This is
20 Jennifer Galbraith with Puget Sound Energy representing
21 the Wild Horse Wind Facility.

22 For the month of December, we have nothing
23 nonroutine to report and no new updates regarding the
24 cleanup of the damaged turbine other than that winter
25 weather has stalled the removal of the remaining 15

1 percent of turbine components. But we anticipate
2 cleanup to be completed before the end of this month as
3 weather and site conditions allow. Thank you.

4 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

5 The Chehalis Generation Facility. Mr. Smith.

6 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, Chair
7 Beckett, EFSEC Council, and staff. This is Jeremy
8 Smith, the operations manager for the Chehalis
9 Generation Facility.

10 I have no nonroutine items to report.

11 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

12 Grays Harbor Energy Center. Mr. Pace.

13 MR. PACE: Good afternoon, Chair
14 Beckett, EFSEC Council, and staff. This is Eric Pace
15 for Grays Harbor Energy.

16 And Grays Harbor Energy has nothing nonroutine to
17 report.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

19 The Columbia Solar project. I don't know if we
20 have a participant for that today or not.

21 Nothing from staff on that?

22 MR. BARNES: Yes, I will be
23 providing the update, I believe.

24 So this is John Barnes, EFSEC staff for the
25 Columbia Solar project.

1 The facility update is provided in your packet.
2 There are no nonroutine updates to report. Thank you.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

4 Moving on to the Columbia Generating Station and
5 WNP 1 and 4. Kelly Elsethagen.

6 MS. HALL: Good afternoon. Can you
7 hear me all right?

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Yes, we can.

9 MS. HALL: Okay. Good afternoon,
10 Chair Beckett, Council members, and staff. This is
11 Katie Hall for Columbia Generating Station and WNP 1
12 and 4.

13 While the agenda shows no updates for these
14 facilities, previously discussed with EFSEC staff using
15 this opportunity to notify of our recent submittal to
16 EFSEC for the Columbia Generating Station.

17 On January 15th, Energy Northwest submitted a SEPA
18 checklist to EFSEC for the construction of two
19 warehouses at the Column Generating Station. This
20 submittal follows EFSEC's staff's recent decision on
21 January 6 to require SEPA review despite earlier
22 indications to the contrary. Energy Northwest and
23 EFSEC have held conversations regarding the scope and
24 timeline of the project since September of last year.

25 So Energy Northwest emphasizes this late change

1 jeopardizes the compressed schedule for the upcoming
2 refueling outage, which is critical for operational
3 readiness and regional energy reliability. So
4 therefore Energy Northwest has requested EFSEC's
5 determination on the SEPA checklist by February 2nd,
6 and we've urged for expedited review, including waiving
7 the public comment period if no significant
8 environmental impacts are identified. Thank you.

9 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

10 It's my understanding from staff that that recent
11 request came in on Friday, is under review, and we may
12 hear a little bit more on that in our February meeting.
13 But appreciate the added context of what's trying to be
14 accomplished there in the requested timeline.

15 I don't know if there's any other comment from
16 staff that you'd like to share. But it's great if you
17 do. And otherwise I know we'll close out on this in
18 February, so...

19 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Just a little bit
20 more context to add.

21 We have received submissions, a SEPA checklist as
22 well as some plans that we're reviewing to ensure code
23 compliance. And we are working with the facility and
24 reviewing what process milestones are appropriate for
25 the environmental review and compliance with their site

1 certificate agreement.

2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

3 Any questions of what's been shared from other
4 Council members?

5 MR. RYBARIK: I just want to make
6 sure I heard the dates right in the presentation. I
7 think it was Katie. Did you say you've requested
8 review of that by February 2nd?

9 CHAIR BECKETT: That was the date.

10 MS. HALL: Yes, that is correct.

11 MR. RYBARIK: Okay. So obviously
12 that's before the next EFSEC Council meeting. So I'm
13 just -- how do we think about lining those -- the
14 request up in our next regularly scheduled meeting?

15 CHAIR BECKETT: I think staff are
16 basically, especially on the SEPA review, trying to
17 make sure what's required there. Generally all of what
18 we're talking about is within the director's delegated
19 authority and would fall more on that side of the -- of
20 the line. But I think, you know, in general, of
21 course, as an abundance of just transparency and doing
22 work together, surfacing it here is part of that. And
23 if there's further consideration from the director on
24 the EFSEC Council, any action required, then that would
25 come back --

1 MR. RYBARIK: Oh. Back to us.
2 Okay. Got it.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: I don't know if
4 there's anything else on that?

5 MS. BUMPUS: Yes. Thank you, Chair
6 Beckett. And we'll provide an update, a more -- I
7 would say comprehensive update to the Council as to
8 what we determine based off this review of the latest
9 submitted material. So we'll be providing a more
10 detailed update to the Council at that time. So even
11 though this does fall -- the review is more related to
12 what's required of EFSEC per SEPA, we're still going to
13 be providing an update to the Council as to what we're
14 finding with respect to the SEPA review.

15 MR. RYBARIK: Very good. Thank you.

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Appreciate that.

17 And certainly I appreciate the added comment of
18 where the warehouses fit into the larger refueling
19 standard event that goes on with the Columbia
20 Generating Station, all of which is contained within
21 the current SCA that is on the books that's already
22 received the Council approval. So those details are
23 what they're -- the staff are working through, and, you
24 know, we'll make sure we're all on the same page as
25 to --

1 MS. BUMPUS: Yes.

2 CHAIR BECKETT: -- what the Council,
3 if anything, needs to be done, so okay. Very well.

4 And thank you again, Ms. Elsethagen. And I will
5 still get that pronunciation more consistent over time.

6 So, with that, Goose Prairie Solar. Nelson Jia.

7 MR. JIA: Hi. Nelson here from
8 Brookfield and Goose Prairie.

9 No nonroutine updates to report. We did have some
10 curtailment due to BPA work on the Midway-Moxee line
11 for two weeks at the beginning of December, but that's
12 about it. Thank you.

13 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

14 Ostrea Solar. Mr. Voltz.

15 MR. VOLTZ: Good afternoon, Chair
16 Beckett, Council members, and staff. This is John
17 Voltz with Cypress Creek Renewables representing Ostrea
18 solar facility.

19 In the month of December, the O&M facility
20 continued construction. We did achieve mechanical
21 completion of both the PV and HV facilities, made
22 preparations to receive backfeed energy from the
23 utility this month. That did occur. It will be in our
24 next report. But major milestone accomplished there in
25 the construction of the facility.

1 I'd also like to draw attention to the charitable
2 work. Some of the site team donated some time to the
3 Sunrise Outreach Food Bank, helped their storage
4 cleanup, food organizing, and handing out the donated
5 food for local area I believe that's in Yakima. Other
6 than that, there's nothing nonroutine to report for the
7 period.

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much,
9 as well as for the additional detail.

10 All right. I believe that then brings the
11 Carriger Solar project update. And Joanne Snarski is
12 here to provide that update.

13 MS. SNARSKI: Thank you, Chair
14 Beckett and Council members. This is Joanne Snarski,
15 the siting specialist for Carriger Solar facility in
16 Klickitat County.

17 On December 2nd, 2025, the governor's office
18 notified Chair Beckett that the chair -- excuse me --
19 that the Carriger Solar site certification agreement
20 was approved by Governor Ferguson. The agreement was
21 executed by both parties and became effective on
22 December 15th, 2025.

23 On December 31st, 2025, the Confederated Tribes
24 and Bands of the Yakama Nation filed a petition for
25 judicial review of the Council and governor's approval

1 for the site certification.

2 EFSEC staff are working with our assistant
3 attorneys general to respond to this filing. In the
4 meantime, we are continuing to discuss Carriger's
5 timing for submitting the plans required in the site
6 certification agreement.

7 May I answer any questions?

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members.
9 Comments or questions. Straightforward for today.

10 Oh. Council Chiles. I didn't see you join. Good
11 to -- good to have you here. Please proceed. But
12 we're not hearing you so far if you are speaking.

13 Still not getting anything in the room, Council
14 Chiles.

15 All right. Well, I'll tell you what. If Council
16 Chiles pops back in, we can hear you, then certainly we
17 will take those comments. Otherwise, we'll move on to
18 the next project for now.

19 Ms. Grantham, let me know if that technical issue
20 gets further clarified.

21 MS. GRANTHAM: Yeah, I'm not sure if
22 there's much we can do on our end. It's showing that
23 he's unmuted, but we're just not able to hear him --

24 CHAIR BECKETT: It's probably --

25 MS. GRANTHAM: -- for some reason,

1 yeah.

2 CHAIR BECKETT: Probably on his end.
3 Okay. So, Council Chiles, since we're going to move
4 into Horse Heaven, let me see if -- one last chance for
5 now. I think he dropped off. Okay.

6 MR. RYBARIK: And log back in.

7 CHAIR BECKETT: So we'll keep an eye
8 out for Council Chiles. But in the meantime, let's
9 proceed to the Horse Heaven project update. And we
10 have the ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan that Amy
11 Moon is going to make a presentation on. I will first
12 though just note that, given my larger recusal on Horse
13 Heaven, I have the honor and appreciation of handing
14 the gavel on this particular item to Council Pamplin.

15 And I would note just for the benefits of my
16 Council members and members of the public, even though
17 I have recused, I'm not participating as a Council
18 member on this particular action, I have read all the
19 materials. I have read all the public comments.
20 They're important to me, including just these issues
21 mapped to other projects. And so I'm certainly trying
22 to keep running alongside you so that I can be a better
23 chair when the next issue comes up for me directly.

24 So, with that, Council Pamplin. And soon we'll
25 turn this to Ms. Moon for the update to get started.

1 MR. PAMPLIN: Great. Thank you,
2 Mr. Chair.

3 Ms. Moon, go ahead and proceed, please. Thank
4 you.

5 MS. MOON: All right. Good
6 afternoon. Thank you, Acting Chair Pamplin, and to the
7 EFSEC Council members.

8 As required in the Horse Heaven site certification
9 agreement, or SCA, development and approval of a
10 mitigation and management plan is required under
11 Mitigation Measure Species-5, ferruginous hawk, when
12 project components are proposed for siting within the
13 two-mile core ferruginous hawk habitat. The
14 certificate holder worked with the preoperational
15 technical advisory group, or PTAG -- P-T-A-G -- to
16 develop a project-specific ferruginous hawk mitigation
17 and management plan for approval by EFSEC. This plan
18 received PTAG consensus prior to submitting the
19 mitigation plan to EFSEC.

20 The ferruginous hawk nests mitigation plan
21 includes the four fundamental requirements stated in
22 Spec 5. No. 1 is a description of efforts to site
23 project infrastructure to avoid core habitat,
24 identified as the area within two miles of nests
25 documented in the priority habitats and species

1 database. That's the PHS database.

2 No. 2, a description of when construction
3 activities will be undertaken to avoid sensitive timing
4 periods for ferruginous hawk.

5 No. 3, a description of pre- and post-monitoring
6 programs that will be conducted to establish habitat
7 use within the lease boundary, mapping of ground
8 squirrel colonies and other prey, identification of
9 potential flyways between nest sites and foraging
10 habitat and monitoring of potential flyways to inform
11 the final turbine siting and orientation, ongoing
12 monitoring of nest use, and territory success.

13 And, No. 4, a description of restoration
14 activities that will be undertaken during project
15 decommissioning to enhance ferruginous hawk habitat in
16 disturbed areas.

17 Staff reviewed the proposed plan and posted a copy
18 of the ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan to the
19 EFSEC public website for a 14-day public comment period
20 from December 30th, 2025, through January 12 of 2026.
21 EFSEC received a total of 32 comments.

22 EFSEC's State Environmental Policy Act specialist,
23 Sean Greene, is here to provide a summary of the
24 Species-5 ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan and
25 information on the comments received during the recent

1 public comment period on that plan.

2 Sean.

3 MR. GREENE: Thank you, Amy. And
4 thank you, Acting Chair Pamplin and Council members.
5 This is Sean Greene, SEPA specialist for EFSEC.

6 I wanted to give you-all a brief or maybe
7 not-so-brief rundown of what was included the Horse
8 Heaven ferruginous hawk nest management plan and
9 discuss some of the substantive comments we received
10 during the public comment period.

11 The nest management plan adopts all of the
12 ferruginous hawk mitigation outlined in the Horse
13 Heaven wind farm draft habitat mitigation plan from the
14 application for site certification, including
15 compensatory habitat mitigation. It furthermore
16 includes a commitment to protect an area that supports
17 sufficient ferruginous hawk habitat that will achieve
18 mitigation acreage targets defined by the mitigation
19 ratios set by EFSEC.

20 It discusses the potential installation of
21 artificial nesting platforms in areas with specific
22 site conditions and where WDFW staff believe that there
23 is a high confidence that those platforms could be used
24 by ferruginous hawks.

25 It formalizes the monitoring plan put forth in the

1 final EIS to perform nest and mortality surveys for
2 three of the first five years of project operation.
3 And, finally, it commits to a curtailment of turbine
4 operations during daylight hours within two miles of an
5 active nest unless a qualified biologist with WDFW and
6 EFSEC approval determines that the turbines are outside
7 of the foraging areas for those nests or the
8 certificate holder makes use of an automated
9 curtailment technology that responds to ferruginous
10 hawk presence.

11 As Amy mentioned, this plan was reviewed by the
12 pre-operational technical advisory group, or PTAG, and
13 approved by that group prior to being submitted for
14 public comment.

15 During that comment period, 32 comments were
16 received, and substantive comments generally fell
17 within one of six arguments that I'd like to run you
18 through.

19 First, there was an argument presented that EFSEC
20 should impose financial penalties for each incident of
21 injury or mortality to a ferruginous hawk. Staff is
22 not recommending that this change be incorporated.
23 Apart from the questionable legality of EFSEC
24 establishing fines for wildlife take, EFSEC staff is
25 confident that the exclusion areas imposed around all

1 historic nests, the management measures in this plan,
2 and the mortality adaptive management strategies that
3 are currently being developed by the certificate holder
4 for future PTAG and EFSEC review are sufficient to
5 address direct ferruginous hawk mortality.

6 The second argument that was -- was that the
7 artificial nesting platforms discussed as a mitigation
8 option in this plan should instead be made mandatory.
9 Staff is not recommending that this change be
10 incorporated. In our development of mitigation and
11 discussions with WDFW staff throughout the
12 environmental review of this project, artificial
13 nesting platforms have been seen as having a limited
14 and situation-specific mitigative effect. The primary
15 factors responsible for declining ferruginous hawk
16 population numbers are habitat conversion and reduction
17 in prey species availability, neither of which are
18 necessarily addressed by installing artificial
19 platforms.

20 Thirdly, several commenters argued that the annual
21 operation phase nesting surveys should continue
22 throughout the life of the project rather than for
23 the -- rather than for three of the first five years as
24 currently proposed. EFSEC staff is not recommending
25 that this change be incorporated. The nesting survey

1 plan proposed in the EIS and included in this plan is
2 functionally consistent with WDFW guidelines and was
3 developed in concert with WDFW staff and technical
4 experts on the PTAG. As a result, staff believes that
5 this plan, in combination with the exclusion areas and
6 adaptive management strategies, is sufficient to
7 address ferruginous hawk impacts.

8 The fourth argument that we received was one that
9 claim that the habitat mitigation ratios that EFSEC
10 developed with WDFW for this project should be updated
11 to reflect the ratios presented in the WDFW wind and
12 solar guidelines that were published about four months
13 ago. Staff is not recommending that this change be
14 incorporated. The habitat mitigation ratios applied to
15 this project exceeded the standard WDFW guidelines at
16 the time of review and were developed to specifically
17 address habitat impacts to this project -- or from this
18 project by EFSEC staff, WDFW staff, and independent
19 consultants.

20 Furthermore, the ratios presented in the recent
21 guidelines are explicitly identified as preliminary
22 recommendations, with the guidelines assuming some
23 level of collaboration between developers, permitting
24 authorities, and WDFW to arrive at project-specific
25 ratios that are appropriate, which is reflective of the

1 process that EFSEC went through to devise the current
2 ratios. Changing the ratios at this time would also
3 require an SCA amendment, which is not something that
4 EFSEC can unilaterally impose.

5 No. 5 was an argument that the certificate holder
6 should be required to use automated detection systems
7 with turbine curtailment triggered by observations
8 rather than it being considered an option as in the
9 proposed plan. Staff do not recommend incorporating
10 this change. As discussed in the plan, these systems
11 lack the capability for species-specific identification
12 at this time. Requiring the certificate holder to
13 install and use these systems at this time could result
14 in turbine curtailment at any -- any time any raptor
15 species of similar size and/or shape to a ferruginous
16 hawk is observed, which exceeds the intent of this
17 mitigation plan. The plan discusses the potential use
18 of these systems in concert with observed ferruginous
19 hawk activity when practical and when further
20 developed, and EFSEC staff believes that the
21 consideration -- these considerations to be appropriate
22 in the proposed plan.

23 The final substantial argument was for EFSEC to
24 require that one blade of each turbine be painted black
25 to reduce ferruginous hawk collisions. Staff is not

1 recommending that this change be incorporated. While
2 this novel mitigation technique has seen promising,
3 though varied, results in recent studies, it is still
4 too experimental at this time to be required as a
5 mitigation measure. There are still engineering
6 questions related to the long-term effects of increased
7 heat retention that the black-painted blades will
8 experience and whether painting the blades with
9 carbon-based paint affects their reaction to lightning
10 strikes.

11 Furthermore, wind turbines are painted white, in
12 part, to make them blend in better with the sky when
13 viewed from the ground. There is a risk that the
14 visual analysis and impact determinations made by EFSEC
15 for the all-white turbines may not be accurate to the
16 visual aesthetic impacts the viewers would experience
17 from turbines that are partially black.

18 It is unclear whether the positive benefit of
19 potential reductions in ferruginous hawk collisions
20 would justify the increased adverse impacts to visual
21 aesthetics. Also, as I mentioned before, EFSEC staff
22 is confident that the suite of mitigation developed for
23 this project sufficiently addresses the potential for
24 direct mortality impacts to the ferruginous hawk.

25 And apart from these substantive comments, there

1 were several editorial comments that staff will
2 recommend for incorporation into the final plan. These
3 include edits such as adding a citation to WAC
4 197-11-768, wherein "mitigation" is defined; replacing
5 the word "flyways" with the phrase "flight pathways";
6 including more detail on the length of the habitat
7 monitoring programs; and adding clarification that nest
8 surveys will be performed by qualified biologists.
9 These modifications would not affect the substance of
10 the plan.

11 Are there any questions from Council members
12 before I hand things back to Amy?

13 MR. PAMPLIN: Not seeing any. No.

14 Go ahead, Mr. Rybarik.

15 MR. RYBARIK: I think I've got a
16 few, so --

17 MR. GREENE: Sure.

18 MR. RYBARIK: -- thanks, Sean and
19 Amy, for the -- for the updates there. Appreciate
20 the -- one of my questions was on WAC 197-11-768.
21 Sounds like there will be references to that
22 specifically in there and the updates to some of the
23 terminology. Good to see.

24 On the artificial nesting platforms, I think
25 the -- the issue that was raised is should it be

1 mandatory or not. I just -- I wonder -- functionally,
2 as I was reading through the comments and the
3 materials, I got to, well, how do we get to a point
4 where, looking at this in a very specific way, that a
5 wildlife biologist from W -- from Fish and Wildlife
6 would be able to say, "Actually it makes sense to do it
7 in this circumstance. Developer, please do that"?

8 How do we get to -- how do we assure that that is
9 the way this is going to work? Because that seems to
10 make logical sense in my mind.

11 MR. GREENE: Sure. I can look at
12 the exact language used in the plan. But in the plan,
13 they do discuss the potential for use of artificial
14 nesting platforms in the areas that are meant to
15 represent compensatory habitat mitigation, the -- the
16 areas of conservation.

17 And the criteria that the applicant had -- or I'm
18 sorry -- the certificate holder had proposed in the
19 plan included sufficient foraging habitat for the
20 species, the lack of nesting sites in that area, and
21 consultation with WDFW staff to ensure that there is a
22 high likelihood of the use of those platforms by the
23 ferruginous hawk.

24 The -- the only concern with implementing, like, a
25 minimum number of artificial nesting platforms that

1 must be put up is it's very much dependent on what is
2 available in the area and whether there is a pressing
3 need for those, and the costs associated with
4 installing those could be better assigned to actually
5 protecting more habitat.

6 But it's staff's opinion that the description in
7 the current -- the proposed plan of those platforms
8 being as an option for further mitigation is
9 appropriate. If -- if there's a Council desire to see
10 a minimum, though, we can...

11 MR. RYBARIK: Yeah, I guess the only
12 thought that I had for amendment is if WDFW staff says
13 here is a situation where that makes sense -- let's say
14 there's a tree that had a nest in it that is somehow
15 felled. Who knows how, whatever. To say here's a
16 example where it would make sense to put up an
17 artificial nest. It's kind of a thou shall follow
18 WDFW's -- instead of a consultation with them, it's if
19 they come and say here is an example where thou shall
20 do that, that it gets included in this -- in this
21 mitigation plan, that that is an option that Fish and
22 Wildlife has. I don't know if I'm sort of explaining
23 that circumstance well, but that --

24 MR. GREENE: Yeah.

25 MR. RYBARIK: -- to me is -- there's

1 this limited circumstance where I think a biologist
2 would say, That makes sense. Go do that. And if --
3 the way I read the mitigation plan right now, they
4 could say, Thanks for the consultation; we don't think
5 it's necessary.

6 MS. HAFKEMEYER: So if I might add
7 some information here.

8 So part of the adaptive management is, because
9 EFSEC is the enforcement agency rather than DFW, we
10 retain the authority to impose that, again with
11 consultation with DFW as, you know, having the in-house
12 species subject matter experts. But if something is to
13 arise where DF -- WDFW indicates that it is appropriate
14 to go ahead and install an artificial nest platform,
15 that authority to propose that would reside with EFSEC.

16 MR. GREENE: And I think we could
17 add language to the plan to make that -- that
18 relationship more clear.

19 MS. BUMPUS: Mm-hmm.

20 MR. GREENE: If that's a change we
21 wanted to make.

22 MS. BUMPUS: Right.

23 MR. RYBARIK: And so I just want to
24 make sure I understand. Ami, what you're saying is, if
25 that circumstance arise, WDFW would come to EFSEC and

1 say, Here's the situation where an artificial nest
2 makes sense. EFSEC, please impose that requirement on
3 the -- on the developer.

4 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Correct.

5 MR. RYBARIK: This plan allows for
6 that chain of events to happen and the artificial nest
7 to get put in place.

8 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Correct. Both the
9 PTAG as the pre-operational as well as the --

10 MR. RYBARIK: TAC.

11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- the TAC will
12 continue to be in coordination and monitoring these
13 activities. So we anticipate continued communication
14 on these subjects throughout the life of the facility.

15 MR. RYBARIK: Okay. I think I have
16 some comfort there, but just --

17 MR. GREENE: Yeah.

18 MR. RYBARIK: Go ahead, Sean.

19 MR. GREENE: Sorry. I didn't mean
20 to interrupt.

21 One additional point is the final plan for the
22 compensatory mitigation has yet to be fully developed,
23 and that will, as Amy mentioned, go through the PTAG or
24 the -- yeah, it will be the PTAG at that point and come
25 to EFSEC for approval, and that will include the

1 applicant's formal proposal on whether or not they're
2 going to install artificial nesting platforms and
3 where. So that would be a point where EFSEC can use
4 our regulatory authority to determine whether there
5 should or should not be some added.

6 MR. RYBARIK: I have a couple other
7 questions along -- I'm just going to go down the
8 list in --

9 MR. GREENE: Sure.

10 MR. RYBARIK: -- order that you had
11 them.

12 On the annual, I guess it's monitoring --

13 MR. GREENE: Mm-hmm.

14 MR. RYBARIK: -- the way the plan
15 reads now, it's three of the first five years.

16 Intuitively, I thought of it seems like the first years
17 of operation are going to be the most critical. And so
18 I just wondered if there's appetite to be a little bit
19 more, I guess, prescriptive in this one is -- is all of
20 those five years makes some sense to me that there
21 would be monitoring in each of the five years rather
22 than three of the five years. Certainly the first
23 three years makes a little bit of intuitive sense to
24 me.

25 I just wonder how it gets landed at three of the

1 first five with -- I recognize the flexibility there,
2 but I just wonder from a species mitigation perspective
3 if we shouldn't think about that a little differently.

4 MR. GREENE: Yeah, so that was a
5 proposal that we developed in our consultation with
6 WDFW staff. Their typical recommendation is for the
7 first three years of operation. In our discussions,
8 we -- we considered whether it might be more helpful to
9 add that wider range so to capture a larger period of
10 time but still not exceeding the three years of total
11 surveys.

12 In the, I think, six years that the -- the
13 certificate holder has run nesting surveys in this area
14 to this point, there's been one active nest observed.
15 So given the -- the rarity of an active nest, going for
16 more years was -- was seen as a way to -- to
17 potentially capture an active nest with, you know, the
18 higher likelihood of either seeing an active nest or
19 evidence that the site had been -- that there had been
20 an active nest in one of the off years, so that was
21 the -- the justification.

22 MR. RYBARIK: Appreciate that. And
23 I guess I just don't know what -- what's the -- is
24 there -- I don't know what the cost is of running an
25 annual program for five years versus three of five,

1 what the significance of that is. Maybe that's some
2 context you could enlighten me with.

3 MR. GREENE: I don't have the cost
4 numbers available, but we can look into that.

5 MS. BUMPUS: We can certainly follow
6 up with some ideas for that. You know, the
7 applicant -- in this case, certificate holder -- is
8 responsible for all of the expenses. So as we're
9 working with DFW and working with different subject
10 matter experts there, they're billed for the hours that
11 those experts are spending in meetings and calls with
12 EFSEC staff, and so the -- the cost is substantially
13 higher if you're adding additional years of monitoring.
14 But we can get you, you know, an estimate if that would
15 be helpful.

16 MR. RYBARIK: I look to the other
17 Council members if there's appetite in that, but I
18 think that is -- that's one area that had some focus
19 for me. The other -- and maybe, Council Member
20 Pamplin, I don't want to put you on the spot, but
21 the -- the updated ratios or mitigation ratios,
22 obviously working through the WDFW process now, with
23 the goal of using the best available science and the
24 most updated information, I appreciate the explanation,
25 that it's also going through a process is, may not be

1 the most updated. I also recognize the need for
2 certainty in these processes of this was the ratios
3 that were at the time, but I wonder if WDFW has a
4 position or a thought on -- on the ratios, because
5 that's the expert agency on these ratios, so...

6 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, thanks,
7 Mr. Rybarik. Why don't I first just turn to Ms. Moon
8 and Mr. Greene to talk about WDFW's position within
9 PTAG. If that doesn't fully cover it, I can --

10 MR. RYBARIK: All right.

11 MR. PAMPLIN: -- offer some remarks.
12 Thanks.

13 MR. GREENE: Sure. So there are --
14 there's one primary member of WDFW on the PTAG along
15 with two alternates. They attend every meeting, and
16 they are one of the technical experts who are
17 responsible for reviewing all of the certificate
18 holder's proposals for pre-operational plans and
19 surveys. So their staff did fully review this plan and
20 approved it as -- as it was drafted and submitted for
21 public comment.

22 So their staff approved of the mitigation ratios
23 that were developed at the time we were doing the EIS
24 and approved of the ratios incorporated here.

25 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Greene.

1 Yeah, I would just add that that's pretty
2 consistent value as far as when we introduce new
3 guidelines that projects that were kind of in the queue
4 or operating under the -- the -- the guidance that was
5 published at the time. So appreciate the interest in
6 moving forward, and if we saw something I thought was
7 really substantial or the science, it really moved the
8 needle, I think that was something that our
9 representative in the PTAG would have advocated for.
10 But I'm comfortable with the work that the -- the WDFW
11 staff person did at PTAG to recommend those ratios.
12 Thanks.

13 MR. RYBARIK: Very good. Thanks.

14 MR. PAMPLIN: Any other questions?

15 MR. RYBARIK: Just one last one.

16 MR. PAMPLIN: Please.

17 MR. RYBARIK: Sorry to keep
18 belaboring these points. But the last one is on the
19 automated detection. Having come from the tech sector,
20 I recognize the technology might not be there today.
21 But technology moves at the speed of technology. And I
22 just wonder what -- what is the process if, a year from
23 now, it's very clear that that technology exists to be
24 very species-specific on curtailments? What -- what
25 would EFSEC do relative to this mitigation plan at that

1 point to say we'd like to see that technology
2 implemented?

3 MR. GREENE: Yeah, so the way it's
4 written in the plan currently is it's -- the use of
5 that technology would be like an exception for the
6 turbine curtailment in the event that there is
7 ferruginous hawk activity observed.

8 As for whether we would want to require the use of
9 that technology and whether there is ferruginous
10 activity observed or not, that's not something that I
11 think we've considered. That might be something that
12 comes up in the adaptive management plan that the
13 certificate holder is currently developing, especially
14 in relation to one of the primary concerns of that plan
15 is adaptive management in the event of mortality
16 incidents. Turbine strikes on ferruginous hawks are
17 very rare within the state, but given the limited
18 population numbers, each instance is -- is potentially
19 substantially of concern.

20 So I guess my thought at this time would be to see
21 how that technology would be incorporated into the
22 adaptive management plan, especially since it is kind
23 of still hypothetical for the moment at least.

24 MR. RYBARIK: Sure. That's helpful.
25 Thank you very much.

1 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you,
2 Mr. Rybarik. And much appreciation here to Ms. Moon
3 and Mr. Greene for the overview thus far as well as the
4 summary of the common themes that we heard and the
5 proposed responses.

6 Ms. Moon, is there any anything further on your
7 presentation?

8 MS. MOON: Yeah. One final
9 statement.

10 The staff are requesting that the Council approve
11 the Horse Heaven wind farm ferruginous hawk nest
12 mitigation plan.

13 But you wanted to follow up on --

14 MR. GREENE: Yeah, I think --

15 MS. MOON: -- a couple things.

16 MR. GREENE: -- maybe since we're --
17 we're going to follow up on a few things and see
18 whether there need to be edits there, do we wait for
19 approval, or approve with the understanding that we'll
20 get that information?

21 MS. HAFKEMEYER: So I think we
22 identified strengthening the language around
23 implementation of artificial nest platforms. And I
24 think in -- the question, I think, is maybe to the
25 Council: Do you want to wait to approve this plan

1 until we have follow-up information on those items
2 identified, or would the Council want to vote to make a
3 decision on the plan pending the edits discussed?

4 MS. BUMPUS: I think you could
5 approve it, you know, contingent on the amendments
6 discussed that Ami just listed being made. If you're
7 comfortable with the substance of the plan today.

8 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Ms. Bumpus.
9 I see Mr. Nelson's hand is up. Go ahead.

10 MR. NELSON: Hello. Yes, that
11 sounds like a good approach to me. I'm not smart
12 enough to make that motion. But I did have a question
13 if you do come back for more information.

14 So on Section 5, the -- the mortality mitigation
15 chapter or section, it -- and this might get to the
16 nesting question as well -- it speaks of a qualified
17 biologist in coordination with Fish and Wildlife and
18 EFSEC. And this could just be for my edification as a
19 relatively new Council member. But is that a qualified
20 biologist employed by the certificate holder, or is it
21 third party, or is it Fish and Wildlife, or is it
22 EFSEC? So I was just wondering what the employment
23 status of that biologist might be, I guess.

24 MR. GREENE: It's my understanding
25 that it would be an independent biologist employed by

1 the certificate holder with EFSEC's -- EFSEC and WDFW
2 approval.

3 MR. NELSON: Thank you.

4 MR. PAMPLIN: Okay. So before we
5 kind of further discuss whether or not we want to adopt
6 the plan pending amendments or not, I just want to
7 check to see if there's any other questions from
8 Ms. Moon or Mr. Greene from the Council.

9 Okay. Council, is there any particular direction
10 you would like to proceed with in terms of doing an
11 early approval -- or not an early -- approving this
12 plan, noting that there's some additional work that's
13 going to be incorporated relative to the artificial
14 nest platform, or would folks like to delay and then
15 wait and see those edits made into the plan as well as
16 some of the other editorial edits and we'll have a
17 final plan hopefully brought forward in February?

18 MR. RYBARIK: The only reservation I
19 have, in general I think there's a lot of good stuff in
20 here. I appreciate all the work that the PTAG and
21 staff have done to -- to get there. I think the one
22 outstanding question is, to me, whether that initial --
23 whether we should do three of the first five years of
24 reporting back or observations, and just there's a cost
25 difference in those two, and what's what I don't --

1 that's the information we don't have.

2 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah.

3 MR. RYBARIK: And so in my mind, I
4 think all of those five years could be one option. The
5 first three years, another option. I guess that
6 probably doesn't change the cost tremendously. We're
7 still doing three years. But I wouldn't mind knowing
8 that before making a decision and just seeing what --
9 what the appetite is to maybe strengthen that a little
10 bit, just knowing that those are probably the most
11 important years of the plan.

12 That said, I am also mindful of the fact that
13 there's timelines and associated movement for the
14 developer. So I guess I'll turn to staff of whether or
15 not any holding off on this is detrimental to the
16 overall project.

17 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Rybarik.

18 Director Bumpus, is there any consequences or
19 concerns on your end if we were to delay adoption of
20 this plan?

21 MS. BUMPUS: Well, thank you. Thank
22 you for the opportunity.

23 Yeah, I think I would just -- I'm just thinking
24 about Executive Order 25-11 where EFSEC along with many
25 other agencies are looking at how we can expedite and

1 accelerate plan approvals for those facilities that are
2 still in the position to take advantage of the federal
3 tax incentives.

4 And so I would say that if there's general comfort
5 with this plan, that we can -- you know, it would
6 behoove us to -- to move forward with it if we can, but
7 I also recognize that there may be some tweaks that we
8 still want to make. So that's the...

9 MR. RYBARIK: Well, UTC being also
10 named in that executive order, I'm familiar with it and
11 recognize the -- the concern there.

12 Ultimately -- and I appreciate staff's
13 recommenda- -- or further thoughts here, although I
14 think I'm comfortable with the way the mitigation plan
15 is -- is written, I just point out that these are areas
16 where I think we can continue to focus and just at
17 least bring some maybe options to -- to the table when
18 we get to this point.

19 But, again, I don't want to belabor this other
20 what is a relatively minor point or piece of the
21 overall mitigation plan, but you've heard my thoughts
22 on this, and I'll leave it there.

23 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks, Mr. Rybarik.

24 Ms. Hafkemeyer.

25 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I wanted to suggest

1 that maybe there's an opportunity because the adaptive
2 management plan is still in development, that if under
3 the guidance of that plan it seems appropriate to add
4 additional years of monitoring, that that might be
5 another place to capture that based on guidance of the
6 PTAG, DFW, and biologists as appropriate. So there may
7 be additional opportunity to increase monitoring
8 particularly if the first year or first couple years
9 the data suggests that more monitoring is appropriate.

10 MR. RYBARIK: That sounds like a
11 good suggestion. And thank you for reminding me of the
12 word that I was not able to get out of my brain of
13 monitoring. So thank you.

14 MR. PAMPLIN: Thanks,
15 Ms. Hafkemeyer.

16 Mr. Nelson, I saw your hand come up earlier. Did
17 you have a question or remark?

18 MR. NELSON: Yeah. Just wanted to
19 state -- you know, I just wanted to, again, yeah, or
20 thank the PTAG for all the work they put into this.
21 It's a very comprehensive plan that offers widespread
22 protection to the species.

23 Is it -- can we -- I should know this, but can we
24 make a motion to adopt yet, or do you call for that?

25 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, Thanks,

1 Mr. Nelson. I've got some language that I will try to
2 put on the table and ask for someone to move.

3 But what I'm looking for at this point is if the
4 Council make a motion to approve the ferruginous hawk
5 nest mitigation plan submitted by Horse Heaven Wind
6 Farm, LLC, in compliance with Special Status Species
7 Mitigation Measure 5, commonly referred to as Spec-5,
8 of the site certification agreement for the Horse
9 Heaven Wind Farm. And in addition, that staff would be
10 incorporating the editorial comments as well as
11 strengthening the discussion around the artificial nest
12 platform and the consultation with WDFW.

13 So, with that, is that -- if someone would please
14 signal that they would make that motion.

15 MR. RYBARIK: So moved.

16 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you,
17 Mr. Rybarik.

18 Is there a second?

19 MR. NELSON: Second.

20 MR. PAMPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Nelson.

21 Any further comments or questions before we move
22 to a vote?

23 Hearing and seeing no hands.

24 All those in favor of the motion, please say
25 "aye."

1 MULTIPLE SPEAKERS: Aye.

2 MR. PAMPLIN: Any opposed?

3 We'll let the record note that Chair Beckett has
4 recused himself from this -- this vote. And with --
5 oh. Go ahead. Mr. Ryan.

6 MR. RYAN: Just also recused, to
7 make note of that.

8 MR. RYBARIK: Oh, that's right.

9 MR. PAMPLIN: Okay. Just want to
10 double-check that we have sufficient Council members
11 for a vote with two recusals.

12 Okay. Great. So that motion passes. Again,
13 Ms. Moon, Mr. Greene, thank you for your work, as well
14 as for PTAG's efforts here on preparing this mitigation
15 plan. And I'll pass the gavel back to Chair Beckett.

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council
17 Pamplin. And I'll try to do a better job of following
18 Council Rybarik on putting my camera on some occasion.

19 So, with that, we will actually go back to -- and
20 thank you for the extra effort as chair, Council
21 Pamplin.

22 So do we have Council Chiles back still? We would
23 take his question or comment on the Carriger Solar
24 project update.

25 MS. GRANTHAM: We see that he's

1 online and unmuted again. I'm not sure if we can hear
2 him. If Council Chiles would like to try to speak up.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Chiles,
4 we're ultimately not hearing you in the room. So,
5 sorry about the technical challenge today.

6 No, Council Chiles, we still can't hear you. I do
7 see your text in the chat, though.

8 Okay. So let's move on, then, for a moment to the
9 Hop Hill solar update. John Barnes will provide the
10 update.

11 MR. BARNES: Thank you, Chair
12 Beckett and Council members. This is John Barnes,
13 EFSEC staff for the Hop Hill application.

14 Staff are working with the applicant on the
15 submission of additional application materials for the
16 Hop Hill project. EFSEC anticipates receipt of these
17 materials by spring of 2026. Staff are also working
18 with the applicant to submit a comprehensive cultural
19 resource report for the application.

20 Following receipt of the report, staff will
21 distribute to concerned tribes an offer to schedule a
22 government-to-government consultation to discuss
23 impacts and potential mitigations.

24 Are there any questions?

25 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, comments or

1 questions? Hearing none.

2 Moving on to Wallula Gap since you're also
3 providing that update, Mr. Barnes. Please proceed.

4 MR. BARNES: Thank you, Chair
5 Beckett and Council members. This is John Barnes,
6 EFSEC staff, for the Wallula Gap application.

7 Staff are continuing to work with the applicant,
8 OneEnergy, and the Yakama Nation Cultural Resource
9 Program staff regarding impacts identified in the
10 traditional cultural resource property studies and
11 report conducted by the Yakama Nation for this
12 application. Identification of potential project
13 impacts and mitigations that can be resolved as part of
14 the SEPA determination process for this project.

15 Are there any questions?

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Any questions,
17 Council?

18 MR. RYAN: None here.

19 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Then we
20 will -- it looks like we're probably losing Council
21 Chiles.

22 I'll just say, Council Chiles, we can always try
23 and catch you next month at last in the public forum,
24 and obviously you know how to reach --

25 MR. CHILES: Can you hear me now?

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Oh. There we go.
2 Yes, we can. Please -- please proceed. You're very --
3 very clear as well.

4 MR. CHILES: Thank you very much,
5 Chair Beckett. I apologize for the problems on my end.

6 Going back to the Carriger issue and the Yakama
7 tribe filing a petition for judicial review, wanted a
8 little bit of clarification on that, if we could.

9 First of all, do we have any estimated timeline
10 for a decision on that petition for judicial review?
11 And, second, while we wait for that, what is the status
12 of the project? Are they moving forward, or is there
13 some sort of injunction preventing that at this time?
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR BECKETT: Counsel Thompson,
16 would you like to --

17 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: -- jump in?

19 MR. THOMPSON: So this is Jon
20 Thompson with the attorney general's office. There --
21 there is provision in the -- in EFSLA, RCW 80.50, for
22 filing a petition for review of a governor's decision
23 in Thurston County Superior Court, and then the process
24 is for the -- it's a -- the way judicial review works
25 under the Administrative Procedure Act, if the court

1 reviews the agency's record and sitting in an appellate
2 capacity, and so what we need to do is compile the
3 agency's decisional record and then provide it to the
4 court.

5 Usually there's often a number of months where the
6 completeness of the record is being determined, and
7 then -- and then likely a motion to transfer the case
8 up to the supreme court to be heard. So it's typically
9 a multi-month process. There's nothing that -- that
10 prevents the certificate holder from proceeding with
11 implementation of the site certification agreement in
12 the -- while that's ongoing.

13 I think that answers your questions, Council
14 Member Chiles? Did that -- did I --

15 MR. CHILES: Yes.

16 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

17 MR. CHILES: Thank you, Counsel. I
18 appreciate that.

19 So it sounds like things will be moving forward
20 while the litigation kind of continues in the
21 background to see if it will go before the state
22 supreme court.

23 MR. THOMPSON: Correct.

24 CHAIR BECKETT: Director Bumpus, did
25 you wish to add another word, or...?

1 MS. BUMPUS: I think -- thank you,
2 Chair Beckett. I think Jon Thompson answered it. It
3 was just to address that other part of the question
4 that Carriger is proceeding and that we're going to be
5 in receipt of plans, we think, fairly soon to begin the
6 review of those, so the work's continuing along with
7 the litigation.

8 CHAIR BECKETT: Great. Thank you
9 for the added emphasis there. And I think, to your
10 earlier point too, that project is also on the
11 governor's executive order, and hence our focus is only
12 more so in moving those projects forward.

13 Okay. Council Chiles, was there any other
14 question or comment you wished to make on Carriger?

15 MR. CHILES: No. Thank you very
16 much, Chair Beckett.

17 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Thank you.

18 So, with that, we will move to the Goldeneye
19 battery storage project update. Ms. Snarski.

20 MS. SNARSKI: Yes. Thank you, Chair
21 Beckett. Again, this is Joanne Snarski, the siting
22 specialist for the proposed Goldeneye battery energy
23 storage facility in Skagit County.

24 Last month, I reported that the applicant had
25 recently submitted a revised site plan for the

1 facility. However, I misspoke. What they did submit
2 was a revised conceptual site restoration plan.
3 However, we anticipate that Goldeneye representatives
4 will submit a more formal site plan in the coming
5 weeks.

6 Last week, staff sent our fourth data request to
7 the developers. We anticipate their response to that
8 by March 1st.

9 The need for submittal of information is required
10 to help us complete our State Environmental Policy Act
11 determination for the project.

12 May I answer any questions?

13 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members?

14 MR. RYBARIK: No questions.

15 CHAIR BECKETT: Council Eckroth,
16 just to make sure in case you had any question or
17 comment.

18 MR. ECKROTH: Council Member Eckroth
19 here.

20 No questions. Thank you very much.

21 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

22 All right. Then we will move on to the Cascade
23 Renewables Transmission project. And Maria Belkina
24 will provide her occupy date.

25 MS. BELKINA: Thank you.

1 Good afternoon, Chair Beckett and Council members.
2 For the record, my name is Maria Belkina, siting
3 specialist assigned to and reporting on the Cascade
4 Renewable Transmission Project.

5 Staff continue to review the application for site
6 certification for compliance with WAC 463-60 with the
7 objective of determining of whether the application
8 contains sufficient information to support the next
9 step -- next phase of review. In parallel, staff are
10 finalizing the first consolidated data request,
11 informed by application review and agency input.

12 Staff expect to receive comments from contracted
13 agencies soon, which will help inform the next request
14 for additional information from the applicant.

15 Staff continue to coordinate with key state and
16 federal agencies. In January, staff conducted two
17 interagency coordination discussions with the
18 Washington Department of Natural Resources and the
19 Washington Department of Ecology to support alignment
20 on process, sequencing, and environmental review
21 considerations.

22 EFSEC has received a formal invitation from the
23 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to participate as
24 cooperating agency in the preparation of an
25 environmental impact statement, with the corps serving

1 as NEPA lead agency. Staff have prepared a response
2 confirming EFSEC's willingness to participate and to
3 coordinate NEPA and SEPA processes.

4 In addition, a meeting is being scheduled with the
5 Columbia River Gorge Commission to initiate early
6 coordination and communication regarding the project
7 and applicable Gorge Act considerations.

8 With respect to water quality permitting, staff
9 are intentionally sequencing the Section 401 water
10 quality certification process so that it follows a
11 sufficiently developed SEPA environmental record.
12 Importantly, key water quality issues will be addressed
13 through the SEPA review, which will then support the
14 Section 401 process.

15 Staff continue to support tribal engagement
16 planning and coordination consistent with state
17 requirement -- state requirements. Initial
18 government -- initial government-to-government
19 consultations are scheduled to begin in early February,
20 including the first consultation meeting with the
21 Cowlitz Indian Tribe.

22 Following input received at the informational
23 meetings and the land-use hearings, staff reach out to
24 local jurisdiction along the project route to ensure
25 that they are aware of the need to appoint a Council

1 member where the project falls within their
2 jurisdiction.

3 We have since received an appointment of Council
4 member from the City of Stevenson and have received
5 indications of pending appointments from the Klickitat
6 County and the City of Camas. We expect to receive
7 additional appointments in the coming weeks. Our legal
8 counsel, Jon Thompson, can provide further information
9 of proceedings while local jurisdiction make decisions
10 in their appointments.

11 That concludes my update. I would be happy to
12 answer any questions.

13 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

14 I'm sorry. Was there a more proactive comment you
15 wanted to make first, Counsel Thompson, or...?

16 MR. THOMPSON: Well, I do have
17 comments. I wanted to address a few questions about
18 the question that Ms. Belkina mentioned last about
19 proceeding, you know, while we're awaiting other --

20 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah.

21 MR. THOMPSON: -- appointments for
22 Council members.

23 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah, let's go ahead
24 and hear that.

25 MR. THOMPSON: Okay.

1 Yeah, so a couple of questions if you recall at
2 the public informational and land-use consistency
3 hearings that were held in the three counties that are
4 involved in this project were raised about whether the
5 public informational meeting and the land-use
6 consistency hearings should have been convened prior to
7 all the, you know, the appointees that are eligible to
8 be on the Council being seated.

9 Yeah, so I wanted to speak to that just briefly
10 and give you my thoughts on that topic and what might
11 lie ahead on those topics.

12 So, first, regarding the public informational
13 meeting. So RCW 80.50.090(1) is the -- is the law that
14 requires that to be held. And it basically says the
15 Council shall conduct an informational public hearing
16 in the county of the proposed site as soon as
17 practicable but not less than 60 days after the receipt
18 of an application for certification. So that's the
19 basic mandate.

20 There are -- EFSEC has adopted rules about public
21 informational meetings and the land-use consistency
22 hearing. And the only kind of requirement in this
23 regard is there's -- it states that before conducting
24 either the informational public hearing or the public
25 land-use hearing, the Council will notify local

1 jurisdictions.

2 It doesn't -- it doesn't require, you know,
3 waiting until appointments are made. So neither the
4 statute or the rules, you know, require that all
5 jurisdictions that are eligible to appoint someone have
6 done so prior to that meeting. The mandate is really
7 to hold it, hold the meeting, you know, within 60 days
8 of receipt of the application.

9 And I'd also point out that the purpose of the
10 meeting is also described in the rules, and it's
11 basically for the applicant to make a presentation
12 about -- about the project, a general description of
13 the project, reasons why the site was selected, a
14 summary of anticipated impacts, and then for the
15 general public to be afforded an opportunity to present
16 written or oral comments.

17 So the reason I mention that is because the
18 Council's role is -- is pretty passive. It's -- you
19 know, at this point, it's just to receive information
20 from the applicant and the -- and the public. And it's
21 a very early opportunity basically to get some -- some
22 reaction, some understanding and reaction to the
23 project. And of course then there's -- over the course
24 of reviewing an application, there's a lot of other
25 hearing and public input opportunities on SEPA as well

1 as the adjudicative process.

2 You know, with SEPA there's -- there may be a
3 scoping hearing. There may be a hearing for receipt of
4 comments on a draft environmental impact statement.
5 And then, as I mention, there's the -- there's the
6 adjudication. And then there's also an opportunity for
7 the Council to provide additional hearings as -- as you
8 see fit.

9 So -- so in my opinion, yeah, there's -- and I
10 would also add that these hearings are recorded on
11 video and audio and transcribed by a court reporter, so
12 there's the opportunity for Council members to review
13 that -- that information when they come on board too.

14 So -- so in my opinion, there's nothing -- as I
15 said, the requirement is that this meeting be held
16 within 60 days. You complied with that. I don't think
17 there's any mandate to go back and redo it. You can --
18 you can re-examine once the new Council members are on
19 board, you know, whether you feel a need for additional
20 process in that regard, but that's about I think what
21 we can say at this point.

22 So regarding the land-use consistency hearing,
23 there's no requirement that be held within 60 days of
24 receipt of an application. It just says that it should
25 be subsequent to the land-use consistency hearing. So

1 my opinion is that the record for that decision really
2 hasn't been sufficiently developed. And because of
3 that, staff is in the process of developing a set of
4 questions to -- to send to the applicant to further
5 develop that information. And then, I mean, I think I
6 would recommend affording the parties who spoke to that
7 issue, you know, any parties who want to speak to that
8 to be -- to have another opportunity to respond to what
9 the applicant has to say and really, you know, better
10 develop the record for that.

11 And to the extent that you can, I would say that
12 you should probably wait to deliberate on that until --
13 until you do have the other Council members empanelled
14 so that they have an opportunity to speak to that.

15 I would add that the Council members, by EFSEC
16 rule, are only to speak to the -- or to deliberate on
17 and vote on the segments of the project that are within
18 their appointing jurisdiction. So that's another kind
19 of wrinkle for all of us to be aware of.

20 So, yeah, I just wanted to add that context in
21 case you had questions about it. I know there was a
22 lot of head scratching about that maybe at the initial
23 meeting. So I'm just adding that to Ms. Belkina's
24 report for your -- for your background information.

25 CHAIR BECKETT: No, thank you. I

1 think it's a very important update and certainly helps
2 to have that clarified, knowing some of it is still in
3 process of -- of getting further clarified.

4 And in that regard, I was going to acknowledge up
5 front and ask if there's a comment from our two local
6 representatives, Commissioner Leckie, who -- and
7 Council Leckie, who's joined us previously, and now
8 Council Jeff Breckel representing the City of
9 Stevenson. But let me just turn this open to all
10 Council members, knowing further Council who are here
11 with us in the room and Council Nelson. Certainly
12 these questions have been, I think, on their mind as
13 well, Counsel Thompson. So thanks for clarifying that.

14 I'll turn it open for comments.

15 Council Pamplin.

16 MR. PAMPLIN: Great. Thank you,
17 Mr. Chair. Thanks, Mr. Thompson, for the overview.

18 So, you know, the statutory requirement for the
19 public information meeting, 60 days within receipt of
20 the application makes sense. Have the project
21 applicant explain the project proposal, an opportunity
22 for public input, just a very early engagement and
23 public awareness of here's an extensive process that's
24 coming. And so I appreciate that.

25 I think the part that was -- that's of interest to

1 me is the obligations for the land-use consistency
2 hearings. So I do think it would be beneficial to make
3 sure we've got the full roster of Council members, but
4 I look to you to kind of figure out what can be done,
5 you know, while -- what work can be done while those
6 are still being appointed.

7 But also I'd just like to make sure that, as
8 EFSEC, we're reaching out not just to the project
9 applicant but to those local governments and
10 municipalities for their understanding of how the
11 project is consistent or not with their own ordinances.
12 To me, asking the applicant to say, well, you know, you
13 could imagine the scenario where an applicant would
14 respond saying, yes, it's consistent and the County
15 saying, no, it's not. And I guess I'd like to make
16 sure that we're hearing directly from the local
17 governments whether or not it's consistent rather than
18 an applicant's interpretation of what they've heard
19 from the local government, if that makes sense.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I think that's
21 an excellent point. I mean, I think -- and I think it
22 is staff's practice to, if Ms. Hafkemeyer or Ms. Bumpus
23 want to speak to this too, to try to solicit that input
24 from local land-use authorities.

25 MS. BUMPUS: Yes. So we do have a

1 data request that we're preparing to send out. And
2 there are questions in that data request that should,
3 when we receive responses, supplement the application
4 as to land use. I think we need to look at that.

5 We also have discussed sending follow-up letters
6 to some of the local governments who have indicated
7 that they're going to appoint someone to the Council.
8 They just haven't chosen who that person's going to be.
9 And we've indicated to them that they'll need to get up
10 to speed, read the record, and be familiar with that.

11 And as Mr. Thompson noted, you know -- and I agree
12 with this point -- that once you have the full
13 composition of the Council, I think that that might be
14 a time ripe for, okay, what do we have in the
15 application that helps inform us about land-use
16 consistency, and if it's still deficient at that point,
17 do we hold another hearing? Is there some other
18 mechanism that we want to implement to gather more
19 information and supplement the record so that the
20 Council can make a decision with respect to land-use
21 consistency?

22 MR. PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, just
23 another follow-up.

24 I also recall looking into this, and there was a
25 statute indicating that the project applicant may work

1 with the local government to get a local -- or a
2 land-use consistency certificate and that that is
3 brought forward at the actual hearing, which is also
4 kind of -- I mean, that seems ideal, but I guess I
5 would also give a lot of deference -- but tell me if
6 I'm off base on this -- that if there was a land-use
7 consistency certificate even after the hearing but
8 before the Council's making a decision, that we'd
9 welcome that.

10 I mean, it's -- anyway, the statutes on this
11 particular process, I think, you kind of stumble
12 through it rather than, like, as far as really clear.
13 So I don't know if that's even something Director
14 Bumpus, on a future agency, request legislation to kind
15 of map some of these processes out, because I think
16 they kind of put you sometimes in a box that's --
17 that's kind of challenging to operate within.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Director Bumpus.

19 MS. BUMPUS: I would just -- I don't
20 know if Mr. Thompson has something to add, but I would
21 just note that, you know, I think it's a good point.
22 The Council does have broad discretion in terms of
23 holding additional hearings and taking other steps to
24 supplement the record as it's needed. And every
25 project's different, as we all know. And so we may

1 find in this case that we want to do something like
2 that in order to supplement it.

3 So I think that -- as I said, you know, I think
4 it's a good point. I think in the framework that we're
5 operating in today, I think we've got a lot of options
6 for the Council available to supplement that record.

7 And the other thing I was just going to mention
8 too is that there is no time limit with respect to
9 this -- this decision, right? So we're not working as
10 tightly as we were, like, say in the scheduling of the
11 public informational hearing.

12 Sorry. I saw --

13 MS. HAFKEMEYER: It's fine.

14 I would just like --

15 MS. BUMPUS: -- Ms. Hafkemeyer.

16 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- to add, in those
17 initial hearings, the applicant did indicate that they
18 were working with local jurisdictions to obtain
19 certificates of consistency, which is one of the items
20 requested in the data requests that we were preparing
21 to have those submitted to us to become part of the
22 record.

23 We are also working, as you indicated, with some
24 of the local jurisdiction planning departments to get
25 some of that input that you indicated on their

1 interpretation about whether or not this project is
2 consistent. So that part of the record is still under
3 development. We're still working with those entities
4 to try and, you know, get all of that information in.
5 And so once we have all of that, we will make it
6 available to the Council and the public.

7 CHAIR BECKETT: So we'll take two
8 comments here in order. Council Ryan and then Council
9 Leckie.

10 MR. RYAN: Thank you, chair.

11 Want to take a moment to echo some of Council
12 Pamplin's comments and observations about some of those
13 procedural concerns. I think I felt similarly and
14 happy to hear in the staff update about also agency
15 consultations with DNR and DFW that have been
16 scheduled. I think that will be a key part of what I
17 look for in a future, you know, version of the record,
18 is especially talking to DNR's aquatic section about
19 land use in the river.

20 So definitely woke me up to sort of the complexity
21 and the scale of the proposed project and looking
22 forward to hearing more information and continuing to
23 review the record. So that's first.

24 Secondly, I just had a quick question. Was also
25 encouraged to hear about some of the updates around

1 tribal engagement and would love to know if you could
2 share a little bit of additional information about who
3 else might be on the consultation schedule even if they
4 haven't been officially contacted yet. Would just love
5 to know the staff's approach about who to consult with
6 and gather with given the complexity and scale of the
7 proposed project.

8 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Do you have a
9 moment or --

10 MS. McLEAN: Yeah.

11 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- at your
12 fingertips maybe some --

13 MS. McLEAN: Yeah.

14 MS. HAFKEMEYER: -- additional
15 information, Ms. McLean?

16 MS. McLEAN: Yeah. Sure. Just let
17 me take one little note to -- okay. Yeah.

18 So thank you for that question. Lisa McLean,
19 tribal liaison for EFSEC.

20 We -- obviously we sent out a notification to all
21 32 tribes. We've heard back from and been in close
22 contact with Yakama, CTUIR, Umatilla, Warm Springs,
23 Grand Ronde, and Cowlitz. We haven't gotten a --
24 the -- only Cowlitz has asked for the formal
25 consultation. Everybody else is aware they can ask for

1 formal consultation, but in the meantime, we have an
2 active dialogue going with them, and we're trying to --
3 as I've assured them, it's to try to, you know, get
4 some meetings together at some key milestones.

5 So just today this morning, we were talking about
6 are there any milestones that are coming up. We should
7 call people together. And as part of that also, we're
8 in close contact with CRITFC, who is -- a lot of the
9 tribes are -- those tribes that I mentioned are sort of
10 relying on CRITFC to stay on top of this thing. So
11 we've been in touch with them, and we've been briefing
12 them since -- what was it? -- the summertime, even
13 before we got this application. So they also know.

14 So I guess my outreach has been: We're here.
15 Don't go listen to rumors. If you got a question, call
16 me, find out, and I'll get the answer. You know what I
17 mean? So if you're feeling like you don't have the
18 information you need on this, call me, and I will try
19 to track down the information for you.

20 Because this is going to be a long process. And I
21 think there are going to be periods where tribes are
22 going to be, like, What are they doing? You know, so
23 we do have good contacts, you know, contacts that go
24 not just with the chair of tribal council but rather at
25 the staff level, which I feel good about, because then

1 we know that they know who to talk to on our side and
2 we know who to talk to on their side. And when we need
3 to -- when they want us to raise it to the tribal
4 council level, I feel confident that we'll be ready to
5 do that.

6 MR. RYAN: Very much appreciate that
7 answer. And sort of addressed a follow-up that I had
8 already, which, you know, I was curious about any
9 interagency coordination we might have with Oregon
10 EFSEC regarding those tribes that are in Oregon but
11 have their reserve rights in this state. But it sounds
12 like we're in touch, and there's not really a need to
13 coordinate through the agency if we're just going to be
14 directly in touch. So really comprehensive, and
15 appreciate the answer.

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for the
17 instant update.

18 I'm sorry to our local Council representatives. I
19 will turn to you next. But let me just add one
20 comment.

21 I had sent an e-mail earlier on this, but I'll
22 just out of transparency just go ahead and add it into
23 the discussion. And this -- certainly my intent would
24 be to do any of the following in full coordination with
25 what Lisa, Ms. McLean, has just laid out.

1 I'm concerned always about the congestion at
2 Council doors, tribal especially, but I don't think
3 that's untrue for local government. So we need to go
4 proactively, but we need to go at the most efficient
5 appropriate time. And, hence, if we could have one
6 conversation, not six, that's probably ultimately
7 better for those -- those other local and tribal
8 partners.

9 But in this case, something that I'd like to
10 explore both a little bit as my onboarding as new chair
11 but also as I have thought further about the CRT
12 project is just that we request consultation. And we
13 can do that in coordination of which tribes have more
14 focus on this. Cowlitz have contacted us. We
15 appreciate that. And am looking forward to that, that
16 upcoming conversation very soon.

17 But to the degree that can be more slightly
18 proactively, you know, done now at the front end, it
19 would seem something that I'd like to explore further.
20 So just wanted to go ahead and share that in the moment
21 here.

22 Go ahead, Council Ryan. And then I promise,
23 Council Leckie, we'll come to you soon.

24 MR. RYAN: Apologies. Just -- I
25 appreciate that idea. I think it's a good idea and is

1 definitely in alignment with Executive Order 25-10
2 about the language about being proactive. I think
3 that's a good thing to explore, and that's important.

4 CHAIR BECKETT: Appreciate that.

5 Great. Believe it or not, Council Leckie.

6 MR. LECKIE: Yeah, thank you. I
7 know that a comment was made about the land-use
8 certificate, and that's one of the things I was going
9 to comment on.

10 You know, the question I would ask is: Is the
11 land-use certificate required? Does the County issue
12 it? And should that have been done before the land-use
13 consistency hearing?

14 I do know, talking to our planning staff, that
15 there was a request to meet with our prosecutor,
16 planning director, and planning staff about a land-use
17 certificate, but that meeting did not happen before the
18 hearing. So those are some questions outstanding to
19 me. So does EFSEC take that on for the land-use
20 certificate, or is it still the County's
21 responsibility? Thank you.

22 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

23 Counsel.

24 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I can speak to
25 that. The certificate is not required. It's -- it's

1 basically something that the applicant, at its option,
2 can try to obtain from the local jurisdiction. And if
3 it does, that establishes a presumption that there is
4 consistency, which can be rebutted by other people, you
5 know, if they -- they feel that's inaccurate, but -- so
6 it's just -- it's an optional thing that the applicant
7 can obtain, not required.

8 MR. LECKIE: So local county
9 planning does not have to issue anything regarding this
10 property. This is all EFSEC, then.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Correct. There is no
12 requirement for local planning or the local
13 jurisdiction to even take a position or, yeah, or to
14 provide a certificate. I mean, certainly we welcome
15 that and, you know, even hope that they do. But that
16 there's no requirement, which partly may answer Council
17 Member Pamplin's question to a degree, because there's
18 no -- there's no way to compel the local jurisdiction
19 to do so.

20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Can I jump in?

21 MR. LECKIE: Then there's no local
22 SEPA then either?

23 MS. BUMPUS: No. EFSEC is the SEPA
24 lead agency.

25 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Can I jump in just

1 to make sure that I'm interpreting Council Leckie's
2 question?

3 The Council will at a future date make a land-use
4 consistency determination for the project. And if the
5 local jurisdiction has issued a certificate of
6 consistency, that would be part of the record for that
7 decision.

8 However, EFSEC would not issue a certificate of
9 consistency on the local jurisdiction's behalf. If
10 that is provided for the project, that would come from
11 the local jurisdiction, not from EFSEC, but it would be
12 part of the record for the land-use consistency
13 determination made by the Council.

14 MR. LECKIE: Then it's irrelevant if
15 the County issues that or not; is that correct?

16 MS. HAFKEMEYER: I wouldn't call it
17 irrelevant.

18 MS. BUMPUS: No, not irrelevant. I
19 think that Mr. Thompson put it as there's -- if there's
20 a certificate provided, there's a presumption of
21 consistency. And so that, I think, aids the Council's
22 decision-making. Whereas, in the absence of that, you
23 don't have that presumption, and so you're looking at
24 the question, you're looking at the record: Is this
25 project allowed here? Is there anything that prohibits

1 this project from being sited here with respect to land
2 use?

3 So having that -- that piece of information as
4 part of your record where the County is saying, "We
5 think it is consistent," you have that presumption
6 there. But without it, you're relying on the other
7 information that you have to answer the question to
8 consistency.

9 MR. LECKIE: Okay. I'm just trying
10 to understand the process, then.

11 So if that presumption is made in the county
12 planning or there's no application or land-use
13 certificate, then EFSEC just takes on that role? Is
14 that how this process works?

15 MR. THOMPSON: Well, yeah, I guess
16 you can say that. I mean, I think the Council would
17 look at -- first at whatever information the applicant
18 puts forward about what are -- you know, what are the
19 applicable zoning codes, what are the applicable
20 land-use plans, and makes whatever argument they want
21 to make about whether the project is -- would be
22 prohibited by those.

23 Other parties can respond. But it's -- it's --
24 yeah, it's the Council's -- is required to make a
25 determination as to whether the project, you know,

1 under local permitting processes, say, would be --
2 would be allowed or prohibited. And it can do that.
3 Yeah, it can do that by researching the County's
4 relevant code provisions, itself, and looking at the
5 arguments that have been made by the parties before the
6 Council.

7 Does that help clarify?

8 MR. LECKIE: Yeah, it does. So then
9 there's -- then the County's not involved with the
10 permitting process, then, for a land-use certificate.

11 MR. THOMPSON: Correct. The --

12 MR. LECKIE: Yeah.

13 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah.

14 MR. LECKIE: Okay.

15 Okay.

16 CHAIR BECKETT: But I would just --

17 MR. LECKIE: No, thank you.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: I would just
19 emphasize -- and, Council Breckel, I will come to you
20 next -- ultimately, no matter what form the input comes
21 from the local jurisdiction, it is most important to
22 EFSEC as an agency to have -- you know, whether it's to
23 say, yes, this is consistent, or, no, it's not,
24 ultimately EFSEC -- and it is one of the superpowers
25 that has its controversies -- that the Council, if it

1 chooses, you know, to interpret that it's not
2 consistent but a project needs to continue to go
3 forward, that is one of the powers under statute that
4 EFSEC has.

5 I don't think any of us -- I'll speak for
6 myself -- would take lightly overriding a local view,
7 but that is part of the role and authority of EFSEC.
8 So the more that that information in whatever form it
9 comes into EFSEC's record from each local jurisdiction
10 is of preeminent importance to and I believe to the
11 agency historically as well as on a more complicated
12 project like we're experiencing for the first time I
13 think in the history of the agency as far as a mult-
14 jurisdiction transmission project. So that's part of
15 the dialogue that we're sitting here having today in
16 public.

17 So unless I really misstated anything.

18 MR. LECKIE: No. Thank you.

19 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay.

20 MR. LECKIE: I guess that's where
21 the confusion was, 'cause it seems like they engage to
22 get the certificate from the County, then the meetings
23 did take place, and it stopped. That's what was kind
24 of confusing me, was did they have to fulfill and
25 finish that requirement at the County, or if EFSEC's

1 taking it on, then maybe that was just -- you know,
2 maybe it wasn't needed, so they moved on to EFSEC.

3 That clarifies that. Thank you.

4 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. It's good --
5 good discussion from my perspective. And I think as
6 Council Pamplin noted earlier, there's opportunity to
7 clarify and make this smoother where that could be done
8 through a policy or process rather than a statutory
9 change. Count me in for the nonstatutory path. But we
10 may bump into -- to those limits and need to seek more
11 authority.

12 Council Breckel, welcome. As a new member of the
13 Council, thank you both for enduring our onboarding
14 process, which we try to not to make too long.

15 Council Breckel.

16 COUNCIL BRECKEL: Thank you very
17 much, Mr. Chair.

18 Yeah, you know, I -- I go back. I attended the
19 initial public information meeting and land-use
20 consistency hearing here in Skamania County. And I
21 think there was a fair amount of, I think, both
22 confusion and concern over the EFSEC process as it
23 applies to this project. That there was a land-use
24 consistency hearing, and we didn't hear from any of the
25 local government within Skamania County in terms of

1 land use on this particular thing. And, quite frankly,
2 that some of the local jurisdictions, certainly the
3 City of Stevenson, didn't even realize that this
4 hearing was ongoing at that time.

5 So I think as we're looking at this, at this
6 process, I think you'll find, you know, particularly
7 with some of these smaller jurisdictions, that there's
8 not any formality, any basis in terms of understanding
9 the process, the EFSEC process as it looks at these
10 types of projects or how it works or how they can
11 engage and participate in that process.

12 So I would hope that, you know, particularly as
13 you're looking for representatives from some of the
14 other local governmental jurisdictions, that somehow
15 there's that good clarity I think we got on some of the
16 onboarding discussions at least as a Council member but
17 also some discussions I think with local governments in
18 terms of how they can effectively engage in this
19 process. Because they are knowledgeable of it. This
20 is something new, and it's something complex, and it's
21 something that affects their local jurisdiction.

22 CHAIR BECKETT: Appreciate that
23 comment. And, again, I think there's learning in real
24 time as well as in earlier months coming out of the
25 hearings, but no doubt opportunities here to learn and

1 grow from, I think. So appreciate that.

2 Council Nelson.

3 MR. NELSON: Thank you, Chair
4 Beckett.

5 Yeah, I was at the Skamania land-use hearing, and
6 I made a comment that, in retrospect, was largely
7 process ignorance. I think -- and it was about sort
8 of, like, along the lines of, you know, if this was a
9 Skamania County shoreline management plan, would it,
10 you know, pass muster or not. And it just wasn't a
11 point of the project yet that that information was
12 really out there. I think it will come out in SEPA.

13 But the point of my ramble, Councilman Leckie and
14 Councilman Breckel, is that local engagement and if
15 there is a local certificate of, you know, compliance,
16 we would -- you know, that's a big part of the -- at
17 least I'd say it'd definitely be a part of my
18 deliberation. And however that looks, I'm still not
19 edified enough to know, like, when that will come up.

20 The -- I'm just trying to say that I hope the
21 public gets a real big bite at that apple, you know,
22 when that information is submitted and gets out there.
23 And if it's through a hearing process, if it's like a
24 comment period, I hope it's a good long one, a couple
25 weeks as EFSEC has been doing a good job giving.

1 And -- or if it's another hearing, great. You know,
2 like, it's Skamania County, I think, specifically since
3 the -- since it's going to run on land, is what I'm
4 most curious about regarding the land-use consistency.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

6 Other comments from Council? Any closing comments
7 from our good staff team that's been supporting this
8 discussion?

9 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
10 Beckett. Just one comment. It was talked about
11 earlier in Ms. Belkina's update that we've recently
12 learned that the corps is going to be doing an
13 environmental impact statement and that we are
14 coordinating with them, collaborating with them on
15 that.

16 Staff do intend -- I don't know that it will be in
17 February. It may be more in March. We'll see. But
18 we're in discussions with the corps and many other
19 agencies as well as tribes. And we've discussed
20 internally doing a presentation for the Council about
21 how the SEPA process will work and how that
22 coordination will work. So I don't know if it will be
23 in the form of a full-on PowerPoint presentation or
24 just a hefty verbal update, but we do intend to provide
25 the Council with information and the public with

1 information about how we're going to do that work, the
2 environmental review, given that there are multiple
3 agencies involved.

4 But we're at the point now to be able to share all
5 the behind-the-scenes details of how that will work.
6 But it is on the radar, and we intend to update the
7 Council. I don't want to commit to February yet.

8 CHAIR BECKETT: I understand that.
9 But thank you for the added foreshadowing of what's to
10 come.

11 Okay. Other comments? Hearing none.

12 We will wrap up our project updates. And thank
13 you. I know this meeting is going on, so we'll try and
14 move through our final three items quickly. But I
15 think that conversation was important. It's one that
16 we weren't able to really do in December, just having
17 gotten out of the hearings as well as our November
18 meeting in the middle of the hearings. So appreciate
19 the extra time that we've ended up spending here today.

20 With that, I will turn this to Director Bumpus for
21 both her cost allocation update and any other updates
22 that she wishes to give before perhaps if you would go
23 ahead and do me the favor of turning that to Lisa
24 McLean when you're done, and we'll just --

25 MS. BUMPUS: Yes.

1 CHAIR BECKETT: -- wrap up that way.

2 MS. BUMPUS: Thank you, Chair
3 Beckett. And good afternoon, Council members.

4 For the cost allocation update, this is for the
5 non-direct cost allocation for third quarter of Fiscal
6 Year 2026. This covers January 1 to March 31, 2026.

7 I will not read off the percentages. They have
8 not been changed since last quarter's update. They're
9 in your packet. So if you have any questions about
10 those, do follow up with me. But in the interest of
11 time, will not read all of those off.

12 As far as director updates go, I did want to -- I
13 mentioned earlier Executive Order 25-11, which is the
14 acceleration in support for clean energy projects,
15 given the federal lack of energy tax credits. So EFSEC
16 is participating in -- on the acceleration team. We
17 actually have a number of staff that are involved in
18 tracking that work.

19 There is a report that we need to prepare that's
20 due at the end of the month. But before the executive
21 order was issued, we had been in discussions with other
22 agencies and preparing a list of projects that we
23 thought might be in a position to take advantage of the
24 federal tax incentives, and so I think that in some
25 respects that group is ahead of the work a little bit.

1 Do reach out if you have any questions about that
2 report. And Ms. McLean is engaged on that effort. If
3 you have detailed questions about what we're going to
4 be putting in that report, please follow up with
5 Ms. McLean.

6 As far as other director updates, we do intend to
7 do an update with the Council on budget and on
8 legislation. Right now we're in the throes of
9 legislation, so not a whole lot to share that has any
10 concrete, you know, to it, but we'll give you an update
11 in February on that.

12 Any questions before I hand this to Ms. McLean?

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: Seeing none.

15 MR. PAMPLIN: Sorry, Mr. Chair.

16 Just to slip one in. Thanks, Director Bumpus. Just a
17 quick question.

18 How did EFSEC -- how did EFSEC fare within the
19 governor's 2026 supplemental operating budget proposal?
20 Thank you.

21 MS. BUMPUS: Ms. Gomes, do you want
22 to...?

23 MS. GOMES: This is Nabila speaking.

24 CHAIR BECKETT: You might need to
25 come forward, though.

1 MS. GOMES: I'll come closer.

2 Thank you, Lisa. Excellent question. This is
3 Nabila speaking on behalf of EFSEC and EFSEC staff.

4 The AG -- well, EFSEC received a 15 percent
5 proposed cut, so compared to other small agencies that
6 received a 5 percent cut. So that's a significant cut
7 compared to other small agencies.

8 We met with OFM and the governor's staff just to
9 determine what the impacts would be to the agency
10 especially on the operating end of things. And this is
11 specific to the general fund. And we anticipate that
12 we will have an update in February once we know exactly
13 how it's going to impact operating -- operating costs.
14 'Cause what essentially is going to have to happen is
15 we'll have to offset some of our general funds, which
16 include four staff members and legal fees and other
17 things like that, onto either overhead or onto project
18 costs, which is -- we don't know what that looks like,
19 and so we're just determining.

20 But essentially it's about a \$245,000 cut to our
21 budget, which we do have strategic actions in plan, and
22 so now we are pivoting with it. So we anticipate
23 having a full-fledged update in February.

24 MS. BUMPUS: Yeah, we will provide
25 an update. And, you know, one of the things is that

1 we're not surprised, right? We knew. So we had
2 already been talking. This was definitely on Nabila's
3 radar, and we had been talking about what is the
4 strategy. Not if this happens but when it happens. We
5 were surprised about the -- sort of the, I guess --

6 MS. GOMES: How heavy-handed.

7 MS. BUMPUS: -- the heavy-handed --
8 somewhat heavy-handedness given that we're a small
9 agency compared to the impact on others. But -- but I
10 think that we've got some good strategies for how we
11 can -- we can offset.

12 MR. PAMPLIN: Yeah, thanks for the
13 updates.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. I think that
15 takes us to Ms. McLean as you said.

16 MS. McLEAN: Hi. So now I'm here as
17 the leg policy manager, Lisa McLean, here to introduce
18 a new staff member, Noel Sharp, who has joined us as
19 the rules policy coordinator. Very happy to welcome
20 her to the team. She just started on Friday. Her job
21 will be helping us work through these rules, work on
22 internal policies, and generally helping the policy
23 team.

24 Noel comes to us with -- I'm really happy. I just
25 said to Director Bumpus today when I was introducing

1 Director Bumpus to Noel that she has a great deal of --
2 I don't know -- checks all kinds of great boxes.
3 Number one, she comes out of, recently -- most
4 recently, private environmental consulting firm.
5 Before that, she spent eight years at DNR. And while
6 she was at DNR, I'm not even going to try to remember
7 to say exactly what rules projects she worked on, but
8 it was a rules project that brought her in contact with
9 tribes, heavy involvement with the tribes, and just a
10 kind of controversial rules project.

11 So not that I expect any of our rules projects to
12 be controversial, but in the event that they are, I
13 know that she's going to be able to handle it. So I
14 welcome her, and I think she's going to be a great
15 addition to the team.

16 MS. SHARP: Thank you. It's nice to
17 meet you-all.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Welcome aboard for
19 sure.

20 MS. SHARP: Thank you.

21 CHAIR BECKETT: You're welcome to
22 say anything else you wish at the moment. And
23 otherwise I won't put you on the spot further, so...

24 MS. SHARP: I'm just getting
25 onboarded, so -- but I'm really happy to be here. I've

1 already learned a lot, so I'm excited. Thank you.

2 CHAIR BECKETT: Excellent.

3 Well, on that note, I will just also highlight for
4 the public in general that the update to
5 preapplication, adjudication, and site restoration
6 rules are being considered. That was in a public
7 meeting on the 7th of January, which some people may
8 have still been out or things like that. So more to
9 come. And, Noel, knowing you're here to be a part of
10 all that is most welcome and important.

11 But from my perspective, all ideas or, you know,
12 constructive feedback, criticism, whatever folks want
13 to send in to us, please send it. And if it doesn't
14 fit exactly in one of those three buckets, I would
15 suggest we might still know what to do with it. That
16 may not be immediately versus other higher priorities.
17 But now is the time to please, you know, let's
18 collectively bring our best ideas forward.

19 Because as I said in December and I may just keep
20 saying it, like, especially in these times, we got to
21 stick together, and we got to work together. And
22 that's just to me the bottom line, so -- and the
23 opportunity.

24 So, with that, I'll also note a thanks again to
25 Council Pamplin and the Fish and Wildlife agency that

1 provided our wind and solar guideline presentation last
2 time. And I meant to mention when we approved the
3 minutes, having reread them, it was just, I think, a
4 really good discussion and just helpful and the kind of
5 work that we should be doing.

6 We may not always have time, you know, to do that
7 in every meeting. But as I reread those minutes, I was
8 super appreciative of what I read there. And I would
9 encourage the public to go read it. I think it starts
10 on Page 80. And, unfortunately, it is in court
11 reporter speak, which is always especially ugly when
12 you're reviewing those minutes.

13 So, with that, are there any other closing
14 comments? Or we will wrap this up.

15 Hearing none. Then we are adjourned at 3:34.

16 (Meeting adjourned at
17 3:34 p.m.)

1 STATE OF WASHINGTON) I, John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR,
2) ss a certified court reporter
3 County of Pierce) in the State of Washington, do
4 hereby certify:

5 That the foregoing monthly meeting of the Washington
6 State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council was conducted
7 in my presence and adjourned on January 21, 2026, and
8 thereafter was transcribed under my direction; that the
9 transcript is a full, true and complete transcript of the
10 said meeting, transcribed to the best of my ability;

11 That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel
12 of any party to this matter or relative or employee of any
13 such attorney or counsel and that I am not financially
14 interested in the said matter or the outcome thereof;

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
16 this 4th day of February, 2026.

17 _____
18 /s/John M.S. Botelho, CCR, RPR
19 Certified Court Reporter No. 2976
20 (Certification expires 5/26/2026.)
21
22
23
24
25

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