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In the Matter of:

EFSEC 2026 Monthly Meetings

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2026

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WASHINGTON STATE
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

621 Woodland Square Loop SE

Lacey, Washington

February 18, 2026

Reported by: ANN MARIE G. ALLISON, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #3375

A P P E A R A N C E S

KURT BECKETT, Chair

BRIAN RYBARIK, UTC

NATE PAMPLIN, Fish and Wildlife

ELIZABETH OSBORNE, Commerce

BLAKE NELSON, Ecology

MAVERICK RYAN, Natural Resources

ADAM FYALL, Wallula Gap

ASA LECKIE, Cascade Renewable Transmission

ERIC PACE, Grays Harbor Energy

SARAH RANDOLPH, Grays Harbor Energy

KATIE HALL, Columbia Generating Station

JON VOLTZ, Ostrea Solar

TREVIN TAYLOR, Hop Hill

AARON MANLEY, ORCAA

JON THOMPSON, AAG

ZACK PACKER, AAG

TALIA THUET, AAG

DAVE WALKER, EFSEC

AMI HAFKEMEYER, EFSEC

AMY MOON, EFSEC

ANDREA GRANTHAM, EFSEC

SEAN GREENE, EFSEC

1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont'd)

2

3 JOANNE SNARSKI, EFSEC

4 MARIA BELKINA, EFSEC

5 LISA McLEAN, EFSEC

6 NABILA GOMES, EFSEC

7 ROBBY ECKROTH, Goldeneye BESS

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1 Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

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4 CHAIR BECKETT: Good afternoon, this is Kurt
5 Beckett, chair of EFSEC, calling our February 18 regular
6 council meeting to order. It is 1:31 p.m. and,
7 Ms. Grantham, if you would call the roll, please.

8 MS. GRANTHAM: Certainly, Chair.
9 Department of Commerce.

10 MS. OSBORNE: Elizabeth Osborne present.

11 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Ecology.
12 Council member, Blake Nelson, I see you online.
13 Are you there?

14 MR. NELSON: I am here, present.

15 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.
16 Department of Fish and Wildlife.

17 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Nate Pamplin present.

18 MS. GRANTHAM: Department of Natural
19 Resources.

20 MR. RYAN: Maverick Ryan present.

21 MS. GRANTHAM: Utilities and Transportation
22 Commission.

23 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Brian Rybarik present.

24 MS. GRANTHAM: For the local government and
25 optional state agencies for the Hop Hill Solar Project

1 for Benton County.

2 (No response)

3 MS. GRANTHAM: For the Wallula Gap Project
4 for Benton County.

5 MR. FYALL: Adam Fyall is here. I will have
6 to leave early today.

7 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.

8 For the Goldeneye BESS Project for Skagit County.

9 (No response)

10 For the Cascade Renewable Transmission Project for
11 Skamania County.

12 MR. LECKIE: Asa Leckie here.

13 MS. GRANTHAM: And City of Stevenson.

14 (No response)

15 Moving on to assistant attorney generals, John
16 Thompson.

17 ATTY THOMPSON: Present.

18 MS. GRANTHAM: Zack Packer.

19 ATTY PACKER: Present.

20 MS. GRANTHAM: And Talia Thuet.

21 ATTY THUET: Present.

22 MS. GRANTHAM: Moving down to council staff,
23 Dave Walker.

24 MR. WALKER: Present.

25 MS. GRANTHAM: Ami Hafkemeyer.

1 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Present.
2 MS. GRANTHAM: Amy Moon.
3 MS. MOON: Present.
4 MS. GRANTHAM: Sara Randolph.
5 MS. RANDOLPH: Present.
6 MS. GRANTHAM: Sean Greene.
7 MR. GREENE: Present.
8 MS. GRANTHAM: Joanne Snarski.
9 MS. SNARSKI: Present.
10 MS. GRANTHAM: Maria Belkina.
11 MS. BELKINA: Present.
12 MS. GRANTHAM: Lisa McLean.
13 MS. McLEAN: Present.
14 MS. GRANTHAM: Trevin Taylor.
15 MR. TAYLOR: Present.
16 MS. GRANTHAM: And Nabila Gomes.
17 MS. GOMES: Present.
18 MS. GRANTHAM: Now, moving on to operational
19 updates, with the new meeting format, I will only call those
20 who are anticipated to give a verbal update.
21 Grays Harbor Energy Center.
22 MR. PACE: Eric Pace, Grays Harbor Energy.
23 MS. GRANTHAM: Columbia Generating Station.
24 MS. HALL: Katie Hall for Columbia Generating
25 Station.

1 MS. GRANTHAM: And Ostrea Solar.

2 MR. VOLTZ: Jon Voltz present.

3 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.

4 Lastly, is there anyone online for the counsel for
5 the environment?

6 MR. KOROL: Yuriy Korol and Sarah Reyneveld
7 present.

8 MS. GRANTHAM: Thank you.

9 Chair, there is a forum for all councils.

10 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much.

11 Council members, we have an agenda before us, and
12 let me -- well, first, let me reiterate again. We're
13 working in a new format today for the agenda. For those
14 projects that have no non-routine updates, those are now both
15 in the packet for public awareness and review, but are not
16 part of the formal agenda in order to help expedite some of
17 our collective work together.

18 As a further example of this new system that can
19 evolve, there is an issue that we're going to hear from the
20 Columbia Generating staff and EFSEC staff on today, and so
21 the chair would entertain an amendment to add, as Item J,
22 the Columbia Generating Station update.

23 And with that, is there a motion to adopt the
24 agenda?

25 SPEAKER: Mr. Chair, I'll move that we adopt

1 the agenda as amended.

2 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. Second?

3 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I'll second.

4 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

5 Any further additions or suggestions on the
6 agenda?

7 Hearing none, all in favor of adopting the agenda
8 as adopted, please say "Aye."

9 (Aye)

10 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. The agenda's been
11 adopted.

12 And moving on to our minutes, I have no
13 substantive changes to the minutes put them on the table.
14 Chair would entertain a motion to adopt the minutes,
15 January 21st, 2026.

16 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Mr. Chair, I move to adopt
17 the January 21st, 2026, monthly meeting minutes.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Is there a second?

19 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I would second that motion.

20 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you.

21 Any further edits or input to the minutes from
22 council members?

23 Hearing none, all in favor of adopting the minutes
24 as before us, please say "Aye."

25 (Aye)

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed?

2 (No response)

3 All right. Minutes are adopted.

4 So as we move on to our project updates, let me
5 also acknowledge an additional change we've had here at
6 EFSEC. As some of our partners are aware, but certainly
7 want, on behalf of the public and all parties, to be aware
8 of a change we've made in our EFSEC director, and in that
9 regards we have an interim director who is here today who
10 will be speaking a little more during director update,
11 including, between he and Nabila Gomes, a quick touch on the
12 budget, and that is Dave Walker, who will give a further
13 introduction, but has graciously agreed to serve as our
14 interim director of EFSEC.

15 And most importantly or as importantly, I want to
16 thank our most recent and first time executive director,
17 Sonia Bumpus, who has just had a dedicated service both to
18 this agency and to the State of Washington for many years.
19 I certainly want to highlight and celebrate that, thank her
20 for that, as well as being -- she will always be the first
21 director of the new independent agency of EFSEC, most
22 recently spun out of the Utilities and Transportation
23 Commission.

24 So I just want to acknowledge her many
25 contributions and thank her for that, as well as acknowledge

1 Dave, your stepping forward. And there will be an open
2 competitive posting for the executive director of EFSEC here
3 in the next couple of weeks. Will certainly keep you posted
4 on that evolution.

5 So with that, let me then move into our project
6 update, starting with Ostrea Solar, and we have John Voltz
7 online, I believe, to provide that.

8 MR. VOLTZ: Thank you, Chair Beckett, council
9 members, and EFSEC staff. This is Jon Voltz with Cypress
10 Creek Renewables representing Ostrea Solar Facility.

11 In the month of January we had a very productive
12 progress made. The own (phonetic) facility construction
13 continued, but the main point here is that the HV and the PV
14 facilities were energized, received the bag feed energy from
15 BPA and the initial startup works began, and so the
16 inverters were synchronized to the grid. So initial
17 generation has begun, major milestone achieved there.

18 Now that the facility is energized, it allowed the
19 commissioning works for the PV array and the substation to
20 begin, and so the primary works now are preparing for the
21 testing required by the Utility.

22 There were a couple infractions that were found
23 during one of the biweekly inspections from TRC. All of
24 those were remediated at the end of the month and no longer
25 issues.

1 Other than that, there's nothing non-routine to
2 report for the period.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much.

4 Any questions?

5 (No response)

6 All right. We will then move on to the Grays
7 Harbor Energy Center, which we do have an action pending
8 here, but before we move to that, we can first hear from
9 Sarah Randolph of our EFSEC staff. And I apologize; I could
10 not quite capture in the moment the name of our partner from
11 Grays Harbor Facility. So I believe it's Eric.

12 So, Sara and Eric, if you could --

13 MS. RANDOLPH: Good afternoon. Thank you,
14 Chair Beckett, council members and staff. For the record,
15 this is Sarah Randolph, site specialist for Grays Harbor.
16 The facility update is provided in your packet.

17 The council action is for issuance of the Grays
18 Harbor Energy Center Title 5 Air Operating Permit for the
19 AOP renewal, Acid Rain Permit renewal, and the associated
20 Technical Support Document, or the TSD, which are provided
21 in the council packet. These documents were posted for
22 public comment in fall of 2025 and then sent to the EPA for
23 a required 45-day review. This review period ended Monday
24 February 2, 2026, with no comments or concerns from the EPA
25 reviewers.

1 The next step in this process is for the council
2 to vote to issue the documents. We had a public comment
3 period open from October 6 through November 5th for the
4 action, but not comment on the permits themselves. As that
5 process has already been completed, no comments were
6 received. Staff now asks the council to take up the matter
7 and recommend council votes to issue the Title 5 AOP
8 Acid-Free Permit and associated Technical Support Document.

9 Eric Pace from Grays Harbor and Aaron Manley from
10 ORCAA are on the line if there are any technical questions.

11 There's nothing further to report.

12 CHAIR BECKETT: Very well.

13 And was there any further comment from Eric or
14 facility partner, just to double-check?

15 MR. PACE: This is Eric Pace, Grays Harbor
16 Energy. I have nothing further to comment on, Chair
17 Beckett.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you very much.

19 Clearly we have, you know, important documents
20 before us. This is one that is more technical, for sure, so
21 let me see if, I guess, council have any questions on the
22 briefing, first, and then I would move us towards
23 considering council action.

24 So any comments or questions from members of the
25 EFSEC council?

1 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I did have just a few to
2 read through, some of them probably more curiosity than
3 anything, but is now the right time?

4 CHAIR BECKETT: Yes. Absolutely.

5 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I have this printed very
6 small, so I believe it's on page 59 of 84 of the Title 5
7 permit. There's a reference to quarterly reports, and it
8 has a parenthetical that they be in written form or
9 electronic if permitted by EFSEC.

10 I'm presuming we're working from all electronic
11 documents at this point, or are we requiring written
12 documents?

13 MS. HAFKEMEYER: We accept electronic. There
14 are some reports that, per code of federal regulations, are
15 still sometimes in hard copy, so -- but generally, yes, we
16 are receiving electronic copies of filings from the
17 facilities.

18 COUNCIL RYBARIK: So the parenthetical still
19 makes sense "that if allowed by EFSEC"?

20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Yeah.

21 COUNCIL RYBARIK: And not required to be in
22 written form. Very good.

23 On the next -- I guess, on page 60, there is
24 reference to a state-specific excess emissions reporting.
25 I'm just wondering if this has ever been required from the

1 owners of Grays Harbor? Has there ever been a situation
2 where an excess emissions report has been required?

3 CHAIR BECKETT: This is just to restate; this
4 is on page 59?

5 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Page 60, yep.

6 CHAIR BECKETT: Under R6.

7 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Yeah, the whole of R6 is
8 this Washington requirement for excess emissions report.

9 MS. HAFKEMEYER: There have been instances
10 where, typically, during maintenance or startup or shutdown,
11 there may be deviations which, typically, we work through
12 the facility and with our permit writer at ORCAA to address
13 and see is it a non-compliance or is it something that's
14 permissible within the requirement.

15 So there have been notifications of deviations
16 from the permit limits that are typically attributable to
17 some factor that we've worked through structurally. Not
18 very often, but it has happened.

19 COUNCIL RYBARIK: It's infrequent?

20 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Yes.

21 COUNCIL RYBARIK:

22 ~~CHAIR BECKETT:~~ Thanks for that. It's
23 helpful to just kind of know the rhythm of that. It seems
24 infrequent and unlikely, but it's always helpful to know.

25 Perhaps -- I think this is probably my substantive
question, is on page 70 there's a chart on SO2 allowances.

1 And it says after 2010 for SO2 allowances held as of
2 January 1, 2010, to be determined.

3 Seems we've spent a lot of time since 2010, and I
4 just wonder why that's still TBD.

5 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Ms. Randolph, did you
6 indicate that Aaron Manley is on the line? Can he maybe
7 help us with this one?

8 MS. RANDOLPH: Yes.

9 Aaron, are you on the line?

10 MR. MANLEY: I am on the line.

11 I believe that comes from acid rain, and I am not
12 an acid rain expert. We don't have any facilities that we
13 regulate. But I'm on the line. I'm going to start looking
14 into this right now, and hopefully we can circle back to
15 this.

16 Apologies. This is one of the things that's not
17 my expertise.

18 MR. PACE: This is Eric Pace with Grays
19 Harbor Energy.

20 It might also be a -- point to the fact that in
21 the permit it spells out that's a changing value. We have
22 to hold a certain number of allowances to cover the SO2
23 offset of what we produce the previous year. So it might be
24 something like that.

25 COUNCIL RYBARIK: So it's determined

1 annually, Eric? Is that fair to say?

2 MR. PACE: Yes. Yes. So, annually.

3 Depending on the previous year, we have to hold a certain
4 amount of SO2 allowances.

5 That might help Aaron out.

6 COUNCIL RYBARIK: That makes a lot of sense
7 to me. I appreciate the explanation.

8 I'm wondering if there's any -- would there be any
9 objections to modifying the language there to say
10 "determined annually," rather than "to be determined," which
11 sort of suggests that it's -- the "to be determined" is
12 indeterminate as to who determines it, to me, but "determine
13 annually" at least lets us know that that is a specific
14 figure.

15 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Aaron, maybe you can help us
16 on process. If we made a modification, would that need to
17 go back to EPA for further review?

18 MR. MANLEY: I believe it would. If we were
19 doing that, we would send it back to them, even though it's
20 a very minor, minor, minor change.

21 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I agree that it is a minor
22 change, but it would make it a lot more clear. I don't want
23 to elongate the process. I don't know how long it would
24 take to send it back to EPA. Obviously, that's a pretty
25 minor piece, but I think we should also have clarity in our

1 language.

2 So I'm willing to accept that we don't want to
3 stop this process, but I think we want to be clear in the
4 future as we look at these, I guess, five years from now.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: I appreciate the attention to
6 important detail, and having raised it, I would tend to
7 agree, both on the -- I wouldn't want to hold things up,
8 per se, but I also don't want to ignore the constructive
9 suggestion.

10 So if it's something that you're -- if I hear you
11 correctly, Council, it's something that you would note for
12 the future and that it certainly gets some undue attention
13 so that we're not facing this after the fact, as we are
14 probably a little bit today.

15 I think the EPA process is -- I'll look to staff,
16 but it's a couple months.

17 MS. HAFKEMEYER: 45 days.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: So not forever, but at the
19 end of the day it's your issue you've flagged on behalf of
20 all of us, and thank you.

21 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Yeah.

22 CHAIR BECKETT: So sounds like you're okay to
23 proceed?

24 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I mean, with that
25 explanation, if that's what everybody understands "to be

1 determined" to mean, then I'm comfortable doing that, but I
2 think it allows us to think about precision in that language
3 for the future; so.

4 CHAIR BECKETT: Well, and I think to outside
5 readers who are reading it for the first time, if they know
6 it's an annual -- you know, it's already part of annual
7 work, then to state it plainly as such is a good suggestion.
8 So thank you.

9 Council, what is your pleasure on taking up
10 request from staff for final action on this permit?

11 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Well, I'll just say,
12 despite the concerns I've just raised, I'm happy to make a
13 motion here and move to approve the issuance for the Title 5
14 Air Operating Permit, the Acid Rain Permit and the
15 accompanying Technical Support Document that is before us.

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Is there a second?

17 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Second.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Motion's been made and
19 seconded. It's on the table. Is there further discussion
20 from the council?

21 Okay. Seeing no hands raised, all in favor of
22 approving the motion that's moved, say "Aye."

23 (Aye)

24 CHAIR BECKETT: Opposed? Abstention?

25 (No response)

1 Okay. The permits are approved.

2 Thank you, Council Rybarik, for the issue, as well
3 as allowing us to take a step forward, but planning for the
4 future accordingly.

5 So in that regard, let's move then to the Carriger
6 Solar. Joanne Snarski will present.

7 MS. SNARSKI: Thank you, Chair Beckett and
8 council members. For the record, this is Joanne Snarski,
9 specialist for the Carriger Solar Facility Klickitat County.

10 As you recall, in early December 2025, the
11 governor's office signed the site certification agreement
12 for the Carriger Solar Facility. At the end of that same
13 month, the confederated tribes and bands of the Yakama
14 Nation filed a petition for judicial review of the council
15 and governor's approval for the site certification.

16 Since then, EFSEC staff have been working with
17 their assistant attorneys general offices -- working with
18 our assistant attorneys general to respond to this filing.

19 On another note, Cyprus Creek Renewables notified
20 us that on February 2, 2026, their motion to intervene in
21 the case filed by the Yakama was granted by the court. In
22 the meantime, we are also continuing to discuss Cyprus
23 Creek's timing for submitting the plans required in the site
24 certification agreement.

25 May I answer any questions?

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, any questions on the
2 Carriger Solar update?

3 MS. GRANTHAM: This is Ms. Grantham. Can I
4 remind you to use your microphone, please?

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you. I reminded
6 myself, was reminded separately and still failing to meet
7 the mark, so thank you.

8 Hearing no further comments, then we will move on
9 to Item D, the Horse Heaven both update as well as potential
10 action, and as a result, I will lean on Council Pamplin to
11 serve as the chair for Horse Heaven.

12 Council Pamplin.

13 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 So we'll go ahead and we'll bring the Horse Heaven
15 item to the floor, and it's my understanding that both Chair
16 Beckett and Councilmember Ryan (sic) have recused themselves
17 from this agenda item.

18 And I'll just take a moment to confirm that's the
19 case, Chair Beckett.

20 CHAIR BECKETT: That is the case for both of
21 us.

22 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Okay, great. Thank you.

23 So with that, turn it over to Ms. Moon or
24 Mr. Greene for an update. Ms. Moon, go ahead.

25 MS. MOON: Thank you, Acting Chair Pamplin

1 and the EFSEC council members. I am Amy Moon reporting for
2 Horse Heaven.

3 The Horse Heaven Site Certification Agreement, or
4 SCA, requires development and approval of species-specific
5 mitigation and management plans. I previously reported to
6 the council that we received two Pre-operational Technical
7 Advisory Group, or PTAG, P-T-A-G, facilitator reports with
8 survey and monitoring plans. One report covered
9 pre-construction wildlife surveys for several species -- and
10 I'm going to use "spec" for "species" here. So spec 1, the
11 striped whipsnake and sagebrush lizard; spec 4, burrowing
12 owl; spec 8, prairie falcon; spec 10, black-tailed
13 jackrabbit and white-tailed jackrabbit; and spec 12, the
14 Townsend's ground squirrel. So that report included all
15 those species.

16 The second PTAG Facilitator Report was for the
17 wild-10 pre-construction bat monitoring. Both of these
18 reports are now posted to the EFSEC public Horse Heaven
19 website.

20 Staff recently received four more PTAG Facilitator
21 Reports, habitat 1 for wildlife movement corridor mitigation
22 plan; species 12, the Townsend's ground squirrel mitigation
23 and management plans; and then land and shoreline use 2 for
24 dryland farming management plan; and the species 13
25 pronghorn study plan.

1 To support the pronghorn study plan, the
2 certificate holder also submitted the pronghorn capture
3 plan. This capture plan will be followed to place radio
4 collars on pronghorn to gather data detailed in the spec 13
5 pronghorn study plan. The pronghorn collaring placement is
6 scheduled to begin the last week of February, and this
7 effort is being done with the coordination of the Washington
8 Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Yakama Nation, Leading
9 Edge Aviation, and representatives of the certificate
10 holder.

11 Does the council have any questions on the
12 information presented thus far?

13 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Thanks, Ms. Moon.

14 Any questions?

15 MS. MOON: Okay.

16 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Hearing none, you may
17 proceed.

18 MS. MOON: Thank you.

19 Now I want to give you an update on the spec 5
20 ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan that was reported to
21 the council last month. As a result of the public comment
22 period held at the end of December in 2025 in the beginning
23 of January 2026, the ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan
24 was revised.

25 Due to the lack of a quorum at the January 21st

1 council meeting, this mitigation plan has been carried
2 forward on the agenda for this month's meeting. A redline
3 version of this document was posted online for comment from
4 February 2 through February 15th. Showing edits, the
5 document posted was showed the edits from the previous
6 comment period, as well as additional clarifications
7 requested during council deliberations.

8 And I have Sean Greene, our State Environmental
9 Policy Act or SEPA, S-E-P-A, specialist here to provide an
10 update on the resulting second comment period that just
11 closed.

12 Sean.

13 MR. GREENE: Thank you, Amy, and thank you
14 acting Chair Pamplin, council members. This is Sean Greene,
15 SEPA specialist for EFSEC.

16 Following council direction at the last council
17 meeting, staff had made several revisions to the Horse
18 Heaven ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan submitted for
19 EFSEC review by the certificate holder. These changes
20 include adding a reference to Washington Administrative Code
21 Chapter 197-11-768, wherein mitigation is defined,
22 clarifying that EFSEC will hold ultimate decision-making
23 authority in the event that there is a disagreement between
24 the certificate holder and WDFW on the placement of any
25 artificial nesting platforms and adding references to the

1 upcoming site restoration plan and adaptive management plan
2 when appropriate.

3 This revised plan, as Amy mentioned, was published
4 for a 14-day public comment hearing that was held from
5 February 2 through the 15th. EFSEC received nine comments
6 during that period, all of which staff have reviewed.

7 While a number of these comments were substantive
8 in that they provide recommended changes to the plan, they
9 were generally similar to those recommendations that staff
10 received and considered during the previous public comment
11 period for this document.

12 At the previous council meeting, staff summarizes
13 recommendations for the council and explained why staff was
14 not recommending that they be applied for the plan. Staff
15 recommendation following review of these additional nine new
16 comments remains the same, that no further revisions are
17 needed for the plan.

18 In follow-up to the last council meeting, during
19 their deliberations on this plan, the council requested that
20 staff seek cost estimates from the certificate holder for
21 potentially extending the post-construction mortality
22 monitoring and/or the post-construction raptor nest surveys
23 to cover the first five years of project operation, rather
24 than for three of the first five years as currently
25 proposed.

1 Staff requested this information from the
2 certificate holder and was provided estimates that the
3 mortality monitoring would cost between 800,000 and one
4 million dollars annually and that the raptor nest surveys
5 would cost between 50,000 and 60,000 dollars annually;
6 therefore, extending the mortality monitoring for an
7 additional two years would be expected to cost between 1.6
8 and two million dollars, while extending the raptor nest
9 surveys an additional two years would be expected to cost
10 between 100- and 120,000 dollars.

11 The certificate holder has argued that the
12 language included in the wild-1 mitigation measure already
13 sufficiently addresses the potential for extending surveys
14 as needed. The operative language in wild-1 is, quote,
15 EFSEC may require the certificate holder to conduct more
16 intensive e.g., additional spatial extent or frequency or
17 extend the duration of post-construction monitoring beyond
18 the minimum three years, end quote.

19 The adaptive management plan which will outline
20 potential changes in mitigation based on the data collected
21 during the early period of facility operation is still being
22 drafted and will be reviewed by the PTAG and approved by
23 EFSEC prior to the start of construction.

24 And I'll hand things back to Amy now.

25 Are there any questions?

1 MS. MOON: On what Sean had to say before I
2 move on.

3 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Go ahead.

4 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Sean, if I'm understanding
5 that last piece, the language in the plan is three of the
6 first five years, correct, that they will do the monitoring,
7 and then there's kind of a safety valve of some sort that if
8 that is showing activity that's concerning from a mitigation
9 perspective, that EFSEC has the ability to reopen,
10 essentially, that provision and require additional
11 monitoring going forward.

12 MR. GREENE: Correct. One of the mitigating
13 measures, wild-1, includes a requirement for an adaptive
14 management plan. That plan is still being drafted by the
15 certificate holder right now. It will go through PTAG
16 review and be submitted to EFSEC for approval. But that
17 plan would include scenarios where if the surveys in the
18 first few years of operation are showing higher degrees of
19 mortality or incidents than expected, EFSEC has the
20 authority to extend the surveys for additional years to
21 capture those data points.

22 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Appreciate that. This is a
23 point that was concerning to me last time. I appreciate the
24 additional context here and additional cost, which I'm
25 mindful of making sure that we are considering that as part

1 of our decision-making process here.

2 The only remaining concern I have is that when we
3 say three of five years, if, indeed, it's the later of the
4 three of five years and our awareness of what those issues
5 might be from an adaptive management perspective might come
6 later in the process; ergo, you could have issues already
7 started before we'd know through the monitoring process.

8 So I was comfortable last time moving forward with
9 this. I'm still comfortable doing so. I appreciate the
10 additional information here. But as a message, perhaps, to
11 the developer, that one of the -- one of the three years
12 might want to be an earlier year, whether that be the first
13 or second year, just to give us an indication and give
14 everybody an indication of what we're seeing in the field or
15 what they're seeing in the field.

16 So I'll leave it at that for now, but appreciate
17 the additional info. Thanks, Sean.

18 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Mr. Rybarik, Ms. Moon,
19 Mr. Greene, anything further before we end this briefing?

20 MS. MOON: Just to wrap it up, EFSEC staff
21 are now requesting that the council approve the updated
22 Horse Heaven Wind Farm ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan
23 as provided in your packet.

24 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Great. Thank you,
25 Ms. Moon. Let's pause here just to see if there's any

1 further questions or discussion from the council.

2 (No response)

3 Okay. I'm just going to go through this again.
4 So we do have a quorum. The four voting eligible members
5 would be Ecology, Commerce, myself representing Fish and
6 Wildlife and then UTC, and at this point entertain a motion
7 to approve the ferruginous hawk nest mitigation plan as
8 updated and submitted by Horse Heaven Wind Farm LLC in
9 compliance with special Status Species Mitigation Measure
10 No. 5 of the site certification agreement for the Horse
11 Heaven Wind Farm.

12 COUNCIL RYBARIK: So moved.

13 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Thank you, Mr. Rybarik, for
14 the motion.

15 Is there a second?

16 MS. OSBORNE: Second.

17 COUNCIL PAMPLIN: Thank you. I heard
18 Ms. Osborne clicked in first, so the motion has been moved
19 and seconded.

20 Any further discussion?

21 Hearing none, all those in favor, please say
22 "Aye."

23 (Aye)

24 Any opposed? Any abstentions?

25 (No response)

1 Okay. I heard a 4-to-0 vote. This plan has been
2 approved. Thank you.

3 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council Pamplin.
4 Appreciate that, your support.

5 So moving on to the Hop Hill Solar update and
6 Trevin Taylor.

7 MR. TAYLOR: I'm Trevin Taylor. Thank you,
8 Chair Beckett and council members. This is on behalf of
9 John Barnes, EFSEC staff for the Hop Hill application.

10 Staff are working with the applicant on the
11 submission of additional application materials for Hop Hill
12 Project. Staff are continuing to work with the applicant to
13 submit comprehensive culture resource report for the
14 application. Following receipt of the report, staff will
15 distribute to concerned tribes and offer to schedule
16 government-to-government consultation, discuss impacts of
17 potential mitigations.

18 Are there any questions?

19 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, any questions?

20 (No response)

21 All right. Moving on to the Wallula Gap Solar
22 Project, and Trevin Taylor can provide that update.

23 MR. TAYLOR: Trevin Taylor, on behalf of John
24 Barnes, for the Wallula Gap application.

25 Staff are continuing to work with the applicant,

1 OneEnergy, and the Yakama Nation Culture Resource Program
2 staff regarding impacts identified in the TCP, Traditional
3 Culture Places -- Traditional Culture Properties. Study and
4 report conducted by the Yakama Nation for this application
5 pointed out several areas of -- with TCP potentials.

6 Staff are also working with the Department of
7 Ecology to receive a complete and final wetlands and waters
8 report for this application. This report from Department of
9 Ecology and, as well, resolution with the Yakama Nation
10 regarding impacts to identify TCPs are remaining items
11 needed for SEPA determination for this application.

12 As a reminder, identification of potential project
13 impacts and mitigations that can be resolved is part of the
14 EFSEC, SEPA determination processes.

15 Are there any questions?

16 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members?

17 (No response)

18 Very well. Then we will move on to the Goldeneye
19 Battery Storage Project. Joanne Snarski will provide the
20 update.

21 MS. SNARSKI: Thank you.

22 Again, this is Joanne Snarski, the siting
23 specialist for the proposed Goldeneye Battery Energy Storage
24 Facility proposed in Skagit County.

25 Staff are continuing to assess the potential

1 impacts from the proposed project as required by the state
2 Environmental Policy Act. Yesterday we received an updated
3 site plan for the proposed Battery Energy Storage Facility.
4 This plan incorporates the newly proposed features for
5 riparian restoration adjacent to the facility. We will be
6 working internally and with our supporting agency partners
7 to evaluate these updates and to determine if there will be
8 any additional data needed to support this evaluation.

9 Do you have any questions?

10 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members?

11 (No response)

12 None for today. Thank you, Joanne.

13 Moving on to the Cascade Renewable Transmission
14 Project and Maria Belkina is here to provide the update.

15 MS. BELKINA: Thank you, Chair Beckett and
16 council members. My name is Maria Belkina, siting
17 specialist assigned to and reporting on the Cascade
18 Renewable Transmission.

19 Staff continue to review the application for site
20 certification for compliance with WAC 463-60, with the
21 objective of determining whether application contains
22 sufficient information to support the next phase of review.

23 Staff have begun receiving agency comment letters,
24 including from the Washington Department of Fish and
25 Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources. These

1 comments have been posted to the project website and
2 forwarded to the applicant for awareness and response.
3 Staff continue to coordinate with the Department of Ecology
4 and the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
5 regarding anticipated comments and ongoing review.

6 Staff continue to support government-to-government
7 consultation planning. A consultation meeting with the
8 Cowlitz Indian Tribe that had been scheduled was postponed
9 and is now expected to occur in ~~Everett~~ April.

10 Staff have initiated early coordination with local
11 planning departments along the project route. A
12 coordination letter has been prepared and finalized, and
13 staff are working to schedule individual meetings with each
14 planning department to clarify roles, land use consistency
15 review and upcoming milestones.

16 That concludes my update. I will be happy to
17 answer any questions.

18 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you for the update.

19 Are there questions or comments from council at
20 this time?

21 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Quick comment of, just
22 great to hear the government-to-government consultations
23 continue to move toward and continue to be an important part
24 of the process. So appreciate that.

25 CHAIR BECKETT: Yeah, thank you. I was going

1 to also update more on the -- won't say step backwards, but
2 delay on our consultation with Cowlitz Tribe. We appreciate
3 them reaching out to us. Again, I believe doing more of
4 that, from EFSEC with our other tribal nations, would be
5 important on this project, if not all. But it's a good
6 example of an actual project that we go early, as we know is
7 a consistent request.

8 So any other comments?

9 (No response)

10 Fair enough. We will move on to the Programmatic
11 Transmission EIS. That will be presented by Sean Greene.

12 MR. GREENE: Thank you, Chair Beckett and
13 council members. This is Sean Greene, SEPA specialist for
14 EFSEC.

15 Today I'm going to be providing a walk-through of
16 the e-Programmatic. The e-Programmatic is an interactive
17 online tool meant for exploring and applying EFSEC's
18 Programmatic EIS.

19 As some background, EFSEC was directed by the
20 Washington State Legislature, under Revised Code of
21 Washington Chapter 43.21C.405 to produce a statewide,
22 non-project environmental impact statement that would assess
23 the environment impacts common to high-voltage transmission
24 facilities and provide recommended mitigation and technical
25 guidance to facilitate and supplement the project level SEPA

1 review that such facilities would go through in the future.

2 EFSEC subsequently published this non-project or
3 Programmatic EIS in October of last year, and today we are
4 continuing to develop additional tools to assist developers
5 and regulators in their effective use of the Programmatic
6 EIS.

7 So I am going to share my screen now, if I can.
8 One of the most important of these tools that we're
9 developing is what you see before you now; this is the
10 e-Programmatic.

11 This is essentially a digital interface for the
12 Programmatic EIS. While the Programmatic EIS is an
13 extensive highly technical document, this e-Programmatic
14 draws out some of the most useful and essential elements,
15 placing them in a more accessible format, while still
16 referencing back to the base document, when appropriate, for
17 more detail.

18 I should note that the version of the
19 e-Programmatic that I'm showing you here today is a
20 developmental build. A publicly accessible version is
21 expected to be operational in approximately one week, and at
22 that time a link to the e-Programmatic will be added to the
23 Programmatic EIS page on the EFSEC website.

24 Now, there is a lot of information on this site,
25 so I'm not going to go through all of it with you now, but I

1 will try to give you a representative sample of what can be
2 found here and how we envision it being used.

3 So at the top of your screen here you'll see
4 Explore Assessed Impacts. These are the 16 different
5 elements of the environment that are included as part of a
6 SEPA review. For the purposes of this demonstration we're
7 going to focus on 3.9, which is land and shoreline use. The
8 3.9 in this case is the chapter number for that section
9 within the Programmatic EIS.

10 So, first, is a drop-down containing all of the
11 identify -- whoops. Let's not do that.

12 All of the identified state and federal laws and
13 regulations applicable to this resource area, as well as --
14 scrolling down -- siting and design considerations, such as
15 best management practices that are relevant to land and
16 shoreline use.

17 I should note that we went through the effort of
18 reading through all of the city and county comprehensive
19 plans across the state -- across the states and identified
20 elements in those plans that are relevant to transmission as
21 well. Those can be found in the Appendix 3.9-1, which is
22 available on the right side of this subchapter or subsection
23 of the website here.

24 The other drop-down on the side is all of the
25 figures and tables within Chapter 3.9 of the Programmatic

1 particular EIS.

2 So, next, is a list of all of the impacts to this
3 resource area that were identified in the Programmatic EIS.
4 Clicking on the drop-down for each one shows mitigation
5 measures identified in the Programmatic EIS that are related
6 to that impact. So the idea is that an applicant or
7 regulatory agency could identify an impact associated with a
8 particular project, say in this case, loss of function and
9 value of agricultural lands and range lands, navigate to the
10 relevant drop-down site and see all of the mitigation
11 measures for considered recommendation by the Programmatic
12 particular EIS, such as coordinating with property owners to
13 keep livestock out of construction areas.

14 So once an applicant has gone through all of the
15 resource sections and developed their proposed mitigation
16 based on the assessed impacts and the related
17 recommendations, they can use the e-Programmatic's
18 interactive checklist system. This system -- this system
19 prompts the applicant to fill in various project
20 information, and as they go through the various steps in
21 this process, the e-Programmatic will populate the responses
22 into several pre-developed checklists. You can see on the
23 side here, these are the checklists that will eventually be
24 filled out.

25 And these checklists help demonstrate that the

1 project type is one for which this Programmatic EIS applies
2 and displays how much the proposal, in the end, conforms to
3 the Programmatic's recommendations, including providing
4 space to explain when a proposal does not meet those
5 recommendations and why the developer feels that that
6 non-compliance is merited in their specific case, and those
7 checklists can be included in the application materials that
8 the developer submits to the regulatory agency.

9 And so the final element of the site that I want
10 to share is the GIS route analysis tool. So at the top of
11 the screen you may have noticed this environmental
12 sensitivity datasets header. This opens up a story map of
13 the environmental sensitivity mapping developed for the
14 Programmatic EIS, eventually. This is a process where we
15 collected resource data from dozens of publicly accessible
16 datasets, assigned them to different resource sections, and
17 assess those resources for potential sensitivity to impacts
18 from transportation project on a scale of 1 to 3, with 3
19 being the highest level of sensitivity.

20 I won't go into too much detail with this. As you
21 can see, it's fairly lengthy. Going to land and shoreline
22 use again -- it will take a minute to load. Actually, let's
23 go backwards a little bit.

24 So some of the sensitivity maps include data
25 resources such as prime farmland -- indicates on the map

1 you're looking before you right now. It's military
2 installations and air space. Below that these are
3 non-military airports and federally designated wilderness
4 areas. And when those various datasets are combined and
5 applied, the sensitivity levels that we developed with --
6 through consultation with subject matter experts, you're
7 presented with a map like this for each of the resource
8 sections, with -- and this combines all that information
9 with those sensitivity levels. And as you can see how they
10 interpret the results, the darker the color, the more
11 sensitive the resource is.

12 That doesn't necessarily mean that a project in
13 those areas is going to result in a high impact. It just
14 means that that resource is potentially more sensitive to
15 transmission. So that should be something that the
16 developer at the regulatory agency assess.

17 So leaving the story map and heading back to the
18 land and shoreline use resource section, you can see, again,
19 this map -- show up eventually on this GIS insert here.
20 Actually, just go with the larger version.

21 So the tool that we developed to make this --
22 these sensitivity maps more directly applicable to specific
23 projects is what we call the route analysis tool. So this
24 is that same map we saw before. The colors are a little bit
25 different, but again, this is all the sensitivity -- all the

1 sensitive resources for land and shoreline use, but this
2 route analysis tool which is present here allows users to
3 draw a line or import a shape file of a potential
4 transmission corridor onto the map, apply a buffer, if
5 desired, and automatically be presented with all of the
6 identified sensitive resources that that corridor interacts
7 with.

8 For example, if we were to draw a hypothetical
9 transmission project that went from Wenatchee to Seattle,
10 going through I-90 and Snoqualmie Pass and we wanted to say,
11 look at all land and shoreline resources within quarter of a
12 mile, we would hit report button -- and it may take a second
13 to go through the whole analysis. There we go. But on the
14 left side you'll see all of the data layers for the
15 sensitive environmental resources pop up, and it shows
16 these -- some of them are only visible at different zoom
17 levels, but for this, for instance, military operations;
18 it's sensitivity level 2. You can highlight it, and it
19 will -- once you click on it, it will show you what area it
20 -- this corridor is interacting with, and once you zoom in
21 more, the data on the left gets more visible. But I can
22 tell you that this is a protected military airspace, so the
23 flight ceiling goes down to, I think, 500 feet in this area.
24 So that is something where a developer, it would be useful
25 for them to know.

1 The objective of this tool is that it will assist
2 developers in identifying and ideally avoiding sensitive
3 resources, when possible, at the earliest phases of route
4 consideration. It also assists regulatory agencies assuring
5 all potentially affected resources are identified and
6 addressed during their environmental review.

7 So in broad strokes, that's what the
8 e-Programmatic entails. On the main page you can also see
9 links to things like our glossary, frequently asked
10 questions, EFSEC's contact information, search function and
11 other tools that I haven't directly addressed in this
12 presentation, but that's generally what we see this website
13 being useful for.

14 And as I mentioned, this is primarily an internet
15 development build, but the publicly available version of
16 this e-Programmatic is expected to be live in approximately
17 one week.

18 So I can answer any questions that you have at
19 this time.

20 CHAIR BECKETT: Quick opening comment, then
21 I'll turn this to my fellow council members.

22 Thank you. I hear that again, but this is a very
23 important step forward. Let me mimic Council Rybarik's good
24 example and get my camera back on.

25 This is an important step forward. And as we put

1 this on the public website and as other users bring
2 questions that usually, you know, some have been thought of,
3 some haven't, I would just encourage any of these -- early
4 exploration of the tool, you know, your collective feedback
5 is most welcome.

6 Thank you to leadership and all the staff that
7 helped bring this forward. I know there's been the usual
8 technical and budget and other issues, you know, that go
9 forward in bringing something like this forward is always
10 part of the journey. But I can't emphasize enough what an
11 important tool I think this represents for the entire state
12 and probably one that may start here on transmission, but is
13 reflective of, ultimately, any type of project coming to
14 EFSEC, whether it's in the local permit track or, again, the
15 untested Department of Ecology permitting pathway that, I
16 think, we're looking for first movers, right, in all these,
17 in both how the Programmatic work, how does this tool work,
18 and, you know, however we're maximizing our permit pathways,
19 as well the e-Programmatic with Ecology.

20 So with that, let me turn this to council for
21 further questions, comments. This is the first time I've
22 seen this tool. Just so you all know, I've had some
23 insights, but I've never seen it on display like this and
24 look forward to being able to play around with it myself.
25 So thank you.

1 Council Rybarik.

2 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Well, I will also echo my
3 thanks, and I'm sure there are many others involved, but,
4 Sean, you were the face and voice of this today, so I want
5 to thank you for ruining my weekend on two accounts. One, I
6 want to go and -- I'll be a battle tester of this system,
7 because I just think this is a really interesting,
8 fascinating way to visualize this -- these datasets. So (A)
9 thank you for that.

10 B. You've ruined my weekend in a second way,
11 which is in the process, you showed more on the data inputs
12 that a developer can use to sort of test out and get almost
13 a report out of, like, here are the potential mitigation
14 measures or sensitive uses that seems like it's like the
15 Turbo Tax of an EIS, and that reminds me that I still need
16 to do my taxes. So appreciate that.

17 But I think the goal here is many-fold, one of
18 which, just data visualization in general, I think, helps
19 demystify processes and helps us understand them better. I
20 think the use case is kind of obvious from a developer's
21 perspective. I think it's also a pretty important tool to
22 have available to the public who want to participate in
23 EFSEC processes to say, Are there other opportunities? Are
24 there other ways of thinking about this? Right?

25 People, I'm sure, will come forward with ideas of

1 different routes, and to be able to proactively look and see
2 where those might be better and some of the reasons why a
3 developer probably might not have chosen a different route
4 for a project, I think just the demystification of this
5 process is very helpful when we have tools like this, and
6 from what I've seen, fairly easy to use, which is not always
7 the case with technology.

8 But appreciate all the great work here, and,
9 again, looking forward to getting in on some art GIS here.
10 Thank you.

11 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council Rybarik.

12 Are there other comments or questions?

13 (No response)

14 All right. So we'll say thank you, Mr. Greene,
15 again, and the team. Look forward to its arrival at the
16 public website here, sounds like, within the week or a week
17 away.

18 And with that we will move to Item J, again, as
19 amended at the top of the order. I may have started this
20 comment, but I may have not finished it, which is, we have a
21 new agenda, as well as the approach for whether our regular
22 monthly reports that are just there in writing, hence, we
23 don't have live participants with them. But we do have the
24 flexibility to add things if they change. And that's just
25 we try to know which projects may have extra to share and

1 they'll be on the public agenda when it is noticed in its
2 first instance, but where you do adapt based on real-world
3 activities, we have the ability, hopefully the support of
4 the council, to amend the agenda to bring this forth. So
5 just noting that as an emergence of our operating condition
6 in real time with a positive change.

7 So with that, let me turn this, I believe, to --
8 somebody's going to have to help me who is presenting from
9 our staff and, I think, Katie Hall.

10 MR. GREENE: It will be me from our staff,
11 but I believe Katie Hall will go first.

12 CHAIR BECKETT: All right. Ms. Hall, are you
13 with us?

14 MS. HALL: I'm here. Can you hear me?

15 CHAIR BECKETT: We all can, so thank you.

16 MS. HALL: So good afternoon, Chair Beckett,
17 council members and EFSEC staff. This is Katie Hall
18 providing updates for Columbia Generating Station.

19 So today we have two updates to provide. The
20 first is regarding our manual shutdown recently. EN (ph.)
21 provided EFSEC notification on February 12th that Columbia
22 Generating Station had been taken offline to address the
23 equipment issue with the cooling system that supports the
24 reactive recirculation pump.

25 So these pumps support normal plant operation by

1 circulating water through the reactor core. The cause of
2 the issue was an inoperable electrical filter in the
3 adjustable speed drive glycol system. This system cools the
4 adjustable speed drives that control the reactor
5 recirculation pumps. So the loss of cooling in the glycol
6 system caused both pumps to trip offline, prompting
7 operators to manually shut down the plant.

8 While the station was offline, workers completed
9 repairs of the cooling system, performed thorough testing,
10 and verified the performance of equipment. The station
11 remained in a stable condition throughout the outage and
12 restart activate use.

13 Columbia returned to the grid yesterday,
14 February 17th, at about 3 p.m. Operators are gradually
15 raising power to reach 100 percent, which is effective
16 sometime today. And at CGS, safety is our top priority at
17 every step. The plant design and our procedures ensure that
18 even during equipment issues, the station remains in a safe
19 condition with multiple layers of protection and no risk to
20 the public.

21 Any questions on that?

22 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members?

23 Mr. Rybarik.

24 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Katie, thank you for that.

25 And you might have said this, and as I was writing down

1 notes, I might have just missed it, but it is operating at
2 100 percent output at this point? As of --

3 MS. HALL: Yep. Sorry about that. We are
4 expecting to reach 100 percent today at some point.

5 COUNCIL RYBARIK: Very good. Thank you.

6 MS. HALL: You're welcome.

7 CHAIR BECKETT: Before we move on to the next
8 topic, let me just make a quick comment.

9 1. Glad to hear that CGS is getting back up to
10 speed in the cold snap that isn't as bad as it could be
11 today. But, ultimately, our system rides on all of its
12 parts and pieces working, knowing there are times something
13 happens and it stops working. And it's just part of the
14 larger perspective that goes with where we should or
15 shouldn't be, you know, siting things and operating.

16 But, ultimately, it comes down to what is
17 available and what is running to literally keep the lights
18 on, especially at a time when it's most critical. And CGS
19 has always been a backbone of our Northwest system any day
20 of the week, but especially in the winter. And I would just
21 note, you know, it's kind of an insight as to it's good that
22 it's back up and running, of course, and safely as always.
23 But it's just an example of some of the fragility that we
24 face in the Northwest as we move forward.

25 So I want to highlight that, and without further

1 ado, I would turn this, I believe, back to Katie, first.

2 Ms. Hall, did you want to continue?

3 MS. HALL: Yes. Thank you so much.

4 So our second update is an update on the SEPA
5 review for construction of two warehouses at CGS. On
6 February 13th, Energy Northwest submitted a request to EFSEC
7 to have EFSEC serve as the SEPA lead agency for this
8 project.

9 I believe Sean may have additional.

10 MR. GREENE: Yeah, thank you.

11 Again, this is Sean Greene, SEPA specialist for
12 EFSEC. So at the last council meeting, Energy Northwest and
13 EFSEC brought to the council's attention a proposal to
14 construct two warehouse at the Columbia Generating Station
15 Facility. In brief, this is a proposal by Energy Northwest
16 to construct two 16500-square-foot warehouses and associated
17 lay down yards on approximately 5.7 acres of previously
18 disturbed lands adjacent to the existing industrial
19 facility.

20 Energy Northwest and EFSEC, as Katie mentioned,
21 have mutually agreed that EFSEC should serve as SEPA lead
22 agency for this proposal. EFSEC has reviewed the project
23 and found no likely significant adverse environmental
24 impacts. This SEPA determination has been recorded in an
25 addendum to the existing Columbia Generating Station EIS,

1 and an addendum has been uploaded to the SEPA register and
2 distributed to the Columbia Generating Station mailing list.

3 **A 14-day public comment period was opened today,**
4 **February 18th, that will run through March 3rd.**

5 **Are there any questions?**

6 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members, any
7 questions, further comments?

8 (No response)

9 Appreciate the updates. Good to hear that we're
10 proceeding with the comment period, and we'll let that
11 comment period take its role.

12 So, Ms. Hafkemeyer, anything?

13 MS. HAFKEMEYER: Nothing further. Thank you.

14 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Ms. Hall and
15 thank you, Mr. Greene. And with that we will move on to our
16 other section, starting with Dave Walker, our interim
17 director.

18 And, Dave, feel free to make any opening
19 statements that you wish and introduction if you'd like.

20 MR. WALKER: Absolutely.

21 CHAIR BECKETT: And any other items you'd
22 like to to cover?

23 MR. WALKER: Thank you, Chair Beckett. For
24 the record, Dave Walker, interim director with EFSEC.

25 I've been in the role for about two weeks, so as

1 you can imagine, drinking from a firehose still, getting my
2 feet underneath me, but I think we're starting to get some
3 traction now on some things that I have identified that I
4 want to work on while I'm in this role on an interim basis.

5 One of the pieces that I did want to make sure
6 that we talked about today was the budget outlook going into
7 the next fiscal year, and I've asked Nabila Gomes to step in
8 and give us an update on that.

9 So, Nabila.

10 MS. GOMES: All right. Good afternoon, EFSEC
11 chair, council members and staff. In late December, EFSEC
12 was notified of the governor's proposed budget for the
13 upcoming biennium. The governor's proposed budget included
14 an administrative reduction of 245,000 for fiscal year '27
15 general fund reductions. Essentially, the proposed budget
16 will result in 15 percent reduction of EFSEC's general funds
17 allotments.

18 Currently, EFSEC general funds is used to staff
19 four key agency positions, as well as operational cost or
20 operational activities. Based on the proposed reduction,
21 EFSEC is anticipating shifting the administrative cost equal
22 to the proposed reduction over to additional funding
23 sources. This shift in funding sources will not impact
24 project cost or overhead cost. There will be no impact to
25 the project or EFSEC's agency operations. EFSEC staff can

1 provide the council with additional updates once the
2 finalized budget is given, but we anticipate shifting the
3 cost over to CCA funds so that there's no impact to the
4 project's overhead.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Council, did you have
6 questions or feedback?

7 (No response)

8 Okay. Any other items?

9 MR. WALKER: That's all I have.

10 CHAIR BECKETT: Well, again, I wanted to -- I
11 think I said thank you earlier, but I want to say thank you
12 again on all our behalf, Dave, for helping step in and for
13 everyone working through the transition.

14 So with that we have two upcoming items, and I'll
15 just ask Lisa McLean to speak to both of them. First is a
16 legislative update and second is a tribal update.
17 Certainly, we can take questions after each one.

18 MS. McLEAN: Thank you, Chair. Good
19 afternoon, Chair, council members and staff.

20 Legislative. On the legislative front, yesterday
21 we had the house of origin cut off, which means that if the
22 bill did not get through the house of origin, it was
23 essentially dead, unless it is revived as a proviso in the
24 budget.

25 So as part of that, we have some good news in the

1 fact that a bill that we were tracking and that we are
2 supportive of did pass the house on Friday at about 11:00 at
3 night. That is bill -- substitute House Bill 2496
4 concerning tribal consultation conducted by EFSEC. That
5 passed with 70 "yays" and 24 "nays." And it was not agency
6 request legislation, but it was something that we had
7 discussed a lot with the tribes and other interested parties
8 during the interim, and basically, what it was, was to allow
9 the -- a tribal council to meet with the full council, EFSEC
10 council, if they want to in order to discuss tribal cultural
11 resources, and so -- and not be subject to the Open Public
12 Meetings Act.

13 So we have been added as an exemption to Open
14 Public Meetings Act as long as there is no discussion back
15 and forth over actual mitigation measures or the like. Also
16 has some specifications about a report that will be prepared
17 about the tribal consultation process that will be shared
18 with a tribe 30 day -- and the tribe will be given 30 days
19 to approve it -- or not approve it, sorry. To make comments
20 to send back in an alternate report, if they want to, on
21 that tribal consultation. That will be included with the
22 report to the governor.

23 So this -- we worked a lot with the Yakama Nation
24 on the changes to the legislation as it went through the
25 process in both the House and the Senate. We worked with

1 Senate staff and we worked with the Association of
2 Washington Businesses.

3 Now it's going on to the Senate, and the
4 Association of Washington Businesses still has some
5 concerns, and we will continue to be open to discussing with
6 them any amendments that they'd like to put forward as it
7 goes to committee. It actually, just now, a minute ago, got
8 scheduled on as -- got scheduled on the exec calendar of the
9 Environment Energy and Transportation -- (inaudible)
10 Committee on Friday, so it will be exec'd on Friday. It was
11 already heard in the Senate Committee. So it's going to be
12 exec'd on Friday; then it will go to the Senate floor. It
13 needs to get off the floor by the 4th, I think, the 4th of
14 March. So if it can get out of committee, it needs to get
15 out of committee by next Wednesday, and then it has to come
16 off the floor the following Tuesday, I believe. But then it
17 might pass; then we might be able to have a conversation
18 with the tribal council in the future. So we're happy about
19 that.

20 And then the other thing is there was House Bill
21 2509 improving the efficiency of EFSEC's application review.
22 That was introduced by Representative Birnbaum. And it
23 never got a hearing, but it was something that we had been
24 working with Puget Sound Energy and was one of the
25 environmental advocates in the interim about some of their

1 interesting concerns in trying to site the fishing lines.

2 So that's not moved through the process, but we
3 told the sponsor, we're telling other people who we're
4 talking to on Capitol Hill, as well as the environmental
5 advocates and Puget Sound Energy that we'd like to continue
6 talking to them and see if maybe we can see if maybe we can
7 come to some good ideas for the next session.

8 So that's basically the report about legislative
9 session. Not sure if you have any questions -- as it
10 relates to EFSEC. There's a lot more going on.

11 CHAIR BECKETT: Well, I'm going to first turn
12 this to the council since I've been talking, and a couple of
13 items first.

14 Council members, questions?

15 (No response)

16 All right. Well, thank you, Ms. McLean. I
17 appreciate accompanying you on some of those, occasionally,
18 on a couple of those meetings and all your work, regardless
19 of who is with you. And I'd also certainly like to thank
20 those who have sponsored the OPMA bill. Also wanted to
21 thank Representative Birnbaum for his interest and from a
22 meeting that Lisa and I did participate in with the
23 representative. Certainly, I think there's a depth of
24 understanding and appreciation for some of the granularity
25 of our issues and look forward to working with

1 Representative or anyone who wants to work on these issues
2 after the session.

3 So with that, I think we'll move on to our tribal
4 update.

5 MS. McLEAN: Okay. In terms of tribal
6 update, as most of you know, there was an executive order
7 issued on October 22, 2025, by Governor Ferguson about
8 creating a new foundation for Washington State governmental
9 relations with sovereign tribal nations.

10 As part of that executive order, we had a
11 compliance report due to the governor, through the
12 Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, which we sent in on the
13 due date or shortly before the due date, on January 31st,
14 2026.

15 So in that we were able to confirm that all
16 executive members have taken the one-day training, in-person
17 training on government-to-government relations. That was
18 good. For your information, if you're not aware, all of the
19 siting compliance staff have already taken that training in
20 2024, but now it was about making sure that we checked all
21 the boxes with regard to making sure all our executives had
22 also taken it. So that was good.

23 I've been -- as part of the process, also, I've
24 been trying to work and provide guidance to the staff and to
25 provide information to the staff to foster growing

1 understanding of tribal perspectives, and as part of that,
2 we were able to work with the producers of the film These
3 Sacred Hills, a documentary film highlighting the struggle
4 of the Rock Creek band of the Yakama Nation to preserve the
5 cultural resources in the face of new energy projects.

6 We were able to work with them on screening that
7 film here in this room, and we worked with the Utilities and
8 Transportation Commission, invited people from the
9 Department of Commerce, as well, and we had staff that
10 participated, watched it either virtually or in this room,
11 over 100 staff members from the three agencies. And we were
12 able to hear from the producers of that film, from the Rock
13 Creek band, and to have a discussion about it.

14 And I know from, I believe, at UTC, definitely at
15 Commerce and here, we also had some subsequent in-staff
16 conversations about the film. So I think it's all part of
17 our ongoing education process.

18 Then also, as part of the compliance report and
19 something we had wanted to do, anyway, but because of the
20 fact that we have an internal private consultation policy --
21 it's sort of -- when I say it's internal, it's
22 inward-facing, saying, you know, learn -- as staff people,
23 learn about what the government-to-government process is and
24 make sure that you respect it. It was time for us to review
25 that policy, and so I worked with leadership to actually

1 develop a new policy, much -- relying very heavily on
2 something that Councilmember Pamplin and his colleague from
3 WDFW gave me, which is their policy on tribal consultation.

4 We developed a new tribal consultation policy,
5 which is outward-facing, which is more of a commitment to
6 the tribes of, these are the things that we will try to, as
7 an agency, do to maintain good communications, establish
8 mechanisms for consultation and for coordination.

9 So we developed that policy, and we were able to
10 send that policy out before the end of January, giving the
11 tribes 90 days to comment on that. I am shortly going to be
12 scheduling a virtual meeting with vetting all the tribal
13 leaders and their cultural and natural resource directors so
14 that we and the leadership can meet with them and hear maybe
15 their in-person comments about this policy, but also we
16 remain available to receive, by email, any of their comments
17 about that, hoping to finalize it toward the end of April
18 and make it part of our policy processes.

19 I think that's more or less what I have to say
20 about tribal updates. I mean, there's more stuff going on.
21 As we were saying earlier, we had a Cowlitz consultation
22 scheduled. It got rescheduled. We're making notifications
23 to the tribes in other areas, but those are the big things
24 that are happening.

25 Happy to answer any questions.

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Council members, comments or
2 questions?

3 COUNCIL RYBARIK: I'll just quickly
4 underscore the, appreciate the partnership between EFSEC,
5 the UTC and Commerce to have the screening of These Sacred
6 Hills here. It was a great event, great conversation, and
7 as Lisa noted, the conversation has kept going, which I
8 think is the real great point of all of this, is that it's
9 getting minds thinking differently, and that really was the
10 goal there and just appreciate that partnership. So thanks
11 for having it.

12 CHAIR BECKETT: Since it was your suggestion
13 on the screening, I want to thank you for that idea and
14 suggestion, as well -- as well as all the partnership that
15 we've also covered.

16 So with that, are there any -- oh, Council Ryan.

17 MR. RYAN: Yeah, I just want to tack on and
18 underscore how much I really appreciate Lisa's work in this
19 regard. It's a lot to tackle tribal relations on its own,
20 let alone also have the other legislative part of what you
21 do.

22 So it's really clear that things are moving in a
23 positive direction on this front. Appreciate all the
24 legwork you put in the new policy, and confident that -- in
25 goods hands on this front. So appreciate your work.

1 CHAIR BECKETT: Thank you, Council Ryan.
2 Last call for any further comments or questions.
3 Anything?

4 MR. WALKER: No.

5 CHAIR BECKETT: Okay. Then I will close us
6 out at 2:44 p.m. Thank you for everyone's time and
7 participation today.

8 (Meeting concluded 2:44 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON) I, Ann Marie G. Allison, CCR,
) Certified Court Reporter, State of
COUNTY OF PIERCE) Washington, do hereby certify:

That the foregoing meeting was taken before me and completed on February 18, 2026, and thereafter transcribed by me;

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

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my signature on the 3rd day of March, 2026.

/s/ Ann Marie G. Allison, CCR
Certified Court Reporter #3375

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