July 8, 2026

EFSEC

Dear Review Committee for the HH Wind Farm,

I have followed this Wind Farm proposal by Scout, Inc. for several years now. Back in the administration of Governor Inslee of Washington, who “fast tracked” the project, it seemed there was no argument against the project.

However, I have a few comments to make regarding this project. I would appreciate consideration of the following points as the Committee moves forward (or not) with the Horse Heaven Wind Farm.

First, there is no need for additional sources of energy in the Pacific Northwest. Between the current sources of power generation we enjoy in our area, we are well provided with energy. In fact, we are so well covered for our energy needs that we sell power to neighboring states of Oregon and California. We enjoy HydroPower, thanks to the Bonneville Power Administration. HydroPpwer is the lowest cost, cleanest, and most reliable source of power generation next to Nuclear, Oil, Natural Gas, and Coal – all of which we also have in our area in abundance.

Second, the “need” for “clean” energy generation is nothing more than a pocket-lining grift of the left, in an attempt to convince consumers that the planet is dying and we are all in mortal danger from the effects of our use of fossil fuels. The opposite is true and has been proven over and over again. The planet is not dying. The oceans are not rising. Our air is cleaner now than it was 50 years ago. This is documented and proven.

Third, HydroPower is what keeps our residential rates stable. We saw a net 0% rate increase between 2020 and 2025 from BPA through our Benton PUD. During the same period, rates in California rose in excess of 50% for the electrical power they generated.

Fourth, “Cheap” wind and solar power generation is a lie. Both are extremely expensive and damaging to the environment to build and produce, and the issues related to disposal of spent blades and arrays are anathema to the whole “environmental” cause. Blades from the windmills must be buried vertically in the ground to dispose of them, and they do not biodegrade. Solar panels are likewise **impossible to dispose of**. They do not biodegrade and must simply be stacked and warehoused for eternity, much like the batteries from EV’s.

Fifth, wind and solar are **intermittent and variable** sources of power transmission. Their delicacy in heavy weather (note Winter 2021, Texas) makes them unreliable in times when energy generation is most critical. Many Texan residents would argue that “clean energy” puts human lives at risk, due to the tendency to freeze up in cold

weather. During periods of no wind, there is no power generated. When the sun doesn't shine, there is no power generation. Back up sources are always needed for this expensive power source.

Sixth, the physics of running a power grid are fairly simple to describe and extremely complex to sustain. On the one hand, it simply means that Electricity must be Produced, Delivered, and Consumed simultaneously. On the other hand, this balance requires that the sources used for said Electricity must be Reliable, Available, and immediately transmissible in order to meet the changing needs of consumers. Changes are often related to weather: cold snaps, extreme hot spells, consumer utilization habits in a given 24 hour cycle (known as Daily Rhythm of Life Demand), etc. **The laws of Power Grid Physics are Unforgiving**. **The consequences of failure to meet the Supply – Demand Balance are Blackouts**. (R. Dunn, BPUD, Oct. 2025) Furthermore, Washington and Oregon wind power generation was tracked at **Zero** or Less during the coldest temperature periods of the past 2 years.

Seventh, the BPA Transmission System already provides **75%** of the NW Power Grid, and is handily backed up by Nuclear, Oil, Natural Gas and Coal when required. And while providing for the major portion of our energy needs, Hydro consistently pays for Fish and Wildlife Programs, accounting for $260.9 million in 2023. All the way back to 2012 it is recorded that Hydro paid more than $200 million annually for Fish and Wildlife Programs. That means BPA is a "good neighbor" and works diligently to **support habitat requirements of the Columbia River System** throughout its network of Northwest rivers, giving salmon a very high priority. Salmon returns up and down the river have been tracked annually and are maintaining their highest adult return levels in the past 30 years. Records of salmon returns have been kept since 1938.

Eighth, wind and solar are both **weather dependent as well as energy dilute** sources of power generation. The costs of the overbuild necessary to construct wind and solar farms are extreme and deliver little in terms of ROI. Further, these "clean" energy sources put residents at risk of blackouts during critical weather periods. This puts the Health, Safety, and Well-Being of every resident in the service area at risk. Also at risk is the habitat of the migratory bird population of the Horse Heaven area.

Finally, with high cost, dilute and weather dependent delivery, high environmental impact both before, during and after implementation, risk of blackouts, and unnecessary to the area Scout proposes to serve, why would any rational person decide in favor of building this wind/solar farm in our area? Not necessary. Expensive. Unreliable. A Bad Decision for PNW.

Respectfully submitted,

LR Davis, Kennewick, WA