



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE

October 18, 2024

Kathleen Drew, Chair  
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
1300 S. Evergreen Park SW  
PO Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504

RE: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project  
EFSEC Recommendation dated September 17, 2024

Dear Chair Drew:

Pursuant to RCW 80.50.100(3), I have approved and executed the enclosed revised Site Certification Agreement (SCA) for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project in Benton County, with the terms and conditions as recommended by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (Council). The revised SCA makes modifications to the original proposed draft SCA in response to my May 23, 2024, letter directing the Council to reconsider its approach to mitigation for one that is more narrowly tailored to the specific impacts identified.

After considering the record, I find that the Council evaluated this application in a manner consistent with the statutory requirements and intent of Chapter 80.50 RCW, and I concur with the Council's recommendation to approve the application.

In addition, I find that the Council carefully considered both the environmental impacts of the project and its consistency with the land use plans and ordinances in effect in Benton County. I further find that the Council carefully considered additional impacts, including impacts on habitat, wildlife, tribal cultural resources, public safety and visual aesthetics. I believe this project is appropriately sited, and that the site certificate is legally adequate. I also find that the Council thoroughly and adequately responded to issues and concerns raised by tribal partners, the community, and other stakeholders relating to this project.


With the goal of moving this project forward on a timeline commensurate with the state's pressing clean energy needs, I urge the Council to establish the following timelines related to the work of the Pre-construction Technical Advisory Group (PTAG):

- Within 14 days after the date of this letter, convene the PTAG; and
- Within 120 days after the date of this letter, complete the PTAG process.

To be clear, my approval of this application is final and is not contingent on compliance with the above proposed timelines. However, it is my expectation that the Council and other relevant state agencies will strive to follow these timelines and will work expeditiously with the Certificate Holder to develop all plans and secure all necessary approvals to begin construction as soon as possible.

Finally, I cannot help but comment on the bigger picture: We will not meet our state's urgent clean energy needs if the path to a final recommendation from the Council spans multiple years and contains conditional micrositing process requirements that further prolong final siting approval for a significant portion of the primary project components. Timely and efficient action by the Council is essential to our mission to mitigate the impacts of climate change and provide adequate green energy alternatives. I strongly encourage the Council to identify opportunities to increase its efficiency and provide for more timely decision-making. You can expect my office to engage with you on this critical issue before the end of my administration.

Sincerely,



Jay Inslee  
Governor

Enclosures

Cc: Kathryn Leathers (via email only)  
Sonia Bumpus (via email only)  
Joan Owens (via email only)  
Ami Hafkemeyer (via email only)