



STATE OF WASHINGTON

ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE AND

REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
For the Transmission Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Date: June 28, 2024

Lead Agency: Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

Agency Docket Number: 181034

Proposal Description: EFSEC is preparing a programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) under the State Environmental Policy Act to assess probable significant adverse environmental impacts from electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230 kilovolts (kV) or greater at a broad level. The Legislature directed EFSEC to conduct a nonproject environmental review for this type of facility in Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Chapter 43.21C.405.

The PEIS will assess and disclose probable significant adverse environmental impacts from electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230kV or greater and identify related avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures.

Location of Proposal: The Legislative directive is to consider locations in Washington state that contain standard attributes for likely development such as proximity to existing transmission or complementary facilities and planned corridors for transmission capacity construction, reconstruction, or enlargement. The PEIS is not required to include geographic areas that lack the characteristics necessary for electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230kv or greater. EFSEC will use input from scoping to assist in determining the area(s) of study for the PEIS.

EIS Required: In RCW 43.21C.405, the Legislature directed EFSEC to prepare a nonproject environmental impact statement pursuant to RCW 43.21C.030, that assesses and discloses the probable significant adverse environmental impacts and identifies related mitigation measures for electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230kv or greater.

EFSEC has identified the elements of the environment listed in the SEPA rules (Washington Administrative Code [WAC] 197-11-444) and those identified in RCW 43.21C.405 as relevant for inclusion in the PEIS to determine if there are any significant environmental impacts. These include:

- Earth resources (including seismic hazards)

- Air quality
- Water resources
- Vegetation
- Wildlife and Habitat
- Energy and natural resources
- Land and shoreline use, including military, agricultural, and ranching uses
- Historic and cultural resources, including tribal rights, interests, and resources
- Visual aspects
- Noise and vibration
- Recreation
- Public health and safety
- Transportation
- Public services and utilities
- Socioeconomics, including environmental justice and overburdened communities as defined by RCW 70A.2.010
- Cumulative impacts, including landscape scale habitat connectivity and wildlife migration corridors

For transmission line projects utilizing an existing transmission right-of-way or that are located along a transportation corridor, the PEIS will be limited to the proposed action and a no action alternative. For transmission line projects that do not meet these criteria, EFSEC will determine the range of alternatives to be analyzed at the end of the scoping period after comments are reviewed.

Scoping: Agencies, affected tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the content and emphasis (the scope) of the PEIS. You may comment on alternatives, probable significant adverse impacts, mitigation measures, and licenses or other approvals that may be required. The method and deadline for giving us your comments is:

Deadline for comments: Comments will be accepted through July 28, 2024 (30 days following the date of issuance).

Electronic comment website address: <https://comments.efsec.wa.gov/>

Written comment mailing address: Postmarked by July 28, 2024

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey WA 98503-3172

Open comment virtual meetings:

Thursday, July 18, 2024 (5:00pm to 8:00pm PDT)

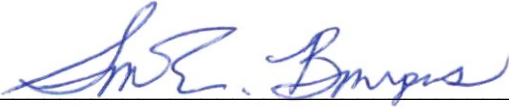
- Microsoft Teams: https://bit.ly/PEIS_ScopingPubCmtMtg1
- Or via Phone:
 - Number: (564)-999-2000
 - Conference ID: 335 336 413#

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 (5:00pm to 8:00pm PDT)

- Microsoft Teams: https://bit.ly/PEIS_ScopingPubCmtMtg2
- Or via Phone:
 - Number: (564)-999-2000
 - Conference ID: 152 730 471#

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SEPA Responsible Official: Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Executive Director



Date: 6/28/2024