



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 Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project

**Date:** May 11, 2021

**Lead Agency:** Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)

**Agency Docket Number:** EF-210011

**Proposal Description:** The proposal is a renewable energy generation facility spanning 72,428 acres with a grid injection capacity of up to 1,150 Megawatts (MWs) from a combination of wind and solar facilities, as well as a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) for storing up to 300 MWs. The maximum number of wind turbines would include no more than 244 turbines up to a maximum total height of 499 feet, or no more than 150 turbines up to a maximum total height of 671 feet. The maximum solar array(s) would be located on no more than 6,570 acres of the proposal site if all three identified solar array sites were built with a nameplate generating capacity up to 800 MWs. Because the grid injection capacity is anticipated to be a maximum of 1,150 MW, it is possible that not all the turbines and the solar panels identified in this description would be constructed. The combined installed wind solar nameplate generating capacity may exceed the grid injection capacity, consistent with Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) policy, however the capacity that would be injected onto the grid could not exceed 1,150 MWs at any given time. Power generated by the Project would be transmitted to existing BPA transmission lines via two interconnections. Other Project components include up to two BESS sites, underground and limited overhead electrical collection lines, underground communication lines, new Project substations, access roads, operations and maintenance (O&M) facilities, meteorological towers, control houses, and temporary construction yards.

**Location of Proposal:** Within the Horse Heaven Hills area, approximately four (4) miles south/southwest of the city of Kennewick and the larger Tri-cities urban area, along the Columbia River in unincorporated Benton County, WA (*see Attachment A, application Figure 2.1-1, Project Location*). Legal descriptions of the lands involved can be found in the application *Appendix F, Project Lease Boundary Landowner List with Legal Descriptions*.

**Applicant:** Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC  
5775 Flatiron Parkway, Suite 120  
Boulder, CO 80301

**EIS Required:** EFSEC and the Applicant have agreed an environmental impact statement (EIS) under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c) will be prepared.

EFSEC has identified the following environmental elements for discussion in the EIS: Environmental elements currently identified for detailed analysis in the EIS include:

- Wildlife/Habitat
- Visual/Aesthetics
- Land Use

Environmental elements which require additional information before determining the level of analysis in the EIS include:

- Air
- Water (wetlands, water quality, and water resources)
- Plants
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Environmental Health
- Noise
- Light and Glare
- Historic Resources
- Cultural Resources

At a minimum, the EIS will include a no action alternative and the applicant's proposal. EFSEC will determine the full scope of the EIS, including the range of alternatives to be analyzed, at the end of the scoping period after comments are reviewed. Elements of the environment are listed in the SEPA rules (WAC 197-11-444). Not all elements of the environment outlined in WAC 197-11-444 are expected to be included in the study.

**Materials Available for Review:** An environmental checklist, the application, studies, and plans prepared by the applicant (appendices), and other materials related to environmental impacts are available at the Project Website:

- <https://www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/horse-heaven-wind-project>;

And at libraries:

- Washington State Library
- Mid-Columbian Libraries (Kennewick Branch, Prosser Branch, Pasco Branch, West Pasco Branch, Keewaydin Park Branch)
- Richland Public Library

For library contact information, please see *Attachment B. Library Addresses and Phone Numbers*.

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

<b>Deadline for comments</b>	Comments will be accepted through June 10, 2021 (30 days following the date of issuance)
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<b>Electronic comment website address</b>	<a href="https://comments.efsec.wa.gov/">https://comments.efsec.wa.gov/</a>
<b>Written comment mailing address</b>	Postmarked by June 10, 2021  Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council 621 Woodland Square Loop SE Lacey, WA 98504-3172

**EFSEC Contact:** Amy Moon

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**SEPA Responsible Official:** Sonia Bumpus, EFSEC Manager

Signature  Date 5/11/2021

Attachments:

- A. SEPA Checklist
- B. Figure 2.1-1 Project Location
- C. Library Addresses and Phone Numbers