



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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May 27, 2021

Amy Moon
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: Horse Heaven Hills Wind, Solar, and Battery Project, Shorelands, Wetland and Waters of the State Site Visit

Dear Amy Moon:

Thank you for meeting The Department of Ecology's (Ecology) Shoreline and Environmental Assistance (SEA) Program staff, Lori White onsite May 10, 2021 to review the project area. Ecology staff was specifically reviewing several areas for potential wetland characteristics.

During the site visit, we investigated 6 areas for wetland characteristics scattered through the project site. Two of the 6 locations were located east of I-82. The remaining 4 sites were located west of I-82. One ephemeral stream spanning location was observed as well. Many of the locations are within or adjacent to existing wheat fields. One site was located in a draw, surrounded by ridges and practice shooting lanes.

Each site varied however vegetation in the area largely consisted of wheat, cheatgrass, Russian thistle, and other early successional upland generalist species. Many of the fields have been plowed either recently or in the past resulting in a homogenous soil profile. Jessica Taylor, Tetra Tech, excavated each of the 6 soil pits to be investigated, depth varied depending on shovel refusal. Overall, each sample plot consisted of homogenous, dry, sandy loam soil. Indicators of hydrology and redox were not observed at any location.

All ephemeral streams were dry during the time of the site visit.

There were two locations we were unable to investigate as a group. Therefore Jessica Taylor visited the sites on the following day and sent datasheets and photos via email for review. One location, site E10 does exhibit wetland conditions.

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Conclusion

Ecology staff would concur with the results found in the application's Appendix I, *Wetland and Other Waters Delineations Report for the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project*, December 2020 that wetlands are not present in the 6 areas reviewed on May 10th during our joint site visit.

An addendum to the above-mentioned report should be provided to EFSEC to address the wetland at E10.

The addendum should be provided for additional review and concurrence.

Ecology looks forward to providing the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council with technical assistance and expertise in the future. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please call me at (509) 575-2616.

Sincerely,



Lori White
Wetland/Shoreline/Federal Permit Specialist

cc: Gary Graff, Ecology
Mike Ritter, WDFW