

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of)
Application No. 2006-02) Adjudicative
DESERT CLAIM WIND POWER, LLC) Public Hearing
DESERT CLAIM WIND POWER PROJECT) Pages 68 - 117
_____)

An Adjudicative Public Hearing in the above matter was held on Tuesday, July 21, 2009, at South Seattle Community College, 6737 Corson Avenue South, Rooms 110-111, in Seattle, Washington at 7:00 p.m., before the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council Members.

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JUDGE WALLIS: This hearing will please come to order. Good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome. This is an adjudicative hearing in the matter of 2006-02 before Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council. This is an application of Desert Claim Wind Power, LLC, for certification of a site for construction of a wind powered electric generation facility in Kittitas County, Washington.

Tonight's hearing is to receive public comment on the proposal to construct those generators. This hearing is being held according to formal notice to the parties and notice by publication to members of the public. The hearing is being on held on July 21, 2009 at South Seattle Community College in Seattle, Washington.

1 My name is Robert Wallis, and I am the
2 Administrative Law Judge holding this hearing on behalf of
3 the Council. I would like to identify the people who are
4 here tonight from EFSEC and are responsible for the hearing
5 and for the decision.

6 First of all, on my immediate right is Council
7 Chair Jim Luce. Jim, would you raise your hand, please,
8 and, Council Members, as I identify you please raise your
9 hands. Dick Byers represents the Utilities and
10 Transportation Commission; Hedia Adelsman, the Department of
11 Ecology; Dick Fryhling, the Department of Commerce now; Mary
12 McDonald, Department of Natural Resources; Jeff Tayer,
13 Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Ian Elliot represents
14 Kittitas County which is a Council Member for purposes of
15 this proceeding.

16 There are other persons from EFSEC who are present
17 in the room tonight. These include the EFSEC Assistant
18 Attorney General Kyle Crews to my immediate left and EFSEC
19 staff members Allen Fiksdal, Stephen Posner, and in the back
20 of the room Tammy Talburt who is helping to coordinate and
21 to develop a list of witnesses for us.

22 The purpose for tonight's meeting is to receive
23 comments on the proposed Desert Claim Wind Power Project.
24 Ms. McGaffey represents the Applicant in this matter.

25 Ms. McGaffey, is Mr. Steeb available to give a

1 brief introduction this evening?

2 MS. MCGAFFEY: He is.

3 JUDGE WALLIS: Very well. Mr. Steeb, would you
4 step forward, please. Mr. Steeb is an official with the
5 Applicant and he will give a brief introduction to describe
6 the project. Mr. Steeb, I will merely remind you that you
7 have previously been sworn in this matter and you remain
8 under oath.

9 MR. STEEB: That's correct.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed.

11 MR. STEEB: Thank you very much. Good evening,
12 Council Members. Good evening, People of the Audience in
13 the Seattle area and the west side. I appreciate everybody
14 attending tonight. This is a beautiful evening and I
15 appreciate the sacrifice of coming out.

16 To tell you a little bit about Desert Claim
17 there's a lot been written and there's lot on the EFSEC
18 website about it if you need more details. But Desert Claim
19 is a renewable energy wind power project located eight miles
20 northwest of Ellensburg, Washington.

21 It is unique. It's unique for several reasons.
22 One of the reasons is that it is a project that is not
23 located on ridge lands but is actually located on the valley
24 floor that's shown on the maps in the back. Why is that
25 wind project located there?

1 Well, first of all, everybody in Kittitas County
2 and probably across the state realize and the Desert Claim
3 and the other projects located there that Ellensburg is a
4 windy area, and that meets one of the criteria of building
5 this wind farm. Some of the other criteria that are evident
6 from the maps and a lot of the testimony is that available
7 land. We've talked before about that. It's 5,200 acres,
8 two and a half sections of that land are state land, DNR
9 lands where wind turbines will be located. The rest is
10 private, about five other landowners. So for a project that
11 size it has a very small amount of landowners.

12 The other consideration is this is a power
13 generating project, and to be able to make renewable power
14 and deliver it to the grid it is an important factor to have
15 transmission lines and also have the ability to move that
16 power to market. This project is blessed with several
17 transmission lines both with the BPA (Bonneville Power
18 Administration) but also Puget Sound Energy running exactly
19 through this project.

20 This project has gone through extensive reviews in
21 both the Environmental Impact Statements, the SEPA portion.
22 Of course, it also has gone through reviews through the
23 adjudication process of which we had part of that last week.
24 We had a public meeting in Ellensburg last Monday and we
25 move on today to the second public meeting for the Desert

1 Claim project so I thank you very much.

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you, Mr. Steeb. The purpose
3 of tonight's meeting is to receive comments on the proposed
4 project. You may testify tonight and you may share your
5 comments that way. You may also send written comments to
6 the EFSEC office. You can get the address from Ms. Talburt
7 from the back and it is on our website. You may submit the
8 comments in writing and they must be postmarked by July 24,
9 Friday, to ensure that they are considered in the decision
10 of this matter.

11 If you testify you do not need to submit the same
12 comments in writing and if you submit comments, you do not
13 need to testify to the same issues orally. Tonight's
14 comments are evidence in the Council's official hearing
15 record. For that reason I will swear in every witness
16 before you testify, and we'll ask that each person in the
17 audience be respectful of those who are testifying, and that
18 way the Council and the court reporter will also be able to
19 hear the witness.

20 When you come forward, we will swear you in.
21 Please pick up the microphone. We will ask your name, your
22 address, and ask you to begin speaking your comments.

23 So with that, Ms. Talburt, do we have a list of
24 people who have signed up at this point?

25 MS. TALBURT: We do, Your Honor.

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. The first person on our
2 list tonight is Stan Loosmore. Would you step forward,
3 please.

4 MR. LOOSMORE: Thank you, Your Honor.

5 (Stan Loosmore sworn on oath.)

6 MR. LOOSMORE: Is this mic on?

7 JUDGE WALLIS: It is. You may be seated or you
8 may stand.

9 STAN LOOSMORE,
10 having been first duly sworn on oath,
11 testified as follows:

12
13 MR. LOOSMORE: My name is Stan Loosmore. I
14 represent Ancient Mariner, LLC, and Ancient Mariner
15 Properties, LLC, which is a landowner east of this facility.
16 We've been there for several years.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Excuse me. Would you please give
18 us your mailing address.

19 MR. LOOSMORE: 600 University Street, Seattle.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: Very well.

21 MR. LOOSMORE: 98101 is the zip code.

22 JUDGE WALLIS: Please continue with your comments.

23 MR. LOOSMORE: L-o-o-s-m-o-r-e.

24 As I said, I represent Ancient Mariners, LLC, and
25 Ancient Mariner, Properties, LLC, which are landowners east

1 of this projected facility, and it is our opinion -- we've
2 been there for several years. And it's our opinion that as
3 Mr. Steeb said this proposal is unique and in this case
4 unique is not a good thing. If you go up to Whiskey Dick
5 and the facility there, those towers are on the ridges, and
6 the reason they are is that the wind blows consistently. If
7 you go down to Altamont just east of Livermore where they've
8 been for years and years, and in fact you fly over it and I
9 have, you will see that the rows of towers are on the ridges
10 because the wind blows consistently.

11 This facility is down in the valley, and I can
12 tell you in our three years of living there and in knowledge
13 of the valley, we don't have this consistent wind at all.

14 I think this Council has an obligation to the
15 people of this state for sure, but more than that, to make
16 sure that the kind of facility which is proposed is the
17 right facility for the right place and is efficient. And I
18 haven't found the studies that say anything other than
19 inexpensive property. Let's put it here where it's cheap.

20 It's kind of like the old story of a guy who's on
21 his hands and knees under the street light and somebody
22 comes along and says, "What's going on?" He says, "I'm
23 looking for my watch." And the fella says, "Well, where
24 did you lose it?" And he says, "Over there." "Well, why
25 are you looking here?" "Because the light's better here."

1 I think this facility and it is the position of my
2 clients that this facility while may be the right idea is in
3 the wrong place. I think this Council should give serious
4 thought to that. Thank you.

5 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

6 Jeff Wagnitz is the next witness and after
7 Mr. Wagnitz we have Riley Atkins.

8 (Jeff Wagnitz sworn on oath.)

9 JUDGE WALLIS: Would you state your name and spell
10 your last name for us.

11 MR. WAGNITZ: My name is Jeff Wagnitz,
12 W-a-g-n-i-t-z.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: What is your mailing address,
14 please?

15 MR. WAGNITZ: 3354 Lakemoor Circle S.W., Olympia,
16 Washington 98512.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

18 JEFF WAGNITZ,
19 having been first duly sworn on oath,
20 testified as follows:

21

22 MR. WAGNITZ: Chairman Luce, Council Members,
23 thank you for the opportunity to speak to you tonight in
24 support of Desert Claim Wind Power. As I said, I'm Jeff
25 Wagnitz. I'm Vice President for Academic Affairs at

1 Highline Community College. We're the next community
2 college district just to the south in Des Moines.

3 I'm speaking tonight on behalf of my college and
4 on behalf of our President, Dr. Jack Birmingham, who would
5 be here himself tonight; however, he's flying on a return
6 trip from Washington, D.C., and sends his regrets.

7 Yesterday's issue of Time Magazine, if you've seen
8 it, includes a story called Can Community Colleges Save the
9 U.S. Economy? And while I'm always up for a good challenge,
10 that question seemed a little daunting to me I will admit.
11 But perhaps by way of suggesting an answer to the question
12 the editors of Time included photographs exclusively of
13 community college students working with alternative energy
14 technologies and specifically one picture of them working
15 with wind technologies. So whether or not community
16 colleges can save the United States Economy outright, I
17 think those headlines and photo choice suggests to us that
18 if the state considers approving the Desert Claim Wind Power
19 Project there's more at stake than the jobs and the energy
20 created by the project alone.

21 The larger picture is Washington State's
22 technology leadership from aerospace, computer science, to
23 biotechnology our state has shaped some of the most
24 important technologies at our time, and that leadership
25 contributes strongly to our economic well being. Higher

1 education plays a critical role in maintaining that
2 leadership. State colleges and universities provide the
3 trade work force, research, scholarship, and collaboration
4 both to sustain the technological development and shape
5 effective public policies.

6 In wind energy and in Desert Claim specifically we
7 have a new opportunity with unusually broad benefits. What
8 makes wind energy so unusual is the capacity to build those
9 innovations in our large cities and in our rural areas. My
10 college's partnership with Central Washington University in
11 Ellensburg offers an example of these possibilities.

12 Although Highline is a west side suburban two-year
13 institution, we have a longstanding and strong collaboration
14 with CWU in Ellensburg. The most visible manifestation to
15 that partnership is the higher education center that we
16 jointly share on my campus. That center provides Highline
17 students with a much needed access to CWU's four-year
18 offerings and it is just a few steps from my office door.

19 The Desert Claim Project offers Highline students
20 a new opportunity to bridge the east-west urban-rural divide
21 in a way that stands to benefit this state. Desert Claim
22 will contribute significantly to wind energy concentration
23 in Kittitas County. As a result, that concentration will
24 enable Central Washington University to develop research and
25 education programs. At Highline here on the west side we

1 will leverage our partnership with the university to
2 integrate wind technology in our already strong science and
3 engineering transfer program.

4 We have the most diverse student body in
5 Washington State and with that student body we have
6 consistently exceeded our target for high demand science
7 technology and engineering and mathematic FTEs, and we've
8 multiple times been a recipient of national science
9 foundation grants to promote students with success in the
10 sciences. Through our cooperation with Central, Highline
11 students will continue their wind industry education
12 pursuing bachelor's and master's degrees from Central on our
13 campus or in Ellensburg. That pipeline will reinforce
14 Washington's leadership in these emerging technologies.

15 The State Department of Commerce issued a
16 strategic plan involving creating 25,000 new green economy
17 jobs both Highline and Central continue to expand our
18 partnership to build Washington State's green economy to
19 provide the skilled work force necessary for its success.
20 We urge you to support our efforts by approving Desert
21 Claim. Thank you.

22 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

23 Riley Atkins. After Mr. Atkins will be Larry
24 Burtchett.

25 (Riley Atkins sworn on oath.)

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Would you state your name and spell
2 your last name for us, please.

3 MR. ATKINS: Good evening. My name is Riley
4 Atkins, R-i-l-e-y A-t-k-i-n-s. I'm a senior associate with
5 David Evans & Associates. Our address 415 118th Avenue
6 S.E., Bellevue, Washington.

7 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

8 RILEY ATKINS,
9 having been first duly sworn on oath,
10 testified as follows:

11

12 MR. ATKINS: Thank you. I think it's germane that
13 the previous speaker was a community college representative
14 because to a large degree the new employees that we seek are
15 coming out of the universities and community colleges, and
16 to a large degree our business lines depend on those new
17 graduates. We've been in the engineering and environmental
18 consulting for over 30 years. We have offices located
19 throughout the state, including Spokane, Bellevue, Everett,
20 Tacoma, Bellingham, and Olympia. We have four major
21 business lines: land develop, water resources, energy, and
22 transportation. Of those four business lines the most
23 significant under the current economy is energy. Without
24 the energy development that's occurring around the United
25 States we would be having a tough time surviving. Projects

1 like Desert Claim are our bread and butter.

2 We've developed over 1,200 megawatts of wind power
3 energy throughout the United States and these projects are
4 very important to us. For example, we are currently working
5 on the Wild Horse Wind Power Project just down the street
6 from Desert Claim. We've been working since 2004, and in
7 the course of that period we've done design, construction
8 monitoring, environmental compliance, and survey. The
9 project has generated over a million dollars in fees for our
10 company, a significant portion of which we have spent in
11 Kittitas County and the city of Ellensburg.

12 And, of course, we've hired employees from
13 Ellensburg from the Central Washington University. We have
14 stayed at the motels. We have spent money on equipment,
15 hired local staff and support. So it's very important for
16 not only our company but also to the community, to the local
17 communities. And this type of investment is being repeated
18 across the United States with these types of projects.
19 They're critical to our infrastructure and they're critical
20 to our economic survival. We are definitely in support of
21 projects and we encourage you to vote positively for it.
22 Thank you very much.

23 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

24 Larry Burtchett, and following Mr. Burtchett will
25 be Phil Oxley.

1 (Larry Burtchett sworn on oath.)

2 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed.

3 LARRY BURTCHETT,

4 having been first duly sworn on oath,

5 testified as follows:

6 MR. BURTCHETT: Burtchett, B-u-r-t-c-h-e-t-t at
7 12611 Reecer Creek Road, Ellensburg, Washington. First of
8 all, I want to state off that I am actually not a home
9 owner. My father is. He's the one that lives right there
10 on Reecer Creek. I've spent most of my time over here on
11 the west side.

12 My father is a very hard working man, much like
13 I'd like to think most of you guys are. He's worked for
14 most of his life as a welder, worked very hard at Boeing.
15 His dream was to buy acreage over in Ellensburg, to be able
16 to enjoy the peace and quiet and the scenery. The claim
17 that was actually just put up over on Whiskey Dick Mountain
18 is 45 miles away from where this project is right now, and I
19 can see them like they're standing in front of me. They're
20 an eyesore. They're terrible.

21 I'm an electrician by trade. I should of all
22 people support renewable energy, and I've done much, much
23 research on renewable energy between nuclear, coal, to
24 solar, to wind power. And in my research I have found
25 nothing but bad things about wind power, and one of the

1 things mentioned earlier was transmission lines. The
2 Bonneville Power and Puget Sound Energy power lines that are
3 right there from my understanding are completely full. They
4 are not able to withstand any more power which would mean
5 power lines need to be put up. If that's the case, why
6 don't we propose an action where there's lots of free land
7 on top of ridges where the wind blows constantly and it's on
8 government land. There's a military base not but 45 miles
9 from where this wind project is.

10 And, Mr. Tayer, you of all people for wildlife.
11 I've been over to Whiskey Dick and I've seen what the elk
12 population has become over there. I've talked to the game
13 warden that's over there. It's decreased. All I've seen
14 over there now are rodents on the ground. The bird
15 population is gone which is in my opinion the future of
16 everybody, not just me and you but our children. From what
17 I understand about this wind project too is they're saying
18 that this won't affect any birds that will fly over the
19 height of 100 feet, and I don't know anybody who's ever seen
20 an eagle fly, a hawk, a duck, goose. They're over a hundred
21 feet.

22 There is also people over in this area where one
23 of the five landowners that were aforementioned that these
24 windmills will be on their property has actually sold parts
25 of his land to more of these five landowners and actually

1 written in contracts while he's selling his property that
2 they are not to oppose any wind power at all. So these
3 people are afraid to speak up against this, afraid to say
4 that they don't want these things in their backyard.

5 And I think about the economy too. You know,
6 people are saying this is a huge economic downfall that
7 we're in right now and the fact that we're trying to take
8 land away from people that can use it for economic growth,
9 for farming purposes, for the milk that me and you drink,
10 for the beef that me and you eat. It's all right there in
11 their backyard and it's going to be gone.

12 And are they really that good for the environment?
13 I've done some research on this too. Over there in
14 Ellensburg I know right there off Reecer Creek Road you go
15 on up into the wildlife area there's actually an endangered
16 species of grass that I have seen nowhere in your studies.
17 I know that there was a helicopter landing pad that was
18 declined because of the endangered species of grass that
19 they found.

20 And other choices that we have that would be great
21 for this area I've actually looked into Arnold
22 Schwarzenegger's research and Steven Chow is it or Chu,
23 Obama's Energy Secretary, isn't it? First of all, he admits
24 that they have no way to store this energy for wind power,
25 and if it comes from anybody in the world or United States

1 designant, I mean that's something to say.

2 And the fact that I have talked to people that
3 have worked on these and have told me horror stories about
4 the ten-gallon drums of hydraulic oil that they're trying to
5 take from the bottom and hoist all the way up to the top and
6 I've seen drops spill all over the ground. They just don't
7 do anything about the hydraulic oil just sitting there on
8 the ground. What good is that for? I mean you don't have
9 to be a scientist to know that.

10 In my research I also found out about the
11 Tehachapi Pass, the Oak Creek Energy Project right there in
12 California, the largest energy project here in the United
13 States. It has over three thousand wind turbines and is in
14 need, and the Governor of that state says that they are in
15 need of putting in other solar plants, a solar thermal plant
16 I should say. One of these solar thermal plants puts enough
17 energy out as one of our coal power plants does.

18 It's just the fact that as landowners of this or
19 even if they're not one of the five landowners that are
20 going to have these on their property the fact that one of
21 the landowners doesn't have any of them on their property
22 can see something from 45 miles away is just an eyesore.
23 It's taking away from people's dreams and hopes when there's
24 so many different choices of renewable energy out there that
25 we can actually use. I feel that wind power is not the way

1 to go in this area.

2 If you want to put wind power up, hey, build the
3 transmissions lines with volume. I am all for renewable
4 energy. I think that the world and the way that we are
5 going right now we are in need of cleaning up our
6 environment, but shoving it down people's throats is not the
7 way to go. Thank you.

8 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

9 Phil Oxley. After Mr. Oxley is Nancy Hirsh.

10 (Phil Oxley sworn on oath.)

11 JUDGE WALLIS: Please state your name and spell
12 your last name for us.

13 MR. OXLEY: Philip Oxley, O-x-l-e-y.

14 JUDGE WALLIS: State your address for us, please.

15 MR. OXLEY: 14845 S.E. 55th Street, Bellevue,
16 98006.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

18 PHILIP OXLEY,

19 having been first duly sworn on oath,

20 testified as follows:

21

22 MR. OXLEY: I'm speaking in support of the project
23 as a professional from the wireless industry, and I have
24 been a fan of renewable energy for a long time. And it's
25 been energizing for me to see it begin to show up in our

1 state, and for me the wind turbines represent an iconic
2 image of opportunity actually.

3 I've been in the wireless industry since 1984.
4 I've developed and operated and designed many, many markets
5 here in the west, and I used to look at the cellular
6 monacles as an iconic image back in those days and that
7 opportunity is realized by lots of people. So armed with
8 20/20 hindsight, I can recognize the parallels between the
9 evolution of the wireless industry and the opportunity for
10 the wind industry. I'd like to talk about two of those here
11 in my comments today.

12 The first one is the permitting process, and in
13 the beginning of wireless nobody thought there was a need
14 for a wireless phone. It was a rich person's toy and a new
15 tower in town would not be necessary and hearings were very
16 challenging at that time. Not many people could foresee the
17 growth that was about to happen around the corner,
18 particularly the local governments. And as a result network
19 growth struggled for a while as local governments issued
20 moratoriums. We wrote their zoning guidelines, permitting
21 guidelines, and it caused some significant delays, and these
22 delays forced network operators to come up with less than
23 optimum solutions for meeting customer expectations. It was
24 a very frustrating time.

25 The wind industry doesn't have as deep a hole as

1 the wireless industry had at the beginning and most
2 Washington residents are supportive of wind energy.
3 Initiative 937 passed and wind is a proven industry
4 elsewhere in the world. Washington is positioned for wind
5 industry to flourish here, and the growth of this industry
6 shouldn't surprise us when it comes, and that's my point
7 here. So the state should send a message that we are a wind
8 friendly state and that this Desert Claim project should be
9 approved.

10 In looking ahead all parties should work on
11 improving the processes for permits, you know, fair, timely
12 because that growth is going to come, and we should be
13 prepared for it and not have the same pitfalls that we had
14 in the wireless industry in the late '80s, early '90s.

15 The second parallel is industry leadership. Over
16 time the Seattle area became a hub of expertise for the
17 wireless industry. McCaw Communications, AT&T Wireless,
18 T-Mobile USA, Western Wireless, and Clearwater all chose to
19 have their headquarters here. Thousands of jobs were
20 created by those companies and those in support of them,
21 their suppliers, their contractors, and there's no doubt
22 that that was a huge contributor to our local economy.

23 I think the wind industry can provide a similar
24 benefit for the east side of the Cascades. By encouraging
25 wind energy in Washington we can create a concentration of

1 companies and projects that generate jobs, income, higher
2 education programs, and investment. So the approval of
3 Desert Claim is an important first step to ensure that
4 Washington State is and will be a leader in this industry.

5 So in closing I ask the question can the wind
6 industry become a cornerstone growth of here? And I think
7 it can. I think it's an opportunity that we should take
8 advantage of and would ask the Council to approve the
9 project. Thank you.

10 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you.

11 (Nancy Hirsh sworn on oath.)

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your business
13 address for us, please.

14 MS. HIRSH: My name is Nancy Hirsh, H-i-r-s-h.
15 I'm with the Northwest Energy Coalition. My business
16 address is 811 First Avenue, Suite 305, Seattle, Washington
17 98104.

18 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

19 NANCY HIRSH,

20 having been first duly sworn on oath,

21 testified as follows:

22

23 MS. HIRSH: Thank you. As I said, I'm with the
24 Northwest Energy Coalition. We're a coalition of more than
25 100, actually more than 110 now organizations throughout the

1 four Northwest states and British Columbia. We're a
2 nonprofit organization that works to promote energy
3 efficiency, low income programs, and renewable energy
4 development, as well as fish and wildlife protection in the
5 Columbia River Basin. We've worked in Idaho, Oregon,
6 Montana, and Washington State, and our coalition is made up
7 of environmental, consumer, low income, civic, and religious
8 faith based organizations, as well as energy efficiency
9 companies, renewable energy companies, electric utilities,
10 natural gas utilities. A few months ago we released a
11 report called Our Bright Future to look at the Northwest
12 energy future and what are our goals and what are the
13 resources we have within the region to meet our energy
14 future of growing loads, greenhouse gas reduction goals, and
15 economically viable economy within the region.

16 When we looked at those challenges for the
17 Northwest out 20 years, we did look at the energy efficiency
18 resources in the region and the renewable energy resources
19 in the region, and we found over 6,000 megawatts of energy
20 efficiency resource available and over 10,000 megawatts of
21 cost competitive renewable energy resources in this region
22 of all different varieties: wind, solar, geothermal,
23 biomass, tidal, a lot of opportunities within this region
24 for development of new renewable energy resources.

25 And then we looked at public policy needs in the

1 region and within the state, and there's a lot of momentum
2 to develop renewable energy in projects within this state
3 and within the region. Clearly Washington State as outlined
4 in Tony Usibelli's testimony to the Council he outlines all
5 of the public policy drivers within Washington State from
6 the legislature, from the Governor, and the recent executive
7 order in May to reduce greenhouse gas emissions puts the
8 state on the path to reducing its emissions consistent with
9 the legislature's for the state. There's a renewable energy
10 obligation through Initiative 937 which requires the
11 electric utilities to acquire renewable energy to 15 percent
12 by 2020. Regional policies of Washington State is a part of
13 the Western Climate Initiative which is committed to trying
14 to redefine market solutions to reduce green house gas
15 emissions. The Northwest Power Conservation Council which
16 does regional resource planning for the region has
17 identified energy efficiency and renewable energy at the
18 lowest cost, lowest risk resources for meeting our future
19 energy needs. And at the national level climate policy as
20 we're all well aware is being hotly debated right now. The
21 coal bill has come out of the House; the Senate is debating
22 it. And the Senate has an energy bill which has a renewable
23 energy obligation that would apply to the states. The House
24 Bill has a similar renewable energy obligation, as well as
25 firm commitments to reduce green house gas emissions.

1 So all of these are the public policy drivers that
2 are guiding I would say your decision making on a very
3 specific project and have to keep that specific project
4 within that context of the state, the regional, and the
5 national public policy initiatives that are already in
6 place, and the laws guiding you.

7 The Energy Coalition laws supports renewable
8 energy but does not necessarily support every project. Not
9 every project is a good project. If it's in the wrong
10 place, it's not developed properly or in an environmentally
11 responsible way, we don't support that project. When we've
12 taken a look at this project we think it is consistent with
13 the state's guidelines and with all the public policy
14 drivers that I mentioned earlier.

15 And we have to thoroughly recognize the
16 environmental benefits that come from this particular
17 project when we look at Desert Claim. No air pollution, no
18 toxic emissions, no water use, no greenhouse gas emissions,
19 and we're very pleased that the Counsel for the Environment,
20 the Attorney General's Office has reached a settlement
21 agreement with the Applicant which we think in reading
22 through that settlement agreement they have decided, that
23 their Attorney General has decided that their environmental
24 concerns are put to rest, and they think the project should
25 go forward and be permitted. That to us says that any of

1 the land impacts and the wildlife impacts that they saw of
2 concern have either been mitigated or will be mitigated or
3 are no longer of concern given the redesign of the project
4 to reduce the footprint of the project. That's a very
5 positive statement for the developer and for the project
6 itself.

7 The economic benefits. We looked at the benefits
8 to the local community from the jobs and the investments and
9 the tax base and the revenues. We looked at the fixed price
10 of the power that's going to come off this project, and the
11 fact that it won't have variable pricing and will be a
12 stable resource for the utility that buys it on a price
13 basis and for their customers who then are paying for this
14 electricity. In this era of unstable energy prices having a
15 fixed price resource is a very positive thing for the
16 Washington State consumers and again to diversifying our
17 resource base as was part of what motivates a renewable
18 energy standard Washington is heavily invested in hydropower
19 and that's a great renewable energy resource. We need to
20 diversify that base and bring the economic benefits that
21 come from that diversification to our economy.

22 We also want to point out that we think that the
23 proposed project is consistent with WDFW Wind Power Siting
24 Guidelines, and that given that consistency and given the
25 settlement with the Counsel for the Environment this project

1 is an appropriate project in an appropriate location for
2 Washington State.

3 Finally on the two other factors that make this
4 project an appropriate project for development in
5 Washington, and one is this locate proximity to
6 transmission. An earlier speaker mentioned that those lines
7 are full, but in fact there are new transmission agreements
8 coming forward on a daily basis that are changing the
9 pricing structures and the contract structures for
10 transmission that make lines that were full a year ago not
11 full today because of the way that they are doing pricing
12 policies that will allow more intermittent resources onto
13 the grid, and that's a positive thing. And the fact that
14 they do not have to build new high voltage transmission
15 lines is a very good thing for this project.

16 And the fact that this project is not in the
17 Columbia River Gorge is another positive thing.
18 Overdevelopment in the Gorge is something we do have to pay
19 attention to. The fact that this project is not in the
20 Gorge provides diversity for that wind resource so that in
21 fact the more we spread our wind resources around the region
22 and around the state, the more they can balance each other
23 and provide a more consistent wind resource for the state
24 and for the region. We consider that its location not on
25 the Gorge to be a positive thing.

1 We're available to answer any questions. So on
2 both the public policy and specific locational grounds on
3 this project we support it.

4 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you, Ms. Hirsh.

5 Our next witness is Robert Kruse. Following
6 Mr. Kruse is John Audley.

7 (Robert Kruse sworn on oath.)

8 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you please pick up the
9 microphone and speak into it and state your name and spell
10 your last name for us.

11 MR. KRUSE: Robert Kruse, K-r-u-s-e.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: State your address for us.

13 MR. KRUSE: 8885 - 42nd Avenue S.W., Seattle,
14 98136.

15 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

16 ROBERT KRUSE,
17 having been first duly sworn on oath,
18 testified as follows:

19
20 MR. KRUSE: Okay. I'm here tonight representing a
21 group known as Friends of Wildlife and Wind Power. We've
22 been involved in the Wild Horse Wind Power Project and have
23 also participated in the Washington Wind Energy Guidelines
24 Renewable Committee proceedings, and we're here tonight to
25 endorse the Desert Claim Project. Our group supports

1 appropriately sited wind and alternative energy projects
2 which embrace appropriate protections for wildlife and
3 habitat.

4 We, our group, and others have concerns not just
5 about the Desert Claim Project but about the cumulative
6 effects now of the four energy projects in the Kittitas
7 Valley region. We do not believe that appropriate science
8 and biological review is being accredited to the four
9 projects cumulatively. We respect and appreciate the
10 science and the biology that has been presented with each of
11 the individual projects, but the cumulative effects of the
12 four projects put together we feel are not being
13 appropriately addressed. As an example I will refer to an
14 update on vegetation and wildlife impacts for the Desert
15 Claim Project and just make some citations in here that are
16 of interest to us.

17 The first one being that in the introduction of
18 this review it states based on this information, which is
19 the science contained in here, it concludes that the Desert
20 Claim Project will not result in significant adverse effects
21 on bird and bat populations, and further that the potential
22 cumulative effects of the Desert Claim project and other
23 wind projects that have been permitted in Kittitas County
24 will not be significant. We feel that statement is totally
25 unfounded in science. There have been no cumulative effects

1 studies for the four projects which embrace elements such as
2 the cumulative effect of all of the habitat fragmentation of
3 the four projects, the human exposure component, and the
4 operations exposure component of the four projects put
5 together, nor of the social impacts of the four projects.

6 On an individual impact basis there are
7 conclusions made within this report that we think refute the
8 statement in the introduction that there are no significant
9 effects. As examples, in the paragraph titled Impacts to
10 Nesting Raptors it says the best nesting raptor habitat in
11 the project vicinity is located along the Wilson Creek
12 Riparian Corridor east of the site and along the numerous
13 transmission lines within the project area. Project
14 activities may experience disturbance or displace and
15 affects to the point that raptors do not return and use
16 those nests. So the statement in the introduction appears
17 to be contradictory to that statement.

18 It says further that compared to other wind
19 projects studied in the region raptor use for the Desert
20 Claim site was slightly above average. Considering these
21 mortality results and raptor use estimates at the wind
22 projects it is estimated that the potential raptor mortality
23 at the proposed project could be higher than average. Using
24 the raptor mortality rates from projects in the region it's
25 expected to range from 0 to 29 a year, and that further

1 there is a correlation between raptor use and raptor
2 mortality. The higher use of the Desert Claim Project will
3 result in higher raptor mortality.

4 In conclusion with respect to those remarks, it
5 states the estimates would not result in any population
6 level consequences. As an example within the Kittitas
7 Valley, within the Columbia Plateau, or some larger
8 population for the species likely to be impacted we again
9 our opinion again that statement is totally unfounded in
10 science. And to our knowledge there is no cumulative
11 effects study that predicts what the total impact of the
12 four projects put together is, and for that reason we
13 request of the Council that serious consideration be given
14 to cumulative effects studies for the four project areas in
15 Kittitas County and any other future wind or alternative
16 energy projects that come to the floor, and that without
17 those cumulative effects studies as opposed to individual
18 project studies we think that the decision making process
19 would not be founded in sufficient science in order to make
20 appropriate decisions with respect to wildlife impacts and
21 the habitat impacts and social impacts for that matter.
22 Thank you.

23 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

24 (John Audley sworn on oath.)

25 JUDGE WALLIS: Would you state your name and spell

1 your last name for us, please.

2 MR. AUDLEY: Sure. My name is John Audley,
3 A-u-d-l-e-y. My address is 917 S.W. Oak Street. Forgive me
4 if I say Portland, Oregon, but I will explain why I'm here
5 in just a minute.

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

7 JOHN AUDLEY,
8 having been first duly sworn on oath,
9 testified as follows:

10

11 MR. AUDLEY: I'm the Deputy Director of the
12 Renewable Northwest Project. We are a 15-year-old advocacy
13 organization dedicated to promoting responsible development
14 of renewable energies in four states in the Northwest:
15 Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. We do this by
16 blending our unique membership of developers, manufacturers,
17 and civil society organizations to deliver comprehensive
18 information technical analysis and expertise in the area of
19 renewable energy.

20 For the record, the developer here is a member of
21 our organization, and for that reason we are quite reluctant
22 to express a specific opinion over one project or another.
23 We take very seriously the public process and the concerns
24 expressed by county residents.

25 So where I'll focus my comments is in two areas

1 and in some respects consistent with Ms. Hirsh's comments on
2 how this project might fit into Washington's overall
3 renewable energy objectives and whether or not in our
4 opinion it's consistent with the Washington siting
5 guidelines.

6 The renewable energy standards in the state of
7 Washington have resulted in most of the utilities under the
8 jurisdiction of the renewable energy standard to purchase
9 renewable energies. Thirteen out of the seventeen utilities
10 that fall under I-937 will achieve their new renewable
11 standard in time for the first benchmark. This in many
12 respects has been met with the acquisition of new renewable
13 energy here in the state of Washington.

14 The economic development associated with these
15 projects and we do our best to track the numbers as best we
16 possibly can so I'll add a little meat to the bones of the
17 general statements about economic impact. Four of the
18 eleven projects currently in operation in the state have
19 resulted in one billion dollars in additional capital
20 investment, from between 1.3 and 2.1 million dollars in
21 annual payments to landowners and ranchers, and in between
22 3.5 and 4 million dollars in local record property taxes.
23 It's my understanding that Puget Sound is the largest
24 contributor to Kittitas County's public education revenues.
25 That's the kind of revenue that we understand results in

1 enabling ranchers and farmers to maintain their ways of life
2 by staying on the land and ranching and farming, and what
3 we're looking for are those opportunities that enable
4 landowners to use responsibly another natural resource that
5 is available to them.

6 Renewable Northwest Projects spent a considerable
7 amount of time and energy working with state officials and
8 others to develop Washington's voluntary guidelines. We did
9 in Oregon and are likely to do in Idaho and Montana in the
10 very near future.

11 And we are sensitive to the discussions of
12 cumulative effects that just came up. This is a difficult
13 subject and we pledge to work with you and others to figure
14 out how to ask that question in a way that we can get
15 meaningful answers.

16 That said, in our opinion the project is
17 consistent with the guidelines and as Ms. Hirsh mentioned
18 the response that we understand the company is willing to
19 make with regard to the creation of a technical advisory
20 committee to continue bald eagle studies in our opinion
21 demonstrates its willingness to work within those guidelines
22 as endorsed by state agencies.

23 So with that, happy to answer questions or provide
24 additional technical information as you see fit, but thank
25 you for the opportunity to share my thoughts.

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your testimony this
2 evening.

3 As Mr. Martinez is stepping forward, Ross
4 Macfarlane will be the next speaker.

5 (Fernando Martinez sworn on oath.)

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Would you state your name for us
7 and spell your last name for the record.

8 MR. MARTINEZ: Fernando Martinez, M-a-r-t-i-n-e-z.

9 JUDGE WALLIS: What is your mailing address,
10 Mr. Martinez?

11 MR. MARTINEZ: 320 Andover Park East, Suite 205,
12 Tukwila, Washington 98188.

13 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you. You might find it
14 helpful to move the microphone just a little bit farther
15 from your mouth.

16 MR. MARTINEZ: That is fine?

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

18 FERNANDO MARTINEZ,

19 having been first duly sworn on oath,

20 testified as follows:

21 MR. MARTINEZ: Thank you for having me this
22 afternoon. Is that better? Thank you for having me this
23 evening.

24 I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Fernando
25 Martinez. I'm the President and Chief Executive Officer of

1 the Northwest Minority Supplier Development Council, and our
2 key purpose is economic development for minorities and
3 businesses which include the economic development of our
4 minority and diverse communities. As a result of this, the
5 Desert Wind Project, there's a very high likelihood that our
6 minority businesses and our minority communities can gain
7 some new skills and enter a marketplace that has been closed
8 to the minority community for many years. This is the first
9 project that we know of in this state and across the country
10 where there has been an invitation to minority businesses to
11 come and support a project of this nature. This is not only
12 for the short term because it creates new jobs, new taxes.
13 It affords new taxes for the schools. It affords people the
14 opportunity to stay in their homes. It helps create an
15 education and therefore it helps keep people employed which
16 then allows them to gain health care not only, of course, in
17 the short term, but it's very, very important in the long
18 term because these minority communities and minority
19 businesses have never had the opportunity to enter the
20 alternative energy marketplace.

21 As a result of this project, there's a very, very
22 high likely minority businesses and our minority communities
23 in the state of Washington can support not only short-term
24 but long-term growth of sustainable models so that moving
25 forward as the young lady was talking about projects that

1 range up in 20 years that our minority businesses and
2 minority communities can gain as a result of this.

3 I as a representative of the Northwest Minority
4 Supplier Development Council support the Desert Claim Wind
5 Project and request you approve the project and that you
6 recommend to Governor Chris Gregoire that they approve the
7 project as well. Thank you.

8 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you, Mr. Martinez.

9 Ross Macfarlane and then the final speaker on this
10 list after Mr. Macfarlane will be Susan Taylor.

11 (Ross Macfarlane sworn on oath.)

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Will you state your name and spell
13 your last name.

14 MR. MACFARLANE: Sure. My name is Ross
15 Macfarlane, M-a-c-f-a-r-l-a-n-e, and my address is 1402
16 Third Avenue, Suite 1305, Seattle, Washington 98101.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Proceed with your comments.

18 ROSS MACFARLANE,
19 having been first duly sworn on oath,
20 testified as follows:

21

22 MR. MACFARLANE: Yes. Thank you for providing the
23 opportunity to testify in support of Desert Claim's
24 application for your expeditious approval. We are not
25 experts on the project, but we will be testifying for the

1 paramount and continuing need for this kind of project and
2 the need for an expedited and streamlined review to allow
3 these kinds of projects to move forward. We work closely
4 with groups who've previously testified like the Northwest
5 Energy Coalition and the Renewable Northwest Project which
6 have been involved in a more detailed review of the project
7 itself, and we are partners in a general business sense of
8 many of the businesses who have been working to promote
9 this.

10 Let me talk briefly about Climate Solutions and
11 the related groups that we're involved in. Climate
12 Solutions is a ten-year organization that is dedicated to
13 promoting practical and profitable solutions to global
14 warming here in the Pacific Northwest who've been actively
15 involved in promoting policies for clean and renewable and
16 efficient energy, including the renewable energy standard,
17 recent climate legislation, and policies to promote green
18 jobs training.

19 We also are involved with I'm personally the
20 manager of a program Business Leaders for Climate Solutions
21 which involves more than 375 businesses, executives,
22 investors, and entrepreneurs who are all committed to
23 advancing practical solutions to global warming as both an
24 issue of the environment and of economic competitiveness for
25 our region. We as a group are committed to the proposition

1 that there's no single solution to our climate crisis and
2 the related issues of sustainability, but that we need to be
3 rapidly deploying the full range of solutions that will
4 provide clean and renewable energy as well as promote energy
5 efficiency. Climate change is the defining issue of our
6 time and it's also the biggest driver in terms of our
7 current transition from a fossil fuel economy to a clean and
8 energy efficient economy, and one of the biggest drivers, if
9 not the biggest driver in a global transformation of our
10 economy. So our ability to lead in that transformation and
11 employ our own citizens and provide investment for our own
12 communities and businesses is absolutely paramount to our
13 economic competitiveness, and for those reasons we strongly
14 support continued action.

15 From a core standpoint wind is a core climate
16 solution. I wanted to simply submit into the record a
17 report which we did called Carbon Free Prosperity 2025 by a
18 leading economic research firm in the clean technology area
19 called Clean Edge which was done in the last year. This
20 report identified wind as one of five sectors where the
21 Northwest states of Washington and Oregon have specific and
22 demonstrated potential to be able to lead internationally
23 and create jobs and compete in this transformation of our
24 energy economy. Clean Edge in this report is forecasting
25 nearly tripling of the amount of wind capacity and energy

1 development internationally in the next decade and a similar
2 forecast for growth here in the state of Washington.

3 That's an opportunity that frankly we can't afford
4 not to seize. Washington is already fifth in the nation in
5 creating wind power and creating clean energy jobs
6 associated with wind power. The transition towards national
7 policy around clean energy and climate will accelerate the
8 kinds of opportunities that we are already seeing for being
9 able to sell clean and efficient power into the grid and it
10 highlights the importance of being able to move those kinds
11 of projects that have been through a detailed review or as
12 quickly as possible.

13 So again briefly we're not experts on the details
14 of siting of this case. We are heartened by the close work
15 that you've done or the project proponent has done with the
16 community as well as the recent agreement that's been
17 reached with the Counsel for the Environment, and we are
18 encouraged to have you have these hearing. We urge you to
19 move as quickly as possible.

20 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your testimony.

21 (Susan Taylor sworn on oath.)

22 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you please state your name
23 and spell your last name for us.

24 MS. TAYLOR: Susan Taylor, T-a-y-l-o-r, and the
25 address is 1623 - 39th Avenue, Seattle, 98122.

1 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

2 SUSAN TAYLOR,

3 having been first duly sworn on oath,

4 testified as follows:

5

6 MS. TAYLOR: Sure. I am here as a member of the
7 public and a citizen tonight to convey my support for the
8 Desert Claim Project. I believe that the generation of
9 clean renewable energy will help slow down global warming
10 and the rate of climate change which I see as very
11 threatening. I was lucky enough to spend the last four days
12 backpacking up in Enchantment Lake. I actually hiked out
13 about noon today, and being up there and seeing those
14 mountain goats and the glaciers and standing on the peaks
15 made me inspired to come in today and just tell you how
16 important it is; that there are a lot of people out there
17 who don't have a vested interest for their job or whatever
18 it is, but that you need to look at the big picture as
19 you're looking at making these decisions and that we're
20 counting on you to just support renewable energy.

21 And my understanding from just looking into this
22 project is that it sounds like they followed the state
23 guidelines. There are economic benefits and they've
24 mitigated most of the problems that have been identified
25 which as a citizen seems very important.

1 And just as an aside, I'll tell you that I was the
2 senior officer at Washington Mutual when it fell, and I
3 learned from that experience to speak up when I think
4 something is important and to pursue what is meaningful to
5 me so here I am. Good luck with your decision.

6 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your testimony.

7 MS. TAYLOR: Sure. Thanks.

8 JUDGE WALLIS: We have two additional people who
9 signed up to testify this evening. The first is Todd Myers
10 and after he testifies Michael Verchot.

11 (Todd Myers sworn on oath.)

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name and spell
13 your last name.

14 MR. MYERS: Sure. It's Todd Myers, M-y-e-r-s.

15 JUDGE WALLIS: And state your address.

16 MR. MYERS: 27585 S.E. 31st Place in Fall City.

17 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

18 TODD MYERS,

19 having been first duly sworn on oath,

20 testified as follows:

21

22 MR. MYERS: So I know it's getting late so I will
23 be brief. Again, my name is Todd Myers. I'm the Executive
24 Director of Wind Works Northwest which is an organization
25 that brings together a variety of different communities to

1 support the responsible siting of wind power in Washington
2 State. You heard a lot obviously about a number of issues,
3 including climate change, the need for jobs and energy,
4 whether it's growing resources for energy or growing
5 Washington State or energy independence, but I want to add
6 two more concepts to help you along with your decision.

7 One of them is that when you make a decision make
8 sure that you're following objective standards, and the
9 second is that when in doubt honor the property rights of
10 those who are involved with this project and make sure that
11 mutually beneficial transactions are being honored.

12 In talking about the objective standards, having
13 worked at the Department of Natural Resources and sitting
14 very close to where you are and dealing with these same
15 sorts of issues in forestry, it is interesting to me that
16 many of the same arguments that get made against harvesting
17 a renewable resource like timber are now being made against
18 wind: cumulative effects, view sheds, those sorts of
19 things. Ultimately scientists deal with these things and
20 they know very well the challenges and they deal with them
21 everyday and you ought to listen to them.

22 But often appeals are made to very intangible
23 arguments about view sheds and those sorts of things, and I
24 would encourage you to stick with objective standards
25 because once we get into the subjective standards it becomes

1 very difficult to have a coherent policy in siting and for
2 your decisions to be consistent from one community to
3 another. Consistency is not only important for the future
4 of energy or a need for any project, but for the rule of
5 law. And so following objective standards, keeping in mind
6 obviously all of the concerns that people have raised, but
7 when push comes to shove following those objective standards
8 I think is very critical.

9 Lastly, like I said, I think that you need to
10 follow and honor the property rights. It is important any
11 time you're doing a siting of any plant or doing a timber
12 harvest like DNR that you pay attention to what's going on
13 in the community. But property rights go two directions and
14 while people often feel like they have a right to their view
15 so too do the people who own that property and their right
16 to earn a living on it.

17 In these cases the farmers and the landowners have
18 made a deal that they believe is beneficial both to them and
19 the community as a whole. And if you are going to change
20 the rules and tell them that they can't use their property
21 in a particular way, we need to make sure that you have a
22 good reason to overrule those property rights.

23 I could tell you that farmers, foresters, and
24 others who work in natural resources have often been
25 frustrated by what they feel are impacts on their property

1 rights, and many farmers are now turning or looking to turn
2 to wind energy and other sources of revenue as you already
3 heard to make sure that they can continue to keep that land
4 and live on that land and pass it down to the next
5 generation.

6 So following those two guidelines, making sure
7 your decisions are based on objective standards and when in
8 doubt honoring the property rights, I think you will come to
9 conclude what so many have concluded: that this is a good
10 project. It helps not only those who live on the land but
11 the community as a whole. Thanks.

12 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your testimony.

13 (Michael Verchot sworn on oath.)

14 JUDGE WALLIS: Could you state your name for us
15 and spell your last name.

16 MR. VERCHOT: My name is Michael Verchot. Last
17 name is spelled V-e-r-c-h-o-t.

18 JUDGE WALLIS: What is your address, please.

19 MR. VERCHOT: I am on the University of Washington
20 Foster School of Business. The address there is Box 353200,
21 Seattle, Washington 98195.

22 JUDGE WALLIS: Please proceed with your comments.

23 MICHAEL VERCHOT,

24 having been first duly sworn on oath,

25 testified as follows:

1 MR. VERCHOT: Thank you for this opportunity to
2 present my comments as you deliberate this important
3 decision. Really why I'm here to speak is out of some
4 research that we did in 2008 that was commissioned by the
5 Washington legislation under House Bill 2815. It was the
6 sort of commonly called Green Jobs Bill, and what the
7 legislature and the Governor wanted us to do specifically in
8 this. And we are specifically named in that piece of
9 legislation to do research so the legislature and the
10 Governor and the entire state government can understand how
11 to involve small businesses in the green economy.

12 So what we did is surveyed 28 people. We had
13 in-depth interviews with 28 business owners across the state
14 around green economy issues. We surveyed 438 Asian Pacific
15 Islander, African American, Latino, and white business
16 owners across the State of Washington, again with the idea
17 what the legislature asked us to do and what the Governor
18 asked us to do is to come back with a set of recommendations
19 for how to involve small businesses and in particular women
20 and minority businesses in the green economy.

21 So we did this research and what came out of that
22 was that in fact the determining factor in whether a
23 company, whether a small business is involved with the green
24 economy or not is not the race, ethnicity, or gender but the
25 size of the business. So the smaller the business the less

1 likelihood to be involved in the green economy. The larger
2 business the more likely they were.

3 And so the recommendations that we made therefore
4 to transcend the race, gender, ethnicity of the owner but
5 really focus on how to involve small businesses. As we all
6 know small businesses are the component of this economy that
7 when the economy grows again will be the ones who will be
8 generating the jobs. So from the state legislature and the
9 Governor's perspective obviously the idea is how do we
10 create jobs in the state of Washington, how do we do that
11 through small businesses, and how do we do that through
12 small businesses involving the green economy. What
13 specifically came out of that, the top two recommendations
14 that came out of that research that we did was that we need
15 to provide, the state or entities need to provide green
16 economy related technical assistance to minority and women
17 owned businesses, to small businesses in general, and we
18 need to promote facilitated outreach to small businesses
19 about the opportunities and the how to become involved in
20 the green economy.

21 So to me what's really compelling again out of
22 this research, what's really compelling about this
23 particular project is that the developer on this project
24 have already started that outreach, have already started
25 reaching out to the small business community, have already

1 started talking to the small business community about how to
2 become engaged in this project. That to me that is a direct
3 outflow from this piece of legislation, Governor supported
4 pushed through legislature that is going to lead to creating
5 jobs and growing small businesses across the state of
6 Washington.

7 So with that, I guess I would just really like to
8 encourage the quick decision to approve this so that we can
9 help contribute to the economy getting back on track and to
10 growing small businesses across the state. Thank you.

11 JUDGE WALLIS: Thank you for your comments.

12 That concludes the list of people who have signed
13 up to give testimony this evening. If there is anyone else
14 in the audience who decides now that you would like to give
15 testimony you may do so. If you would like to give
16 testimony and you haven't signed up, please raise your hand.

17 Let the record show that I see no hands in the
18 audience. With that, I would like to thank you very much
19 all of you who came tonight and in particular those of you
20 who came and presented testimony to enrich our record with
21 your viewpoints and the fact that you have presented.

22 With that, this hearing session is concluded. We
23 will be reconvening in Olympia at 11 o'clock in the morning
24 for the purpose of a post hearing conference to resolve some
25 issues that have arisen as a result of documents presented

1 late in the proceeding. With that, this session is
2 concluded and again thank you very much for coming this
3 evening.

4 * * * * *

5 (Whereupon, the adjudicative public hearing was
6 adjourned at 8:13 p.m.)

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In re: Desert Claim Wind Power Project

A F F I D A V I T

I, Shaun Linse, CCR, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript prepared under my direction is a full and complete transcript of proceedings held on July 21, 2009, in Seattle, Washington.

Shaun Linse, CCR 2029