

Informational Meeting
Tuusso Columbia Solar Project
December 12, 2017



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WASHINGTON STATE
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL
TUUSSO COLUMBIA SOLAR PROJECT
Kittitas Valley Event Center Armory
901 East 7th Avenue
Ellensburg, Washington 98926
Informational Meeting
December 12, 2017
5:30 p.m.

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1 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you for being here
2 tonight. I would like to get this meeting started.
3 My name is Cullen Stephenson. I am the EFSEC
4 council member representing the Department of
5 Ecology.

6 The purpose of this meeting is to share
7 information on the proposed TUUSSO Energy Columbia
8 Solar Project and EFSEC process and to hear public
9 comment concerning this project.

10 This meeting is required by statute to be
11 held within 60 days of receipt of an application for
12 site certification. That application for site
13 certification is called an ASC. The ASC was
14 received on October 16th of this year.

15 This evening, the applicant, TUUSSO Energy,
16 will provide an overview of the proposed project.
17 EFSEC staff will also present a brief overview of
18 the EFSEC process. Following this, we will have
19 public comment. Speakers will be allowed two
20 minutes to present their comments.

21 Copies of the agenda for tonight are in the
22 back. We also have a sign-up list at the back of
23 the room for those who wish to comment on the
24 project. Another sign-up sheet is available for
25 those who wish to testify at the land use hearing,

1 which will follow the informational hearing. If you
2 wish to submit written comments, please leave them
3 at the court reporter table just in front of us
4 here.

5 So the EFSEC council includes five standing
6 members. Joining me as Ecology's members are Jaime
7 Rossman from Commerce; Dan Siemann from
8 Transportation -- sorry, DNR, jeez -- transported
9 all the way from DNR, Dan Siemann from DNR; Joe
10 Stohr from Fish and Wildlife who can't be here
11 tonight; and Laura Chartoff from UTC. Our council
12 chair is appointed by the governor and interim chair
13 Roselyn Marcus was unable to attend this meeting and
14 has asked me to fill in.

15 For projects around this state that involve
16 other interests, we may add additional council
17 members to help make a good decision. For this
18 project, additional members on the council include
19 Ian Elliot representing Kittitas County and Kelly
20 Cooper from DOH, who I believe is on the phone.

21 Kelly, are you on the phone?

22 MS. COOPER: Yes, I am.

23 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

24 I believe that makes a quorum of the council
25 for this meeting.

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1 We also have staff members here, Stephen
2 Posner from EFSEC, Sonia Bumpus, Ami Kidder, Joan
3 Aitken, John Thompson, our Attorney General, and
4 Christina Potis. Oh, and Tammy Mastro.

5 Sorry, Tammy.

6 MS. MASTRO: Hi. Thanks, Colin.

7 MR. STEPHENSON: Tammy's our coolest person.

8 We also have counsel for the environment
9 here, Bill Sherman who's here. Thanks, Bill.

10 He's an AAG appointed by the Attorney General
11 to represent the public and its interest in
12 protecting the quality of the environment.

13 We will now hear a brief overview of the
14 EFSEC process presented by Steven Posner, our EFSEC
15 manager, and this will be followed by a presentation
16 by the applicant. Thanks, Stephen.

17 MR. POSNER: Good evening, Council Member
18 Stephenson and council members. Good evening to all
19 of you here. Thank you very for much for showing up
20 this evening. We appreciate the large turnout.

21 And what we'd like to do is get started with
22 a brief overview of the EFSEC process. We'll go
23 through and just briefly explain the process that we
24 undertake when we receive an application for site
25 certification, and then we will have a presentation

1 by the applicant, TUUSSO Energy.

2 So I have a PowerPoint presentation, I'll go
3 through that and make some comments as we work
4 through the presentation.

5 So EFSEC, the acronym EFSEC stands for Energy
6 Facility Site Evaluation Council, was formed in
7 1970, and largely to address a desire or an interest
8 in developing nuclear power in the state of
9 Washington.

10 And one of the main focuses of EFSEC was to
11 allow for what was referred to as a one-stop
12 permitting process by which EFSEC would be the one
13 agency that would issue all permits associated with
14 the siting and operation of a energy facility.

15 EFSEC is made up of representatives from
16 different state agencies, as a Council Member
17 Stephenson mentioned, and also includes local
18 government members. And in the case of this
19 project, because it's proposed to be sited in
20 Kittitas County, we have a representative from
21 Kittitas County.

22 So EFSEC makes a recommendation to the
23 governor, and that decision is essentially the
24 decision that governs the operation of all aspects
25 of the project.

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1 The law or the statute that EFSEC operates
2 under recognizes and makes certain assumptions, if
3 you will, about the need for energy facilities, the
4 importance of providing abundant energy at
5 reasonable cost, and balancing the increasing
6 demands for energy facilities with the broad
7 interest of the public and doing all this with
8 minimal adverse affects on the environment.

9 Talked about the representatives on the
10 council, you can see them here, the different
11 agencies that are represented and also the optional
12 state members.

13 For this project, we do have representatives
14 of the Department of Health, Kelly Cooper is on the
15 phone, she introduced herself earlier. The other
16 agencies chose not to appoint representatives to sit
17 on the council.

18 We also have counsel for the environment, and
19 Bill Sherman. Bill, were you introduced earlier?

20 MR. SHERMAN: Yes.

21 MR. POSNER: Okay. Yeah, I was kind of
22 focusing on my presentation and I missed that.

23 And counsel for the environment represents
24 the public in the interest of protecting the quality
25 of the environment, and if any member of the public

1 has interests that are concerns about this project,
2 I would encourage you to check in with Mr. Sherman
3 later this evening.

4 This slide just is a sort of quick overview
5 of the types of facilities that EFSEC regulates.
6 Thermal power plants such as nuclear power
7 facilities or gas turbine electrical generating
8 facilities.

9 Also alternative energy resource facilities
10 which includes wind, solar, geothermal. Those types
11 of facilities are what we call an "opt-in." They
12 have the option of going to EFSEC to seek
13 certification or to go through the permitting
14 process with EFSEC. It's not required but there is
15 the option for them to do that.

16 EFSEC also regulates certain types of
17 transmission lines which is also opted-in, certain
18 types of pipelines and refineries and storage
19 facilities. Those types of facilities are regulated
20 based on their capacity or their size of the
21 particular facilities, whether it be a pipeline or a
22 refinery, and the specifications are described in
23 our statute as far as what types of facilities would
24 need to come to EFSEC based on their size.

25 This slide, when we talk about an energy

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1 facility or an energy plant, it means the facility
2 together with all associated facilities. So if an
3 applicant seeks certification through EFSEC, they
4 have to include all associated facilities connected
5 to the particular facility. For instance, if there
6 was a substation associated with an electrical
7 generating facility, that would have to be included
8 in the application for site certification.

9 As far as nuclear facilities, any nuclear
10 power facility of any size that produces and sells
11 electricity is required to come to EFSEC for
12 certification.

13 Siting process begins with the submittal of
14 an application for site certification. We have
15 received an application from TUUSSO Energy. We
16 received it in October. We're beginning our
17 environmental review. We are having -- planning on
18 having a land use consistency hearing later this
19 evening.

20 And if there's a full environmental review
21 for a project, we also have adjudicated proceedings.
22 EFSEC also issues all the air and water discharge
23 permits associated with the project.

24 SEPA, State Environmental Policy Act, is we
25 -- EFSEC is the SEPA lead agency for projects that

1 fall under our jurisdiction. The process requires
2 that a Threshold Determination be made where the
3 responsible official for the agency determines
4 whether or not there's going to be a Determination
5 of Significance which would trigger an Environmental
6 Impact Statement being issued. And there are a
7 number of steps in that process, there's a couple of
8 them outlined right here.

9 If the project is determined that it would
10 not have significant impact on the environment or
11 that the impacts could be mitigated to
12 nonsignificant levels, then an EIS is not required.

13 Permits associated with EFSEC projects are
14 issued by EFSEC, that would include all the air
15 permits, if there are any, water permits such as
16 national pollution and discharge elimination
17 permits. EFSEC has jurisdiction or delegation
18 authority from the Environmental Protection Agency
19 to issue these types of permits.

20 If EFSEC ends up going through a full review
21 for a project, then adjudicative proceedings are
22 held. This is much like a court proceeding.
23 There's an administrative law judge. All the
24 proceedings are recorded by a court reporter.
25 There's a record compiled. There's deliberations,

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1 findings, and conclusions, which result in a
2 recommendation to the governor.

3 EFSEC also has an expedited process, and this
4 project, the proposed Columbia Solar Project has
5 filed their application and requested that EFSEC
6 process it under expedited process. So this slide
7 describes the basic steps in that process. The
8 applicant has requested expedited processing.

9 There are two requirements that have to be
10 met before the project can qualify for expedited
11 processing. The first one, that is when the SEPA
12 review is conducted, it has to be determined that a
13 DNS, a Determination of Non-Significance, or an
14 MDNS, a Mitigated Determination of Non-Significance,
15 may be issued. And then it also has to be shown
16 that the project at the time of the filing of the
17 application is consistent with land use plans and
18 zoning ordinances.

19 The ultimate determination of whether or not
20 the project or the application will be processed
21 under expedited processing is made by the EFSEC
22 council. If it's determined that the project
23 qualifies and the council makes that decision,
24 there's no Environmental Impact Statement that's
25 required under SEPA, and there's no adjudication

1 required. The council would still put together a
2 recommendation for the governor's approval.

3 Recommendation to the governor, the council
4 makes a recommendation to approve or reject an
5 application. The governor, upon receipt of the
6 application or the recommendation, has 60 days to
7 make a decision.

8 The governor can approve the application and
9 execute the draft Site Certification Agreement if
10 the recommendation is to approve the project, the
11 governor can reject the application, or may remand
12 it back to EFSEC for reconsideration of certain
13 features. Any application rejected by the governor
14 is final as to that application.

15 EFSEC oversees all construction activities
16 and operating standards for a facility. So not only
17 do we go through the siting review, we oversee all
18 activities associated with construction, operation,
19 and decommissioning. And here are the primary areas
20 that EFSEC looks at when reviewing an application
21 for site certification and also during construction
22 and operation.

23 We also have a compliance monitoring and
24 enforcement program. All projects that are approved
25 are monitored during construction for compliance

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1 with the terms and conditions of the appropriate
2 permits including Site Certification Agreement,
3 EFSEC contracts with local and state agencies where
4 necessary to make sure that the project is in
5 compliance with their Site Certification Agreement.

6 EFSEC has enforcement authority including the
7 issuance of penalties to all facilities that violate
8 conditions of their Site Certification Agreement or
9 associated permits.

10 This generalized siting process flow diagram
11 is on our website, and I believe -- I'm not sure if
12 we have copies here tonight, but we can -- if you're
13 interested in looking at it more closely, it is on
14 our website. And it basically just describes the
15 process, where after an application is received, the
16 various steps that EFSEC goes through to reach an
17 ultimate decision point of making a recommendation
18 to the governor.

19 It also shows the SEPA process, the
20 environmental review process, and the development of
21 permits. And essentially, you have three
22 subprocesses, if you will, that make up the EFSEC
23 process, which ultimately come together at the end
24 to inform the recommendation to the governor.

25 As I mentioned earlier, we do have an active

1 compliance monitoring and enforcement program and we
2 work with local and state agencies under interagency
3 contracts to assist us with the oversight program.

4 Again, there's the generalized siting
5 project, here is a project location map. You can
6 see the various projects that EFSEC currently either
7 is conducting an application review, or the sites
8 are listed here, some of them are permitted and some
9 of them have been permitted but are not constructed
10 yet.

11 This is also on our website. This is the --
12 if you go to our website, this is the homepage, and
13 as you can see, you can scroll through each project,
14 whether it's permitted or under review, has a
15 homepage.

16 This particular slide is outdated because
17 under review we -- along with the Tesoro/Savage
18 Project, we do have the Columbia Solar project
19 listed, so there is information about the proposed
20 project, if you're interested you can read more
21 about it on the website.

22 And I think that is it. Now the applicant, I
23 believe, is going to come forward and give their
24 presentation. Thank you.

25 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you, Mr. Posner.

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1 And as the applicant comes up, please
2 introduce yourself.

3 MR. EVANS: Let me just get set up here.

4 All right. Good evening, everyone, members
5 of the public, members of the council. Thank you
6 for coming out tonight.

7 My name is Jason Evans. I'm here on behalf
8 of my company, TUUSSO Energy, and I'd like to take
9 some time to talk about our company, myself,
10 introduce the project, talk about the development
11 process that we went through to get here today.

12 So my company, TUUSSO Energy, is based in
13 Washington. We were founded in 2008. We've been
14 exclusively focused since then on solar development,
15 and specifically, photovoltaic solar projects. And
16 we have a track record of working closely with
17 communities, agencies across this country to develop
18 these solar projects. And right now we have 130
19 megawatts that are currently operational under
20 construction.

21 Personally, I was one of the co-founders of
22 the company. I led the development of two
23 20-megawatt projects in California, a 30-megawatt
24 project in Georgia, and 45-megawatt project in
25 Arizona.

1 These are just a few of the projects that
2 we've built or are under construction right now. If
3 you look from left to right they're kind of on a
4 timeline from when we first started we worked in
5 California on two 20 megawatt projects. The
6 Antelope Project was actually one of the first
7 projects that was permitted in Southern California,
8 first solar projects.

9 We then turned to the east coast, we worked
10 in Georgia and Maryland developing some projects
11 there in rural communities. And most recently, we
12 have a 45- megawatt project that recently broke
13 ground in Arizona.

14 So the projects we're going to be talking
15 about are the Columbia Solar Projects, these are
16 five megawatt projects located in Kittitas County.
17 And these projects are going to use photovoltaic
18 solar modules, there's one of them back there, and
19 they're getting mounted on single-axis trackers
20 following the sun during the day from east to west.

21 Each of these projects will avoid
22 approximately 5,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide,
23 and that's by displacing traditional generation
24 sources. This is the equivalent to taking about
25 1,100 cars off the road. They don't create steam,

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1 exhaust, or emissions. These are not concentrated
2 solar projects, these are just the modules just like
3 you see on people's roofs.

4 And in addition to the modules and the
5 trackers, there's very limited infrastructure.
6 There are a few inverters on each site, five to six,
7 there are limited access roads to access those
8 inverters, there's perimeter fencing, and then there
9 are grasses throughout the site. This is a picture
10 of our Maryland project and you can see the grasses
11 that were planted there.

12 Now, over the past nine years we've honed our
13 development process, and we look at it from -- we
14 kind of approach each market from looking at the
15 utility demand, looking at the region that will meet
16 that utilities demand, identifying potential sites,
17 screening those sites for viability and
18 availability, and then we solicit stakeholder input.

19 So stepping through how we evaluated the
20 Washington State market when we first looked here,
21 we looked at Puget Sound Energy. And we saw that
22 they have a real need for renewable power. Right
23 now, they're at 9 percent of their renewable
24 portfolio standard targets, and we're going to help
25 them reach 15 percent by 2020, which is the

1 requirement here.

2 In addition to diversifying their generation
3 mix, we're going to help offset the loss of some of
4 their coal generation sources that are going to be
5 coming offline in the coming years as well as to
6 meet the growing electricity demands they forecast.

7 In Puget Sound Energy's most recent RP, they
8 saw the need for 266 megawatts of solar by 2023. So
9 this is going to help them meet approximately 10
10 percent of that need.

11 Each of these projects has a Power Purchase
12 Agreement with Puget Sound Energy for 15 years. We
13 executed it earlier this year. And they're going to
14 supply power during the day to the residents that
15 are taking power from Puget Sound and Kittitas
16 County.

17 Each of these projects generates
18 approximately 11,500-megawatt hours per year, and
19 just to put that in terms we can all understand,
20 this is the electricity needs of approximately 1,000
21 households here.

22 So when we looked at Washington State, we saw
23 Puget Sound Energy's service territory, we knew we
24 wanted to sell to Puget Sound Energy, and we saw
25 that looking at their service territory, as you can

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1 see here that is highlighted in purple, the red
2 overlay is sunshine, and you can see that the area
3 around Ellensburg and Kittitas County stands out as
4 a uniquely sunny place in Puget Sound's territory.
5 And, in fact, when we looked at the numbers, this is
6 really one of the only places you can put a solar
7 power plant and sell effectively to Puget Sound.

8 So we looked at Kittitas County and we saw --
9 we first looked for land that was zoned for
10 utility-scale solar development. We're happy to see
11 that in 2015 a project was sited here, the Osprey
12 Solar Project, and went through the permitting
13 process on land that's zoned exactly like our land
14 is.

15 We also looked for agriculture or otherwise
16 previously disturbed land. We're renewable
17 developers but also like to think of ourselves as
18 low-impact developers. We want to make sure that
19 we're not impacting kind of native habitat, places
20 with protected flora or fauna, we're looking for
21 those places that already been touched by humans.

22 In addition, we need proximity to Puget Sound
23 Energy's network. And in particular, for this size
24 project, we need to be near distribution lines or
25 near substations. And if you look at the map right

1 now, you can see the I-90 corridor going from east
2 to west, and along that corridor is where the Puget
3 Sound Energy substations that are called out there
4 are located and that coincides with the population
5 core of the county. And it's no coincidence that
6 our projects are located there because we need to be
7 constructed near those lines.

8 Our projects are not big enough to take on
9 large infrastructure improvements, build huge
10 transmissions lines, connect to huge transmissions
11 lines, we really need to be located in that central
12 portion of the valley.

13 We also needed available land of sufficient
14 size for the solar facilities, proximity to roads,
15 needs to be flat, all of those kind of general
16 characteristics of solar projects.

17 So we identified the pieces of land that were
18 going to be ideal for solar facilities and started
19 reaching out to the landowners here. We sent about
20 100-plus letters to landowners asking them if they'd
21 be interested in leasing us their land, and we
22 started whittling through those sites.

23 Some landowners weren't interested, sometimes
24 the price wasn't viable, sometimes another solar
25 project was already proposed for that line so that

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1 line was oversubscribed, essentially, there can be
2 only one project per distribution line in Kittitas
3 County.

4 And then there were idiosyncratic site or
5 environmental factors. And as a company, we pride
6 ourselves on making sure that we're eliminating
7 sites early and making sure that we don't encounter
8 sites that have high risk of flooding, protected
9 flora or fauna, we weed those out early so we don't
10 end up going down the line and permitting projects
11 that have those sorts of issues.

12 So through that process, we've identified the
13 five proposed Columbia solar sites as really the
14 best opportunities for solar development in the
15 valley. Now, once those sites were selected, we
16 started engaging with stakeholders, and we've been
17 engaging with them since the very start of this
18 project and we continue to engage and iterate on the
19 project plans today.

20 So we had multiple meetings with county
21 commissioners and county staff, we've been active in
22 this Solar Facilities Advisory Committee that's been
23 working on the next phase of solar regulations for
24 the county, we have an office in downtown
25 Ellensburg, we're a member of the Chamber of

1 Commerce. We've engaged in a really comprehensive
2 outreach to our neighbors. We want to inform them
3 about the projects and what our plans are but also
4 solicit feedback on how we can best shape those
5 plans to meet their needs.

6 So earlier this year, in May, we had an open
7 house. We represented to the public along with
8 other solar vendors and Puget Sound, other
9 utilities. We advertised that in the paper, we had
10 sent postcards to over 100 landowners, and we've
11 just opened ourselves up to talk -- to start that
12 conversation with the public.

13 Then we had project-specific open houses, and
14 these were to solicit feedback from the very
15 specific landowners that are nearest to our sites to
16 figure out what their concerns were in that
17 particular area of the county.

18 We sent follow-up letters to those
19 landowners, and then we went door to door after that
20 just to make sure that those landowners that we
21 weren't able to reach by mail, that weren't able to
22 make it to our open houses, that we did have that
23 touch point, that we did have that opportunity to
24 hear their feedback.

25 MR. STEPHENSON: Mr. Evans --

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1 MR. EVANS: Yeah, I'm sorry.

2 MR. STEPHENSON: No, you're doing great. I'm
3 just seeing our reporter and you're doing a
4 wonderful job, stay in the microphone and just a
5 little slower, thank you.

6 MR. EVANS: Okay. Sorry about that.

7 So then we commissioned a public opinion
8 survey of 250 voters in Kittitas County. We wanted
9 to understand whether or not the people of Kittitas
10 County did want to see solar, and overwhelming, the
11 response was yes, they were happy to have solar in
12 this county.

13 MR. STEPHENSON: That's just a little slower.
14 Please.

15 MR. EVANS: Even slower? Okay. Sorry, I
16 have 20 minutes, I'm trying to get it all done but
17 I'll do my best. Thank you.

18 MR. STEPHENSON: You're doing great.

19 MR. EVANS: Looking at this timeline, I'm not
20 going to go through this in detail, but I did want
21 to point out that all these projects are on the same
22 timeline, we'd like to get them in the ground by the
23 end of 2018. And in order to do that, we need to
24 break ground by April or May of this year, and
25 that's why we're here requesting expedited treatment

1 by EFSEC.

2 Now, I wanted to talk to some of the concerns
3 that we've heard from the community up until now,
4 and I want to directly address them. Now, one of
5 the concerns that we've heard is that we're taking
6 some agriculture land out of production, and they
7 want to understand what are the benefits to the
8 community from these solar projects. And I think
9 they're quite substantial so I'd like to kind of
10 point out some of those benefits.

11 In terms of job creation, about 80 local
12 construction jobs will be created during the
13 construction window, so this is going to be in 2018.
14 On an ongoing basis, we're going to be creating
15 about three to five operations and maintenance jobs
16 that will be for the life of the projects.

17 In terms of our benefits to the local
18 economy, we're going to have 40 to \$50 million
19 construction investment, much of that is capital,
20 but then there's going to be at least \$5 million
21 that will go to local contractors and workers.

22 Over the lifetime of the project, there's
23 going to be significant property tax revenue to the
24 county, there's going to be significant lease
25 payments to local landowners, and there are going to

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1 be operations and maintenance wages paid to workers
2 here. And if you look at the total impact of these
3 projects over the next 30 years, it's about \$25
4 million that are going to be paid to the county or
5 to families living in the county over the next
6 30 years.

7 In addition, for the landowners that we're
8 working with, we're going to give them a diversified
9 revenue stream for these farming families. And
10 after the projects' useful life, the projects can be
11 rapidly decommissioned, the sites restored, and the
12 land returned to agriculture if that's what the
13 landowners want to do at the time. This
14 decommissioning process is going to be secured by a
15 plan that's going to be followed with EFSEC, and
16 there's also going to be an accompanying bond.

17 Another question that we commonly get is why
18 are we here in this room talking to EFSEC as opposed
19 to going through the county process? So I want to
20 talk about the timeline of these projects to kind of
21 explain that.

22 We began developing the Columbia Solar
23 Projects in April of 2016, and we actually did Power
24 Purchase Agreements for these projects with a
25 15-year term beginning in December of 2016. What

1 that means is that that 15-year term remains whether
2 or not we get online in 2018, 2019, or later. And
3 so every day that we're not online we're losing
4 contractual revenue, and that's vital for these
5 smaller projects.

6 Now, we met with Kittitas County's Community
7 Development Services in May -- June of 2016 to
8 discuss our projects, we talked about the project
9 that they had recently permitted, again, this Osprey
10 Project that they permitted in 2015, and we talked
11 about the Iron Horse Project that was currently
12 winding its way through the permitting process with
13 the county.

14 Now, we watched the progress of Iron Horse
15 through the county with interest until the permit
16 was eventually denied in January of 2015, and the
17 county ended in enacting a moratorium, that I'm sure
18 you're aware of, that prevented the county from
19 receiving new solar applications.

20 Now, during this moratorium, a citizens
21 committee was formed to recommend new regulations
22 for solar, and as I mentioned, we've been an active
23 participant in that, trying to craft regulations
24 that work for the solar industry as well as for the
25 community.

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1 Unfortunately, our timeline is such that we
2 can't wait for the county to come up with these new
3 regulations and then apply for permits after that
4 and go through that extended process. So for that
5 reason, in early 2017 we got to seriously explore
6 this option of working with EFSEC.

7 And when no regulations were produced by the
8 county in the in six months of the moratorium, we
9 were forced to file our project with EFSEC. And
10 indeed, it's now coming on 12 months of the
11 moratorium, and there still have not been
12 regulations submitted to the Board of County
13 Commissioners.

14 So turning to our projects in particular, the
15 Camas is our first project I'll look at, and you can
16 see here that across the project site there will be
17 rows of panels mounted on trackers, those are those
18 lines that you see crossing the site. In addition,
19 there are six inverter pads on Camas that take the
20 electricity from the panels and convert them to AC
21 electricity.

22 And there are access roads -- limited access
23 roads just to access those inverters. Beyond those
24 access roads, the rest of the site will be planted
25 with grasses or other ground cover. Originally,

1 we've been looking at native grasses in
2 communications with WDFW, but we've heard from our
3 neighboring landowners and we've continued this
4 conversation with WDFW, and a lot of people are more
5 interested in us planting crops that are more
6 similar to what's being grown around us, such as dry
7 land alfalfa. And we're very open to considering
8 other types of ground cover, and so we're currently
9 exploring that.

10 We're looking at potentially planting local
11 pollinators for native pollinator populations.
12 We're happy as long as it doesn't present a fire
13 hazard and as long as it's a relative
14 low-maintenance crop. But this is a conversation
15 that's ongoing, happy to continue it.

16 The one other thing to mention kind of about
17 our sites in general is over all five projects, we
18 have about 600 square feet of wetlands impact on one
19 of the project sites where there's an existing
20 access road there being used to access the project,
21 and we're actually just improving that road to allow
22 for construction traffic. No other impacts there
23 are proposed.

24 In addition, the buffer is to all of the
25 wetlands, a lot of the natural features, the creeks

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1 are actually quite improved by our projects because
2 we're actually going to be incorporating buffers as
3 opposed to the current farming operations that go
4 right up to these natural features.

5 I just wanted to highlight some of the
6 particular features of the Camas project. One of
7 them is the landscaping along Tjossem Road. We
8 incorporated that landscaping, these trees and
9 bushes outside of our fence line that will help
10 obscure our facility from your neighbors based on
11 feedback we were getting.

12 We also incorporated a 40-foot offset from
13 Little Naneum Creek as well as a 20-foot offset from
14 an irrigation ditch that has created kind of a
15 man-made wetland on the west side of this project.

16 Turning to our Penstemon project, a couple of
17 the features we've incorporated here, we have
18 landscaping along two sides of the project, along
19 the north and west sides. Again, we got the
20 landowner input, they wanted to have us incorporate
21 a visual buffer and we did that.

22 In addition, Coleman Creek along the eastern
23 side of the project was of concern to WDFW, they
24 wanted to make sure we were incorporating a buffer
25 there, so we have a greater than 100-foot offset

1 there. We actually moved our entire project over to
2 the west to provide the maximum buffer possible
3 there.

4 Finally, we recently heard from landowners on
5 the east side of us that they are also concerned
6 about a visible buffer, and we've heard from WDFW
7 that they'd like to see improvements to the riparian
8 habitat, so we're going to be doing additional
9 plantings, trees and bushes there, to kill two birds
10 with one stone, improve that riparian habitat and
11 provide that visual buffer for our neighbors.

12 Our Urtica project also incorporates
13 landscaping, again, along the north and east sides
14 of the project based on neighbors' concerns that
15 were expressed to us. In addition, we're going to
16 make some changes based on the current plans, we're
17 going to make some additional changes to completely
18 avoid a cultural site that was found during
19 surveying, and we're incorporating a 40-foot setback
20 from McCarl Creek, and we're going to improve this
21 wetland as well with additional plantings at WDFW's
22 request.

23 Our Typha project is actually quite far from
24 most observers. It is near the golf course, and
25 when I walked the golf course, there was one area

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1 that looked like it could look out onto this land.
2 And as a result, we again changed our site
3 footprint, we took a row of panels out, we
4 incorporated some landscaping as you can see
5 highlighted there, and we're going to incorporate
6 the same sorts of trees that are currently setting
7 up the border of the golf course.

8 We're also incorporating a 30-foot setback
9 from the wetlands on this project site, as well as a
10 155-plus-foot setback from the Yakima, and that's
11 really just that corner of the site from the
12 northeast there that comes close to the river, the
13 remainder is quite far setback -- quite setback.

14 In addition, here's the 600 square feet of
15 wetlands impact that I mentioned before. I just
16 want to highlight that that's an existing access
17 road being used by the farming operation right now,
18 and we're just proposing putting down some
19 geotextile fabrics, some rocks to make that ready
20 for construction traffic.

21 For the Fumaria project, this is another
22 project that's pretty far from its neighbors, a
23 relatively low visual impact. We are incorporating
24 some landscaping for our neighbors to the south,
25 that's going to be in addition to existing

1 landscaping that forms the rest of that southern
2 boundary, and we have a 60-foot setback to the
3 wetlands on the west side of that project.

4 I appreciate your time. Thank you for coming
5 again. I look forward to hearing what the council
6 has to say. I really look forward to hearing what
7 the community has to say. I'm very open to feedback
8 on these projects. Thank you very much.

9 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you, Mr. Evans.

10 I'm going to propose a two-minute break to
11 let our court reporter's fingers cool off for a
12 moment. And, Mr. Evans, you did a great job, but
13 I'm asking -- we're about to go into public
14 testimony and we will have two minutes per person,
15 this will be timed by staff, and we will go forward
16 with that.

17 But please try to remember if you're going to
18 be recorded, you have to be written down, and we
19 listen to all of these things and it's great, I
20 think this worked, but I'm looking at my court
21 reporter here and she seems okay, but I want to make
22 sure this is going well. So two minutes and then
23 we'll start up with public testimony.

24 (A short recess was had.)

25 MR. STEPHENSON: All right. We are now ready

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1 to start the public comment for this phase. And
2 remember, we are about to have another hearing just
3 later this evening on the land use hearing, so these
4 comments are not on the land use hearing but we will
5 hear those.

6 Staff will help us by calling up the numbers
7 and the names of the folks that have signed up to
8 testify. Please keep this to two minutes each.
9 Written comments can be given to us at the table
10 here, and we're happy to look at those, we look at
11 those all the time, and we will look at each of them
12 and we do review those.

13 So with that, Steven, can you tell us -- or
14 Ami, are you going to tell us --

15 MS. POTIS: Christina.

16 MR. STEPHENSON: Christina, sorry, I can't
17 get the names right tonight.

18 MS. POTIS: That's all right.

19 MR. STEPHENSON: But who's the first
20 testifying?

21 MS. POTIS: Our first speaker is Tony
22 Helland,
23 No. 1. Do you want to come up to the front?

24 MR. STEPHENSON: And can you maybe read out
25 the next four or five names so that other folks are

1 ready to go?

2 MS. POTIS: Oh, sure.

3 And the next four or five speakers can come
4 and sit in the front and then they'll be ready to go
5 right after.

6 So that would be Keith Crimp, Dwight Bates,
7 Judy Hallisey, Barry Brunson can come and sit in the
8 front, it will just help expedite the process.

9 MR. STEPHENSON: Thanks, Christina.

10 MR. HELLAND: Good evening. My name is Tony
11 Helland. My address is 414 Alpine Drive,
12 Ellensburg, Washington. I'd like to say this is the
13 second EFSEC hearing process I've been involved in,
14 first one was back maybe 15, 16 years ago when we
15 were involved with the Wild Horse Wind Project. I'm
16 happy to say that was given the go-ahead.

17 Another thing I'm happy about is all the dire
18 things that were predicted that might happen with
19 the turbines going in up on the hill, none of those
20 have come to fruition.

21 I'm just happy to see our county moving
22 forward. I've lived here 65 years, I'm a sixth
23 generation valley resident. I want to see -- I want
24 to see growth. I want to see forward movement, and
25 there's just nothing better to do for forward

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1 movement than projects like this.

2 I'm trying -- when I first was going to
3 speak, I -- everything I was going to talk about
4 kind of tied everything together with land use
5 issues and stuff, but that land use is going to be
6 later. So I'm trying to pull stuff out that -- for
7 the general portion of this.

8 These facilities, these plants that TUUSSOs
9 is proposing to build, are needed. They're
10 community-based, they're going to provide not so
11 many ongoing jobs but they'll provide construction
12 jobs and there are many people in this room that are
13 in the construction business, myself included.

14 I just want everybody that's here tonight to
15 keep an open mind and think about what this is going
16 to mean for the valley. We need to lead, we need to
17 bring this together. There's a lot of talk about
18 solar in Washington State but it's just not there.

19 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

20 MS. POTIS: You need to wrap up now.

21 MR. HELLAND: That's it.

22 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you. And good job
23 keeping to your two minutes. That's what we're
24 going to work on.

25 MS. POTIS: Keith Crimp.

1 MR. CRIMP: My name is Keith Crimp. I am a
2 co-owner of the Ellensburg Golf Club. What Jason
3 said was right, he came out and gave a nice little
4 demonstration on what the solar power project is all
5 about. My brother and I thought about it a long
6 time and the more we think about it, we're adamantly
7 opposed to the Typha project.

8 Now, the Typha project is located right on
9 the Yakima River, we talked about a buffer and all
10 that sort of stuff, but gosh, if you know golfers,
11 golfers have a tendency to slice the ball, and
12 regardless or not where you put those solar panels,
13 they're going to slice that ball.

14 And unfortunately, we've got about one-third
15 of our play is college kids, so you can imagine
16 seeing 20,000 solar panels sitting out there, some
17 of them are going to be a little bit inebriated and
18 going to show off and I'm afraid we're going to have
19 broken solar panels.

20 So the first thing is, I don't want to go
21 ahead and be liable, I want a waiver for our golf
22 club on any liability on broken solar panels or any
23 of their equipment.

24 My other concern, and I'll talk to the
25 individual in front of me as far as the

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1 environmental impact, we're right by the Yakima
2 River and we've got teams of wildlife right there,
3 in fact, we're in the migratory pattern of several
4 geese and other pelicans and believe it or not swans
5 and so on.

6 You know, when you're a golfer, you like to
7 go out there and seeing the surroundings, you're not
8 there to go ahead and be inundated by 20,000 solar
9 panels, now, that's just for our site alone. So
10 when you go ahead and put the little notice in there
11 this is going to be discreet, it's not discreet one
12 bit. It's going to be kind of, as I said, a
13 bombshell.

14 I gave this to you on public record and I
15 believe you've got that and I'm good. I'm going to
16 give one copy to the environmental agent right here.
17 But there's several other things I'd like to discuss
18 that in my two minutes I'm not going to get the
19 chance.

20 But we are against it. There's a right place
21 and a wrong place. The Typha project is not the
22 right place. I am pro clean energy. The wind power
23 was fine. It was put in the wrong place, the one
24 that was in front of the Cascade range. Out by
25 Whiskey Dick it was great.

1 Here, next to a golf course, when you've got
2 3 or 400 golfers golfing every day, that's taboo.
3 I'm afraid it's going to hurt our financial bottom
4 line is the final thing.

5 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you, sir. That was
6 some really fast golfing, and so I want everybody to
7 think about slowing down just a little bit in your
8 testimony so that our court reporter can record all
9 of this.

10 MS. POTIS: Speaker No. 3, Dwight Bates.

11 MR. BATES: I'm Dwight Bates. I represent
12 myself. 1509 Brick Road. These solar panels are
13 inefficient. I'm an engineer. I think they're an
14 eyesore. Just like the wind turbines are
15 inefficient, they're an eyesore. I'm against them.

16 And I came to this valley to see the hay
17 fields and the cattle. I retired here 18 years ago,
18 I didn't retire here to see solar panels. I didn't
19 retire here to see those ugly wind turbines.

20 I can't see them coming to this valley at
21 all. It's a beautiful valley and you're just
22 ruining the whole valley putting them in. If you
23 have to put them in, put them in a overlay zones
24 east of the city in the sagebrush, do not put it in
25 farmland. I don't want the Timothy hay land ruined

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1 by big solar panels.

2 I don't think you need a flat area to put
3 them in. I think you can put them in sagebrush area
4 that doesn't have a big slope, so I can't see taking
5 up valuable farmland.

6 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

7 MS. POTIS: Speaker 4, Judy Hallisey.

8 MS. HALLISEY: Good evening. My name is Judy
9 Hallisey. I'm a resident of Kittitas County, I'm
10 also a natural resource manager and a lifelong
11 birder.

12 My concerns are with bird habitat. And
13 National Audubon declared three years ago that the
14 No. 1 threat to birds is climate change. Because of
15 that, I am a strong proponent of solar farms and
16 solar energy. If I had my wish, every rooftop in
17 this valley would have panels on it.

18 My first check on the location of these
19 proposed farms was to see if they overlaid the
20 important bird areas. They do not. That's a plus
21 for their location.

22 Secondly, I'm pleased that they're not being
23 proposed within the shrubsteppe. The shrubsteppe
24 habitat is our most rapidly disappearing habitat in
25 North America. It supports a plethora of wildlife

1 and birds.

2 Over half the bird species of North America
3 are threatened by climate change, 50 of those birds
4 occur right here in Kittitas County and are
5 dependent on shrubsteppe. Shrubsteppe is
6 disappearing because of development and conversion.

7 So if these solar farms go in as proposed to
8 converted land, I would like to see the areas
9 mitigated by covering the ground for erosion and
10 invasive species by use of native plants and
11 grasses. And I have at my disposal a list of native
12 plants that are fire resistant, draught-tolerant,
13 and tailored specific to Kittitas County that will
14 benefit those 50 species of birds, and I will make
15 them available. Thank you.

16 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you. Christina, do we
17 have the next five?

18 MS. POTIS: Yes, so Speaker No. 5 is Barry
19 Brunson. And then if Karen Poulsen, Jim Armstrong,
20 Debbie Strand, Klaus Holzer would like to come
21 forward and sit in the front.

22 MR. BRUNSON: Hi. I'm Barry Brunson. I'm a
23 resident of Cle Elum. There are many reasons to
24 support solar power but two of the most precious to
25 me are named Avery and Sydney. They're eight years

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1 old and three years old. They're our grandchildren
2 and they and their parents -- our kids -- and their
3 kids and their grandchildren are the ones who are
4 going to be most impacted by the climate change as a
5 result of global warming.

6 Global warming comes from principally an
7 increase in carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and
8 that causes lots of climate disruptions. Lots of
9 you are familiar with this. There's no specific
10 dispute about those facts. They come largely from
11 burning fossil fuels and that's not in scientific
12 dispute.

13 The evidence is all around us from more
14 extreme weather events and more of those extreme
15 weather events, from hurricanes, droughts, floods.
16 Millions of climate refugees are expected. And
17 wildfires, as we saw most closely by this summer up
18 here, as well as spread previously only tropical
19 diseases.

20 Now, solar is a big part of a healthy future,
21 and that's why I'm fully in support of increased
22 industrial sized as well as individual level solar
23 panels -- solar power.

24 It may seem -- it may seem troubling to some
25 that the TUUSSO project is going around -- going

1 directly to the state, but on the other hand, there
2 was a permit denied by the county. They imposed a
3 six-month moratorium and then extended it another
4 six months and that sort of leads one to be
5 impatient, and I can sort of understand that. Thank
6 you.

7 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

8 MS. POTIS: Karen Poulsen.

9 MS. POULSEN: Hello. I'm Karen Poulsen.
10 5591 Tjossem Road. I'm a full-time farmer with land
11 across from two of the proposed solar sites. I'm
12 also fifth generation -- or my family -- I'm fifth
13 generation of family.

14 The land and water resources of the Kittitas
15 Valley have long been important to both Native
16 Americans and those who have come since. This
17 valley is well known around the world for its
18 Timothy hay and is now also being known for its
19 high-quality apples and seed crops.

20 Due to a unique climate and an ability to
21 irrigate our prime farmlands, Kittitas County has
22 developed a viable agriculture community. However,
23 for modern agriculture to thrive in a world
24 marketplace, it takes a certain economy of scale and
25 land base to maintain both our markets and our local

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1 agricultural infrastructure of buyers and farm
2 suppliers.

3 If our prime irrigated farmland is converted
4 to other nonagricultural uses, it puts an
5 ever-increasing economic stress on those remaining
6 farms and businesses who are left. As an example,
7 the Camp Valley was once a thriving farming area,
8 but as farms were converted to other uses, those
9 that are left have become economically stressed to
10 the point where they were lost.

11 I will give some more of my testimony later
12 to the specifics of the land use. Anyway, thank you
13 very much.

14 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

15 MS. POTIS: Speaker 7, Jim Armstrong.

16 MR. ARMSTRONG: Jim Armstrong with the
17 Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce. Last month the
18 Chamber Board of Directors voted to support TUUSSO
19 Energy's application and asked me to elaborate on
20 that endorsement this evening.

21 That Kittitas County is a center for
22 renewable energy is no surprise. Our winds are
23 legendary and our sunshine is the highest in PSE
24 service territory. So TUUSSO came here for good
25 reason. The resource and transmissions are here,

1 zoning regulations are favorable, and willing
2 landowners seek to diversify their income by leasing
3 their land for solar.

4 The right of those landowners to do so was a
5 major consideration of the Chamber Board. Another
6 was the property tax the project will generate.
7 Taxes paid by wind energy have already built new
8 schools and added substantially to the county's
9 annual tax revenue and solar will do the same. So
10 this is a significant economic opportunity that most
11 counties would leap at.

12 The Chamber Board also acknowledged the
13 continuing need to replace fossil fuels with clean
14 renewable energy. As for the projects before you
15 today, a concern is the visual impacts, we
16 understand that. However, it's important to note
17 that these facilities have few direct neighbors,
18 that TUUSSO planned significant landscaping to hide
19 the panels from view, and certainly, they will have
20 far less visual impact than our wind farms, which
21 were extremely controversial, as you remember when
22 they were approved, but today are largely invisible
23 to the average resident.

24 Finally, it's also important to note these
25 projects have minimal long-term impact. Unlike

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1 residential development which is forever, at the end
2 of their lifespans these can be removed and the land
3 returned to agriculture if that's what the landowner
4 wishes.

5 Given these factors and that TUUSSO's plans
6 conform to county land use regulations, the Chamber
7 Board asks you to give expedited approval for the
8 applications before you. Thank you.

9 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

10 MS. POTIS: Speaker No. 8, Debbie Strand.

11 MS. STRAND: Good evening. My name is Debbie
12 Strand. I'm 1932 East Village Drive, Ellensburg.
13 I've been a resident here for 20-plus years now.

14 I'm the former director of the Economic
15 Development Group of Kittitas County and the owner
16 of a consulting firm, Strand Consulting. But I'm
17 not here representing either of those entities, I'm
18 here representing myself. I worked closely with the
19 wind projects in our valley, and I'm very familiar
20 with the EFSEC process having gone through it two,
21 maybe three times.

22 TUUSSO's application to EFSEC is
23 understandable. The county's existing zoning allows
24 for alternative energy. Hearing examiner found as
25 much with Iron Horse. The superior court decision

1 is flawed and I imagine that One Energy will likely
2 appeal that decision.

3 Board of County Commissioners, when they
4 rejected Iron Horse, it signaled to developers that
5 they were reversing their pro solar position that
6 they had with the Teanaway Solar Project.

7 Certainly, the county has its right to
8 reverse its policy and developers also have the
9 right to not wait until the county figures out what
10 its policy is, because as we know and any business
11 knows, time is money.

12 So there are three projects permitted, wind
13 projects here now: Two are built, one is yet to be
14 built. And there really aren't that many people
15 that are angry with them, it's hard to find somebody
16 that really is. The employment, the property taxes,
17 the landowner benefits, they're all wonderful
18 assets.

19 The county will be heard here, Mr. Ian
20 Elliot, he will certainly represent our county very
21 well. He's done so on other projects before the
22 EFSEC board. Mitigation will be taken care of
23 through the EFSEC process.

24 Let's see, Kittitas County is the center of
25 wind energy, and we'd really like to be the center

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1 of renewable energy by adding solar to this. So I
2 think that the proposed facilities should be built,
3 and I think it's good and something that we all
4 should be proud of. Thank you.

5 Two minutes goes really fast, especially when
6 I try to be slow so that the reporter can get it.

7 MR. STEPHENSON: Yes, it does. Thank you.

8 MS. POTIS: Speaker No. 9.

9 MR. HOLZER: Hello. My name is Klaus Holzer.
10 I live at 9982 Manastash Road. And I'd like to also
11 voice approval of the solar project, but, you know,
12 I really love my home here.

13 I love this valley and I love my neighbors.
14 I'd hate the idea of them being harmed in terms of
15 placement of new solar and wind projects. And this
16 makes for some real difficulties in deciding where
17 and when we're going to site -- well, where we would
18 site these projects.

19 And so the purpose of my contribution here
20 this evening is to kind of admonish our own
21 commissioners and county process. Your presenter on
22 the project said that it had been 12 months and they
23 still haven't gotten any kind of a ruling from our
24 county. And this seems to be a tendency for us to
25 just kind of kick the can down the road and let

1 someone else make our decisions.

2 Many of the people in this valley that I've
3 heard from are very angry that someone's coming and
4 making a decision for us. And yet, in a way, we're
5 kind of getting what we deserve because we continue
6 a practice where we don't make decisions for these
7 really tough things that are going to impact our
8 county.

9 And that's what I have to say. Thank you.

10 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

11 MS. POTIS: Speaker No. 10, Merrill Klocke.

12 And if the last two informational speakers,
13 Kathi Pritchard and Schrade Rouse would come up to
14 the front to expedite the process, thank you.

15 Speaker No. 10, Merrill Klocke? Are you
16 Speaker No. 10?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, I got a number.

18 MS. POTIS: No, no. That's for land use.

19 Speaker No. 10 for informational meeting,
20 Merrill Klocke?

21 MR. KLOCKE: Yes. Yeah. My name is Merrill
22 Klocke, No. 6 Tjossem Road. And my main concern is
23 keeping the valley in agriculture which, to me, is
24 the biggest income of the county. And mine is on
25 the Camas project and they want to put them within

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1 200 feet of my back window of my yard.

2 Originally, they weren't going to come north
3 of the Bull Ditch but they said they had to have a
4 certain size. So if they kept them south of the
5 creek I wouldn't be quite concerned. But I would
6 have to look at these things, I've got to -- to me,
7 it's going to depreciate my value of my property.

8 If I had to look at a few acres with
9 360-degree view, and I had to look at a property
10 that had a bunch of solar panels, which one would I
11 buy? That's my main concern, they're going to block
12 my view around my property. So it's my property
13 value and my view and preserving agricultural land.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

16 MS. POTIS: Speaker 11, Kathi Pritchard.

17 MS. PRITCHARD: Good evening. I'm Kathi
18 Pritchard, a local resident. The state is at a
19 crossroad. The agricultural investment throughout
20 the state would be diminished and a serious
21 precedence made if this council approves this
22 application to convert prime irrigated farmland to
23 use as utility-scale energy production.

24 Agriculture is woven into the fabric of
25 Washington State's heritage according to the State

1 Department of Commerce website. Governor Inslee
2 supports this fact through goals to, quote, grow the
3 agricultural sector. Among his five goals listed on
4 the state commerce website are protecting scarce
5 resources, land, water, and labor; harnessing
6 emerging opportunities in organic, sustainable, and
7 local farming.

8 Kittitas County is the home to a thriving
9 farm community. Ranging from small family farms to
10 national-ranked export operations and new crops are
11 being developed every year.

12 MR. STEPHENSON: Just a bit slower, please.
13 Thank you.

14 MS. PRITCHARD: I'll take a breath.

15 MR. STEPHENSON: I'll give you some more
16 time.

17 MS. PRITCHARD: Okay. Thank you.

18 According to 2012 USDA Kittitas County farm
19 figures, Kittitas County farm economy exceeded \$68
20 million. The state export assistance program cites
21 Anderson Hay & Grain a success story through its
22 venture to export hay and grain to the middle east.

23 Kittitas Valley is also home to innovative
24 growers in apples and organics. Just this year,
25 Yakima-based Zirkle Fruit planted 600,000 trees on

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1 600 acres in lower Kittitas Valley, and they have
2 plans to plant up to 1.5 million trees.

3 Another business, a family-owned organic seed
4 company, also calls this county home, farming about
5 150 certified organic acres. These are just three
6 farming success stories for our county. These and
7 many more could be adversely affected if this
8 application is approved.

9 If approved, the proposed projects would
10 likely begin a drain on the number of irrigated
11 acres available to our -- I'm sorry, in our county
12 and states, since 18 other projects are seeking
13 similar acreage and are waiting in the wings.

14 As proposed, these projects are not in
15 harmony with the governor's stated goals to protect
16 scarce resources of land, water, and labor and
17 encourage emerging innovation in sustainable
18 farming.

19 Now, the choice does not have to be between
20 farms and renewable energy. Over 18,000 acres of
21 non-irrigated land and DNR trust land meet
22 developers' criteria for siting. The site on trust
23 land would fund K to 12 schools throughout the
24 state.

25 The laws of prime irrigated farmland means

1 that agriculture and innovation and economic growth
2 for longer than the 30 years of the proposed
3 projects' timeline --

4 MS. POTIS: And your time is up.

5 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you. And thank you
6 for slowing down.

7 MS. POTIS: Speaker 12.

8 MR. ROUSE: My name is Schrade Rouse. I live
9 on Park Creek Road near where the Iron Horse solar
10 facility would have been located. I came to this
11 meeting tonight to thank my locally elected county
12 commissioners for enacting the solar moratorium.

13 I believe that this decision was a direct
14 response to public sentiment. I would also like to
15 thank the judge who upheld that decision, again, for
16 representing the people.

17 Lastly, I came to this meeting so that I
18 could try to understand how and why a nonelected
19 board has the ability to override local government,
20 and I do not feel that those questions have been
21 answered.

22 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

23 MS. POTIS: Speaker 13.

24 MR. BLAZYNSKI: Good evening. Stan
25 Blazynski, resident of Kittitas County. To start

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1 off, I would like to reveal that I'm really for
2 clean energy, but I'm against these solar farms
3 because they trade precious farmland for very, very
4 expensive electricity.

5 If we're going to have expensive electricity
6 like they proposing, we're going to lose any
7 leverage
8 with -- as a county we're not going to be
9 competitive.

10 I submitted this to the county previously.
11 Germany seems to be ahead of anybody on solar farms,
12 but where they put these farms, that's very
13 interesting. Typically, they find locations that
14 are useless: Mines, vacated military bases, so on,
15 be too long, not enough time.

16 Another case here is I don't know if people
17 are aware, it's called a feed-in electricity tariff.
18 It's a tariff designed for quick return on
19 investment. Our neighbors to the north in Canada do
20 that. It is the tariff per kilowatt of electricity
21 is over 40 cents, over 40 cents. Please add 40
22 cents to the current rates of about 10, 12 cents,
23 we're not going to compete with the world at 50
24 cents an hour, kilowatt hour. I'd like to submit
25 that because it's too lengthy.

1 And I appreciate the opportunity.

2 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

3 Is this the last one?

4 MS. POTIS: Yes, it is. Actually, no, one
5 more.

6 MR. STEPHENSON: One more?

7 MS. POTIS: Yeah. Dan Morgan.

8 MR. MORGAN: Hi, my name is Dan Morgan. I'm
9 a Kittitas County resident and a local business
10 owner. I'm here to speak in favor of this project.
11 I believe that renewables are a good fit for this
12 county and consistent with land use regulations.

13 My company has been involved with renewable
14 projects in the past and still -- we still are, and
15 it's been very good for us. It's employed my
16 people, and they have spent their dollars locally
17 and trickles down through the economy here.

18 So you've -- we've already had projects like
19 this approved before so need to be consistent and
20 I'm all for it. Thank you.

21 MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you.

22 Is that it now?

23 MS. POTIS: Uh-huh.

24 MS. STEPHENSON: All right. So let's take a
25 15-minute break. There's a couple reasons for this.

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1 One is to let our court reporter have a chance to
2 rest her fingers, and the other is to let myself and
3 the council members, we listen hard to these things
4 and we need to keep listening hard, so we're going
5 to take a 15-minute break and then we're going to
6 start the land use hearing portion of this meeting.
7 Thank you very much for being here.

8 (PROCEEDINGS CONCLUDED AT 6:48 P.M.)

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