



Horse Heaven solar, wind project foes seek report before hearings



By DON JENKINS Capital Press May 22, 2023



Opponents of the Horse Heaven power project are seeking the final impact statement. EO Media Group File

Listen to this article now
 Powered by Trinity Audio
 00:00 03:12



Opponents of the proposed Horse Heaven wind and solar project in southeast Washington have asked a state siting council to postpone hearings until the council releases an environmental report on the project.

Benton County, the Yakama Nation and Tri-Cities C.A.R.E.S. stated in separate requests May 18 that without a final environmental impact statement they won't know exactly what they are testifying about.

"This can't be the way the system works," C.A.R.E.S. attorney J. Richard Aramburu said. "We want to be able to use the document in our testimony."

Scout Clean Energy of Boulder, Colo., has proposed a wind and solar installation that would stretch for 25 miles and encompass 113 square miles near the Tri-Cities. The turbines also would be visible in Franklin and Walla Walla counties, as well as Oregon.



The Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council is reviewing the project and will recommend to Gov. Jay Inslee whether it be approved or denied. Most council members are in the Inslee administration.



LATEST NEWS

Attack on dog won't be counted against Washington wolf pack

California unlikely to run short of electricity this summer thanks to storms, new power sources

Supreme Court limits federal power over wetlands, boosts property rights

In Panama, legal rights given to sea turtles, boosting the 'rights of nature' movement

Bear attacks La Grande man near the Mount Emily Recreation Area

Why so low? When it comes to wool prices, the answer is complicated

Receive browser alerts on specific topics?
 Sign up to receive news directly to your desktop. Click the bell icon in the nav bar, at any time to change your settings.
 Yes, sign me up!

Attack on dog won't be counted against Washington wolf pack

In Panama, legal rights given to sea turtles, boosting the 'rights of nature' movement

Bear attacks La

The council's review will include formal hearings before an administrative law judge on how the turbines and solar panels will affect wildlife and the landscape and what Scout should do to minimize the impacts.

The county, tribe and C.A.R.E.S., a citizens group, have intervened to participate in the formal proceedings as witnesses. Judge Adam Torem has set 10 hearing dates beginning Aug. 10.

Hearing topics will include subjects typically covered in an environmental impact statement, such as how the project will affect hawks, habitat, tribal cultural resources and society, including agriculture.

EFSEC released a preliminary environmental impact statement in December, but has not indicated when it will have a final report. EFSEC requested more information from Scout for the final report.

The final report may address opponents' concerns, or may not, and may raise new concerns, Aramburu said. "People should have an opportunity to look at the evidence," he said.

Digital subscription only \$5/mth

"We didn't create this problem," he said. "There's nothing we can do to push this along."

EFSEC needed one to two business days to respond to questions about when the final EIS will be issued and whether the hearings will be postponed, a spokeswoman said in an email May 19.

Scout Clean Energy did not respond to a request to comment.

Landowners, including farmers, who would lease land to Scout say rent payments would diversify their income and support their agricultural operations.



Benton County officials, however, are concerned about whether the final environmental impact statement will discuss whether the project will break up farmland, according to their request to EFSEC.

Without the final report out in advance, the hearings will be based on a deficient environmental record and will undermine the recommendation to Inslee, according to the county.

The Yakama tribe made the same complaint, arguing a final report was necessary for an "informed dialogue."

The tribe asserts the project will destroy wildlife habitat and cultural resources.

Brookfield Renewable, a company owned by Brookfield Asset Management, bought Scout last year.

Sign up for our Top Stories newsletter

Grande man near the Mount Emily Recreation Area



Simplot buys Midwest-based landscape, turf company



Idaho PUC sets hearings on Boardman to Hemingway transmission line



Washington counties get second chance at farm preservation



Putting fire to work: Prescribed fire managers keep close eye on flames



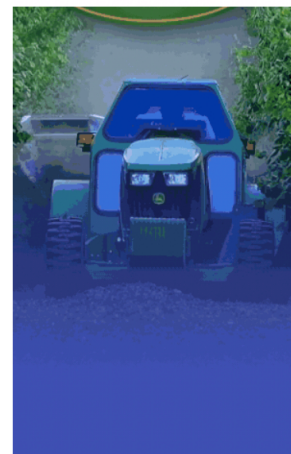
Horse Heaven solar, wind project foes seek report before hearings



Fish and Wildlife: Wolves no longer endangered in Washington



Saving the farm: Heartland clergy train to prevent agriculture workers' suicides



LATEST E-EDITION

PREV

NEXT



Tags [Agriculture](#) [Politics](#) [Law](#) [The Economy](#) [Ecology](#) [Energy](#) [Sociology](#) [Music](#)



Don Jenkins
Correspondent



[★ Follow Don Jenkins](#)

MARKETPLACE

[Auctions](#) [Hay](#) [Real Estate](#) [Tractors](#)

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



We Have the Best Prices on Irrigation Supplies!

[irrigationking.com](#)

Sprinklers • Rain Guns • Drip Tape • Dripline • Much More!! Fast and Free Shipping from Oregon.



Containers for Sale

[pdxcontainer.com](#)

20', 40' and 45', New and Used.



Specializing in Drip Irrigation • Filtration • Design

[hpspipe.com](#)

HPS Pipe & Supply



RECOMMENDED FOR YOU



AGRICULTURE

New fund helps young and beginning farmers in crisis



AGRICULTURE

Farmers and foodies looking for more direct connections to consumers, communities



LIVESTOCK

Why so low? When it comes to wool prices, the answer is complicated



LIVESTOCK

Attack on dog won't be counted against Washington wolf pack

WESTERN TRAILERS
ALL TRAILERS IN STOCK & READY FOR DELIVERY!

2023 48' Utility Flatbed Tandem Axle \$49,500

[WESTERNTRAILER.COM](#) • 888-344-2539

[WESTERNTRAILER.COM](#) • 888-344-2539

George PACKING CO. FARMER OWNED SINCE 1994
Working hard for the success of Oregon growers!

[LEARN MORE](#)



[SECTIONS](#)

[OUR PARTNERS](#)

[CONTACT INFORMATION](#)

