



Keepers of the Story ~ Stewards of the TrailSM
We preserve, promote and teach the diverse heritage of Lewis and Clark for the benefit of all people

March 25, 2021

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
621 Woodland Square Loop P.O. Box 43172,
Olympia, WA, 98504-3172

RE: Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project

Dear Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council:

Thank you for providing the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF) information on the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project (HHWF). We are interested in submitting our comments on this matter, and we appreciate the opportunity to be a part of the Project process.

The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc. (LCTHF) is a national organization established in 1969 and dedicated to preserving the historic accuracy of the story of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and protecting the cultural and historic integrity of the landscapes through which the Expedition traveled from 1803-1806. We currently have about 1,000 members organized in 22 local chapters across the country. Our membership comes from all walks of life who share a common passion for passing along the lessons that can be learned from this important era of our nation's history to future generations. This includes preservation of the landscape through which the Expedition traveled.

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was designated by Congress in the National Trails System Act, (P.L. 90-543, as amended through P.L. 111-11, March 30, 2009 and the succeeding John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act signed on March 12, 2019). It is 4,900 miles long and is officially recognized from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to Fort Clatsop, Oregon. The trail is one of 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails in the collection of long-distance trails in our National Trails Systems.

We have been provided information that indicates the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project would have a significant and negative effect on the viewshed of the Columbia River, Snake River and portions of the Yakima River that are within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Our organization has inspected the area of the proposed encroachment of the Columbia River/Snake River/Yakima River viewshed, and we agree that the proposed Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project will have a detrimental effect on the viewshed of the rivers that are within the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.

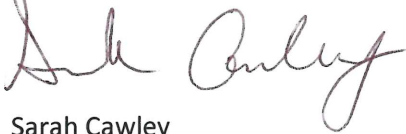
This portion of the Columbia River, Snake River and Yakima River is, of course, an integral part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, and as such is entitled to certain protections. Significant Expedition locations and campsites in the 10 mile buffer zone include: campsite of October 16-17, 1805 at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center at the mouth of the Snake River; Captain William Clark's view of the Yakima River on October 17, 1805; campsite of October 18, 1805 near Spring Gulch; campsite of April 26, 1806 at Fourmile Creek; campsite of April 27-28, 1806 at Yellepit; campsite of April 29, 1806 near Wallula, and campsite of April 30, 1806 on the Touchet River. There are also several area locations described by the Expedition involving rapids, Native American settlements and other unique features.

In addition, the visual effect at Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center would be significant and in a negative manner, with approximately 200 of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project's 244 towers visible. Also at that site is the Confluence Project site installation by acclaimed designer Maya Lin, just a few feet from the water's edge where the Snake River and Columbia River meet. The significance and importance of the integrity of Sacajawea State Park and Interpretative Center and its environs cannot be overstated.

Because the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project will clearly have a negative effect of the viewshed of significant locations on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, we feel that any and all efforts to mitigate the effect of the Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project, including the project not being authorized or approved, should be undertaken.

Sincerely,

Louis N. Ritten
President, LCTHF

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sarah Cawley".

Sarah Cawley
Executive Director, LCTHF

Robert Heacock
Chairman, LCTHF Trail Stewardship Committee
LCTHF Washington Chapter Officer