



GARFIELD COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

P.O. Box 160, Pomeroy, WA 99347 – Phone: (509)843-1301, Fax: (509)843-1412

August 17, 2009

Re: Lower Snake River Wind Energy Project Garfield County CUP #012609

Dear Reader:

In accordance with WAC 197-11-435, enclosed for your review is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) for the proposed Lower Snake River Wind Energy Project. The Applicant, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., has requested to build an approximately 1,432-megawatt, wind turbine electrical generation facility with approximately 795 turbine locations in an area of approximately 124,000 acres in Garfield and Columbia Counties.

This environmental review was triggered by the Applicant’s submittal of a Conditional Use Permit (“CUP”) application to Garfield County on January 26, 2009, which was deemed complete on February 9, 2009. The Applicant requested that Garfield County issue a Determination of Significance and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (“EIS”) to address impacts in both Garfield and Columbia Counties.

This DEIS is the result of the formal, public EIS scoping process that occurred February 12, 2009 through April 3, 2009. Comments received during this scoping period were considered by Garfield County to determine the issues and alternatives that are analyzed in this DEIS. These environmental issues are briefly listed below.

This DEIS evaluates the impacts associated with two land use alternatives: the *Preferred Alternative* and the *No Action Alternative*. The *Preferred Alternative* is the Applicant’s proposed wind generation facility described above; whereas, the *No Action Alternative* presumes the land would remain as currently used. Alternative measures to mitigate impacts from the *Preferred Alternative* are identified within various elements of the environment discussed in Chapter 2. The DEIS analyses the following key environmental issues:

- Natural Environment
 - Geology
 - Soils
 - Water Resources
 - Wetlands
 - Aquatic Habitat, Fish Species, and Wildlife
 - Bird and Bat Resources
 - Vegetation
 - Climate and Air Quality

- Built Environment
 - Visual Resources
 - Noise
 - Public Services and Utilities
 - Traffic and Transportation
 - Land Use and Recreation
 - Socioeconomics
 - Health and Safety
 - Cultural Resources

- Cumulative Impacts

To ensure a complete analysis, Garfield County is asking you to help by reviewing this DEIS and providing comments. **The comment period for this document closes on September 16, 2009.** We have scheduled two public open houses to discuss the findings in the DEIS. These open houses will be held as indicated below. DEIS comments will be received from August 17, 2009 to September 16, 2009.

DEIS Public Open Houses

**September 9, 2009
6pm – 10pm
Pomeroy High School in Pomeroy, WA**

**September 10, 2009
6pm – 10pm
Seneca Building in Dayton, WA**

Please send your written comments to: Garfield County Public Works Department, Planning Division: Walter Grant Morgan, P.E., SEPA Official, PO Box 160, Pomeroy, WA 99347. Comments on this document must be **received by the Public Works Department by 5pm on September 16, 2009.** Garfield County's SEPA Official will review and respond to all comments. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

For further information regarding this proposal or to request additional copies of this DEIS, you may contact the Grant Morgan, Garfield County's SEPA Official, at (509) 843-1301.

Very truly yours,



Walter Grant Morgan P.E.
Garfield County Engineer
SEPA Responsible Official
Garfield County