

**COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES
KITITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONERS AUDITORIUM
SPECIAL MEETING**

WEDNESDAY

10:00 A.M.

JULY 25, 2007

Board members present: Chairman Alan Crankovich; Vice-Chairman David Bowen; Absent- Mark McClain, (came in at 10:45 a.m.).

Others: Mandy Robinson, Deputy Clerk of the Board; Gordon Blossom, Meeting requester; Harold Hochstatter, Senator; Clay Myers, Undersheriff; Brian Lenz, PSE Representative; Greg Zempel, County Prosecutor; Neil Caulkins, Deputy Prosecutor; and fifteen members of the public.

DISCUSSION

BEACON RIDGE ROAD

COMMISSIONERS

At approximately 10:00 a.m. **CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH** opened a Special Meeting to discuss Beacon Ridge Road - Puget Sound Energy with Mr. Gordon Blossom and Senator Harold Hochstatter. He indicated the meeting was set as a result of a request from Mr. Blossom and Senator Hochstatter for the Commissioners to facilitate the meeting with representatives from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) to discuss access to Beacon Ridge Road that passes through the Wild Horse Wind Power Project. He indicated that the focus of the meeting will be strictly that. He stated this meeting will not discuss issues pertaining to other roads within Kittitas County. He stated this is not a public hearing and therefore no public comment will be taken and only questions will be allowed by Senator Hochstatter and Mr. Blossom, representatives from PSE and the Commissioners. He reviewed the rules and indicated his desire to make it clear that this is not a debate nor will the Board allow argument. He stated this meeting is scheduled for one hour no longer. He indicated that the meeting will begin with PSE who will be presenting their tentative access plan that is subject to approval by EFSEC.

BRIAN LENZ, REPRESENTATIVE OF PSE introduced **JENNIFER DIAZ** from PSE and reviewed a map showing the layout of the wind farm. Ms. Diaz indicated that the map shows land that is leased. She reviewed what the color coding, was indicated she stated that the light green is land that is currently leased by PSE from DNR or Department of Natural Resources, the purple belongs to the Department of Wildlife. Mr. Lenz reviewed what had been accomplished to date and what the future goals are. He reviewed the rules and regulations that PSE has to abide by and how they work with EFSEC. Ms. Diaz indicated that hunting will be allowed on the grounds from April 1st to November 30th assuming they're permitted to be hunting and are licensed. She

reviewed the access to the wind farm and the boundaries and stated that permits will be provided to those who have obtained the proper access to the property. She indicated the only major rule is that you must stay 300 feet away from the towers, and there will be no access four months out of the year. Ms. Diaz reviewed locations where the permits could be obtained she also indicated that at the Kittitas County Hardware Store, when you pick up your permit, there is a video to watch and you will be given a map that shows the areas for parking. She indicated that on the turbine string roads there is no vehicle access but you can hike and hunt, just no driving and again you must remain 300 feet away from the towers. She also indicated PSE website has the maps on their site for citizens to download for use. She reiterated the importance of keeping up with the communication, she stated PSE is willing to work with the citizens, but first and foremost EFSEC has to approve the plan. Ms. Diaz also indicated that during spike hunting season there will be 24 hour access.

SENATOR HOCHSTATTER thanked the Commissioners for arranging the meeting and thanked PSE for making time to attend this meeting.

MR. BLOSSOM presented the Commissioners with a memo listing questions that he had.

GREG ZEMPEL, PROSECUTOR indicated that his staff had gone a long ways back and researched this on-going issue and have found nowhere that it says they used public tax dollars for the roads to be restricted to the public. He indicated that staff had looked back and deeds and Public Works have turned their records upside down looking into this on-going issue.

GORDON BLOSSOM expressed his happiness regarding the road being open for nine months out of the year and stated he is putting his faith in PSE that it remains that way. He indicated that he understood there are times out of the year where the road is un-passable, but overall he is happy with the proposed agreement. He indicated his desire to have another meeting if EFSEC doesn't agree to the agreement to see what can be done.

CHAIRMAN CRANKOVICH noted that it was agreed to have another meeting by PSE and the BOCC. He noted that PSE indicated that as long as no vandalism takes place at the site, they saw no reason for anything to change, but if that happens access may change. He asked PSE to look at the fire land access and rules.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE BOARD

KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mandy Robinson

Alan Crankovich, Chairman