

# Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project

## Public Hearing

Kittitas County Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners  
Kittitas Event Center – Fairgrounds  
January 10, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.

**Those in attendance:** Board of County Commissioners: Chairman David Bowen; Vice Chairman Allen Crankovich; and Commissioner Perry Huston.

Planning Commission: Chairman David Black; Vice-Chairman Doug Harris, Mark McClain, Grant Clark, Scott Perna and Don Williams.

**Also in attendance:** Director of Community Development Services Darryl Piercy; Assistant Director Allison Kimball; Staff Planner II Joanna Valencia; Administrative Assistant Mandy Weed; Planning Commission Clerk Susan Barret; Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners Julie Kjorsvik; Court Reporter Louise Bell and approximately 175 people representing public and applicant interest.

**Chairman Bowen** called the meeting of the joint BOCC & Planning Commission together at 6:30 p.m. to consider the Kittitas Valley Wind Power Project (Z-2005-22), submitted by Sagebrush Power Partners, LLC for siting a maximum of 80 wind turbines and associated facilities at a site located approximately 12 mile northwest of the City of Ellensburg. Bowen introduced the Commissioners and staff then reviewed the hearing procedures.

**Darryl Piercy**, Director of Community Development Services introduced himself and CDS staff.

The Board of County Commissioners made disclosures. There were no objections made to the Board of County Commissioners staying seated for the public hearing.

**David Black, Chairman of the Planning Commission**, introduced the Planning Commission members. He also reviewed the hearing process and procedures. Each Planning Commission member made their disclosures. **Des Knudson** made an objection to David Black sitting on the hearing, claiming he could not make a fair decision on the project, and that he was against all wind farms in Kittitas County. **James Hurson, Chief Civil Deputy Prosecutor**, requested Mr. Black put into the record all of the documents he referenced in his disclosure. **Black** read an editorial he wrote into the record (The Right Idea, The Wrong Place – June 2002). He felt he could be open minded and did not intend on stepping down. **Mr. Knudson** felt Black would be unable to remain neutral reviewing this project. **Mr. Hurson** noted the editorial was written prior to this application being made. No motions were made for Mr. Black to step down by the Planning Commission or the Kittitas County Board of Commissioners. Disclosures were made by Planning Commission members Mark McClain, Scott Perna, Grant Clark, Don Williamson, and Doug Harris.

Chairman Black opened the hearing to Staff Presentation

**Joanna Valencia, CDS Staff Planner II**, reviewed her staff report. She noted a revised and final staff report, dated January 10, 2006, was available for the public's review. Comments that were received after January 3, 2006 had also distributed to the Board for their review. **Darryl Piercy, Director of Community Development Services** reviewed the history of the application and the review process.

Chairman Black opened the hearing to the Applicants Presentation

**Dana Peck, Project Manager** for Horizon Wind Energy gave a power point presentation on specifics of their proposed project. **Tom Prestley, Senior Planner from CH2MHILL**, provided information on the aesthetic affects of the proposed wind power project. **Barton DeLacy, Director of Litigation Support, from Cushman & Wakefield of Oregon**, addressed impacts to property values for the proposed wind farm. **Mark Bastash, from CH2MHILL**, reviewed his acoustical analysis on the proposed project. **Michael Brune, Executive Vice-President of Worldlink Insurance**, specializing in wind energy projects, gave testimony on general safety issues for wind projects. **Dana Peck** spoke on behalf of their habitat biologist specialist, who could not be in attendance at the hearing. **Andrew Young representing Horizon Wind Energy** reviewed the shadow flicker analysis and its methodology. **Erin Anderson, Attorney on Behalf of Horizon Wind Energy**, summarized the proposed wind farm application.

Chairman Black opened the hearing to public testimony.

Those present and providing public testimony: Lee Bates – Rick Forester – James Boyle – Gloria Lindstrom – Roger Weaver - Troy Gagliano (Renewable Northwest Project) – Mick Steinman Jr. – Jeff Howard – Sandy Sandall.

**Commissioner Huston** moved to continue the public hearing to January 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Kittitas County Event Center (Fairgrounds), Home Arts Building, noting the record was to remain open to both written and verbal testimony. **Commissioner Crankovich** seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Susan Barret, Planning Commission Clerk