

RESOLUTION NO. 1550

A RESOLUTION OF THE PORT COMMISSION OF THE PORT OF PASCO OPPOSING THE PROPOSED SCOUT WIND ENERGY HORSE HEAVEN WIND FARM PROJECT

WHEREAS, Scout Wind Energy, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado, dba Horse Heaven Wind Farm, LLC, has proposed a large scale wind turbine farm south of the Tri-Cities; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will stretch over an area of about 24 miles from south of Finley to the south of Benton City; and

WHEREAS, one option will install 244 turbines almost 500 feet tall and another option will install 150 turbines at 670 feet tall, which is taller than the Seattle Space Needle at 605 feet tall; and

WHEREAS, the visual simulations show that the turbines would be visible along the southern skyline of the Tri-Cities during the daytime; and

WHEREAS, no simulations have been prepared showing the visual impacts of flashing airspace lights during the night time; and

WHEREAS, the wide open spaces and largely unobstructed ridgelines are iconic features of the Tri-Cities ice-age flood formed landscape; and

WHEREAS, almost all of the wind-energy developments in Washington State are being concentrated in the southeast portion of the state and almost none in Western Washington or coastal waters; and

WHEREAS, the fair treatment goal of environmental justice means no group of people should bear a disproportionate share of the negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental and commercial operations or policies; and

WHEREAS, meaningful involvement of environmental justice means:

- People have an opportunity to participate in decisions about activities that may affect their environment and/or health;
- The public's contribution can influence the regulatory agency's decision;
- Community concerns will be considered in the decision making process; and
- Decision makers will seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected; and

WHEREAS, Scout Clean Energy has chosen to file its application with the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council rather than seek local approval through Benton County; and

WHEREAS, Scout Energy has determined that the limited wind conditions at the Horse Heaven Hills wind project will reduce the capacity factor to only 30% of the turbines' maximum capacity; and

WHEREAS, wind energy developed in Washington state only displaces hydropower, another renewable power source, thus having no effect on carbon emissions or climate change; and

WHEREAS, wind energy developed in midwest states has capacity factors closer to 50% and is helpful in replacing carbon based energy such as coal power; and

WHEREAS, the project proponent has not prepared an airspace study to determine the impacts of the project on operations at the Tri-Cities Airport;

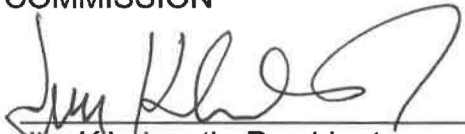
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners finds that:

- 1) The proposed Scout Energy Horse Heaven Hills Wind Project will damage unique and scenic vistas in the Tri-Cities area thereby degrading the quality of life and tourism and economic development opportunities in the Port District.
- 2) The project sites a disproportionate share of wind energy structures in a single area of the state and circumvents the local approval process thereby failing the goals of environmental justice.
- 3) The project displaces existing, renewable hydropower production and therefore offers no net gain of either power production or carbon reduction.
- 4) The project could have adverse impacts to flight operations at the Tri-Cities Airport operated by the Port.

In recognition of these findings, the Port of Pasco Board of Commissioners opposes the Scout Wind Energy Horse Heaven Wind Farm Project and strongly encourages the project proponents to shift project approval from the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council to Benton County so that local decision makers and the public can determine what is best for their community; and further that the State of Washington provide sufficient funds to the County to support this local decision making process and directs the Executive Director to enter these comments into the project record.

ADOPTED this 25 day of March 2021,

PORT OF PASCO COMMISSION


Jim Klindworth, President


Vicki Gordon, Vice-President


Jean Ryckman, Secretary