CLEAN ENERGY SITING COUNCIL SUMMARY

Date: April 9, 2025, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
Council Co-leads:
Ecology: Joenne McGerr, Diane Butorac, Brenden McFarland, Alex Shin, Amelia Fujikawa
Commerce: Glenn Blackmon, Dan Siemann
Council members: *DAHP:* Allyson Brooks; *DNR:* Kate Dean, Jim Woodward; *EFSEC:* Sonia Bumpus; Lisa McLean; *EJ Council:* Sierra Rotakhina, Jonathan Chen; *GOIA:* Tim Reynon, JT Austin; *GOV:* Kate Brouns; *ORIA:* Dan McConnon; *UTC:* Payton Swinford, Heather Moline; *WDFW:* Michael Garrity, Ben Blank; *WSDA:* Julia Terlinchamp; *WSDOT:* Ahmer Nizam, Gretchen Coker

Utility Panel
The Siting Council invited representatives from four energy utilities to share their experiences with siting and permitting of clean energy. The panelists were:

- Maggie Douglas, State Government Relations Manager, Puget Sound Energy
- Richard Stover, Chief Legal Officer, Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC)
- Ross Hendrick, Senior Manager of Environmental Affairs, Grant PUD
- Brett Bickford, Managing Director - Generation and Transmission, Chelan PUD

Panelists were asked to inform Council members on the role their organization plays related to acquisition of clean energy and siting and permitting of clean energy facilities and transmission, and to share their experiences, challenges and suggestions for improving the processes, policies and outcomes of clean energy siting and permitting. The discussion provided insights to inform the Council's work and upcoming annual legislative report.

Transmission Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
Sean Greene (EFSEC) provided a presentation on EFSEC's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for electrical transmission facilities with a nominal voltage of 230 kilovolts (kV) or greater. This PEIS was directed by the Washington State Legislature in RCW 43.21C.405 and was prepared in accordance with the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The Draft PEIS analyzes potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the construction, operation and maintenance, and upgrade or modification of transmission facilities in the State of Washington. The review includes overhead lines, underground lines, substations, and other related equipment, and it includes an analysis of potential impacts on the elements of the natural and built environment. The PEIS is designed to provide SEPA Lead Agencies and permitting agencies as well as Tribes and other interested parties with information to consider during their reviews of specific projects, and to help developers understand potential impacts at an early phase to, ideally, result in siting and design choices that avoid or minimize impacts.

The public comment period on the draft PEIS extends through April 30, 2025. EFSEC will hold public comment hearings on April 22 & 24, 2025 from 5:00pm to 8:00pm PDT. The final PEIS publication is expected by June 30, 2025.

EV fire response report
Eli King (Energy Resilience and Emergency Management Office, Dept of Commerce), reported on results of the Electric Vehicle Fire Study published in January 2025. SSB 5812 required the Washington State Patrol to conduct a study of electric vehicle fires, including impacts to the environment and proximate residential areas and health impacts to responding firefighters, best

practices for fire response, and best practices regarding cleanup and disposal efforts. Recommendations included training for responders, improved information and an EV fire interagency coordination checklist available to all fire agencies in the state.

Governors Office Update, Council Legislative Report and Engagement Plans

Kate Brouns (Governor's Office) reported that the Governor's Office is closely monitoring federal changes to climate and energy policies and their effects on the state, including staffing at Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). Data centers and their effects on energy is a priority, and the Governor's Office is planning to convene a Data center work group to explore the issues. In the Legislature, priorities include SB 5466 (Improving reliability and capacity of the electric transmission system), HB 1912 (Exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act) and the Budget.

Alex Shin (Ecology) provided an overview of plans for developing the Siting Council's next annual legislative report, which is due October 1. The Council is planning to hold a tribal and an interested party online workshop to gather suggestions for the report, and the Council will review this input during the May in-person Council meeting.

Alex also reviewed the engagement plans for tribes and interested parties. Council members have the month of May to review the revised engagement plans. In June, they will be shared with Tribes and Interested Parties.