

Washington State Department of Ecology

Goldendale Energy Storage Project Public Hearing

June 28, 2022

Trina Michael, CET-1390 Trinamichael.cet@gmail.com

Proceedings recorded by electronic sound recording:

Transcript produced by transcription service

PROCEEDINGS

HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Boy, I'm --is that loud enough? Or is it too loud? I'm very sorry over here. It's okay over there I hope. Okay. Well, let's -- if everybody could quiet down so we can make sure everybody can hear, we'll get started here.

I'm Tim Poppleton. I'm the hearing's officer for tonight's hearing. On behalf of the Department of Ecology, welcome, and thank you for coming. We're here to discuss the draft Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project here in Klickitat County.

I have three main responsibilities. First, to facilitate I meeting; second, I need to make sure everybody who wants to has the opportunity to come up and comment during the formal public hearing; third, I need to make sure that we obtain a clear record of the hearing. That is why I will be using a recorder to record your comments later. But to my job, I need a little cooperation. So let's review the ground rules designed to support common courtesy and to keep order. First, silence your cellphones. I've had to check mine twice, because I always forget. Turn them to silent mode or step into the hall if you have a phone call. Please hold down the noise, as we've seen earlier, it's hard to hear in here with -- if people are talking. No

districting, disruptive, of intimidating behavior. Let's treat each other with courtesy. I don't think that's going to be a problem. Respect the right of others to have an opinion, even if you don't agree. Use respectful language when providing comments or asking questions. And speak in the order called. During the public hearing, I will call you to testify in the order your name appear on the sign-in sheet. And once you get up here, please state your name so that we can have that clear for the record as we - as we go on. Then I'll open the floor for anybody else who decides to comment after hearing others. Sometimes people do want to -- want to get in on it. During the questions -- during the hearing, you may ask questions for the record, but we won't respond to questions. If you ask questions, they're just to get them into the record. If -- if you'd like an answer to your questions, afterwards you can go up to any -- anybody with an Ecology badge on, and we'll try to get your questions answered for you. The public hearing is your opportunity to provide your statements that will be included as part of the public record. I'll try not to turn my head when I'm talking so that you can hear me. I want to make sure that you and your neighbors get to comment. We know you took the time -- trouble to come out here tonight, and we to leave at a reasonable hour, so I'd like to limit the comment time to about three minutes per person. If -- if you need more time than that, if you need a lot more time than that, then please consider submitting comments in writing. We want to be respectful of everybody's time and -- but we do want to hear your comments, also. Please summarize lengthy comments or repetitive ones. If you prefer, you can provide your comments in writing, as I said. There are materials back there to submit your comments on. Written comments receive the same consideration, but must be received by 11:59 p.m.

on August 9, 2022. Does that sound fair to everybody? Is everybody okay with that?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Okay. We're going to begin the formal hearing here, now. And I want to make sure that we move some of the recording equipment over to here so that we get your comments, get those down. So just one second while I -- we move some of the recorders over there. And we're to going to start off with -- as soon as we're ready up there -- with Dan Spatz. And if I get your name wrong, please -- well, state your name anyway (indiscernible) recording. After him, we'll go with William Myers, and then Mr. Alldorff. Looks like it's Mike Alldorff. So, Mr. Spatz, go ahead.

DAN SPATZ: Thank you very much. I appreciate it. Can you hear me okay?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That might need to be taller up there.

DAN SPATZ: What needs to be taller? (Indiscernible) technology (indiscernible).

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There we go.

DAN SPATZ: Awesome. How about now? Everybody? Okay. All right. Thank you very much. My name is Daniel Spatz. I'm a Klickitat County resident here in my capacity is Capital Projects and Community Relations Director for Columbia Gorge Community College. I'm pleased to present our institution's workforce training capacity as it relates to the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project. Columbia Gorge Community College was established in 1977. The college is a public, two-year institution with campuses in the Dallas

and Hood River. We are independently accredited by the Northwest Commission of Colleges and University. CTCC established an electrical engineering technology program in 2001 in response to the urgent need for mainstem hydroelectric operators along the Columbia/Snake system. As wind farms developed beginning around 2006, we modified that program into a renewable energy technology program, encompassing wind and solar, as well as hydroelectric and even geothermal power. This was the a first community college wind technician training program on the west coast. In 2018, we again modified the program, responding to workforce needs in advanced technology industries, while maintaining a renewable energy focus on electronics, hydraulics, mechanical systems, and industrial safety. Students learn theory and the practical application of that theory. They learn to think on their feet, problem solve in the field, and work as a team to maintain complex systems. Our program is now known as electromechanical technology, offering a 43-credit certificate and 99-credit Associate's Degree. Electromechanical technicians use electrical and electronic theory to design, build, repair, calibrate, and modify components, circuitry controls and machinery. In 2021, we opened a new chapter in the history with completion of a regional skill training center and student residence hall. Skills center programs include advance manufacturing, metals fabrication, welding, 3D manufacturing, and construction trades. CTCC offers pre-college instruction, including adult basic education and GED preparation, designed to prepare the older incumbent workforce for credit-level studies. We encourage dual-credit programming with area high schools. Given our experience and proximity of the Dallas campus to proposed project location, Columbia Gorge by Community College is well positioned to provide technical

training for the permanent workforce associated with the pump storage project, providing local residents an opportunity to benefit from this project. End of my comments. Thank you very much.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. William Myers, and then after him, we have Matthew Hepner. Matthew Hepner, and Mike Alldorff before him. Sorry.

WILLIAM MYERS: Thank you. My name is Willy Myers -- William Myers. I'm the Executive Secretary Treasurer of the Columbia Pacific Building and Construction Trades Council, representing around 25,000 men and women in the construction industry. We appreciate the Department of Ecology's providing a thorough review of the Goldendale project. We are encouraged by the draft EIS. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is a cornerstone of both Washington and the broader Pacific Northwest clean energy economy. It will provide quality jobs and rural economic development, while helping Washington and the region meet its clean energy goals with minimal environmental impacts. The draft EIS left out a social economic analysis of the project, which is disappointing. The fact that it will create more than 3,000 family-wage jobs for building trades members, with -- that will be generated over a five-year construction timeline is significant. We are encouraged and excited that the project owner and developer have agreed and signed an MOU with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades, which commits the construction of the under project a labor agreement, guaranteeing that over 3,000 family-wage jobs for the region's tradespeople. The project labor agreement also guarantees that every employee will have healthcare benefits, especially in light of what our recent experience is -- that's also very important to this region -- and pensions to retire with

dignity. They'll also be contributing to training the workforce to meet our construction needs of the future. Let's work together to build this important energy project. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mike Alldorff -- I'm sorry, I'm having a hard time reading this, so I'm hoping I'm getting the name right. Are you there? After him, it will be Matthew Hepner and Shannon Stull.

MIKE ALLDORFF: Good evening. My name's Mike Alldorff. I represent the members of Iron Workers Local 29 in Oregon and the southern five counties in Washington State. We are in support of the project. The Goldendale Energy Project will give rural people opportunities in the building trades apprenticeship programs. These programs lead to lifelong careers with full-family benefits and a great retirement to retire with dignity. Again, we are in support of the project. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Shannon Stull and then Garth Bachman.

MATTHEW HEPNER: Did you forget Matthew Hepner?

HEARING OFFICER: Matthew Hepner first. Just checking to see if you're paying attention.

MATTHEW HEPNER: Thank you, sir. I appreciate it. So my name is Matthew Hepner. I'm the Executive Director of the Certified Electrical Workers of Washington, representing over 10,000 workers statewide, and I'm a journeyman wireman, myself. With the passage of major state climate legislation, like the Clean Energy Transformation Act, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard, and the Climate Commitment Act, we have to build new forms of generation and energy

storage if we're going to meet those goals. This project is a critical development project for the western grid. Storage projects like this make wind and solar viable at an industrial scale. We can't build industrial solar and wind without storage, so this is the bottleneck that we really need to have for the green energy technology take off. If we're serious about energy independence, we have to build. If we're serious about addressing climate change, we have to build. If we're serious about apprenticeships and economic development, we have to build. This project hits the bull's-eye in so many categories; jobs, apprenticeship, clean energy, increasing local tax revenues for schools, hospitals, police and fire departments, and roads. We urge Ecology diligent and continued support of this critical energy project permitting process. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Hannon Stull, then Garth Bachman, then Lucille Beris.

SHANNON STULL: Good evening. I probably won't be as good as him, but my name is Shannon Stull. I am the business manager for Labor's Local 335 covering Southwest Washington. I already have a bunch of Klickitat County members -- or residents working at the solar farm for us right now. So obviously, we are in favor of this project, so please make it happen. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Garth Bachman.

GARTH BACHMAN: Hello, and thank you for allowing me to speak this evening. My name is Garth Bachman. I'm the business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48, based in Portland, Oregon. We have a diverse membership of nearly -- actually, over 5,600 members, of

which over a thousand reside in Southwest Washington. Of geographical jurisdiction consists of ten counties in Oregon and five counties in Washington, including Klickitat County. We are very excited about this proposed project, as it will provide 3,000 construction jobs, a Willy Myers pointed out just a few moments ago. The project owner and developer have already signed a memorandum of understanding with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council that guarantees the construction jobs for this project will be family-wage jobs. This is crucial to the standard of living for the region's workforce. The project is scheduled to be five years in duration, which will be very helpful in the long term for building highly-skilled workforce for the future. There will be thousands of hours of apprentice training on this site, which will benefit our region for many years to come. This project will help train tomorrow's skilled trades people, which will not just benefit our tax base, but will provide more opportunities for members of our communities that may not have had the chance to learn a skilled trade. All this and more can be accomplished while at the a same time, building an environmentally friendly project, as well a renewable energy future for the State of Washington. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Lucille Beris, and then we'll have Andrew Fouts.

LUCILLE BERIS: Good evening, and thank you. I am here representing the Goldendale Chamber of Commerce. Rick Lundeen (phonetic), our past president who is ill and not able to attend, so I agreed to read his statement. What the Goldendale Chamber -- what he took president of Chamber, they decided to focus on long-term economic development that would bring companies and industries to Goldendale, with a goal to bring sustainable long-term

employment and prosperity to our community. The Goldendale Pump Storage Project is just such an opportunity for our community. Klickitat PUD had started the preliminary FERC permit process with goals of bringing in additional partners to finish the permit process. Development in Portland and National Energy stepped up. Copenhagen -- excuse me -- Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners had taken the energy role and is better fit for the project. The Goldendale Energy Storage Project is designed for renewable energy produced by solar and wind generation, and there is excess amount of it. This is accomplished by pumping water from the lower reservoir, that will be located at the old aluminum smelter plant, to the upper reservoir, which is located on the north -- due north at the a top of the bluff. The lower reservoir is visible from the Highway 14. The upper will not be visible, nor will the pump house or piping that connects the reservoir. The initial public comment period on the Environmental Impact Statement is a major milestone to the process. This project will provide 3,000 construction job over the building period, with 5,270 long-term jobs once it is completed. The local college is setting up to help with apprenticeship training to provide skilled labor for this storage project. This will bring money into our community. It will help our local merchants prosper. It will provide tax revenue for our county. If you need more information on the project outside this meeting, please feel free to call the Goldendale Chamber of Commerce. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Andrew Fouts, and then we'll have Diana Winther and Larry Bellamy.

ANDREW FOUTS: Good evening. I'd like to thank Department of Ecology and the

community for hearing my testimony tonight. For the record, my name is Andrew Fouts. I'm a journeyman steam fitter and the current government affairs direct for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 598 out of Pasco, Washington. I'm testifying in support of the Goldendale Energy Storage Project. With carbon goals for Washington looming a pivot away from fossil fuels to renewable, non-emitting forms of energy, production will be necessary to meet the goals that we've set for this state. While there's no easy way forward, there are already pieces in place that can help us put the United States and this state on a path to carbon-free energy future, greatly increasing our energy independence, and creating robust redundancy in our grid, by leveraging the nation's greatest asset, its skilled workforce. The same men and women that built our national labs, Naval fleet, interstate highway system, dams, power plants, our fire and police stations, hospitals, schools, stadiums, and embassies. This state can position itself as a leader to the world on clean energy production, storage, and climate stewardship. In utilizing exist infrastructure and deploying energy technology, like gravity pump storage, we can create an energy environment that perfectly complements as much use of wind and solar as practical, but also provides dispatch capacity and storage solutions for our grid, all the while developing the next generation of workers. This five-year project will see an apprentice through their entire training program, creating a local work force of highly-skilled craftspeople and good family-wage careers. On top of the estimated 14 million in additional tax revenue, the boost to local business and ancillary development that will come, will help drive the positive economic outlook for this community and county for years to come. I hope you guys will consider my testimony in advancing this project, and

thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Diana Winther and then Mac Seyhaul and then Larry Bellamy.

DIANA WINTHER: Good evening. For the record, my name is Diana Winther, and I'm a resident of Longview, Washington. I recognize that I'm a little bit far from home, but the Goldendale Energy Storage Project is important enough for me to travel to here to show my support in person. I'm a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48. I'm also president of the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Central Labor Council. You're going to hear a lot of the same information about the importance of jobs and family-wage jobs, and having healthcare and having the opportunity to retire with dignity throughout this hearing, likely. And I think it might seem repetitive, but I also think it's really important. Although, the draft Environmental Impact Statement does not speak to the positive social impacts, I think it's essential to note that this energy storage facility will be built by over 3,000 skilled union workers from the area. The jobs created by building this project will allow those tradespeople to support their families, and their local spending will support the families of business owners in the area. The \$14 million in annual tax revenue generated can be used for improvements to roads and schools and provide funding for local essential services. This project will also allow building trades unions the opportunity to start more apprentices, giving those folks a chance to start rewarding careers that come with the quality wages and benefits needed in today's economy. I understand that moving forward with this project will impact environmental and tribal resources, and that is not

something to ignore. The draft EIS states that the environmental impacts can be reduced through mitigation, but the tribal impacts are more challenging to address. I'm hopeful that the parties can work together to find an equitable compromise, because the alternative is a loss for us all. And I'm just referring to the members I represent who would miss out on years of employment if this project isn't permitted. Although, I think that is important. I live in an area that is significantly economically depressed, and a project like this would literally change people's lives. But jobs are only a small piece of why I support construction of this facility.

Washington's committed to a renewable energy future. We cannot add more renewable energy sources to the grid without ways to store that energy. Lithium-ion batteries are not going to be able to provide all the storage we need. And, frankly, mining lithium comes with its own environmental concerns. If we truly intend to combat climate change, we need this project and more projects like it. If we don't start moving forward with actual ways to make our goals into reality, we are going to fail. And that failure doesn't mean we blow an arbitrary deadline that's in the law, it's means we are not doing what we need to do to address the impacts of climate change. The land throughout our state, whether sacred or not, will be impacted negatively by our inaction. So I support this project continuing to move forward. To prevent its construction means that we are maintaining the unacceptable status quo we have now, and no one, not union workers, not tribal members, not small business owners, not members of this community, not Washingtonians throughout the state, will be served by that failure. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mac Seyhaul, and then Larry Bellamy and Jim

Smith.

MAC SEYHAUL: Thank you for giving me the opportunity. My name is Mac Seyhaul, and I'm a 51 -- I came to the county in 1971, have been here. And I also have to say at this point, I've been with the aluminum industry, starting at (indiscernible) down there in Portland in the '60s, and I've been at this location all these years as a production manager, general manager, vice-president. So as such, I've been in the -- direct and indirectly been associated -- been in the energy field; buying, using, trying to be efficient. And at some point between our two plants here, Goldendale and the Dallas, we used, consumed -- purchase and consumed as much as to supply all the homes in the city of Seattle. So what I'd like to give my support to this project. I'll say very clearly, I've seen the changes in the energy industry through the decades, and this is a project we need now for our future security, and it's the right location. I've studied a little bit of locations of such projects. Everybody I've listened has said this is an ideal location, because the two reservoirs are very close to each other, and it's close to BPA power station we have at the plant. So it's an ideal location. Now, for those in my community that have reservations, I have to say that work with -- I'll say at this point, that I worked with Ecology for decades, with a lot of regulators, made many trips to Olympia, and you're good people at the end. All the times we were -- you know, we looked at an issue from different perspectives, but I can -- I can assure my fellow Goldendale, Klickitat County residents, you will do a great job. To some degree involved with the clean-up of the site, so I know how thorough you are. It took us three years to get a plan before we could start clean up. And it's so detailed, so I know you will not -- you will do a very good

job. The reason I support the project, because the power energy situation has changed. What I start at Troutdale, it we were dependent on BPA system, the dams. Power wasn't expensive. \$1 a megawatt an hour. And when it went to two, three, we shut down in '71. And you all know what the power costs are regionally, nationwide. It's 50, 70, 100. Hawaii pays 300, thereabouts. So it has changed quite a bit, and so we have a need for it. And secondly, the energy sources we're dependent on are not -- not going be there anymore. Hydro stepped out, and coal, you know. So I have to say, that this project will give us viability for a future with the wind projects and the solar projects. Thank you very much.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Larry Bellamy and then Jim Smith.

MAC SEYHAUL: Oh, that's yours.

LARRY BELLAMY: Hi, my name is Larry Bellamy. I'm the City Administrator for the City of Goldendale, which is the closest incorporated community to the site of this proposed project. Thank you to the Department of Ecology for completing such a thorough analysis for the project. It's a value document that will help decision makers make important choices about this significant project for both our community and our state as we work to meet the goals of the Washington Clean Energy Transformation Act. With the passage of that act, the Goldendale Energy Storage Project demonstrates how partnerships between rural and urban communities can help ensure the state meets its policy goals. Numerous studies have concluded that the site is ideal for pump storage, and we are fortunate to have this site in our community and have a committed developer willing to responsibly bring a pump storage to fruition. As others have stated, the Goldendale Energy Project is not only a

good way to reuse the site, it's an ideal -- an ideal way to reuse the site, taking advantage of the geology and the geography needed to pump - for pump storage, and to take advantage of the grid access and the proximity to wind and solar projects to make it cost effective. The design of the project takes into account several considerations, including aesthetics, air quality, greenhouse gasses, and aquatic species. As the draft EIS has concluded, this project can provide a valuable service in an environmentally sensitive - or environmentally responsible way. In addition to the environmental benefits, it will bring to the community profound economic benefits. We understand that it will create approximately 3,000 high quality family-wage jobs during construction, including apprenticeships and building trades for the long term that can only be provided in long-term construction projects. We know from previous large construction projects that the city and our locals business both here and in the surrounding communities can accommodate these workers and their families. Not only will there be short-term construction benefits, but the community of Goldendale will have many long-term benefits, from permanent full-time jobs and a estimated 14 million in indirect annual property taxes. It will make a huge difference in our community's working families by supporting schools, emergency services, hospitals, parks, and roads. We are also encouraged by the developer's commitment to invest \$10 million in the cleanup of the site of the former Columbia Gorge aluminum smelter, which is good for the health of people here, and downstream on this long -- long-time industrial site. The City continues to very supportive of this project as we go through these processes. Thank you very much.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Jim Smith, and then we'll have Tim O'Donnell and

David Myers.

JIM SMITH: Hi, I'm Jim Smith. I am the General Manager at Klickitat Public Utility District. We are a public utility with locally elected public officials that allow for local control by our residents. Our mission is to provide safe and reliable water, waste water, and electric service consist with sound business principals. If this project moves ahead, we will be providing both water and electric service. I want to express our gratitude for being able to provide public comment on this important document and on this important project. The PUD supports the Goldendale Energy storage Project. As the owner of the water system that would provide water service to the project, we agree with the finding of no significant adverse impact on ground and surface water hydrology. We've provided water services for over 50 years in this community and who have extensive experience. As the local electric utility and as producer of a renewable energy, we also agree with the finding of no significant adverse impact on energy resources. We actually have over 80 years of experience in providing electric service. We have extensive experience in our region -- regional electricity grid and electric markets. As mentioned in the draft EIS, electric load forecasts show increasing electric usage to address climate change through electrification, among other things. Klickitat PUD believes that integrating the necessary renewable resources will require long duration pump hydro storage in addition to the other technologies and strategies to ensure our electric grid is both reliable and affordable. The supply of electricity is of critical importance to our residents' safety during extreme weather events for heating, air conditioning, water supply, and other life sustaining uses. Klickitat PUD believes this project offers

safety and environmental benefits that are significant, and should be considered in the draft EIS analysis. In addition to the benefits already mentioned, the project will also provide significant revenues to the PUD for providing water and electricity service, and hence, will provide significant additional benefits to the residents of our county. The project has been deemed a project of state-wide significance as a result of these societal benefits. As a general matter, the PUD is very impressed and supportive with the information that was included in the draft EIS analysis, and the PUD appreciates the obvious careful thought that went into creating a document of this depth. We do, however, have meaningful concerns about the conclusions reached in the tribal resource analysis. While we respect the input and the information that's being consider on these important issues, the PUD does not believe there has been adequate showing that supports the preliminary determination that any adverse impacts cannot be successfully mitigated. We will be providing more detail written comments by the deadline, and perhaps on these issues and other issues within the draft EIS. We appreciate the opportunity to comment. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Tim O'Donnell, David Myers, and then Mark Riker.

TIM O'DONNELL: In the interest of everybody's time, I'm will pass. I'm Tim O'Donnell, and I'll submit my comments in writing.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. David Myers.

DAVID MYERS: All right. Good evening. My name is David Myers, and I'm an international rep for the IBW. The international Brotherhood of Electrical Workers represents over 20,000 electricians statewide, and over 700,000

nationally. I am here today to give comments in strong support of the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project. This nation is challenged with energy production, as well as ways to store the energy that is produced. The Goldendale Project and the technology it utilizes is an answer to solving some of the energy storage issue. This project will also create construction jobs and bring revenue to the area that will benefit the local surrounding areas, as well as Washington State as a whole. Family-wage jobs and the opportunity to start an apprenticeship as a craftsperson are some of the benefits of the construction of this project, as well as many more full-time jobs in the region to maintain the facilities. There are so many socioeconomic benefits to this project that may not be represented in the draft EIS. I feel we should be looking for solutions to our energy needs, and taking the opportunities to act on those projects help us get there. I believe the Goldendale Project is one of those projects that can help us all get there, and we should be moving forward on this project as soon as possible. Thanks for your time.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Mark Riker, and then Marshall McGreed?

MARSHALL MCGRADY: McGrady.

HEARING OFFICER: McGrady. And then Mike Bridges.

MARK RIKER: Thank you. Good evening. My name is Mark Riker. I'm the Executive Secretary of Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, representing approximately 80,000 construction workers from all crafts here in Washington State. I'm here today in strong support on their behalf for this project. One of the challenges that we faced when we

supported the Clean Energy Transformation Act is the transition away from fossil fuels, and this was the exact type of project that we envisioned when we supported that piece of legislation and transformative legislation. A project like this that will help us transition away while creating approximately 3,000 construction jobs and many apprenticeship opportunities. For those that aren't familiar with the apprenticeship system, apprenticeships generally take between four and five years to complete. So 3,000 project -- a 3,000-person project offering approximately 450 -- 450 opportunities for apprentices can darn near finish your entry level into a really good family-wage career. The economic generation that a project like this can bring to a rural community is exactly what we're looking for when we're trying to get away from fossil fuel sector supply. A project like this is an appropriate place for the thorough review that Ecology has been doing. We commend you on that. I want to go back to apprenticeship for just a moment, and there's a reason I'm so passionate about apprenticeship. And I echo everything that all of my colleagues have said and everyone here this evening. But apprenticeship is personal to me. I grew up in a farming community, a logging community in Arlington, Washington, in the '70s and '80s. And after my sophomore year in high school, I was a homeless kid in Arlington with no real opportunity. After some troubles and some struggles in, you know, my early years, not being the brightest human being on the planet, I got the opportunity get into an apprenticeship, a construction apprenticeship. And now, not only do I have a middle class lifestyle, my son and my granddaughters have a middle class lifestyle. That's the power of apprenticeship. There's something important about apprenticeship that everybody needs to remember, as well. Apprenticeship starts with a job. To

give opportunity, we need opportunity. Our developer partners, our community partners, our governmental partners, all working together to transition away from fossil fuel to a clean energy tomorrow, I say let's build our way out of it. Let's give the opportunities to folks in the rural communities. The developer has already agreed to negotiating the terms of a PLA, project labor agreement. You know what those terms of that agreement can - can include? Local hire. We can give opportunities to ensure that this isn't just constructed by folks from way away from Goldendale. We can build it with folks from Goldendale, from the outlying regions near Goldendale. Give opportunity while we're building it here. So I'm just asking you for strong support of this project. Let's get this built. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Marshall McGrady, then Mike Bridges.

MARSHALL MCGRADY: Good evening, everyone. My name is Marshall McGrady. I represent IBEW Local 48 with members in Portland, Oregon, and Southwest Washington. I currently serve as their political director there, but I also hold a signing supervisor's electrical license in the State of Oregon, and a general journeyman's license here in the State of Washington. First, I want to comment on your EIS report that you presented tonight. In my years of field experience working as a superintendent, there was really little in that report that I did not feel could be overcome very easily by construction people in the field. We know how to mitigate environmental hazards, and we are well prepared to do so. The one item of concern on there, and I think it is something we do need to be sensitive to, is the tribal concerns. But I believe that a project of this magnitude has the ability to include an economic boom to the tribes. So I believe that there

can be a solution found on that. I do want to state briefly about probably the most important element to this whole process, and its climate change, and climate change is a reality that we all face here today. I have lived in the same home for 19 years. In that 19-year time, I never once in my life needed a generator -- an electrician that doesn't need a generator. Sounds pretty crazy -- until the winter of 2021. We had an ice storm that knocked our power out for over two weeks at my home. If we don't change how we are generating energy, how we are distributing energy, and how we are responding to climate change, the reality is, we're all going to need a bunch of generators, but we're not going to have the fuel for them. So I urge everyone here tonight to support this project. I believe it's going to be good for the community and good for both the State of Oregon and Washington. Thank you so much.

HEARING OFFICER: (Indiscernible).

MIKE BRIDGES: Good evening. For the record, my name is Mike Bridges, and I live in Longview, Washington. As current president of Longview Council Building and Construction Trades Council and business representative for IBW Local 48 representing thousands of members in Southwest Washington and Oregon, I appreciate the opportunity to be able to comment in support of thorough work done by the Department of Ecology on the draft EIS on this important and monumental project. We are excited to share that both the project owner and developer have signed a memorandum of agreement with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council to construct the project under a PLA, guaranteeing over 3,000 family-wage jobs would go to the region's tradespeople. In May of 2018, myself and a large, broad group

of stakeholders were able to visit to the location of proposed facility, which painted a clear picture, and helped me understand the reason why this site was chosen. This projects represents the culmination of decades of work at both the local and state level to encourage a renewable energy future for Washington. The project also helps avoid an overbuild of wind and solar, which could cause additional land use issues in the region, while preserving the affordability and reliability that rate payers in the Pacific Northwest currently enjoy. Washington and Oregon like -- Washington and Oregon have, and likely will continue implementing bold clean energy policies, and utilities and regulators are working on how to comply with these mandates. Washington's Clean Energy Transformation Act passed in 2019 requires that all of state's utilities supply non-global greenhouse gas emitting electricity by 2045. CETA will make it necessary to build new infrastructure to supply this clean energy, which leads to work for all the construction trades. We feel the Goldendale Pump Storage Project is a prime example of the right project happening at the right time and the right location to help address climate change. We are excited to be part of this projects as it moves through the process, and thankful for the ability to comment on why we are in full support of the comprehensive review done thus far on the EIS. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Bridges. Next, we have -- next we have Tom Wishard, and then Kevin Lux.

TOM WISHARD: Good evening. My name's Tom Wishard. I'm a resident of Kelso, Washington. Also, I'm the business agent for Local 701 Operating Engineers. On behalf of about 3,000 operators, we're for this project. I appreciate it.

Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Kevin Lux. And then Joy, if there's any other lists back there? Thank you.

KEVIN LUX: Good evening. My name is Kevin Lux. I'm the union electrician and member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48. Good evening, staff and Department of Ecology, members of the public, and I'd like to thank the residents of the greater Goldendale community. What a lovely bunch of people, and beautiful surroundings we enjoy outside. Now, it is great to be wearing slacks tonight, not the drywall dust that I'm used to. I'd like to start with a quote from the great -- late, great Woody Guthrie; activist, musician, and lover of mother nature. In the 1940s, he traveled to the Pacific Northwest, saw our beautiful Columbia River, and wrote a handful of songs. In one, he spoke to making use of natural resources saying, "Roll Columbia River roll wild and free. As long as you're rolling, won't you do some work for me." In praise of the great work of the hydroelectric dams being put in and continuing to be put in at the time, making our state great. Now, could he have imagined now that we would be putting wind and solar to work, as well? You know, what an amazing time we are living in. But we face a serious problem with power generation at this time. The Pacific Northwest currently has a deficit of 1.2 gigawatts. That's more than the demands of Seattle. This deficit is growing, and especially as we take coal and natural gas offline a result of stricter CETA regulations. At this very moment, power projects that we hope to build between now and 2030 won't even keep pace with growing demands. We currently have 64 gigawatts of nameplate power. Between now and 2045, we need to build 100

gigawatts of new renewable power to keep the lights on and meet our climate goals. We see what's going on with California with blackouts and brownouts, and we can't afford these threats here, especially as we face more and more wildfires. We know that greatest threat to salmon, steelhead, orcas, and all of wildlife is climate change. I don't think that the EIS fully accounts for or places proper emphasis on the impacts that this project can make for reducing -- for making our planet better and our lungs happier. Wind and solar rely on a solid foundation of dispatchable power to be viable. The wind doesn't always blow, as we know right here. Sometimes it blows too hard. The sun sets, and battery technology is still far away from meeting our demands. This project will make more wind and solar projects viable, a means for smoothing out our demands for efficient power. It's going to keep up with our pace of demands and offer us an opportunity to power -- to sell excess power to California, and keep our power rates low while meeting our CETA goals, transitioning to a greener economy. Fighting forest fires in the real way; fighting climate change itself, at the source. All people can benefit from a happier planet, and this EIS needs to put greater emphasis on these current realities and a future promise. Thank you.

HEARING OFFICER: Rodger Nichols.

RODGER NICHOLS: Forgive my slow progress. Bad knees. Thank you. My name is Rodger Nichols. I and the news media have been covering this story for over a decade, and I have a couple of quick question that you may not be able to answer now, but I wanted to add in the record. I'm a little concerned or confused, maybe, about where this wetlands is that had to be studied. I mean, this isn't wetland territory. I couldn't see -- I was out looking at

it just the other day. Didn't find a wetland anywhere. So I would be interested to see where that is. Also, I'm a little confused about tribal cultural things, because the lower part of it was already developed by the Goldendale plant, and the upper part is just burned, flat ground. So I don't see any cultural resources there, and if there are any, I would think it would be appropriate to talk about them. I'm very concerned that something I don't know is there might hold up the project. Thank you very much.

HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. I have a -- somebody who said they might want to testify. Randy McKinney, would you like to testify? Is there anybody else who would still like to testify?

JONATHAN LEWIS: I signed up to be on there. Jonathan Lewis.

HEARING OFFICER: Oh, sorry. I must have missed you.

JONATHAN LEWIS: That's all right.

HEARING OFFICER: Come on up.

JONATHAN LEWIS: I'd like to thank the Department of Ecology for hearing comments from our community. I'm here representing three interests. The first be myself, as a resident of Goldendale. My bedroom window looks out at Juniper Point, so I see the site, and I'm very excited about the vibrancy that this project could bring with jobs and other potential. I also am the Director of Support Services for Klickitat Valley Health, the local hospital. And the hospital was built in 1947, and we have a lot of capital needs, so the tax base interest of this project is very great, so the hospital and the board of the hospital is -- is in full support of this

project. I'm also on the board of the Mid-Columbia Economic Development District. MCEDD represents five counties in the Gorge area region. The Executive Director is on vacation this week, so she asked me to represent MCEDD here. MCEDD develops a comprehensive economic development strategy every five years, and this project has been at the top of that list for the last two cycles. MCEDD sees it as extremely important in the economic vitality of the whole Gorge region and supports it for all the reasons that everybody has said tonight. So thank you for listening to us tonight.

HEARING OFFICER: Is there anybody else who would like to make a comment? I don't see anybody else. And if you'd like to make written comments, please remember that they are due postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on August 9, 2022. And you can send them to -- I've got to read this, but you can come to me later and I can write it down for you. Central Regional Office, 1250 West Alder Street, Union Gap, Washington 98903. And you can also submit comments online -- and, again, I'll write this down for you if you ask me -- ecology.wa.gov/Goldendale-Energy-EIS-comments. Okay. If you pick up one of these, on the back it has all that information, so thank you. Checking the time here for a second.

All testimony received at this hearing, as well as online hearings, along with all written comments postmarked no later than 11:59 p.m. on August 9, 2022 will be part of the official hearing record for this proposal.

After the comment period closes, the next step in the process will be to consider the public comments, the response to comments, other appropriate documentation, and staff recommendations before finalizing the EIS. We will send the notice about the availability of the responses to comments to

everyone that provided written or oral comments on this draft EIS who provided -- who also provided contact information, and other interested parties on the interested party list for the proposal. If you want to receive the notice about the availability of the response to comments, please make sure to indicate it on the sign-in sheet at the entrance table -- there's still some back there -- and we'll make sure that you get on the list.

Let the record show that this hearing is adjourned at 7:45 p.m. Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

(End of recording.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Trina Michael, certify that the foregoing transcript is a full, true and accurate transcription of the proceedings and testimony taken in the matter of the above-entitled cause. That the foregoing was transcribed from audio recording. The foregoing was transcribed to the best of my ability, taking into consideration poor sound quality, simultaneous speaking, background noise, quality of second-party telephone, audio, video recordings. That I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any party to this action, or relative or employee of any such attorney or counsel, and that I am not financially interested in the said action or the outcome thereof; IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my signature on the 13th day of July, 2022.

Trina Michael

CET-1390