
LEWIS COUNTY – STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND NOTICE OF ACTION FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (FEIS)

LEAD AGENCY: Lewis County – Community Development Department

PROPONENT: Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project, LLC (Sean Bell)

FILE NUMBERS: SEP18-0002, MSR18-0047 & SHD18-0001

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL: To construct and operate a commercial-scale wind energy generation facility called the Skookumchuck Wind Energy Project in Lewis and Thurston counties in southwestern Washington. The project is a renewable energy generation facility that will consist of up to 38 wind turbine generators (WTGs) with a nameplate capacity of up to 137 MW; a medium voltage (34.5 kilovolt) electrical collection system linking each turbine to the project substation; a project substation where the electrical voltage of the current produced will be increased from 34.5 kV to 115 kV; a temporary batch plant near the project substation yard; up to 17 mile-long aboveground 115 kV gen-tie line used to transmit the electrical current from the project area to the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Tono substation and equipment allowing interconnection to the PSE substation; an internal access road system; upgrades to the off-site haul roads; an operations and maintenance facility (O&M Facility); three permanent meteorological towers; and systems for safety, control and security. The aboveground gen-tie line is proposed to cross Hanaford Creek (Type S Water) in two locations and Packwood Creek (Type S Water) in one location requiring shoreline application review.

LOCATION OF PROPOSAL: The Project is located in Lewis and Thurston counties in southwestern Washington and consists of many separate tax lots all on a single tract of Weyerhaeuser land managed for timber production. The Project is located 42.5 kilometers (km) (26.4 miles) southeast of Olympia, 24.9 km (15.5 miles) southwest of Eatonville, and 34 km (21 miles) east of Chehalis and the Interstate 5 corridor. The Project Area, consisting of the tax lots upon which the Project elements will be constructed, comprises approximately 20,000 acres. The Project Area includes the locations for the WTGs, the gen-tie line, the O&M Facility, and the interconnection at PSE's Tono substation. The WTGs, Project substation, and medium voltage electrical collection system will be located in the Project Area within the micro-siting corridor, which consists of the lands that will be leased from Weyerhaeuser in order to implement the Project. The Project Area presents a series of ridgelines that range in elevation from approximately 450 meters (m) (1,476 feet [ft]) to 1,050 m (3,445 ft) and are separated by lower elevation stream-lined valleys. The WTGs will be constructed on the ridge. Project access roads (as distinguished from offsite haul routes) will be located on privately owned land actively managed for commercial timber production. Other Project facilities will be located in the valleys extending west of this ridgeline. The Project gen-tie line will be located within right-of-way corridors established on public and private lands. The gen-tie line will follow or will be located near existing Weyerhaeuser roads and existing industrial development and commercial forestry operations; a portion of the gen-tie line will be located in public right-of-way. The Project will interconnect at the existing PSE Tono substation, located near the Centralia Coal Plant in Lewis County. The O&M Facility will be located within a 5-acre area in Thurston County and co-located with the Weyerhaeuser Vail tree farm operations and yard facility near the unincorporated community of Vail. The Project Area is located in a rural, lightly populated area that is characterized primarily by commercial forestry use. Land in the portion of the Project Area proposed for WTG development is commercial timber land characterized by a mix of recently harvested areas and timber stands of varied ages. The closest public road to the Project site is Vail Loop Road SE.

THRESHOLD DETERMINATION: EIS REQUIRED: The lead agency has determined this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) has been prepared and issued. The FEIS includes a number of updates and revisions made to the DEIS, including corrections and modifications to the DEIS text in response to comments received regarding the Project and the DEIS.

AVAILABILITY OF FEIS COPIES: A hard copy of the FEIS is available for viewing at the Lewis County Community Development Department located at 2025 Kresky Avenue, Chehalis, WA 98532. A hard copy of the FEIS is available for purchase at the actual cost of reproduction and actual cost of postage and shipping. An estimated cost at this time is \$350 for the cost of reproduction and the third-party vendor requires five working days to complete the copy job for each requested FEIS copy. An electronic copy of the FEIS is available on our website at <https://lewiscountywa.gov/skookumchuck-wind-energy-project>

This FEIS has been prepared and is being circulated in compliance with SEPA. No action will be taken based on this document for at least seven days from the date of issuance in accordance with WAC 197-11-460.

Responsible Official: **Lee Napier, Director**
Lewis County Community Development
2025 NE Kresky Avenue
Chehalis, Washington 98532

Contact Person: **Karen A. Witherspoon, AICP, Senior Project Planner**

Karen A. Witherspoon for Responsible Official

Date of Issuance: **February 21, 2019**

Notice of Action and Appeal Period: Notice is hereby given that any action to set aside, enjoin, review, appeal or otherwise challenge any such government actions or subsequent governmental action for which notice is given as provided on the grounds of noncompliance with the provisions of RCW 43.21C shall be commenced within twenty-one days from the date of last newspaper publication of this notice, or be barred. This SEPA FEIS Adequacy determination is a Type II Determination and may be appealed in writing to the Lewis County Hearings Examiner until 4 pm on March 21, 2019 at the Lewis County Community Development Permit Center. Appellants should be prepared to make specific factual objections. The appeal procedure is established in Lewis County Code (LCC) Section 17.110.130, LCC Section 2.25.130 and RCW 43.21C.080. The administrative appeal fee is established by Resolution No. 18-349 of the Board of County Commissioners. Appeals shall not be deemed complete without payment of the administrative appeal fee. The complete SEPA applications files (including the DEIS and FEIS documents) are available for review at the above location.

Publication Dates: **February 21, 2019 and February 28, 2019**