

**HORSE HEAVEN WIND FARM
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
2018-2024**

TIME PERIOD

PRE-APPLICATION MEETINGS/APPLICANT DECISION

- 2018-2020 The County Planning staff held numerous meetings and calls to discuss the potential wind farm project. The project's scope continued to be adjusted and increased in size during this time-period. As an example, the solar and battery storage components were not included in the early discussions and the original project consisted of approximately 80 turbines. The applicant had plans to apply for a Benton County Conditional Use Permit. It became clear over time that the project's location, size, scope and impacts would not comply with the County's policies and CUP criteria. The applicant was informed of this in late 2020.
- 2/2021 The Applicant applies for site certification with EFSEC, rather than a Benton County Conditional Use Permit application.

COMMISSIONERS HOST WINDFARM TOWN HALL MEETING

- 3/2021 The Board of County Commissioners hosted a Wind Farm Town Hall Meeting at the County Justice Building. At the end of the Town Hall, the Commissioners individually provided their opinion of the project, and each stated their initial opposition.
- 3/2021 The Board of County Commissioners received hundreds of public comments in both written correspondence, phone calls, discussions, or via oral testimony at the Town Hall Meeting. 93% of the written testimony is in opposition to the project.

COMMISSIONERS APPOINT COMMUNITY MEMBER TO EFSEC

- 3/2021 The Board of County Commissioners appoint Ed Brost, a Benton County resident, to sit on the EFSEC Council for the HHWF Project.

COMMISSIONERS PARTICIPATE IN LAND USE HEARING

3/2021

The Board of County Commissioners and staff submitted both written and oral testimony to the EFSEC Council at the Project's Land Use Hearing. This was held as a virtual hearing only. After reviewing the application, the County submitted a summary of its findings and concerns, the collection of public comments from the Town Hall Meeting, and an audio file of the Town Hall Meeting. The Commissioners asked the EFSEC Council to deny the application.

COMMISSIONERS REQUEST FAA DENY REQUEST

5/2021

The Board of County Commissioners submitted a letter to the FAA requesting that the FAA deny HHWF Project's request to exceed obstruction standards as described in Aeronautical Study No. 2020-WTW-3845-OE.

COMMISSIONERS SUBMIT SEPA SCOPING LETTER

6/2021

The Board of County Commissioners submitted a SEPA Scoping letter to EFSEC outlining the County's concerns and the topics that should be evaluated in the EIS.

COMMISSIONERS REQUEST EFSEC HOLD LOCAL HEARING

7/2021

The Board of County Commissioners submitted a letter to the EFSEC Council requesting that EFSEC hold an in-person public hearing locally in the Tri Cities area for the HHWF.

COUNTY MEETS WITH VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS

8/2021-12/2022

The applicant worked with EFSEC staff on the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The Board of County Commissioners and County staff continued to review the application and meet with interested groups/public to discuss the project.

COMMISSIONERS HIRE OUTSIDE LEGAL TEAM

12/2022 The Board of County Commissioners hired outside legal counsel to assist with matters associated with the HHWF.

COMMISSIONERS SUBMIT DEIS COMMENTS

1/2023 The Board of County Commissioners and the Benton County Public Works Department submit Draft Environment Impact State (DEIS) comment letters to EFSEC Council. Both oral and written comments were provided by both Commissioners and staff during the DEIS public hearing.

COMMISSIONERS HOST AN IN-PERSON VENUE FOR DEIS HEARING

1/2023 The Board of County Commissioners hosted an in-person venue for EFSEC's DEIS public hearing which was held virtually only. The venue provided a place for the community to come together, discuss the project, and provide on-line testimony.

COMMISSIONERS FILE TO PARTICIPATE IN ADJUDICATION

1/2023 The Board of County Commissioners filed an intent to participate in the Projects adjudicative hearings.

COUNTY ATTORNEY APPROVED FOR ADJUDICATION HEARINGS

1/2023 The Board of County Commissioner's Attorney, Mr. Ken Harper, is approved to appear in adjudicative hearings for Benton County.

ATTORNEY AND STAFF PARTICIPATE IN ADJUDICATION

7/2023-9/2023 Benton County participated in adjudication hearings and conferences. Ken Harper's legal team along with Greg Wendt, Director of Community Development, and Michelle Mercer, Planning Manager, provided briefings, pre-filed testimony, reply testimony, and live testimony arguing against the project in support of County's land use goals, policies, and regulations.

COMMISSIONERS HOST IN-PERSON VENUE FOR ADJUDICATION HEARING

8/2023

The Board of County Commissioners hosted in person venue for EFSEC's Adjudication public hearing which was held virtually. The venue provided a place for the community to come together, discuss the project, and provide on-line testimony.

COMMISSIONERS PASS RESOLUTION 2023-38 OPPOSING PROJECT

9/2023

The Board of County Commissioners passed County Resolution 2023-38 which officially stated the County's opposition to the HHWF. The resolution was submitted to the EFSEC Council.

COUNTY STAFF PROVIDES TIMELINE UPDATE TO THE PUBLIC

12/2023

County staff participated in a 610 KONA AM live radio program to provide the public with an update of the project's process, status, timeline, and information about the County's opposition to the project.

12/2023

County staff participated in a pre-taped KAPP/KVEW news interview to provide the public with an update of the project's process, timeline, and information about the County's opposition to the project, specifically County Resolution 2023-638.

COMMISSIONERS SUPPORT LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO EFSEC PROCESS

12/2023-1/2024

The Board of County Commissioners continue to work with the County's lobbyist team to support legislative changes to the EFSEC process and requirements.