



STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

PO Box 43172 • Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

July 14, 2022

Benton County Board of Commissioners
Benton County Prosser Courthouse
620 Market Street
Prosser, WA 99350

Subject: EFSEC Member Appointment for Proposed Wautoma Solar Project. Docket: # EF-220355

Dear Commissioner:

On June 9, 2022, the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) received an Application for Site Certification (ASC) from Innergex Renewable Development, LLC for a 470-megawatt (MW) solar photovoltaic (PV) generation facility with battery storage located in unincorporated Benton County, Washington.

This application starts EFSEC's process for review as authorized under Title 80.50 RCW in accordance with its rules codified in Chapter 463 WAC. State law provides:

“The appropriate county legislative authority of every county wherein an application for a proposed site is filed shall appoint a member or designee as a voting member to the council. The member or designee so appointed shall sit with the council only at such times as the council considers the proposed site for the county which he or she represents, and such member or designee shall serve until there has been a final acceptance or rejection of the proposed site.” [RCW 80.50.030(4)].

The person the Board of Benton County Commissioners appoints as a voting member of EFSEC should be familiar with county issues to provide local insight to the EFSEC process. We respectfully request that the appointment of the Benton County EFSEC representative be made no later than August 8, 2022.

EFSEC may hold adjudicative proceedings for these projects, so the person you appoint will need to become aware of *ex parte* rules and regulations that apply to each EFSEC Council member. In addition, the person must be able to participate fully in EFSEC's process. EFSEC expects the time commitment to initially be approximately one day per month starting in August 2022. The time commitment will increase if an adjudicative proceeding is held.

RCW 80.50.090 requires EFSEC to hold a public information meeting within sixty days of receipt of an application. That meeting must be held in a location as close as practical to the proposed site, however, due to the restrictions in place for COVID-19, this meeting may be held virtually. More information will follow once the meeting details are available.

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Subsequent to the informational meeting EFSEC will conduct a land use hearing. Both meetings will be scheduled within 60 days of EFSEC receiving the application. A notice will be sent to you when it is scheduled and to the project email list. If you would like to continue to receive notices and communications with regards to this project, please visit the EFSEC website and sign up to be on the project's e-mail list. <https://www.efsec.wa.gov/energy-facilities/wautoma-solar-project>.

Please contact me at (360) 704-0196 if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sonia Bumpus", is written over a faint, larger blue signature that also appears to read "Sonia Bumpus".

Sonia Bumpus
EFSEC Director