

July 25, 1996

Mike Katz, Chairman
Energy Facility Siting Task Force
1600 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 770
Portland, OR 97201



DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND
WILDLIFE

HABITAT
CONSERVATION
DIVISION

Dear Mr. Katz:

The Department has received the notice from the Energy Facility Siting Task Force requesting our views on how fish and wildlife issues may best be addressed in the siting of energy facilities. Our Department has been involved in the development and revision of the Energy Facility Siting Council's (EFSC) statute and rules over the past several years. We have also been involved in a number of energy facility siting reviews. We believe that the Energy Facility Siting Council process provides the state a better opportunity to holistically review energy projects with multiple facilities and/or linear facilities than individual review through county and city land use processes. It also is a better venue for reviewing projects such as geothermal energy facilities which may have numerous cross jurisdictional issues such as groundwater that local jurisdictions are not as equipped to deal with as a state agency. We are also concerned that some larger policy issues such as the need for power could not be adequately addressed by local governments.

Specifically for fish and wildlife resources, it is our opinion that the Energy Facility Siting Council process provides the Department with more detailed information than would typically be possible under local land use processes. This is especially true for sensitive and threatened and endangered species which must be specifically addressed under EFSC rules. The EFSC process enables us to make more informed decisions and recommendations to minimize fish and wildlife project effects. In addition, the EFSC rules specifically incorporate mitigation requirements for fish and wildlife. This provides a greater level of protection than is typically available under local land use processes. The Department may also be reimbursed for time that is over and above our normal work duties under the EFSC process. This would not be possible if energy facilities were only reviewed under local land use plans.

John A. Kitzhaber
Governor



2501 SW First Avenue
PO Box 59
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 872-5255
FAX (503) 872-5269
TDD (503) 872-5259
Internet WWW:<http://www.dfw.state.or.us/>

Mike Katz
July 25, 1996
Page 2

It is possible that some projects with limited on-site effects could be taken out of the EFSC siting process. We would not recommend that all energy facilities be taken out of the process however. We believe there are issues that are larger than "local" in the siting of many energy facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important process. Again, it is our opinion that fish and wildlife habitat issues related to the siting of major energy facilities are addressed better through the Energy Facility Siting Council process. Please contact me at (503) 872-5255 ext. 5593 if you have any questions regarding our comments.

Sincerely,



Patricia Snow
Land Use Coordinator
Habitat Conservation Division

c Jill Zarnowitz, Dave McAllister
Jim Knight, Bob Rindy, DLCD
Roy Hemingway, Office of the Governor