

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL AGENDA BILL

NO. 2002 - 146

CLEARANCES		Date	Date Received in Council Office	Agenda Date	Assigned To
Orig. Dept.:	County Council	3/5/2002	RECEIVED MAR 05 2002 WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL	3/12/2002	P&D/Council
Division Head:					
Dept. Head:					
Prosecutor:	DMF	3-22-02			
Budget:					
Executive:					

SUBJECT:

Resolution opposing 660 Megawatt Sumas 2 Electrical Generating Facility

ATTACHMENTS

SUMMARY STATEMENT:

Related County Contract #:	Should the Clerk schedule a hearing? (Y/N)	Requested Date:
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Resolution opposing the location and construction of the 660 megawatt Sumas Energy 2 electrical generating facility as proposed in Sumas, Washington

RECOMMENDED MOTION (for final action):

COUNCIL ACTION TAKEN

2002 - 146 3/12/2002: Item was pulled
 3/26/2002: Approved 5-1-0, Crawford opposed, McShane out of room, Res. #2002-018

Related File Numbers:

Ordinance or Resolution Number (this item only):

RES. # 2002 - 018

PROPOSED BY: Fleetwood

SPONSORED BY: Consent

INTRODUCED: 3/26/2001

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-018

**EXPRESSING COUNTY COUNCIL OPPOSITION TO THE LOCATION AND
CONSTRUCTION OF THE SUMAS ENERGY 2 ELECTRICAL GENERATING
FACILITY**

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and the Attorney General's State Counsel for the Environment are both parties in the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's (EFSEC) process for permitting the proposed 660 megawatt electrical generating facility known as Sumas Energy 2 (SE2); and

WHEREAS, Whatcom County and the State Counsel for the Environment have previously delivered testimony to EFSEC outlining concerns and objections to the SE2 project; and

WHEREAS, the Whatcom County Council is elected to represent the citizens of Whatcom County and is charged with the broad responsibility of protecting the health, safety, and general welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, area residents are deeply concerned that the construction and operation of the SE2 plant may severely impact their health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, questions concerning the health impacts resulting from low-frequency noise for surrounding neighbors have not been determined to the satisfaction of the council; and

WHEREAS, operation of the plant will require the utilization of significant quantities of groundwater; and

WHEREAS, the quantity of groundwater to be extracted from the surrounding aquifer may impact present users, particularly in agricultural lands; and

WHEREAS, groundwater quality can be affected by substantial extraction;
and

WHEREAS, flood modeling and potential flood hazard impacts have not been fully completed or analyzed to date; and

WHEREAS, seismic activity in the area raises questions about the economic feasibility of constructing the facility with adequate safety precautions; and


WHEREAS, the need for additional energy in light of already permitted and recently constructed facilities remains questionable; and

WHEREAS, the unique nature of Whatcom County's relationship with the Province of British Columbia provides continuous opportunities for promoting the general welfare of the citizens of both jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Whatcom County Council that in order to promote and protect the economic, environmental, health, safety, and general welfare interests of the citizens of Whatcom County, the Council hereby stands opposed to the location, construction, and operation of the proposed Sumas Energy 2 electrical generating facility.

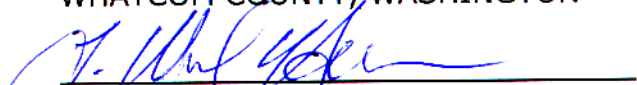
APPROVED this 26 day of March, 2002.

ATTEST:



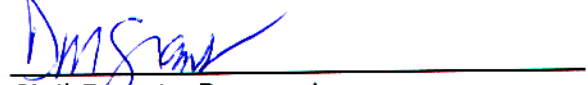
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON



L. Ward Nelson, Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Civil Deputy Prosecutor