

August 13, 1996

Oregon

Mr. Mike Katz
Energy Facility Siting
Task Force
1600 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 770
Portland, Oregon 97201

DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY

Dear Mr. Katz:

This is in response to your July 16th letter which asks for comments on the regulation of the siting of large scale energy facilities. First of all, my apologies for not responding before the July 25th Task Force meeting.

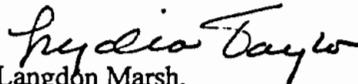
Our agency experience with the EFSC process has primarily been in eastern Oregon. We have been able to accommodate working within the EFSC process and have appreciated the support and assistance of DOE staff. In terms of the DEQ permit issuance, our process has not been altered significantly due to the EFSC process. After sorting out the EFSC procedures with our permit processes, we have coordinated well on these projects and have even consolidated public meetings.

Speaking strictly from the perspective of environmental permitting, there are no compelling reasons for using the EFSC process over the existing DEQ permit process. It does require effort to accommodate the EFSC timeframe. Nevertheless, the siting process does provide added assistance in addressing compliance problems. In our view, the need and value of the siting process is in providing state level guidance and perspective on these large scale projects because of significant statewide interests. Because of the scale and complexity of these projects, we suspect that few if any local governments could comfortably assess the range of the local, regional and statewide impacts of these facilities.

To summarize, our experience with the EFSC process and DOE staff has been positive. The effort required in setting up the existing process have seemingly produced an appropriately coordinated and comprehensive approach to siting large energy facilities.

Thank you for asking for our input.

Sincerely,


Langdon Marsh,
Director



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