

"The Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC) should not be allowed to reduce the number of members required for a quorum. There are already many problems with the decisions of the council due to the fact that the members do not have the expertise that would be required to evaluate the complex issues regarding large energy developments. The council needs to require at least 5 members to have quorum. Even with 5 members, the decisions being made are not considering the impacts to the people (especially property owners) of the state.

In my example, I worked for the Union Pacific Railroad as an engineer for 14 years and as a result have severe tinnitus. The EFSC is planning to allow an exemption to the noise standard for all homes along the length of the transmission line, which will pass within ~637 feet of my residence. They are supposed to consider the health impacts of this decision, but have NOT. In my case, the noise level at my home is predicted to be higher than the maximum DEQ safe noise limit during approximately 80 days out of each year. I live where and how I do because of the difficulties dealing with my debilitating tinnitus and having the ability to control the stress and disability of any noise issues. The EFSC is planning to drive me out of my home with this decision. Given the poor decisions that are being made by 5 people, it only gets worse when the decisions are made by 4 people who are not experts."