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VOL. 54, No. 50 ♦ THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2007

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EFSEC bias suspected

County prosecutors unveil e-mails from Chairman Luce

by Jim Fossett
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CLE ELUM – In what could be characterized as a startling new development, on Friday, Dec. 7 the Kittitas County prosecutor's office filed a petition with Thurston County Superior Court bringing to light evi-

dence some countians agree challenges the integrity of the Governor's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), the nine-member appointed board that recommended the Governor override Kittitas County Commissioners and allow a controversial 65-turbine wind farm to be built 12-miles northwest of Ellensburg.

EFSEC Chairman Not in Favor of Local Input?

In a Superior court document dated Friday, Dec. 7, filed by Kittitas County prosecutors, Residents Opposed to Kittitas Turbines (ROKT), and Attorney Steven Lathrop, reference is made to email correspondence apparently originating from EFSEC Chairman Jim Luce sent to Ann Essko (Attorney General's Office), Chris Towne (Fish & Wildlife), Allen Fiksdal (EFSEC), and Adam Torem (EFSEC).

In the email cited, apparently dated two years prior to EFSEC's adjudicative pro-

- **Controversial EFSEC emails surface in court**
- **EFSEC Chairman Jim Luce writes 'local input' not what wind farm siting is about?**
- **Judge describes EFSEC chairman as 'loose canon.'**
- **Commissioners question EFSEC integrity, while state government officials express shock and dismay.**

ceedings in the wind farm matter, Chairman Luce allegedly wrote the County's wind farm siting process would "circumvent EFSEC" and "EFSEC will lose credibility as a way to process applications effectively."

In another email attachment cited in the same court document, dated November 28, 2006, Chairman Luce allegedly wrote to Chris Towne: "BOTTOM LINE: If EFSEC cannot preempt on these facts it will lose any credibility it has a[s] a State siting

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