



**EFSEC**

**Washington State  
Energy Facility  
Site Evaluation  
Council**



April 8, 2002

**Mercer Ranch Power Project  
Notice of Project Suspension**

Dear Interested Person:

This letter is to notify you that environmental and technical review of the Mercer Ranch Power Project (Mercer Ranch) has been suspended indefinitely. The project proponent, Cogentrix, Inc. (Cogentrix), has requested that the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) and Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) stop all review of the project. Cogentrix has withdrawn their request for interconnection and transmission service from Bonneville.

Cogentrix had proposed to build an 800-megawatt natural gas-fired merchant power plant in southwestern Benton County, Washington. The site was approximately 12 miles west of the unincorporated town of Paterson, Washington; 17 miles east of the unincorporated town of Roosevelt; and 2.5 miles north of the Columbia River.

Bonneville would have needed to build a switchyard (Crow Butte) for power produced at Mercer Ranch to interconnect with the Federal Columbia River Transmission System. Less than one mile of 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line would have been required.

Bonneville and EFSEC had planned to produce a joint Environmental Impact Statement to meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). Review of the Mercer Ranch proposal would be re-started only upon request or a notification of a change in status from the proponent.

In the event this project proposal becomes active again, a review of the suitability of work completed to date would be initiated and the environmental review process re-started. At that time, you would also be notified of opportunities for public participation in EFSEC and BPA's review process. Information about Mercer Ranch will be kept on Bonneville's web site ([www.efw.bpa.gov](http://www.efw.bpa.gov)) and EFSEC's web site ([www.efsec.wa.gov](http://www.efsec.wa.gov)) for a period of time. For further information regarding Mercer Ranch, you may contact:

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