

## **Economic Development Group of Kittitas County Votes to Support enXco Wind Project (March 23, 2004)**

ELLENSBURG, Wash. – The Economic Development Group of Kittitas County (formerly the Phoenix Group) has formally endorsed enXco’s proposal to construct a wind farm in the Reecer Creek area of Kittitas County, approximately 8 miles north of Ellensburg. The wind farm is known as the Desert Claim Wind Power Project. The proposed project consists of approximately 120 wind turbines with a capacity of 180-megawatts of energy located across 5,237 acres owned by eight private landowners.

The decision to endorse the Desert Claim project was made at the regularly scheduled board meeting on Friday, March 19. The decision was not unanimous. Over the past several years, the board has closely monitored the development of the wind power projects in our county and gathered a considerable amount of information. The decision was reached based on the significant positive economic impacts that this project will have on the community.

“The board was impressed by the substantial economic benefits the project brings to our county,” said Debbie Strand, Economic Development Group of Kittitas County Executive Director. “Our calculations show that the Desert Claim Wind Power Project will contribute \$1.6 million in annual tax revenue to our county. They will also provide a significant number of short term construction jobs and some permanent family-wage jobs.” Strand also pointed out that the wind farm, unlike many types of development, requires very few county services. “Many developments of this size would create a drain on county services,” she said.

“Existing tax payers in the taxing districts where this project is located will see their property taxes decrease significantly as the result of this project. In addition, the reduced tax rates will make our area more attractive for other potential businesses,” said Bob Titus, Economic Development Group of Kittitas County Chairman of the Board.

enXco has filed an application with Kittitas County to construct this project. The draft environmental impact statement was issued in December 2003 and the public review period was completed in late January. The final environmental impact statement should be released this spring.

enXco is a full service wind energy company that develops, builds, operates and manages wind energy projects. For more information see [www.enxco.com](http://www.enxco.com).

The Economic Development Group of Kittitas County is a non-profit organization that promotes economic development and job-creation in Kittitas County. It provides assistance for both new and established businesses, operates a business incubator and business park, and is the point of contact for businesses interested in locating in Kittitas County. The group changed its name from the Phoenix Economic Development Group earlier this year.