July 18, 2026

RE: Formal Public Hearing Request and Comments on the VoltaGrid Electric Generation Plant (Quincy) Air Quality Notice of Construction Application

Dear Ms. Filipy,

I am writing to formally request that the Washington State Department of Ecology hold a public hearing regarding the proposed Air Quality Notice of Construction (NOC) application for the VoltaGrid Electric Generation Plant in Quincy (Parcel 0401414050).

As a stakeholder invested in Washington's environment and legal climate mandates, I believe this project presents significant public interest and potential long-term conflicts with state law. While Chapter 173-400 WAC establishes baseline localized pollution thresholds, the approval of a 30-megawatt fossil-fuel generation facility cannot be evaluated in a regulatory vacuum separate from Washington's overarching, legally binding climate targets.

I request a public hearing to address the following grounds and areas of concern:

1. **Conflict with Statutory Emission Reduction Limits (RCW 70A.45.020):**
   Washington state law mandates a strict trajectory to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, on the path to net-zero by 2050. Permitting a new, multi-generator natural gas plant locks in massive fossil-fuel infrastructure at a time when the state is legally required to rapidly decarbonize. Ecology must provide a venue to evaluate how adding tons of carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and formaldehyde aligns with these statutory limits.
2. **Undermining the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA):**
   CETA (RCW 19.405) legally requires Washington's electric sector to transition to 100% renewable or zero-emission electricity. While VoltaGrid operates "behind-the-meter" to circumvent regional utility transmission constraints, it acts as a primary power source for industrial operations. Using fossil-fuel infrastructure to bypass grid capacity deficiencies creates a dangerous regulatory loophole that undermines the intent of CETA.
3. **Lifecycle and Transportation Sector Emissions:**
   The operational model of trucking compressed natural gas from Moses Lake to Quincy introduces substantial, compounding emissions from heavy-duty diesel transport. A public hearing is necessary to review the full lifecycle impacts—including upstream methane leakage and trucking emissions—which run counter to the goals of the state's Climate Commitment Act (CCA).

4. **Evaluation of Zero-Emission Alternatives:**
   A public forum is required to investigate whether adequate consideration was given to non-fossil alternatives. Before approving 14 natural gas engines, Ecology should facilitate a transparent review of why cleaner alternatives, such as utility-scale battery storage or accelerated grid infrastructure, were not prioritized.

For these reasons, I urge the Department of Ecology to grant a public hearing to allow community members and technical experts to thoroughly vet this proposal against Washington's clean energy future. Please notify me of the date, time, and digital access link for the hearing once scheduled. Please use my email address below for all future hearing notifications and updates.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and dedication to protecting Washington's air quality.

Sincerely,

Sridhar Krishnan

Resident of Issaquah, WA

srikrishnan2526@gmail.com