M. I.

To the Washington State Department of Ecology, this comment is part of a demonstration of significant public interest against approving VoltaGrid Electric Generation Plant's air quality notice of construction (NOC) application without a public hearing. The construction and operation of the 14 natural gas generators would threaten Washington State's climate commitments and establish continued precedent for the exclusion of the public from data center-related decisions that affect our well-being. This decision must not be made without a public hearing at a minimum, and further the application's approval should not be granted given the environmental and community impacts of a wildly speculative field, along with the many concerns raised by my fellow commenters. New natural gas generators are not a "'necessary' stop-gap" for the current and impending risks to Washington's energy grid due to data centers. They are avoidable. Department of Ecology, the public is counting on you to uphold standards of excellence - not permissiveness for unnecessary new fossil fuel plants - to protect us and the land on which we live, work, and play. I urge you to deny this application.