

Rachel Bollens

Good morning, I am writing as a concerned Wenatchee Valley resident. Every person living in this region is currently waking up to existentially distressing and physically taxing poor air quality. The CDC and state assessments of environmental and chronic health burdens reflect this reality; that East Wenatchee and Wenatchee are overburden communities, particularly impacted by air pollution. Because of this reality I am writing to ask the Department of Ecology to NOT approve the addition of more diesel generators for the Sabey Data center.

Additionally, I write as a concerned certified nurse-midwife. While I leave this comment as an individual, I cannot help but bring my concern for the pregnancy and neonatal impacts of worsening air pollution. The science is very clear that pregnant women are at increased risk for developing respiratory complications. The impact of poor air quality is magnified in pregnancy, having consequences for both the birthing person and their fetus. And then this vulnerability obviously continues, as newborns remain exquisitely sensitive to particulate matter.

I urge the Department of Ecology to require Sabey to explore cleaner energy sources, rather than increasing the diesel footprint in East Wenatchee.

Thank you for listening,
Rachel