

Greg King

Comment from the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe



May, 7, 2026

Permit Coordinator / Senior Planner  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
300 Desmond Drive SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

*Re: Snoqualmie Indian Tribe Comments on the Geothermal Energy Collaborative Process Draft Legislative Update*

Dear Alex Shin,

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe [Tribe] is a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe and a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855, in which it reserved to itself certain rights and privileges and ceded certain lands to the United States. As a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott, the Tribe specifically reserved, among other things, the right to fish at usual and accustomed areas and the “privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries on open and unclaimed lands” throughout the modern-day State of Washington. The Snoqualmie people have stewarded these lands and waters since time immemorial, and the Tribe seeks to work collaboratively with the Department of Ecology to ensure the protection of cultural and natural resources for future generations.

The Snoqualmie Tribe appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the state’s ongoing geothermal collaborative process. We support Washington’s efforts to explore clean, reliable, and renewable energy resources, and we value the early and continued Tribal engagement described in the 2026 Draft Legislative Update.

At the same time, the Tribe emphasizes that any geothermal exploration or development must fully protect Tribal rights, cultural resources, and the lands and waters that sustain our people. We are particularly concerned about technologies that rely on creating or enhancing subsurface permeability including hydraulic fracturing and similar methods used in enhanced geothermal systems which may increase risks of induced seismicity, groundwater impacts, and disturbance of cultural or environmental resources. These concerns are consistent with the potential impact categories identified in the state’s materials, including seismicity, water quality, and Tribal resources. If these technologies are being considered, they should only be done so with early Tribal consultation and a full environmental assessment of short- and long-term impacts to ensure that they will not result in the loss of ecological functions, impacts to human health and well-being, or the permanent degradation of Tribal resources.

We look forward to continued government-to-government consultation as the state refines its analysis, addresses data gaps, and evaluates sitting factors. The Snoqualmie Tribe encourages the state to adopt a



safety minded approach, ensure rigorous assessment of risks, and prioritize the protection of culturally significant landscapes and ecosystems in all phases of geothermal planning and decision-making.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

*Greg King*

Greg King L.G.

Geologist

Snoqualmie Indian Tribe