Natalie Williams

To the Department of Ecology, Clean Energy Coordination:

My name is Natalie Williams and I live at PMB 3682 POBox 257 Olympia WA 98507. I am writing to submit a scoping comment on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for stand-alone, utility-scale, lithium-ion battery energy storage system facilities in Washington (Publication 26-06-017).

I am commenting because a stand-alone BESS facility is proposed near where I live, and Ecology has said that project-level reviews will tier to this PEIS. Ecology has asked for input on questions for the study. My comment addresses the following:

Q3 · Impacts to analyze — The harms the study has to look at.
I ask that the impact analysis cover battery-fire smoke and hydrogen fluoride under valley inversion conditions, fire-suppression runoff reaching wells and salmon streams, the load a multi-day incident puts on rural fire, HazMat, hospital, and evacuation capacity, all-night mechanical noise well past 1,000 feet, and how container-based facilities perform in an earthquake.

Q4 · Mitigation — The steps Ecology should require to reduce the harm.
I ask that Ecology name specific mitigation lead agencies can adopt as permit conditions: real setbacks from homes, schools, and wells; UL 9540A testing and the current NFPA 855 edition; funded training and equipment for local responders before a facility operates; capture and disposal of fire-suppression water; nighttime noise limits measured at the nearest home; and decommissioning bonds.

This is personal for my household. I live near a site where a stand-alone BESS facility is proposed, the Cottages project.

Because Ecology itself says stand-alone facilities "could be sited in a variety of locations," including near cities, the PEIS should not assume facilities will be far from people. I ask that Ecology treat proximity to residents as a defining condition of the analysis, and that the Draft PEIS state plainly which impacts cannot be mitigated below significance, so that lead agencies and the public are not left to guess.

Thank you for considering this comment. Please include it in the scoping record. Our community is following this PEIS closely and intends to participate in the Draft PEIS comment period.
Please protect our watershed.
Sincerely,
Natalie Williams
PMB 3682 POBox 257 Olympia WA 98507