Megan Stobie

To the Department of Ecology, Clean Energy Coordination:

My name is Megan Stobie and I live at 34914 SE Brinkley St. 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:

Q2 · Geographic scope — Where the study assumes batteries will go.
Closeness to existing infrastructure should not be used as a stand-in for a safe site. Being near a substation should not make a place "suitable." We live in an area with only a couple of roads in and out and also downstream from this location is Snoqualmie Falls, Snoqualmie River, an Elk herd and flood zone. I ask that the PEIS's geographic-scope assumptions explicitly account for proximity to homes, schools, and hospitals; wildland-urban interface and wildfire-prone areas; seismic hazard zones and floodplains; areas dependent on private wells; and communities with limited evacuation routes — and that proximity to existing infrastructure not be treated as a proxy for suitability.

This is personal for my household. I live near a site where a stand-alone BESS facility is proposed, the Snoqualmie project. My household depends on Railroad Ave / SR 202, which is also an emergency route for everyone along it.

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.

Sincerely,
Megan Stobie
34914 SE Brinkley St