Cheri Myers

To the Department of Ecology, Clean Energy Coordination:

My name is Cheri Myers. I live in Snoqualmie WA. 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.
The study's map should clearly say where facilities should not go, not only where they could, since nearly every kind of land could have a facility built on it. Conditions like those in the Snoqualmie Valley should be part of what the study considers. Wildfire exposure and fire-district capacity should also be part of where facilities can be built, since Ecology's own earlier studies flagged wildfire risk from "new ignition sources in remote locations with limited response capabilities" as a problem. Ecology has promised to hear from local communities. 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.

I live near a site where a stand-alone BESS facility is proposed, the Cascadia Ridge BESS project - making this personal for my household. My household depends on Snoqualmie Parkway, which is also an emergency route for everyone along it. Please take what our communities are saying seriously about where we live and what needs to be assessed in order to ensure this study is done properly.

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,
Cheri Myers
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