Jesse Correia

To the Department of Ecology, Clean Energy Coordination:

My name is Jesse Correia and I live at 6535 Fairway Ave Se. 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:

Q1 · Facility types — Which kinds of battery facilities get studied.
I would like the study to look at stand-alone sites near homes and neighborhoods, not the remote ones it studied before, since Ecology admits these sites are smaller and "could be sited in a variety of locations." The study should assume facilities would be built to the rules Washington has actually adopted, and say what the newest standards would change, since Ecology admits the state's fire code is behind them. I ask that the PEIS evaluate the full range of stand-alone facilities actually being proposed in Washington — including large container-based lithium-ion installations sited near homes, schools, and constrained road networks — and that it analyze those facilities as built to the code Washington has actually adopted, drawing on independent safety data rather than industry assurances, and identify the most recent safety standards as required mitigation.

This is personal for my household. I live downstream or downwind of a proposed stand-alone BESS site, the Cascades Ridge by Jupiter Power project, in the same air basin, fire district, and hospital service area. My children attend school near a proposed stand-alone BESS site, at Cascade Ciew. My household depends on Snoqualmie Parkeay/HWY 18, 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,
Jesse Correia
6535 Fairway Ave Se