James Hietala

To the Department of Ecology, Clean Energy Coordination:

My name is James Hietala and I live at 35328 SE Kinsey St, 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.
Conditions like those in the Snoqualmie Valley should be part of what the study considers, because this is the one chance to shape the study area before Ecology draws it. The Ecology study should define "suitable" areas by what is safe for the people who live there, not just by where a facility could physically be built. 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 Cascadia Ridge project. My household depends on Snoqualmie Parkway, 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,
James Hietala
35328 SE Kinsey St, Snoqualmie WA