



August 9, 2022

Sage Park
Washington State Department of Ecology
Central Region Office
Attn: Goldendale Energy DEIS
1250 W Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903

Re: Goldendale Energy Storage Project – SEPA Draft EIS Comments
SR 14 MP 106.59

Dear Sage Park:

Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) Southwest Region staff would like to thank the Washington State Department of Ecology for providing us the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Goldendale Energy Storage project. WSDOT staff were engaged in the scoping process for the proposal, and while our comments were addressed in the DEIS, we would like to clarify our position and add to our comments. Please accept the following comments for your consideration.

The Transportation section of the DEIS states that there will be no significant and unavoidable adverse impacts to transportation associated with the Goldendale Energy proposal. This determination appears to be based on information provided by the project proponent but does not appear to include a traffic impact analysis (TIA). The preparation of a TIA is referenced as a mitigation measure recommended by WSDOT, to be prepared prior to construction of the proposed facility.

It is the opinion of WSDOT staff that the TIA should be completed during the EIS process and incorporated into the appendices of the final EIS. The findings and recommendations in the TIA may include additional information that can be used to determine whether significant and unavoidable impacts will occur during the construction of the proposed facility. Mitigation measures may be recommended by the TIA, some of which could be included in the Construction Traffic Management Plan proposed by the project proponent or conditioned in the EIS as a mitigation measure for the project.

In closing, WSDOT is supportive of the project, provided that impacts to the state highway system are adequately analyzed and mitigated for. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DEIS for the Goldendale Energy Storage project. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at BassD@wsdot.wa.gov or at 360-831-5829.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dylan M. Bass". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dylan Bass
Development Review Planner
WSDOT Southwest Region

Cc: Laurie Lebowsky-Young
Scott Langer