

Feel the Power

August 9, 2022

Via E-Filing

Attn: Sage Park
Regional Director, SEPA Responsible Official
Goldendale Energy DEIS
Department of Ecology
1250 W. Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

Re: Comments on the Goldendale Energy Storage Project Draft EIS by Laborers Local Union 335

Dear Director Park:

In response to the "State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement" for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project, Laborers' Local 335 submits these comments for consideration.

The Laborers Local 335 represents 587 construction workers including many who live and work within commuting distance of the Goldendale Energy Storage Project. Laborers Local 335 has an office in Vancouver, Washington and dispatches workers to project sites in southern Washington, including Klickitat County where the pumped-water storage project will be located. Across the region and in Washington, Laborers members are employed on hydroelectric, energy, and infrastructure projects. Laborers members are highly skilled and receive free training, middle-class wages, affordable family health insurance, and a retirement benefit.

Socioeconomic Benefits of the Project

The Laborers urge the Department to include for consideration in the DEIS and account of the socioeconomic impacts related to the Goldendale project. Notably, because the applicant, Free Flow Power Project 101, LLC, has executed a Project Labor Agreement ("PLA") with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council, including the Laborers, the project will be constructed with union construction workers from Washington State and the surrounding area. As a result, the proposed project will create 3,000 high quality construction jobs over a five-year period that pay wages significantly greater than average, offer affordable family health insurance and a pension benefit, and spur reinvestment in the host community and Washington

LABORERS' LOCAL 335

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State. Moreover, because the project will span a five-year time horizon, it will provide a critical opportunity for entrants to the construction industry to complete their craft's multi-year apprenticeship training program, and create a new generation of skilled construction workers needed to build the clean energy infrastructure of tomorrow. In addition, the scope and scale of the project provides a pathway for workers who have historically worked in the fossil fuel sector to equitably transition to the clean energy economy.

If approved, the Goldendale project would be the largest pumped-water storage project in the Northwest region, providing up to 1,200 MW of energy, and fulfilling one-fifth of the region's energy storage needs. It would also anchor and complement the wind and solar resources needed to meet the state's 100% clean energy goals. Importantly, because construction workers on the project will be covered by a PLA, it will provide an opportunity for entrants to the construction industry to complete their apprenticeship requirements putting thousands of blue-collar workers on a path to the middle-class. The family-sustaining wages, and high quality benefits for local and state workers also means that the project will not increase demand on governmental services or healthcare systems, but, in fact, generate additional governmental revenues and improve socioeconomic conditions.

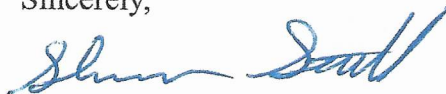
Conclusion

The full range of a project's socioeconomic impacts are oftentimes not fully studied or understood during the scoping process. The Goldendale project will create thousands of high quality construction jobs over five years during a time when working families are experiencing record inflation and financial insecurity. Investigation of the full range of the socioeconomic benefits of this project will provide the public and stakeholders a complete picture of the project's net costs and benefits, and improve public confidence in the scoping process.

The Laborers appreciate the opportunity to comment, and will submit further comments in this proceeding.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Shannon Stull
Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer
Laborers' Local Union 335
2212 NW Andresen Rd.
Vancouver, WA, 98661

The below names have signed this letter in full and complete sincerity:

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~~Jonathan~~

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The below names have signed this letter in full and complete sincerity:

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