

Katherine Allowatt

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on TransAlta's proposal to transition one unit of its coal-fired facility to natural gas and construct a new 1,500-foot pipeline. As a resident of Centralia, I support efforts to reduce emissions, but I am concerned about the mitigation requirements and long-term follow-through identified in the SEPA checklist and the draft PSD permit materials.

Based on the documents provided (including the SEPA checklist, Mitigated Determination of Nonsignificance, and draft PSD permit) it is clear that the project has environmental, cultural, and historical impacts that must be addressed before moving forward. My concerns include:

Mitigation clarity and enforceability: The MDNS identifies impacts that require mitigation, but the public needs assurance that these measures are specific, measurable, and enforceable over time. Please ensure that mitigation commitments are not left to future interpretation or voluntary compliance.

Pipeline construction impacts: Even though the pipeline is on TransAlta-owned land, construction still poses risks to soils, water pathways, vegetation, and wildlife. I request more detail on how impacts will be minimized during trenching, installation, and restoration, and how monitoring will occur afterward.

Air quality and cumulative impacts: Transitioning to natural gas reduces some pollutants but increases others (including methane leakage risk). The PSD permit should clearly outline how TransAlta will monitor emissions, prevent leaks, and report compliance transparently to the community.

Water resource protection: As someone who lives in Centralia and is directly affected by local water quality and hydrology, I am especially concerned about potential impacts to groundwater, stormwater pathways, and nearby surface waters. Please ensure that mitigation measures fully address both construction phase and operational water risks.

Long-term accountability: Mitigation is only meaningful if it is followed through. I request that Ecology include strong monitoring requirements, public reporting expectations, and clear consequences for non-compliance.

I appreciate Ecology's review and the identification of required mitigation. Before the project proceeds, I urge Ecology to strengthen the conditions in the PSD permit and MDNS to ensure that environmental protections are durable, enforceable, and transparent to the Centralia community.

Thank you for considering my comments.