



Centralia Downtown Association
P.O. Box 391
Centralia, WA 98531

September 14, 2026

Dear Washington State Department of Ecology and State Decision-Makers:

On behalf of the Centralia Downtown Association, I am writing to express our support for the TransAlta Centralia Conversion Project and the continued investment in the Centralia facility.

The Centralia Downtown Association works every day to strengthen our historic downtown through preservation-based economic development, small business support, community investment, and revitalization. Through that work, we see firsthand that the success of our downtown is directly connected to the economic health of the greater Centralia and Lewis County community.

Strong employers and family-wage jobs matter to downtown. They support the families who shop in our stores, eat in our restaurants, utilize local services, purchase homes, and invest their time and resources back into our community. Continued economic activity at the TransAlta site also supports contractors, suppliers, service providers, and other businesses throughout our region.

Centralia has experienced significant economic transition over the years, and our community has worked hard to adapt, diversify, and create new opportunities. As that transition continues, we believe it is important to retain meaningful employment, encourage private investment, and make productive use of major community assets whenever possible.

For a downtown organization like ours, economic development is not simply about attracting new businesses. It is also about creating the conditions that allow our existing businesses to remain strong and our community to continue moving forward. Large-scale investment and employment within our region contribute to the stability and confidence that small businesses and entrepreneurs need to invest and grow.

We appreciate the thoughtful review being undertaken and respectfully encourage a timely process that recognizes the significance of this investment to Centralia and the surrounding region.

The Centralia Downtown Association supports the TransAlta Centralia Conversion Project and the continued economic opportunity it represents for our community.

Sincerely,

MacKenzie McGee, Executive Director