

**From:** [Finley, Sharra](#) on behalf of [Wagoner, Sen. Keith](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Cc:** [Drew, Kathleen \(EFSEC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Goldeneye  
**Date:** Friday, August 23, 2024 10:28:36 AM  
**Attachments:** [Goldeneve BESS Final.docx](#)

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External Email

Please find attached a letter from the 39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District legislators regarding the recent meeting for siting a battery storage facility in Skagit County.

Kind regards,

*Sharra Finley*

Legislative Assistant  
Senator Keith Wagoner  
39<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
360.786.7676



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## Washington State Legislature

August 23, 2024

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

We are writing in opposition to the Goldeneye BESS proposal to be sited on agricultural land adjacent to Hansen Creek in Skagit County. As legislators representing the area we must thoughtfully weigh benefits versus risk and the will of our constituents living nearby.

Our first knowledge of the project came just prior to an Informational Meeting conducted in tandem with a Land Use Hearing held in Sedro-Woolley on August 13, 2024. Official notices of these meetings were provided to a very limited number of people so most people learned about it through social media. There is a sense in the community that this was done purposely to limit opposition.


Questions concerning the business model to recoup the \$250 M investment were vague at best; "it's complicated", "it depends" are not satisfying, confidence building answers and not what legislators expect from company representatives. Goldeneye creates no energy, it only consumes and stores energy, presumably for sales to the general market probably at premium prices due to its "renewable status." We are not opposed to profits but if we are to sacrifice our precious guarded agricultural lands it should be for new energy producing sources, not just a clever way to monetize existing power.

The proposed site is not only agricultural land it is directly adjacent to a salmon bearing stream, Hansen Creek, that has a history of flooding. The proposal actually requires tunneling under the creek to connect with PSE's transmission site. Hansen Creek also flows directly into the Skagit River, the importance of which cannot be overstated. It is hard to imagine a less appropriate location given the nature of lithium-ion batteries and their well-known issues with thermal runaway and combustion particularly when water is introduced to the chemical reaction. A cocktail of toxic gasses (hydrogen fluoride among them) is emitted during combustion which could endanger both local residents and any firefighters attempting to extinguish such a conflagration.

This technology does have potential; we are not opposed to its use but, siting criteria should include avoiding populated areas, fish producing bodies of water, vulnerable drinking water sources (to include groundwater), critical wildlife habitat, and agricultural

areas. While this will preclude many financially tempting locations, we believe the public's safety should take priority. We ask that the Goldeneye BESS facility be sited in a safer, more appropriate location.

Kind regards,



Keith Wagoner  
Senator



Carolyn Eslick  
Representative



Sam Low  
Representative

Cc: EFSEC Council Members  
Governor Jay Inslee  
Skagit County Commissioners