



**Respondent No:** 7

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 08:18:55 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 08:18:55 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Terry McNeil
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	tmcneil@wavecable.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	Do not allow this facility at this location. Do not allow this on farmland, or near homes due to fire possibility.
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 8

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 09:46:08 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 09:46:08 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Lance Hansen

Q2. **Email address** holshaft@hotmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** **Yes (please specify)**  
Skagit County Farm Bureau board member Stewards of Skagit County

Q4. **Share any comment**

January 8, 2025 To the EFSEC board: Concerning Goldeneyes BESS in Sedro-Woolley, WA I am a local citizen, have family farm on Burmaster Road within 1.5 miles of this proposed facility. I live in Everson, Washington currently. I do not support this proposed battery facility for the following reasons: 1. Loss of farmland, this is not a local approved use of farmland. 2nd there is already limited farmland in this area as is, and putting an industrial facility on land that can be used to grow local food is not a good use of this land 2. The fact it is next to a salmon bearing stream, and the local tribes and government have spent millions of dollars on salmon restoration on Hansen creek and salmon have been seen spawning with photo proof showing the restoration is working 3. Loss of area for wildlife, there are many bird, deer I personally have seen on the property and free space for them to roam their habitat here 4. Safety concerns with these facilities and no answers from the company on the safety plan. This needs to be implemented 5. From all the public meetings the local community does not support this project with local groups forming that have made our voice known even the local city and county commissioners have sent resolutions against this project. Listen to the people, we have spoken 6. This is not renewable energy, only storage. And if the power goes out usually means this extra energy from the batteries cannot be transmitted anyways. We have more power than we can use with PSE, they have facilities such as the Sumas power generating stations that is on my work site, that kick on when extra power is needed. I have friends who work at PSE and they tell me the grid just needs to be updated to accommodate transmitting the power, however that we have extra. 7. Nothing comes to the local community and no jobs. Sorry temporary construction jobs do not count as these are a very short lived benefit 8. All the profits and use of this facility go to out of state companies, why on earth are you supporting a project that is not locally based???????? 9. I am a board member of the Skagit County Farm Bureau and we do not support this project as it would be a loss to local agricultural community. Sincerely, Lance Hansen Holshaft@hotmail.com or call me at (360)366-6499

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** [https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/c7884862164c0d00d3b49cc7fe36f3e8411a3e39/original/1736358362/dce2a18e32e0a126870bffedfe24593c\\_BEES\\_Goldeneye.docx?1736358362](https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/c7884862164c0d00d3b49cc7fe36f3e8411a3e39/original/1736358362/dce2a18e32e0a126870bffedfe24593c_BEES_Goldeneye.docx?1736358362)

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

January 8, 2025

To the EFSEC board:

Concerning Goldeneyes BESS in Sedro-Woolley, WA

I am a local citizen, have family farm on Burmaster Road within 1.5 miles of this proposed facility. I live in Everson, Washington currently. I do not support this proposed battery facility for the following reasons:

1. Loss of farmland, this is not a local approved use of farmland. 2<sup>nd</sup> there is already limited farmland in this area as is, and putting an industrial facility on land that can be used to grow local food is not a good use of this land
2. The fact it is next to a salmon bearing stream, and the local tribes and government have spent millions of dollars on salmon restoration on Hansen creek and salmon have been seen spawning with photo proof showing the restoration is working
3. Loss of area for wildlife, there are many bird, deer I personally have seen on the property and free space for them to roam their habitat here
4. Safety concerns with these facilities and no answers from the company on the safety plan. This needs to be implemented
5. From all the public meetings the local community does not support this project with local groups forming that have made our voice known even the local city and county commissioners have sent resolutions against this project. Listen to the people, we have spoken
6. This is not renewable energy, only storage. And if the power goes out usually means this extra energy from the batteries cannot be transmitted anyways. We have more power than we can use with PSE, they have facilities such as the Sumas power generating stations that is on my work site, that kick on when extra power is needed. I have friends who work at PSE and they tell me the grid just needs to be updated to accommodate transmitting the power, however that we have extra.
7. Nothing comes to the local community and no jobs. Sorry temporary construction jobs do not count as these are a very short lived benefit
8. All the profits and use of this facility go to out of state companies, why on earth are you supporting a project that is not locally based????????
9. I am a board member of the Skagit County Farm Bureau and we do not support this project as it would be a loss to local agricultural community.

Sincerely,

Lance Hansen

[Holshaft@hotmail.com](mailto:Holshaft@hotmail.com) or call me at (360)366-6499



**Respondent No:** 9  
**Login:** Erik.thacker  
**Email:** erik.thacker@gmail.com

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 10:17:11 am  
**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 17:30:36 pm  
**IP Address:** 149.40.51.85

Q1. **First & Last Name** Erik Thacker

Q2. **Email address** erik.thacker@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

The procedure used by this council is unfair. This facility clearly would not be permitted under Skagit County's land use codes, but through the magic of In re Columbia Solar Project, the council can approve any site whatsoever so long as any mechanism for a conditional special use permit exists. No attention is paid to whether the proposed project would actually be granted a special use permit should it apply for one. This circumvents the entire purpose of this inquiry. The point is to decide whether the land use is against our county codes. If Tenaska applied for a special use permit here, it would be rejected because this project is inconsistent with the way in which this county uses Ag-NRL land and fails several of the elements listed in SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v). Tenaska has not shown that no other suitable site exists. There are genuine concerns about the health and welfare of people living close to this facility. Additionally, this facility is clearly out of character for our land use in this county, demonstrated by the extreme public response and the county's robust initiative to protect agricultural land. We are told Tenaska has submitted evidence that it is in character with the County's uses, but the council did not explain what this evidence is in its order, nor how it is persuasive. It's true we need to create energy storage solutions for the clean energy transition. However, that does not mean we need to permit limited liability, private entities from out of state to destroy our land locally and profit off of it. We need mechanisms to ensure that energy storage projects are responsible to the people living in the area. As the law of business organizations stands now, there is a serious risk that Tenaska could profit off this land for years, and structure its financials so that Goldeneye Energy Storage, LLC can declare bankruptcy when the time comes to decommission the site, and stick the county with the bill for cleaning up an hazardous site. Why did Tenaska create a limited liability subsidiary to oversee just this one project if not to protect itself and its investors from having any financial responsibility for this project? We need energy projects that serve the people, not investors. If the council truly cares about a fair and just green energy transition, they will abandon the principle of In re Columbia Solar Project and reject this proposal in accordance with Skagit County's land use codes.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 10

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 10:19:45 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 10:19:45 am

**IP Address:** n/a

- 
- Q1. **First & Last Name** Sally Carlson
- 
- Q2. **Email address** sallyin.sedro@gmail.com
- 
- Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** **Yes (please specify)**  
Stewards of Skagit
- 
- Q4. **Share any comment**
- What an absolute waste of tax payer dollars. This site is nearby a stream where 5 species of salmon spawn. This stream has received over \$500,000 in stream rehabilitation from the state and federal government. Our resident orca depend on these salmon to survive. Why risk a fire and melt down of a battery storage facility so near our waterways and farm land! Shame on you! You don't care about the environment or people or animals! This is government overreach and government fleeing at its worse!
- 
- Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
- 
- Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
- 
- Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
- 
- Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
-



**Respondent No:** 11

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 10:26:42 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 10:26:42 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Gary Duvall

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Q2. **Email address** grduvall@live.com

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Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

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Q4. **Share any comment**

Premature conversion to electric power sources are a climate mistake. Most lithium is refined in China, and most lithium batteries are manufactured there, with mostly power from coal-fired power plants. Spend the money instead on cleaner faster transportation sources, like extending light rail, making Amtrak faster, and building safe walking and biking infrastructure. Skagit County has plenty of reliable hydropower, and little wind or solar, and never will due to its climate being cloudy and with no steady winds. So battery power plants should be placed elsewhere, like in Eastern Washington close to the wind farms there. Diesel powered backup power stations are about 1% of the cost of the same capacity battery plants. Please kill this horrible waste of taxpayer dollars.

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Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 12

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 11:53:41 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 11:53:41 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Andrea Chin

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Q2. **Email address** anlchin@uw.edu

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Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

---

Q4. **Share any comment**

I agree with EFSEC and their land use determination for the Goldeneye Energy Storage. I support the project for its role in strengthening Washington's clean energy future given worsening climate change conditions.

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Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 13

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 11:57:24 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 11:57:24 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Catherine Harper
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	catherineharper8@gmail.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	I agree with the FCC's land use determination and support this project for its role in strengthening Washington's clean energy future.
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered





**Respondent No:** 14

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 12:07:24 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 12:07:24 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Bruce Wade

Q2. **Email address** activist@taurus-tech.net

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

Grid-tied Battery storage allows utilities to capture excess generation as well as rapidly backfill excess power consumption. Battery systems directly replace the need for fossil fuel 'peaker' plants that are needed to make up for peaks in power demands. The battery systems also are much faster in responding to demand, milliseconds, where a 'peaker' take several minutes to transition to full power generation.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 15

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 12:10:16 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 12:10:16 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Susan Ring
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	scring67@comcast.net
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	<b>Yes (please specify)</b> Catholic Church
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	not answered
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 16

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 12:16:50 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 12:16:50 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Susan Baker

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Q2. **Email address** westseattle1952@gmail.com

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Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

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Q4. **Share any comment**

Support Goldeneye Energy Storage. WA needs clean energy now. This is critical with the drastic Climate Change that has occurred in WA and around the world. Be a participant in taking back what has been lost.

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Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 17

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 12:46:29 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 12:46:29 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Adelle Hamel
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	hamelsj@comcast.net
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	not answered
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 18

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 13:00:08 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 13:00:08 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	McAnally
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	jillmcanally@gmail.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	Are your wind turbines the kind that don't hurt birds?
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 19

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 14:24:05 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 14:24:05 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Barbara Rosenkotter

Q2. **Email address** skye@alumni.ucdavis.edu

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

I support the Golden Eye Energy Storage project. I agree with the land use determination and support the project for its role in strengthening Washington's clean energy future. The Goldeneye Energy Storage project will: \* Store renewable energy—such as solar and wind—so that clean power is available when we need it most. This enables the clean energy transition, paving the way for a more stable, reliable, and sustainable energy grid. \* Provide grid-wide reliability benefits, including reducing grid congestion, allowing more clean generation assets to come online, and providing emergency backup during peak summer and winter conditions. \* Help Washington manage increasing energy demand due to factors such as population growth, extreme weather, and more electric vehicles on the road. \* Generate economic development for communities and jobs for the local union workforce.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 20

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 15:42:08 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 15:42:08 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Linda Ellsworth
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	lindaellsworth51@gmail.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	I approve of the Goldeneye Energy Storage plan
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 21  
**Login:** TravisG2025  
**Email:** travisgarrity@gmail.com

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 16:18:30 pm  
**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 23:55:40 pm  
**IP Address:** 173.10.91.177

Q1. **First & Last Name** Travis Garrity

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Q2. **Email address** travisgarrity@gmail.com

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Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

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Q4. **Share any comment**

The Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) sounds like a great idea, but not when it is located near a population center nor when it is located in an area susceptible to damages from either the construction and/or maintenance of the facility. It is also only a great idea when the lifespan of the batteries are decades rather than just years. Questions as to how much will maintenance and replacement of batteries cost should be considered and the answer should be minimal cost to the taxpayer. It should be located out of the way so that in the worst case scenario the aftermath and affects of damage to this system would not be felt by a community. Meaning minimal people, less than a dozen, would be required to be evacuated in case of an emergency such as a fire, flood or earthquake. This system should also not affect the quality of the ground water supply nor the quality of water in local rivers. It should also not be placed anywhere where damage or maintenance to it could cause forest fires. In finality, the development and construction of a system such as this BESS in or near Sedro-Woolley is not a good idea. A better idea would be the funding for and the development of cleaner than coal energy sources. Thankfully, many of these technologies are already available and should be utilized rather than utilizing batteries for mass storage of energy.

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Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 22

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 20:17:55 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 20:17:55 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Janice Wilfing

Q2. **Email address** jwilfing12@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

I agree with The Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council's land use determination and support the project for its role in strengthening Washington's clean energy future.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 23

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 20:37:30 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 20:37:30 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Virginia Davis

Q2. **Email address** ginny1218@yahoo.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Goldeneye BESS Land Use Consistency Draft Order. The Goldeneye Energy Storage project will: \* Store renewable energy, such as solar and wind, so that clean power is available when we need it most. This enables the clean energy transition, paving the way for a more stable, reliable, and sustainable energy grid. \* Provide grid-wide reliability benefits, including reducing grid congestion, allowing more clean generation assets to come online, and providing emergency backup during peak summer and winter conditions. \* Help Washington manage increasing energy demand due to factors such as population growth, extreme weather, and more electric vehicles on the road. \* Generate economic development for communities and jobs for the local union workforce.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 24

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 21:02:01 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 21:02:01 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Bob Warner

Q2. **Email address** bobwarner1955@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

Dear EFESC, The Sedro-Woolley Goldeneye BESS is inconsistent with public safety. Inconsistent with Skagit River watershed safety. Inconsistent with Hansen Creek Salmon Habitat safety. Inconsistent with farmland designation and county zoning. The bottom line: Goldeneye BESS is not consistent with best use practices and a danger to nearby residents, schools, businesses and wildlife. Please reject this misguided site location . The only box it checks is level ground. Do you really want to force this upon the citizens Sedro-Woolley? Potential contamination of Hansen Creek and the Skagit River are beyond any mitigation and make this location untenable,unwise,flawed, faulty, ill-founded,shaky, unacceptable. Please deny the Goldeneye BESS site. Sincerely, Bob Warner

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 25

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 21:02:43 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 21:02:43 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Roger Kurtz

Q2. **Email address** kurtzr08@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

This concept is long overdue and I think it's vital to making green energy more reliable. I just got done installing two solar panels on a 48' ketch and they seem to be able to keep a 12 volt system charged next is to install a wind generator so the appliances can be used while under anchor. May I Suggest that the computers used to control the grid be a closed circuit system.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 26

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 21:15:14 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 21:15:14 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Hannah Moran

Q2. **Email address** Hannah@rightwayplumb-heat.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

I want to voice my concern with the proposed project in the location east of Sedro Woolley. As a 30+ year resident and business owner in Sedro Woolley this project doesn't belong near fragile fish habitat. There must be a way to store energy and find a location that doesn't also put 10s of thousands of residents, animals, and the entire valley in jeopardy. Having a potential hazardous battery storage facility upstream, near the river, in flood land and with a cable bored under the creek seems like a huge disaster waiting to happen. I truly believe EFSEC can help the BESS company find a GOOD and reasonably intelligent location that does not harm the land and all the residents nearby. I am against the BESS energy project east of Sedro Woolley due to the fact of the environmental impact risks it imposes out weigh the benefits of the storage system. Thank you

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 27

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 08, 2025 21:52:55 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 08, 2025 21:52:55 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Vanessa Richie

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Q2. **Email address** vetinary@hotmail.com

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Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

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Q4. **Share any comment**

I fully support the transition to renewable energy and love living in a state that is taking climate change seriously. Change has to be on a large scale, and we need to be doing so much more to transition to clean energy.

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Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 28

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 09, 2025 07:33:10 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 09, 2025 07:33:10 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Osh Morethstorm

Q2. **Email address** oshmorethstorm@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

The Goldeneye Energy Storage project will: Store renewable energy—such as solar and wind—so that clean power is available when we need it most. This enables the clean energy transition, paving the way for a more stable, reliable, and sustainable energy grid. Provide grid-wide reliability benefits, including reducing grid congestion, allowing more clean generation assets to come online, and providing emergency backup during peak summer and winter conditions. Help Washington manage increasing energy demand due to factors such as population growth, extreme weather, and more electric vehicles on the road. Generate economic development for communities and jobs for the local union workforce. I am very excited about this green electric grid plan. The air I breathe will certainly be cleaner and I'm also stoked about that.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 29

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 09, 2025 08:46:39 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 09, 2025 08:46:39 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Jim Meyer

---

Q2. **Email address** 2jimmeyer@gmail.com

---

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

---

Q4. **Share any comment**

This BESS project should not be allowed to move forward. The site is zoned Agriculture, a key element of Skagit County's economic base. Working farms are a large part of what defines our sense of place. This site is also in the watershed of Hansen Creek, a major Salmon stream with extensive investment of time and money and land having already been made to enhance and maintain it's productivity. This proposed project is quite simply OUT OF PLACE in the proposed location and should not be allowed to move forward.

---

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

---

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 30

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 09, 2025 09:15:31 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 09, 2025 09:15:31 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Jessica Mattoon
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	mattoonjessica16@yahoo.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	We do not want this in Sedro Woolley or anywhere else in Washington state.
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 31

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 09, 2025 11:09:34 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 09, 2025 11:09:34 am

**IP Address:** n/a

- 
- Q1. **First & Last Name** Heather Kurtenbach
- 
- Q2. **Email address** heather@wabuildingtrades.org
- 
- Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** **Yes (please specify)**  
Executive Secretary, Washington State Building & Construction  
Trades Council
- 
- Q4. **Share any comment**  
not answered
- 
- Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** [https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/33a3adfd95060f180fa1acf7425089863ad5a65a/original/1736449750/aba1b0e12e038a5ead1e59ae7e9b1900\\_WBTC\\_Golde neye\\_BESS\\_project.pdf?1736449750](https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/ehq-production-us-california/33a3adfd95060f180fa1acf7425089863ad5a65a/original/1736449750/aba1b0e12e038a5ead1e59ae7e9b1900_WBTC_Golde neye_BESS_project.pdf?1736449750)
- 
- Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
- 
- Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
- 
- Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered
-



January 9, 2025

Dear EFSEC Council Members,

The Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council is pleased to express our support for EFSEC's draft determination finding that the Goldeneye Energy Storage project is consistent and in compliance with local land use provisions.

This is an important step forward for a project that is poised to bolster the future of energy stability in Washington. By enabling the storage of renewable energy and its dispatch during periods of peak demand, this Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) will strengthen the electrical grid in Skagit County and help transition to a more resilient and clean energy system. As the state advances its commitment to renewable energy, projects like Goldeneye provide the backbone for achieving that vision.

In addition to its energy benefits, this project will bring immediate and lasting economic value to local communities. The applicant's commitment to use of a Project Labor Agreement ensures that construction jobs will be filled by skilled local workers who are fairly compensated, directly benefiting families and businesses in the region. Additionally, the project will create a new long-term source of tax revenue for supporting important public services and priorities in the area. These opportunities demonstrate how clean energy projects can create pathways to economic growth while prioritizing the well-being of the workforce.

We also want to acknowledge EFSEC's thorough and thoughtful review process. Your diligence in evaluating this project ensures that all aspects—from environmental considerations to community impacts—are addressed. This commitment to transparency and public input builds trust in the decision-making process and reassures stakeholders that the project will be implemented responsibly. Furthermore, the project applicant's demonstrated expertise and commitment to sustainable development provide additional confidence that the Goldeneye Energy Storage project will meet the highest standards of safety and community benefit.

We respectfully encourage EFSEC to approve the proposed land use consistency determination and support the Goldeneye Energy Storage project as a vital investment in Washington's energy future.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Heather Kurtenbach, Executive Secretary  
Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council

opeiu8/afl-cio



**Respondent No:** 32

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 10, 2025 09:25:28 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 10, 2025 09:25:28 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Theresa Ford

---

Q2. **Email address** theresa2577@live.com

---

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

---

Q4. **Share any comment**

I am here to express my opposition to the proposed Goldeneye BESS facilities. There is much data substantiating the inherent dangers and risks associated with BESS facilities. More care and community consideration must be given to the establishment of such facilities.

---

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

---

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

---

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

---

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

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**Respondent No:** 33

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 10, 2025 09:39:24 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 10, 2025 09:39:24 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Beecher Snipes Jr.

Q2. **Email address** snipesb@cnw.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

I would like to recommend bullet resistant wall be placed around the facility in addition to normal security. Power stations have been put out of service in our state and others by the use of firearms. This could be could be accomplished by using pre cast concrete silage bunker wall panels. The come in various heights, 10 or 12 foot tall units would probably do the trick. Thank you B. Snipes Mount Vernon

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 34

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 10, 2025 10:35:23 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 10, 2025 10:35:23 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Nancy Rauch

Q2. **Email address** sawdustnancy@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

Dear Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, Thank you for re-opening the public comment period. The December holiday season is a hectic time. I understand the need for energy storage systems as our state generates more electricity through wind and solar power. I am not opposed to building a battery energy storage system on land zoned for industrial use. However, I am strongly opposed to the Goldeneye BESS proposal on land zoned for agriculture use. Presently this land, on Minkler Road, is owned by John and Stephanie Grinder. Farming, rather than energy generation or storage, is the best use of agricultural land. I value the preservation of the Grinder property for farming in order to protect the nearby poultry farm (Minkler Road) and a nearby community supported agriculture farm (Foothills Farm on Hoehn Road), I am not alone in my desire to protect farmland, as there exist at least two programs in the county with this purpose (Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and Farmland Legacy Program). Food production holds a greater value to me, as compared to the realtor speak of "highest and best use" which equates value only as the most money generated. Besides farmland preservation, this property also supports the continued restoration of Hansen Creek and the availability of the land for use by wildlife, such as the migrating Trumpeter swans and snow geese. My personal dilemma in opposing this Goldeneye BESS application is my respect for real property rights. I've heard the Grinders are not actively farming this 14 acre parcel. This project proposal is a wake up call for the city and county to reach out to the landowner to find better agriculture solutions for them to have an income, rather than leasing the land for energy storage. Please deny this application in your recommendations to our state governor. Let the Tenaska energy company find a new location that is better suited for an energy storage system. One that is not on agricultural land in the Skagit Valley. Respectfully submitted, Nancy Jo Rauch

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 35

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 10, 2025 18:02:56 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 10, 2025 18:02:56 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Crystal Dorsey

Q2. **Email address** crystaldaneen@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

Skagit county is the wrong place for this type operation. This has the potential to cause catastrophic damage to the ecosystem both here locally, and down stream from us. This is not welcome in the community whatsoever. Please take it somewhere that isn't mainly comprised of farm lands.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 36

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 10, 2025 19:41:07 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 10, 2025 19:41:07 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Hazel Moraleja
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	h5moraleja@yahoo.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	sounds like a positive project
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered





**Respondent No:** 37

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 11, 2025 00:52:51 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 11, 2025 00:52:51 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Peter Brazitis
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	p.f.brazitis@gmail.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	not answered
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 38

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 11, 2025 17:20:14 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 11, 2025 17:20:14 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Cody Ely

Q2. **Email address** codypaulstudios@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

To whom it concerns, I believe that the impacts of positioning such a facility within Sedro-Woolley have not been fully concerned by the ones that are signing these documents. The impact of a failure zone would far outweigh any positive impacts it would have here in Skagit County. The job aspect of it is limited to only the construction times, which means nothing to the longevity of actual jobs as this facility is set to be unmanned. Which also increases the risk of failure as it would be relying on computers instead of a crew. As someone who lives within skagit and bikes the trails right by this location, I can personally say that there is indeed wildlife that would be affected. Not just by the facility being built, but also if there was to be any type of failures. We have yet to see a failure plan set out by the contracting company to put our minds at ease. The contractors are not in charge of these types of plans, so they should not be in charge with the safety of the people that live here, nor the wildlife effects.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 39

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 11, 2025 18:08:48 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 11, 2025 18:08:48 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Shawna Tircott
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	shawna@shelterpm.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	<b>Yes (please specify)</b> Property manager for Van Fleet's Mobile Home Park. Adjacent to the proposed location Minkler rd and Hoehn Rd SedroWoolley Wa
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	<p>I manage a 74 unit mobile home park adjacent to the proposed location for Goldeneye. Myself and 74 units are very concerned about are safety with the lithium battery storage. Hanson creek runs right behind us near the PSE Substation. Hanson creek is a salmon bearing creek that runs directly to the Skagit river. We have deer Eagles daily in are area. We as a whole do not want this in are back yard! Our park is a 55 and older park. If we would have to leave if there was a fire. We would have no where to go. We are only 150 yards away. Our schools and hospitals would be locked down. Our local fire department doesn't have the resources to handle such a disaster. This is agriculture property. If a fire broke out. Our Hanson creek runs right and the mighty Skagit River would be contaminated. The Skagit River supply's up with our winter fish "are dinners".</p>
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered



**Respondent No:** 40

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 11, 2025 18:26:40 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 11, 2025 18:26:40 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Judi Haugness

Q2. **Email address** thedevinhouse@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** **Yes (please specify)**  
Stewards of Skagit

Q4. **Share any comment**

The Goldeneye Bess project needs to be kept off our AG Land, away from Hansen Creek, Wildlife, Homes and Flood zones. Our community of Sedro Woolley is too close to their proposed site. 5 schools , Hospital located within a mile and a half. Too many risks- No fire Plan in place. And our fire dept can not handle an emergency. Most of our fires stations are volunteer people. Please keep this out of our community. Listen to our local government. city council, county commissioner's, Senators and Skagit Tribe, none of them want this project to come to be. Sincerely Judi Haugness 360-224-4925 Concerned Citizen Treasurer for Stewards of Skagit

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 41

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 12, 2025 09:39:11 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 12, 2025 09:39:11 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Sarah Dunn

Q2. **Email address** sarahrahdunn1@yahoo.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

To whom it may concern: I oppose this project because of the known risks it would create for the surrounding community and environment. My concerns about lithium-ion BESS installations include: Fires caused by thermal runaway are impossible to extinguish and can burn for multiple days. Burning lithium-ion batteries emit highly toxic and flammable gases. There is potential for toxic water runoff from fighting a lithium-ion battery fire that can contaminate waterways and soil. Fighting lithium-ion battery fires tie up emergency response for days at a time. Substantial costs could be incurred to taxpayers for emergency training and equipment for preparedness. Lithium-ion BESS could cause property value decrease. Significant noise pollution could be caused by cooling systems to prevent overheating and thermal runaway in the battery system. Lithium-ion battery fires can endanger health and safety of residents, first responders, animals and livestock. Public evacuations could be difficult in the case of a fire. Evacuations could cause financial hardship, displacement, closed schools and businesses for days at a time. Potentially hazardous or harmful impacts to air quality could impact surrounding communities during fires. There is potential road and/or highway closures during hazmat conditions which could cause inconvenience and also damage to local or regional economy. Post-fire damage to soil could cause additional expense, remediation and cleanup. There is a potential to create a brownfield site after a fire. I'd like to know how the developer plans to mitigate these risks. Thank you Sarah

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 42

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 12, 2025 11:50:10 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 12, 2025 11:50:10 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Karina Gaidai

Q2. **Email address** karinkagaidai@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

I'm strongly against the lithium battery storage facility! Please do not allow it to be installed so close to populated areas, also very close to fragile nature habitats like creeks. Anything going wrong with it will be devastating to humans, animals and the environment. Please do not give permission for this battery facility to be built.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 43

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 12, 2025 11:56:21 am

**Last Seen:** Jan 12, 2025 11:56:21 am

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Johanna R Cannon

Q2. **Email address** johannasiler15@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

We do not want this facility!!! It's too dangerous.

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered



**Respondent No:** 44

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 12, 2025 16:58:50 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 12, 2025 16:58:50 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. **First & Last Name** Kathy Sutton

Q2. **Email address** katsutton97@gmail.com

Q3. **Are you part of an Agency or Organization?** No

Q4. **Share any comment**

January 12, 2025 State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) 621 Woodland Square Loop SE PO Box 43172 Olympia, WA 98503-3172 RE: Proposed Goldeneye BESS Project, Sedro-Woolley, WA Letter of Comment To Whom It May Concern: This letter is sent to express concerns that I have in regards to the potential Goldeneye BESS (BESS) project that has been proposed in Sedro-Woolley, Washington. The proposed property is located at 25080 Minkler Road, Sedro-Woolley, WA, (Parcel 40030), and is located in Skagit County. This property contains many wetlands and is located in the flood plain. It is my understanding that lithium-ion batteries do not mix well with water and dangerous situations can be the result. That particular area has a history of flooding in previous years from Hansen Creek. Hansen Creek is a large creek that flows from the surrounding hills and drains into the Skagit River, and it crosses a portion of the property. Hansen Creek contains salmon and Steelhead trout, it is also the natural habitat for eagles, hawks, and many other varieties of birds, as well as deer, elk, bobcat, coyote, and more. Should the BESS malfunction and release toxins, or contaminates of any nature, there is a very real possibility of Hansen Creek, and the Skagit River, being contaminated not to mention the danger of an airborne contaminant being released. Should there be an episode with BESS and either an explosion and/or airborne danger occurs, it should be noted that if an evacuation should be necessary, there are many vulnerable persons within the immediate area that would need to be evacuated. Within the immediate area to this location, there are multiple schools, churches, a mobile home park, daycare/preschool, United General Hospital, assisted living facilities, and the city of Sedro-Woolley itself. The dangers of a BESS facility having a malfunction, and even entering into a thermal runaway situation is understated. There have been many fires in the news in the last years to show that they are not as safe as the BESS presenter's would like the public to think. I attended the public meeting in Sedro-Woolley on August 13, 2024, as well as the BESS presentation to the Sedro-Woolley City Council on September 4, 2024. At both of these presentations it was obvious that the presenter's left the council, as well as the public, with more questions than answers. The answers to the questions from the city council either were not answered, or there was not an available answer at that time. Needless to day, that was not reassuring. The public's safety should be the top priority. Should there be a need to evacuate, where will the people that live in the nearby residences go? How will multiple schools be safely evacuated in a timely, safe, and organized manner? What about the hospital? Daycare and preschool facilities? Assisted living facilities? What about persons with asthma, or other respiratory concerns? If the Skagit River were to become contaminated, how will that affect the residents of Skagit County since it is also a water source for the local watershed? There are way to many concerns, and questions without answers. I totally oppose this project, and respectfully request EFSEC to deny this project. Thank you for your time. Sincerely, Kathy Sutton

Q5. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q6. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q7. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered

Q8. **Upload your document or picture (optional)** not answered





**Respondent No:** 45

**Login:** Anonymous

**Email:** n/a

**Responded At:** Jan 12, 2025 19:26:12 pm

**Last Seen:** Jan 12, 2025 19:26:12 pm

**IP Address:** n/a

Q1. <b>First &amp; Last Name</b>	Dennis Betzer
Q2. <b>Email address</b>	dentools2247@aol.com
Q3. <b>Are you part of an Agency or Organization?</b>	No
Q4. <b>Share any comment</b>	I Have Solar and it saves me big on my energy bill.
Q5. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q6. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q7. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered
Q8. <b>Upload your document or picture (optional)</b>	not answered

**From:** [CEASE2020](#)  
**To:** [Lori Zoller](#); [DOR Klickitat County Leg Authority](#)  
**Subject:** C.E.A.S.E. EFSEC Upcoming Action Item: Goldeneye BESS Land Use Consistency Draft Order available  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 4:38:33 PM

---

External Email

**EFSEC is holding a land use consistency meeting for the 16 acres BESS. People will comment in opposition, EFSEC will pretend to listen, then ignore all the opposing comments and determine the BESS is consistent with current land use. Just like EFSEC did with the Carriger land use consistency decision. Just like the Klickitat County commissioners Zoller/Anderson did for the Carriger solar franchise agreement hearing. Carriger has 2-acres BESS. This Goldeneye BESS is proposed near the urban area of two cities, near schools and Salmon waterways. <https://www.change.org/p/urgent-help-needed-for-sedro-woolley-stop-the-lithium-battery-energy-storage-system>. No problem the developers will tell you it's safe, but they do not live near their BESS. EFSEC will ignore the people and the truth about the dangers of BESS and permit the projects. Greg Wagner C.E.A.S.E.**

----- Forwarded Message -----

**From:** Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council <waefsec@public.govdelivery.com>  
**To:** "cease2020@aol.com" <cease2020@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 6, 2025 at 09:28:10 AM PST  
**Subject:** EFSEC Upcoming Action Item: Goldeneye BESS Land Use Consistency Draft Order available

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

EFSEC banner graphic

- January 6, 2025 -

Contact: [efsec@efsec.wa.gov](mailto:efsec@efsec.wa.gov)

## **January 15, 2025 EFSEC Upcoming Action Item available**

Dear interested persons,

The Proposed Action item for the Goldeneye BESS project for the upcoming Council Meeting is available on our website here: <https://www.efsec.wa.gov/council-information/council-meetings>

The public comment period will be open until Sunday, January 12, 11:59pm.

The comments submitted will be combined with the comment period from December

11-15, 2024. The comments will all be available for the Council to review prior to the January Council meeting.

Public comments on EFSEC Final Actions must be submitted in-writing to EFSEC at least 3 business days prior to the scheduled public meeting for which the proposed FINAL ACTION Agenda item is planned. Written public comments must be submitted to EFSEC through <https://comments.efsec.wa.gov/>.

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---

This email was sent to cease2020@aol.com using govDelivery Communications Cloud on behalf of: State of Washington, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council · 621 Woodland Square Loop SE · Lacey, WA 98503



**From:** [Judy Phillips](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Goldeneye Bess project  
**Date:** Monday, January 6, 2025 9:57:34 AM

---

External Email

Sedro Woolley does not want you encroaching on a residential area and farmland. I'm not against battery storage facilities but I feel we have to protect farmland at all costs. More importantly, Hanson Creek has endangered fish that spawn there and nothing should ever threaten them. Just simply put, find another place to put your battery storage facility that is not on farmland and I will support your building it. Find an industrial area. You are not wanted in Sedro Woolley farmland and residential areas.

Judy Phillips

**From:** [Mikala Staples Hughes](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition: Proposed Goldeneye BESS Siting, Skagit County, WA  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 7, 2025 6:11:15 PM  
**Attachments:** [010725 BESS Letter.pdf](#)

---

## External Email

Dear Members of the Washington State EFSE Council,

I am writing to formally request that EFSEC **deny** the applicant's proposal to construct and operate the stand-alone Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and related interconnection and ancillary support infrastructure. My opposition is based on several legal, policy, and regulatory concerns that demonstrate this project is incompatible with both state and local laws, as well as prior court decisions.

As farmland continues to diminish worldwide, this site represents far more than just a piece of land; it is a vital asset to Skagit County's agricultural foundation, directly supporting the local economy and sustaining Washington's food supply. Converting this fertile, irreplaceable farmland for industrial purposes—particularly for a high-risk lithium battery storage facility—would be a reckless and shortsighted decision. The long-term consequences would be severe, jeopardizing the environment, the community, and the future of agriculture in the region.

The following are several significant concerns with the proposed project:

### **Violation of Agricultural Land Protection Laws**

The proposed BESS would violate multiple Washington State laws and regulations designed to protect agricultural lands, particularly the Agricultural - Natural Resource Lands (Ag-NRL) designation. The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), the Skagit County Comprehensive Plan, and Skagit County codes all emphasize the conservation of agricultural lands, making this project incompatible with those policies.

Additionally, the Washington State Supreme Court's recent ruling in *King County v. Friends of Sammamish Valley and Futurewise* (September 19, 2024) made clear that: "*The GMA does not allow 'innovative' techniques that convert prime agricultural soil to unrelated uses...*" This decision reinforces the importance of preserving agricultural lands, further illustrating the inappropriateness of the Goldeneye BESS proposal.

### **Non-Compliance with the Growth Management Act and Local Codes**

The proposed BESS is inconsistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA), Skagit County's Countywide Planning Policies (CPP), and Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan. Specifically, Skagit County cannot permit non-agriculture-related uses or accessory uses within Ag-NRL zones.

Under RCW 36.70A.020(8), the state recognizes the necessity of preserving and enhancing natural resource industries, including agriculture. It also discourages incompatible uses that threaten agricultural lands. Additionally, RCW 36.70A.177 restricts non-agricultural uses in agricultural zones, emphasizing that any accessory uses must support ongoing agricultural activities. The BESS does not meet this criterion.

Moreover, the Administrative Interpretation issued by Skagit County fails to align with the requirements outlined in SCC 14.16.020(3)(a-d), which provide clear guidelines for uses within zoning districts.

### **EFSEC's Duty to Consider Adverse Impacts**

It is also concerning that EFSEC has not adequately considered the probable significant adverse environmental impacts of the Goldeneye BESS proposal. WAC 197-11-330 requires the evaluation of both beneficial and potentially harmful effects of a project. The current proposal has overlooked its potential adverse impacts on agriculture, wildlife, water resources, and the rural environment in Skagit County.

### **Lack of Compliance with Skagit County's Siting Criteria**

The proposed Goldeneye BESS does not meet the siting criteria required for agricultural zones under Skagit County's Unified Development Code (SCC 14.16). Non-agricultural uses must be accessory to agriculture and must not interfere with farming activities. The BESS does not qualify as an accessory use, as it is neither dependent on soil nor related to agricultural practices.

Furthermore, the project does not adhere to RCW 36.70A.365, which restricts major industrial developments to urban growth areas or areas outside of critical zones. The Goldeneye BESS fails to meet key permitting criteria, including the protection of critical areas and an assessment of developable land outside of urban growth areas.

### **Conclusion**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge EFSEC to reject the Goldeneye BESS proposal. This project does not comply with state and local laws that protect agricultural lands, and it does not meet the necessary criteria for approval. It is critical that EFSEC prioritize the long-term preservation of agriculture in Skagit County and deny this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I trust the Council will thoroughly evaluate the legal, environmental, and policy implications of this project and make a decision that supports the best interests of Skagit County and its agricultural community.

Sincerely,

Mikala Staples Hughes

Mount Vernon, WA

(360) 770-7268

**From:** [David Stookey](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on battery energy storage facility  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 5:26:46 PM

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External Email

I strongly favor the battery energy storage facility near Sedro Wooley. Battery storage greatly increases the use of sustainable energy, and will be near universal in a few years. Washington State should be in the vanguard of this technology.

--

David W. Stookey  
Author, with Buddy, of [ClimateDog](#) newsletter  
Author of [Climate-Proof Your Personal Finances](#)



**From:** [Grantham, Andrea \(EFSEC\)](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Goldeneye Energy Storage Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 2:10:28 PM

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-----Original Message-----

From: Erik Thacker <erik.thacker@gmail.com>  
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 12:37 PM  
To: YOUNG, LENNY (DNR) <LEONARD.YOUNG@dnr.wa.gov>  
Subject: Goldeneye Energy Storage Project

External Email

Dear Council Member Lenny Young:

I am writing to respectfully ask you to reconsider your position on the Draft Land Use Consistency Order that EFSEC ("the Council") made regarding the Goldeneye Energy Storage Project for the foregoing reasons: (1) the procedure used by the Council to determine consistency with land use undermines the purpose of the inquiry, (2) the proposed project is inconsistent with Skagit County's land use codes, and (3) Goldeneye Energy Storage's use of a Special Purpose Vehicle violates the principles of a just green energy transition.

In re Columbia Solar Project Undermines the Purpose of the Land Use Consistency Inquiry

The purpose of the land use consistency inquiry is to determine whether the proposed project is consistent with the County's land use plans or zoning ordinances. The Council's decision in In re Columbia Solar Project undermines this purpose, which resulted in the Council's approval of the Goldeneye site. Columbia allows the Council to approve a site whether any mechanism for a conditional special use permit exists without examining whether the proposed site would ever be granted such a permit. This makes the County's land use codes regarding the special use permit irrelevant to the inquiry, leading to outcomes where the Council can say that the land use is consistent where no special use permit would ever have been granted in practice. The Council should only allow projects to move forward under this rule if there is a strong likelihood that the proposed site would meet the conditions for such a special use permit. By not examining whether the Goldeneye project would actually meet the elements of SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v), the Council ignores Skagit County's actual land use rule for another inquiry: whether the County ever allows for exceptions to its rules, which almost every county does. This undermines the entire purpose of the Land Use Consistency inquiry, and I urge you and the Council to abandon the principle of In re Columbia Solar Project and find Goldeneye inconsistent with Skagit County codes.

The Goldeneye Project is Inconsistent with Skagit County's Land Use Codes

It is clear that the Goldeneye Energy Storage, LLC ("GES") would not be granted the special use permit under SCC 14.16.900 were it to apply. SCC 14.16.400(4)(h) requires that GES demonstrate that there are no other suitable sites available that are not zoned for agriculture. GES has made no effort to do so.

SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(E) requires that, for a special use permit to be granted, the proposed use cannot cause potential adverse impacts on the health, safety or welfare of the general public. SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(H) requires that the proposed use would be adequately supported by public services. Lithium battery fires are exceedingly difficult to put out, and most fire departments have to allow them to burn themselves out. The risk of fire in lithium battery facilities threatens the health and safety of the general public, and the Sedro-Woolley Volunteer Fire Department is not equipped to handle the additional hazards of a lithium fire. This means the proposed site would not be adequately supported by public services.

Additionally, SCC 14.16.900(1)(b)(v)(I) requires that the proposed site would maintain the character, landscape, and lifestyle of the rural area. The extreme public reaction in this case demonstrates that this is contrary to the way the people of Skagit County treat our land. We have a robust initiative to protect Skagit Valley farmland, and this

project runs counter to that. The Council's draft order states that GES has provided evidence it is in character with our uses, without stating what that evidence is. This leaves no avenue for Skagit County residents to dispute this evidence or evaluate its merits.

Finally, the Skagit County Commissioners are also against this project. If no special use permit would be granted in practice, it is improper for the Council to use the existence of the special use permit process to allow the project to proceed. Because the site would not be eligible for a special use permit, I urge you and the Council to find the site inconsistent with Skagit County land use codes.

#### GES's Use of a Special Purpose Vehicle is Inconsistent with a Just Clean Energy Transition

Skagit County absolutely needs energy storage solutions for the clean energy transition, but these solutions should be tailored to the needs of the people of Skagit County. As it stands now, this project will benefit Tenaska Energy and its investors at the expense of Skagit County residents. Tenaska Energy created GES, a limited liability subsidiary company as a special purpose vehicle to oversee only this project. The purpose of structuring their business entity in this way is to allow Tenaska and its investors to reap profits from this project while distancing themselves from any liability or responsibility to the people of Skagit County. There is a very distinct possibility that Tenaska will be able to gather profits from this site for 15 years, and then structure GES LLC's financials to declare bankruptcy when the time comes to decommission the site, leaving the County with the cost of cleaning up the site. Corporations create special purpose vehicles like GES to avoid liability and stick the public with cleanup costs. We need a clean energy storage project that is fair and just to the people of Skagit County and WA state at large (perhaps a state-owned energy storage company). We should not allow out-of-state private entities to destroy our land, privatize the profits, and socialize the costs. If you or the Council care about environmental justice and the protection of Washington State's environment, I urge you to reject this project. Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Erik Thacker  
177 Pump Drive Apt, 106  
Burlington, WA 98233  
(317) 525-0908

**From:** [EFSEC \(EFSEC\)](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Goldeneye BESS application public comment  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 10:32:28 AM

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**From:** Nancy jorauch <sawdustnancy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 10:32:11 AM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** EFSEC (EFSEC) <efsec@efsec.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Goldeneye BESS application public comment

External Email

Dear Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

Thank you for re-opening the public comment period. The December holiday season is a hectic time.

I understand the need for energy storage systems as our state generates more electricity through wind and solar power. I am not opposed to building a battery energy storage system on land zoned for industrial use. However, I am **strongly opposed to the Goldeneye BESS proposal** on land zoned for agriculture use. Presently this land, on Minkler Road, is owned by John and Stephanie Grinder.

Farming, rather than energy generation or storage, is the best use of agricultural land. I value the preservation of the Grinder property for farming in order to protect the nearby poultry farm (Minkler Road) and a nearby community supported agriculture farm (Foothills Farm on Hoehn Road), I am not alone in my desire to protect farmland, as there exist at least two programs in the county with this purpose (Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and Farmland Legacy Program). Food production holds a greater value to me, as compared to the realtor speak of "highest and best use" which equates value only as the most money generated. Besides farmland preservation, this property also supports the continued restoration of Hansen Creek and the availability of the land for use by wildlife, such as the migrating Trumpeter swans and snow geese.

My personal dilemma in opposing this Goldeneye BESS application is my respect for real property rights. I've heard the Grinders are not actively farming this 14 acre parcel. This project proposal is a wake up call for the city and county to reach out to the landowner to find better agriculture solutions for them to have an income, rather than leasing the land for energy storage.

Please deny this application in your recommendations to our state governor. Let the Tenaska energy company find a new location that is better suited for an energy storage system. One that is **not on agricultural land in the Skagit Valley.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Nancy Jo Rauch  
521 Ball Street  
Sedro Woolley, WA 98284  
360-440-6145

**From:** [EFSEC \(EFSEC\)](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Skagit County Comments  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 3:40:36 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Goldeneye Energy Storage Project Comments.pdf](#)

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**From:** Jack Moore <jrmoore@co.skagit.wa.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 10, 2025 3:40:12 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** EFSEC (EFSEC) <efsec@efsec.wa.gov>  
**Subject:** Skagit County Comments

External Email

Skagit County strongly disagrees with the land use determination criteria used and the conclusion that this development is “consistent and in compliance with local land use provisions”. This determination can only be made after analyzing the criteria as outlined in Skagit County’s Special Use Permit process wherein the proponent must demonstrate there is no other possible location outside of Natural Resource Lands the facility could be located.

Please see additional comments regarding environmental impacts attached. Skagit County must process and issue a floodplain development permit as directed by FEMA and there are significant concerns regarding potential/probable impacts to Endangered Species.



**JACK MOORE**  
DIRECTOR  
Planning & Development Services  
M: (360)416-1320 | D: (360)416-1333



# Skagit County

## Planning & Development Services

Jack Moore, Director

### Goldeneye Energy Storage Project – Comments

#### Attachment J Critical Areas Report

- 1) Page 10, 3.4.2 Incorrectly states that *The project site does not contain any critical aquifer recharge areas and groundwater levels reflect the water surface elevation of Hansen Creek, with infiltration within project site contributing to some extent though not significantly. Therefore, the proposed project is not subject to the restrictions further outlined in the SCC nor is the project required to provide an aquifer recharge areas site assessment in accordance with SCC 14.24.330.*

Skagit County generally requires a hydrogeological report and well search for large grading projects on industrial and commercial sites. In this case it is important to understand how the directional drilling for the gen-tie line could affect groundwater flow, and risks to groundwater from potential spills, fires, or other accidents.

The report incorrectly states that the area is not a critical aquifer recharge area – All areas outside Category I aquifer recharge areas are designated as Category II aquifer recharge areas by SCC 14.24.310

- 2) Page 10 – The report references the SCC 14,24.350(1)(a)(i) (flow sensitive basins), which has been supplanted by the Skagit Instream Flow Rule Area.
- 3) Page 11 - *Seismic Hazard Area: ...However, the site is identified as moderately to highly susceptible to liquefaction due to seismic activity based on Skagit County's Liquefaction Susceptibility Map. To address this, seismic design will adhere to procedures outlined in the 2018 International Building Code (IBC). According to the IBC, structures on Site Class E sites, as per ASCE 7-16, must be designed to withstand earthquake motions. Anticipated liquefaction settlements within the project site are expected to be within acceptable limits (up to 4 inches). As a result, ground improvement techniques for liquefaction mitigation are not anticipated to be necessary for site development.*
- 4) Page 12, 3.4.4 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Areas – The report does not clearly identify Hanson Creek as a Type S stream with a 200-foot protect buffer.
- 5) Page 12 - The report states that 1.18 acres of wetlands will be filled and mitigated offsite. How will offsite mitigation compensate for flood storage within the subject floodplain?

- 6) Page 12 – The report states that directional drilling avoids impacts to Hanson Creek and surrounding wetlands and buffers. However, very little detail is provided as to how temporary impacts will be avoided or mitigated, nor is there any analysis as to how directional drilling could affect the connection between groundwater and surface water and potentially affect the hydrology of the stream, wetlands, or aquifer.
- 7) Page 12-13 – The report states that the access road would impact the buffer of an offsite wetland but does not provide compensatory mitigation. Skagit County would typically require mitigation for this impact whether or not the applicants claim that *the placement of the road within the off-site wetland buffer will not adversely affect the functions and values of the wetland and creek beyond current development pressures.*
- 8) Page 13 - 4.2 Frequently Flooded Areas – The report does not clearly identify the requirement for a Habitat Impact Assessment.
- 9) Page 13-14 – The report states that the access road will impact 0.17 acres of stream buffer, referencing SCC 14.24.540(5)(a), which allows roads in HCA buffers with certain conditions. However, this road is not shown on the civil plans, nor is it demonstrated that the road needs to be placed in the stream buffer, which is also in SMP jurisdiction.
- 10) Page 14 – Wetland impact mitigation will be through wetland banking. Wetland buffer impacts would be through buffer averaging, but no mitigation is proposed – it is not clear whether the proposed buffer averaging is consistent with the Skagit County CAO.
- 11) Page 15 – 1.31 acres of HCA buffer enhancement is proposed in location where existing buildings will be removed. The buffer enhancement is shown on a planting plan but no analysis of how the plan provides ecological functions is provided.

#### Attachment B: Civil Engineering Drawings

- 1) The civil plans do not show Wetlands H & I, located in the path of the gen-tie line.
- 2) The civil plans do not show an access road within the stream buffer or within the buffer of an offsite wetland as described Attachment J Critical Areas Report.

## Attachment L: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment

- 1) Page 1 – The report incorrectly states that *the subject property has never been developed for residential or commercial purposes. However, residential features associated with the western-adjointing property, including a septic leach field and fencing, are located on the subject property.*

The existing residential development is on the subject parcel P40030.

- 2) Page 2 – Figure 1 – The subject property on the map is only part of the proposed project area as shown on the civil plans.
- 3) Page 3 – The report states that petroleum contaminated soils have been found on the PSE site on the other side of Hanson Creek and could be found on the subject site. Could directional drilling potential impact the migration potential of soil contaminants?
- 4) Page 7 – Some information on wells within 1 mile is provided. It is not clear whether this is intended to meet the well report requirements typically required.

Shallow groundwater is expected to be 7-13 feet below ground surface with a likely gradient toward Hansen Creek. How will groundwater be protected in the event of a spill or other incident?

- 5) Page 14 – The report states that the subject parcel is 8.5 acres, but Skagit County records show the parcel as 14.14 acres. Also, the tie-gen path does not appear to be included in this report. Again, it appears that this analysis does not cover the entire project site.
- 6) Pages 14 & 15 – The report identifies low points with standing water in the field but does not identify those areas as regulated wetlands in accordance with the critical areas report.
- 7) Page 21 – The report states that contaminated groundwater from the Harris property to the northwest will likely reach the subject parcel but does not describe the risk to the project associated with this project.
- 8) Page 23 - *Based on the findings of this Phase I ESA, Dudek recommends investigation of the subsurface conditions on the subject property to evaluate potential impacts due to the identified REC and VEC.*

Will investigation of subsurface conditions be forthcoming?

#### Attachment H Land Use Consistency Review

- 1) Page 6, 3.4 Incorrectly states that no development is proposed within Shoreline jurisdiction. Any actions within 200 feet of the ordinary high water mark of Hanson Creek are within shoreline jurisdiction. Based on the proposal, a portion of the access road and the gen-tie would occur in shoreline jurisdiction.
- 2) Page 26, 4.7 Stormwater Management – No mention of Source Control measures for the developed state are described, as required by stormwater minimum requirement #3.

#### Attachment N: Fire Protection Plan

- 1) Page 5 (Pdf page) – The report lists fire department stations in proximity to the project but does not describe their capacity to respond to an incident at the proposed project.

#### Attachment G Geotechnical Studies

- 1) Page 28-29 – The report recommends pervious pavement but not describe risks to groundwater created by pervious pavement in the event of an incident.

#### Attachment Q Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application

- 1) 7i -The report states that 68,000 cubic yards of fill will be imported but does not mention how this could affect flood storage.
- 2) 8c – States that no direct impacts to Hansen Creek or it's buffer will occur, which conflicts with statements in the CA report that the access road will partially impact the stream buffer.

#### Attachment K Flood Study

- 1) PDF Page 20 – The plan incorrectly shows a 150-foot buffer for Hanson Creek – It should be 200 feet.

#### General

There does not appear to be a spill response or spill prevention plan included in the documents.



**From:** [cedarwaxwings@gmail.com](mailto:cedarwaxwings@gmail.com)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Goldeneye BESS Proposal - Incompatible With Skagit County's Land Use Policies  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 6:24:14 PM

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External Email

Dear Members of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC),

The proposed site for this industrial development lies on Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands (Ag-NRL), a designation that directly conflicts with both state and county policies designed to protect farmland.

Converting this prime agricultural land—currently farmed organically—into an industrial energy storage facility threatens not only the viability of current farming operations but also sets a dangerous precedent for future land-use decisions that favor industrial development over the preservation of farmland.

The siting of the Goldeneye BESS project undermines several key state and local policies aimed at safeguarding agricultural lands, including:

- **The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA)**

The GMA mandates that counties conserve agricultural lands and limit incompatible land uses. Approving this project would be inconsistent with the GMA's directive to preserve lands vital for agricultural production and long-term food security.

- **Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan and Countywide Planning Policies (CPP)**

Both the Comprehensive Plan and the Countywide Planning Policies underscore the importance of conserving agricultural lands for farming and prohibit non-agricultural developments from encroaching on these lands. The proposed BESS project contradicts these established goals and threatens the future sustainability of Skagit County's agricultural heritage.

The proposed Goldeneye BESS project raises significant environmental concerns, particularly regarding its location in a floodplain and the potential impact on surrounding agricultural operations. Despite the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 197-11-330) outlining a clear process to evaluate the environmental consequences of such projects, the applicant has failed to adequately address these critical issues.

The Goldeneye BESS proposal is incompatible with Skagit County's land use policies and fails to meet the legal requirements for siting industrial developments on Ag-NRL

lands. Approving this project would be in direct contradiction to state laws, county regulations, and established legal precedents protecting agricultural land and the safety of its residents.

It is essential that Washington State continue to uphold its commitment to preserving agricultural and natural resource lands for future generations.

Sincerely,

Janet McKinney  
17858 Wood Rd  
Bow, WA 98232

**From:** [Tim Knue](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Request to DENY Goldeneye BESS Project in Skagit County  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 5:33:38 PM

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External Email

The Goldeneye BESS proposal is **incompatible** with Skagit County's land use policies and fails to meet the legal requirements for siting industrial developments on Ag-NRL lands. **Approving this project would be in direct contradiction to state laws, county regulations, and established legal precedents protecting agricultural land and the safety of its residents.**

I am sure you have been receiving long letters/emails as to why this project contradicts established laws and regulations for such facilities. Projects of these types need to be sited on industrial land with the infrastructure to deal with the facility while in operation and for any and all potential failures or disasters.

Tim Knue  
20152 English Rd  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274  
360-202-5297 (cell)

**From:** [Kim Sanford](#)  
**To:** [EFSEC mi Comments](#)  
**Subject:** Subject: Request to Deny Goldeneye BESS Project on Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands( (Ag-NRL)  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 8:54:41 PM

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External Email

Dear Members of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC),

We oppose converting farmland to a commercial use.

The Goldeneye BESS project fails to comply with both state laws and county regulations designed to protect agricultural lands:

- RCW 36.70A.020(8) – This statute requires counties to protect natural resource industries, including agriculture, and avoid land uses incompatible with farming.
  
- RCW 36.70A.177 – This law limits accessory uses on agricultural lands to those that directly support agricultural activities. Since the BESS project is not soil-dependent, it cannot be considered a legitimate accessory use under this statute.
  
- Skagit County Code (SCC) 14.16.400 – The County’s zoning code clearly designates farming as the primary permitted use on Ag-NRL lands. Non-agricultural uses must be limited and subordinate to farming operations. The proposed BESS facility does not meet these criteria.

Thank you,

Kimbery Sanford  
Danny Sanford



**January 10, 2025**

Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC)  
P.O. Box 43172  
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

**Subject: Request to Deny Goldeneye BESS Project on Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands (Ag-NRL)**

Dear Members of the Washington State Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC),

The Western Washington Agricultural Association (WWAA) has been a steadfast advocate for the region's agricultural industry for 80 years. As an organization committed to preserving and advancing the agricultural landscape of Western Washington, we recognize that our region's farms—producing essential crops such as berries, potatoes, seeds, and row crops both conventionally and organically—are indispensable to the local and global food supply.

We write today to express our formal opposition to the proposed Goldeneye Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project in Skagit County, Washington. The proposed site for this industrial development lies on Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands (Ag-NRL), a designation that directly conflicts with both state and county policies designed to protect farmland. Converting this prime agricultural land—currently farmed organically—into an industrial energy storage facility threatens not only the viability of current farming operations but also sets a dangerous precedent for future land-use decisions that favor industrial development over the preservation of farmland.

**Conflict with State and County Policies**

The siting of the Goldeneye BESS project undermines several key state and local policies aimed at safeguarding agricultural lands, including:

- **The Washington State Growth Management Act (GMA)**  
The GMA mandates that counties conserve agricultural lands and limit incompatible land uses. Approving this project would be inconsistent with the GMA's directive to preserve lands vital for agricultural production and long-term food security.
- **Skagit County's Comprehensive Plan and Countywide Planning Policies (CPP)**  
Both the Comprehensive Plan and the Countywide Planning Policies underscore the importance of conserving agricultural lands for farming and prohibit non-agricultural developments from encroaching on these lands. The proposed BESS project contradicts these established goals and threatens the future sustainability of Skagit County's agricultural heritage.

## Legal and Regulatory Conflicts

The Goldeneye BESS project fails to comply with both state laws and county regulations designed to protect agricultural lands:

- **RCW 36.70A.020(8)** – This statute requires counties to protect natural resource industries, including agriculture, and avoid land uses incompatible with farming.
- **RCW 36.70A.177** – This law limits accessory uses on agricultural lands to those that directly support agricultural activities. Since the BESS project is not soil-dependent, it cannot be considered a legitimate accessory use under this statute.
- **Skagit County Code (SCC) 14.16.400** – The County’s zoning code clearly designates farming as the primary permitted use on Ag-NRL lands. Non-agricultural uses must be limited and subordinate to farming operations. The proposed BESS facility does not meet these criteria.

## Environmental and Cumulative Impact

The proposed Goldeneye BESS project raises significant environmental concerns, particularly with regard to its location in a floodplain and the potential impact on surrounding agricultural operations. Despite the Washington Administrative Code (WAC 197-11-330) outlining a clear process to evaluate the environmental consequences of such projects, the applicant has failed to adequately address these critical issues.

### *Increased Risk from Floodplain Location*

The proposed site is situated within a floodplain that is regularly inundated, with significant flooding occurring roughly once every decade. This poses a heightened risk of catastrophic chemical spills in the event of a flood, potentially contaminating vital water sources, soil, and farmland. To approve such a high-risk facility in this flood-prone area is not only reckless—it is a direct threat to the entire ecosystem. Flooding could lead to contamination that would permanently damage agricultural operations, disrupt water quality, and undermine the health of the community for generations to come. The risks associated with this project in a floodplain are unacceptable and must be fully evaluated before moving forward.

### *Potential Environmental Dangers and Ecosystem Disruption*

While the pursuit of renewable energy is a worthy and necessary goal, it must not come at the expense of our most critical environmental protections. The proposed BESS facility threatens not only valuable farmland but also the broader ecosystem that relies on these lands. The project could impact local water sources, streams, wildlife habitats, and the overall environmental balance in Skagit County. The risks of fires, explosions, chemical leaks, and flooding are real and significant, with the potential for widespread pollution and long-term ecological damage.

Furthermore, renewable energy projects must be designed and implemented in ways that prioritize environmental stewardship, ensuring they do not harm ecosystems, water quality, or the sustainability of agricultural operations. The Goldeneye BESS project fails to meet these basic standards and poses a serious threat to the delicate environmental balance in the area.

*Cumulative Impact on Agricultural Lands and Local Economy*

Beyond the immediate risks, the approval of industrial projects like the Goldeneye BESS would set a dangerous precedent for the future of Skagit County's agricultural land base. This area is vital not only for the local economy but also for the region's way of life. The cumulative effect of allowing industrial development on Agricultural-Natural Resource Lands (Ag-NRL) would further erode the land base necessary for sustainable food production. Over time, this would reduce the county's capacity to produce local food, jeopardizing food security and undermining the region's agricultural heritage. The long-term consequences of permitting such projects could be irreversible, leading to the loss of agricultural land, economic instability, and diminished food self-sufficiency.

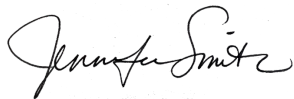
**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Goldeneye BESS proposal is **incompatible** with Skagit County's land use policies and fails to meet the legal requirements for siting industrial developments on Ag-NRL lands. **Approving this project would be in direct contradiction to state laws, county regulations, and established legal precedents protecting agricultural land and the safety of its residents.**

We appreciate the Council's consideration of our concerns and the opportunity to provide public comment on this important issue. It is essential that Washington State continue to uphold its commitment to preserving agricultural and natural resource lands for future generations.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Respectfully,



Jennifer Smith, President

Board of Directors

Jennifer Smith, President  
Owen Peth, Vice President  
Dan Gundersen, Treasurer  
Aaron Taylor, Secretary  
Mikala Staples Hughes

Brandon Hansen  
Tyler Breum  
Andy Schuh  
Torey Wilson  
Garrett Williams