

Proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project

Draft SEPA Environmental Impact Statement public hearing transcript

June 30, 2022

I'm Angela Fritz, hearings officer for this event. This morning we are conducting a hearing on the draft State Environmental Policy Act Environmental Impact Statement, or SEPA EIS, for the proposed Goldendale Energy Storage Project in Klickitat County.

Let the record show it is 10:28 a.m. on June 30, 2022, and this hearing is being held online by webinar.

The legal notice of this hearing was published in the Tri-City Herald and the Columbian on June 6, 2022, and the Goldendale Sentinel on June 7, 2022.

In addition to this, notice of the hearing was sent by mail and email to about 530 interested people and organizations, and published on Ecology's website.

If you would like to provide oral comment, please raise your webinar hand now, if you haven't already, or let us know in the chat box. If you called in, you raise your webinar hand by pressing *9 on your phone.

I will call on people to provide oral testimony based on the order that your hand shows up in the webinar. Once everyone who has indicated that they would like to testify has had the opportunity, I will open it up for any others.

When I call your name and we unmute you, state your name and contact information, if you want it included for the record. If we do not have your contact information, we will not be able to send you a response to your comment or let you know about our final decision.

Once unmuted, please make sure you speak clearly, so that we can get a good recording of your testimony.

We will start with either Dara [Dare-a] or Dara [Dah-ra], and that's the only hand I see right now, but your absolutely welcome to raise your hand in addition.

Tim, would you please unmute Dara [Dare-a] or Dara [Dah-ra]. And you might have to accept being unmuted.

Tim: she's unmuted.

Dara: Can you hear me?

Angela: I can, yes, thank you.

Dara: Good morning. My name is Dara Williams-Worden. Do you need me to say my contact? Or, just, I can just put it in the chat, if that's ok? Ok. My comment or question is where are you

in the permitting process right now? And have you had any issues with what permits you may have received or been denied so far?

Angela: Ok. Thank you. Tim, if you could please mute.

Is there anyone else who wishes to provide testimony? Go ahead and raise your hand. Again, if you called in, you can press *9 and we'll go ahead and unmute you, work with you to unmute.

Ok, I'm not seeing any other hands raised. Tim, is there anyone in the chat box who's indicated they'd like to comment?

Tim: No, there isn't.

Angie: Ok. If you would like to send Ecology written comments, please remember that they are due or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on August 9, 2022.

We accept written comments by mail, and online using our online comment form. This information is available on Ecology's website. After the hearing, you can find instructions on how to comment in writing either by visiting the website or you can contact Ecology's project manager, Meg Bommarito and she will send you that information on where to comment online and in writing. And also, I think we have a slide with that information on it, so I'm going to put it up there now.

All oral testimony along with written comments received online or postmarked by 11:59 p.m. on August 9, 2022 will be part of the official record for this draft EIS.

After the comment period closes, the next step in the process will be to consider the public comments, the Response to Comments, other appropriate documentation, and staff recommendations before finalizing the EIS.

We will send notice about the availability of the Response to Comments to everyone that provided written or oral comments on this draft EIS who also provided contact information, and other interested parties who are on the interested party lists for proposal.

The Response to Comments will contain our response to questions and issues of concern raised during the public comment period. If you would like to receive notice about its availability but you don't think that we have your contact information, please either share that with us in the chat box or contact Meg Bommarito after the hearing.

If we can be of further help to you, please let us know. On behalf of the Department of Ecology, thank you for joining us, and I appreciate your cooperation and and your courtesy.

Let the record show this hearing is adjourned at 10:34 a.m.