Ellie Myers

From: Chad Bala
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2026 8:20 AM
To: Ellie Myers; Jeremy Johnston
Subject: FW: Public comment on energy overlay zones

Here's Pat Kelleher's early comment letter.

Chad Bala
Director
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
(P) 509-962-7506
chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us

From: pat kelleher <psk98926@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 12, 2026 4:53 PM
To: Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: Public comment on energy overlay zones

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Energy Development in Kittitas County – Practical Considerations

Non-federal hydroelectric projects are permitted through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). In most cases, the county plays only a limited role because federal authority can preempt local siting decisions.

For example, a turbine installed at the Cle Elum Dam—even though the dam is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—would still require FERC licensing. The Grant County Public Utility District (GPUD) has applied for this project twice before. Pumped-storage projects and irrigation-related hydropower also require FERC permits. GPUD currently purchases power from several such projects.

Large-scale nuclear energy development should be excluded from consideration in Kittitas County. The process would generate years of public meetings and regulatory proceedings without clear local benefit. Other regions in Washington are better positioned to host such facilities, particularly areas with existing infrastructure and workforce experience such as the Tri-Cities or counties already supporting major electrical loads like data centers in Grant County.

Wind and solar generation offer limited value at large scale unless the power is used locally. Small residential installations can make sense when the serving utility effectively acts as the "battery," but large projects depend entirely on transmission access.

Utility-scale battery storage is currently the "project of the week." Many proposals rely heavily on outside funding—often other people's money—without providing meaningful long-term value to Kittitas County.

For that reason, no large-scale energy project should be considered for permitting by the county unless:

- The power produced is **used on site**, or
- There is a **firm commitment from the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)** to take the power onto its transmission system within a reasonable timeline.

The transmission constraint is real. A large solar project near Sunnyside in Yakima County—fully entitled and approved on agricultural land—still cannot proceed because the developer has been unable to obtain a BPA commitment to move the power.

Regards
Pat Kelleher

Ellie Myers

From: Mau, Russell E (DOH) <Russell.Mau@DOH.WA.GOV>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 4:09 PM
To: Ellie Myers
Cc: Melissa Schumaier
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

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Ms. Myers:

The Department of Health (DOH) Office of Drinking Water (ODW) does not have any comment on the PEIS, but we do wish to note that if any facilities provide water, those sites would need to evaluate if water usage meets the definition of a public water system.

Thanks,

Russell E. Mau, PhD, PE
Engineer
Office of Drinking Water
Washington State Department of Health
Russell.Mau@doh.wa.gov
www.doh.wa.gov |509-329-2116

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Dan Young <dan.young@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Marvin Douvier <marvin.douvier.sh@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; adminstaff@kittcom.org; storch@kittcom.org; Julie Kjorsvik <julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Laura Kukes <laura.kukes@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Public Health Inspectors <PublicHealthInspectors@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kelee Hodges <kelee.hodges.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Tate Mahre <tate.mahre@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jackie Sharp <jackie.sharp@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Cox, Samantha (DOHi) <samantha.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Josh Fredrickson <josh.fredrickson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rebecca Cruse <rebecca.cruse.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Larson <jeremy.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Steph Mifflin <steph.mifflin@co.kittitas.wa.us>; DOR CU Kittitas <haley.mercer@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Christy Garcia <christine.garcia@co.kittitas.wa.us>; ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com; Tom Hastings <thastings@snopass.org>; DAHP SEPA <sepa@dahp.wa.gov>; enviroreview@yakama.com; jessica_lally@yakama.com; noah_oliver@yakama.com; casey_barney@yakama.com; Jeff Kozma <kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov>; batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov; guy.moura@colvilletribes.com; sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com; jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com; darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com;

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Cc: Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Zach Torrance-Smith <zach.torrancesmith@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

External Email

Notice of SEPA Action

Determination Of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Date of Issuance: Thursday, April 16, 2026

Lead Agency: Kittitas County, Community Development Services
Location: Kittitas County, including unincorporated urban areas, rural lands and natural resource lands.

Proposal: Kittitas County is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate appropriate areas for permitting a variety of different energy uses. This is a non-project action. The energy uses being studied include solar, wind, geothermal, small modular reactors (SMRs), and battery storage systems (BESS). The purpose of this project is to proactively address siting and strengthen local evaluation and permitting of energy projects by establishing permitting pathways that are clear and predictable, identifying where energy uses are appropriate, and ensuring that the permitting processes sufficiently evaluate and mitigate impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

To learn more about the proposal, read frequently asked questions, see the project schedule, and how you can get involved and stay updated, please visit the project website at https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx . This website will continue to be updated throughout the project.

Determination of Significance (DS) and EIS Required: As the lead agency, Kittitas County has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

Alternatives: A comparative evaluation of alternative courses of action will be included in the EIS. Kittitas County will study three alternatives as part of the EIS. Alternatives are anticipated to include a No Action Alternative and two-Action Alternatives that will consider approaches to siting criteria, clean energy uses, and mitigation and minimization measures.

Scoping: Scoping provides notice to the public and other agencies that an EIS is being prepared, and initiates involvement in the process. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the DEIS once it is issued and any policy, code, or map changes which may be considered by Kittitas County in the future. Agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Scoping Events: The County will hold two scoping events to provide the community the opportunity to learn more and talk with County staff and consultants on **May 2, 2026:**

Ellensburg Farmers Market, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
4th & Pearl Street, Ellensburg WA 98926

Dru Bru - Cle Elum, WA May 2nd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1015 E 2nd Street, Cle Elum WA 98922

These engagement opportunities are designed to provide project background and information for those interested in submitting scoping comments.
Written Comments from the public may be submitted to the Kittitas County Community Development Services no later than **Monday, May 18 , 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** After reviewing the comments received during the scoping period, Kittitas County will finalize the alternatives and elements of the built and natural

environment that will be analyzed under the EIS. Comments may be submitted via email to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us or in person at 411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Designated Permit Coordinator (staff contact): Ellie Myers, Planner I, Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Community Development Services, 509-962-7048, cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

Ellie Myers

From: Lamb, Nathen - Actalent <Nathen.Lamb@pse.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:07 PM
To: Ellie Myers
Subject: Re: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

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Hi Ellie! Can you please remove me from this list?

Thank you!
Nathen

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 4:03:13 PM
To: Dan Young <dan.young@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Marvin Douvier <marvin.douvier.sh@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; adminstaff@kittcom.org <adminstaff@kittcom.org>; storch@kittcom.org <storch@kittcom.org>; Julie Kjorsvik <julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Laura Kukes <laura.kukes@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Public Health Inspectors <PublicHealthInspectors@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kelee Hodges <kelee.hodges.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Tate Mahre <tate.mahre@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jackie Sharp <jackie.sharp@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Samantha Cox <samantha.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Josh Fredrickson <josh.fredrickson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rebecca Cruse <rebecca.cruse.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Larson <jeremy.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Steph Mifflin <steph.mifflin@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Haley Mercer <haley.mercer@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Christy Garcia <christine.garcia@co.kittitas.wa.us>; ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com <ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com>; THastings@snopass.org <THastings@snopass.org>; sepa@dahp.wa.gov <sepa@dahp.wa.gov>; enviroreview@yakama.com <enviroreview@yakama.com>; jessica_lally@yakama.com <jessica_lally@yakama.com>; noah_oliver@yakama.com <noah_oliver@yakama.com>; casey_barney@yakama.com <casey_barney@yakama.com>; kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov <kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov>; batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov <batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov>; guy.moura@colvilletribes.com <guy.moura@colvilletribes.com>; sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com <sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com>; jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com <jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com>; darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com <darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com>; john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com <john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com>; milton.davis.adm@colvilletribes.com <milton.davis.adm@colvilletribes.com>; karen.capuder.adm@colvilletribes.com <karen.capuder.adm@colvilletribes.com>; kiana.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com <kiana.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com>; shalena.bent.adm@colvilletribes.com <shalena.bent.adm@colvilletribes.com>; steve@snoqualmietribe.us <steve@snoqualmietribe.us>; DAHP -

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Cc: Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Zach Torrance-Smith <zach.torrancesmith@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

CAUTION - EXTERNAL EMAIL
Phishing? Click the PhishAlarm **"Report Phish"** button.

Notice of SEPA Action

Determination Of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
Date of Issuance: Thursday, April 16, 2026
Lead Agency: Kittitas County, Community Development Services
Location: Kittitas County, including unincorporated urban areas, rural lands and natural resource lands.

Proposal: Kittitas County is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate appropriate areas for permitting a variety of different energy uses. This is a non-project action. The energy uses being studied include solar, wind, geothermal, small modular reactors (SMRs), and battery storage systems (BESS). The purpose of this project is to proactively address siting and strengthen local evaluation and permitting of energy projects by establishing permitting pathways that are clear and predictable, identifying where energy uses are appropriate, and ensuring that the permitting processes sufficiently evaluate and mitigate impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

To learn more about the proposal, read frequently asked questions, see the project schedule, and how you can get involved and stay updated, please visit the project website at https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx . This website will continue to be updated throughout the project.

Determination of Significance (DS) and EIS Required: As the lead agency, Kittitas County has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

Alternatives: A comparative evaluation of alternative courses of action will be included in the EIS. Kittitas County will study three alternatives as part of the EIS. Alternatives are anticipated to include a No Action Alternative and two-Action Alternatives that will consider approaches to siting criteria, clean energy uses, and mitigation and minimization measures.

Scoping: Scoping provides notice to the public and other agencies that an EIS is being prepared, and initiates involvement in the process. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the DEIS once it is issued and any policy, code, or map changes which may be considered by Kittitas County in the future. Agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Scoping Events: The County will hold two scoping events to provide the community the opportunity to learn more and talk with County staff and consultants on **May 2, 2026:**

Ellensburg Farmers Market, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
4th & Pearl Street, Ellensburg WA 98926

Dru Bru - Cle Elum, WA May 2nd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1015 E 2nd Street, Cle Elum WA 98922

These engagement opportunities are designed to provide project background and information for those interested in submitting scoping comments.
Written Comments from the public may be submitted to the Kittitas County Community Development Services no later than **Monday, May 18 , 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** After reviewing the comments received during the scoping period, Kittitas County will finalize the alternatives and elements of the built and natural environment that will be analyzed under the EIS. Comments may be submitted via email to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us or in person at 411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Designated Permit Coordinator (staff contact): Ellie Myers, Planner I, Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Community Development Services, 509-962-7048, cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

Ellie Myers

From: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Ellie Myers
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Good morning Ellie,

Thank you for your email.

In regards to notification and coordination, who can we talk to regarding a long term process i.e. in the Comp Plan & zoning?

V/R,

Kimberly Peacher
Community Planning & Liaison Officer
Northwest Training Range Complex
(360) 930-4085
NIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil
SIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.smil.mil

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Dan Young <dan.young@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Marvin Douvier <marvin.douvier.sh@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; adminstaff@kittcom.org; storch@kittcom.org; Julie Kjorsvik <julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Laura Kukes <laura.kukes@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Public Health Inspectors <PublicHealthInspectors@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kelee Hodges <kelee.hodges.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Tate Mahre <tate.mahre@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jackie Sharp <jackie.sharp@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Samantha Cox <samantha.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Josh Fredrickson <josh.fredrickson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rebecca Cruse <rebecca.cruse.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Larson <jeremy.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Steph Mifflin <steph.mifflin@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Haley Mercer <haley.mercer@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Christy Garcia <christine.garcia@co.kittitas.wa.us>; ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com; THastings@snopass.org; sepa@dahp.wa.gov; enviroreview@yakama.com; jessica_lally@yakama.com; noah_oliver@yakama.com; casey_barney@yakama.com; kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov; guy.moura@colvilletribes.com; sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com; jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com; darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com; milton.davis.adm@colvilletribes.com; karen.capuder.adm@colvilletribes.com; kiana.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; shalena.bent.adm@colvilletribes.com; steve@snoqualmietribe.us; dahp@snoqualmietribe.us; adam@snoqualmietribe.us; russell.mau@doh.wa.gov; brietta.carter@doh.wa.gov; tebu461@ecy.wa.gov; lowh461@ECY.WA.GOV; FormerOrchards@ecy.wa.gov; wendy.neet@ecy.wa.gov; crosepa@ecy.wa.gov; rand461@ECY.WA.GOV; Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov; Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov; Cassandra.Weekes@dfw.wa.gov; Emily.Grabowsky@dfw.wa.gov; Michael.Ritter@dfw.wa.gov; Michelle.Huppert@dfw.wa.gov; solarandwind@dfw.wa.gov; rivers@dnr.wa.gov; luke.warthen@dnr.wa.gov; SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov; MARTIN.MAUNEY@dnr.wa.gov; Amanda.Moody@dnr.wa.gov; lhendrix@usbr.gov; jhoff@usbr.gov; ken.graham@parks.wa.gov; John.Ernster@parks.wa.gov; rachel.mazzacavallo@parks.wa.gov; Real.Estate@parks.wa.gov; kimberly.larned@usda.gov;

Jenae.N.Churchill@usace.army.mil; Jacob.Prilucik@wsdot.wa.gov; SCPlanning@wsdot.wa.gov; AviationLandUse@wsdot.wa.gov; CMOlcese@bpa.gov; jcmurray@bpa.gov; accastle@bpa.gov; vlconnell@bpa.gov; dxrodgers@bpa.gov; rightofway@pse.com; jorgenja@cwu.edu; nelmsk@cwu.edu; brooksideconsulting@gmail.com; tribune@nkctribune.com; legals@nkctribune.com; terry@nkctribune.com; snutt@kvnews.com; legals@kvnews.com; kimberly.peacher@navy.mil; Bright, Robert D CIV USARMY IMCOM PACIFIC (USA) <robert.d.bright10.civ@army.mil>; mark.a.gradwohl.civ@mail.mil; ronaldwaterdistrict@hotmail.com; sara@krdistrict.org; cid@fairpoint.net; westsideirrigationco@gmail.com; eburgwater1885@gmail.com; jbrunson@fairpoint.net; ktbrunson@fairpoint.net; Lakeshore206@fairpoint.net; kcfd1@fairpoint.net; johnsond@kvfr.org; habermanj@kvfr.org; prevention@kvfr.org; D.J. Goldsmith <goldsmithd@kvfr.org>; Chris Moen <moenc@kvfr.org>; kcfd3102@yahoo.com; asstchief.eastonfd3@gmail.com; jwiseman@spfire.org; sdavies@kcfd7.com; Alowe@kcfd7.com; robertsb@cersd.org; communityrelations@cersd.org; timothy.lawless@dammanschool.org; marsha@dammanschool.org; kombola@easton.wednet.edu; jensens@easton.wednet.edu; kim.snider@esd401.org; leslee.caul@esd401.org; angela.garrettgordon@esd401.org; carol.chrisman@esd401.org; traci.russell@esd401.org; Anita_mata@ksd403.org; tim_praino@ksd403.org; casey_widner@ksd403.org; perkinsa@thorpschools.org; roslyn@inlandnet.com; planner@ci.roslyn.wa.us; publicworks@ci.roslyn.wa.us; Mike Engelhart (GOV) <mengelhart@cleelum.gov>; dlee@cleelum.gov; VirgilAmick <vamick@cleelum.gov>; CleElumPlanning <planning@cleelum.gov>; clerk@cityofkittitas.com; debbie.lee@cityofkittitas.com; kurin.simplot@cityofkittitas.com; yusid@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; pubworks@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; comdev@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; energyservices@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; jonesc@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov; townofsouthcleelum@gmail.com; sce@inland.net; Carryn.VandeGriend@pse.com; marj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org; anna.lael@kccd.net; Nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org; susankaspari@gmail.com; Nathen.Lamb@pse.com; Dylan.Marcus@pse.com
Cc: Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Zach Torrance-Smith <zach.torrancesmith@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

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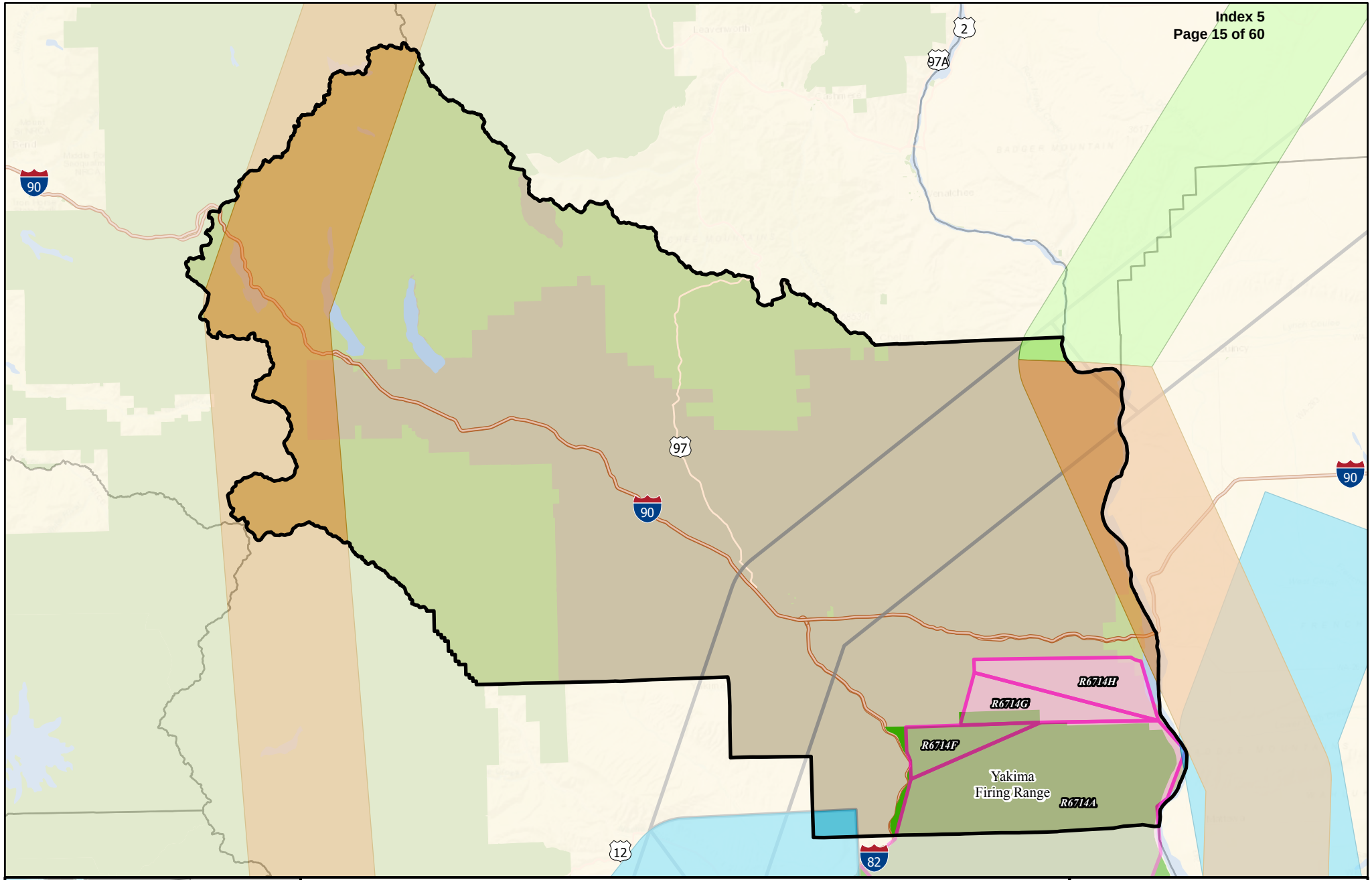
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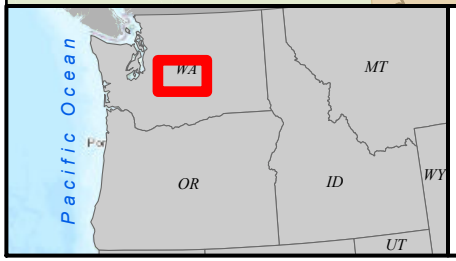
Designated Permit Coordinator (staff contact): Ellie Myers, Planner I, Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Community Development Services, 509-962-7048, cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

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Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
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County Boundary

Military Training Routes
- 200 Feet
- 300 Feet
- 1000 Feet
- Greater than 1000 Feet

Special Use Airspace Floor Elevation
- Surface

Installations
- U.S. Army

Kittitas County
with Military Training Routes
and Special Use Airspace
1000 Feet & Below

0 6.5 13 Miles

0 6.5 13 Kilometers

Ellie Myers

From: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Ellie Myers
Cc: Chad Bala; Jeremy Johnston; Jamey Ayling; Bradley Gasawski
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action
Attachments: Airspace Ops - County_Kittitas.pdf

Hello Ellie,

Thank you for the military distro.

To ensure we have the time to review and deconflict proposals, coordinate with developers, and provide a multi-service response, the goal would be a viable process for projects located in military equities.

Such a process would ensure continuity through staff changes and transparency to the community. In addition, a process integrated into the guiding land use documents would implement state law to include RCW 36.01.320

For reference, attached is the map of the military equities in Kittitas County.

Happy to setup a call to discuss this concept further.

V/R,

Kimberly Peacher
Community Planning & Liaison Officer
Northwest Training Range Complex
(360) 930-4085
NIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil
SIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.smil.mil

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Cc: Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Good morning Kimberly,

Are you interested in notification and coordination for all land use projects processed by the County, or just related to this project, the Comprehensive Plan, and zoning?

We currently have Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil, Robert.d.bright10.civ@army.mil, and mark.a.gradwohl.civ@mail.mil on our list to receive notice for land use permits.

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
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Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 9:50 AM
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In regards to notification and coordination, who can we talk to regarding a long term process i.e. in the Comp Plan & zoning?

V/R,

Kimberly Peacher
Community Planning & Liaison Officer
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SIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.smil.mil

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Dan Young <dan.young@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Marvin Douvier <marvin.douvier.sh@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; adminstaff@kittcom.org; storch@kittcom.org; Julie Kjorsvik <julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Laura Kukes <laura.kukes@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Public Health Inspectors <PublicHealthInspectors@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kelee Hodges <kelee.hodges.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Tate Mahre <tate.mahre@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jackie Sharp <jackie.sharp@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Samantha Cox <samantha.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Josh Fredrickson <josh.fredrickson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rebecca Cruse <rebecca.cruse.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Larson <jeremy.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Steph Mifflin <steph.mifflin@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Haley Mercer <haley.mercer@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Christy Garcia <christine.garcia@co.kittitas.wa.us>; ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com; THastings@snopass.org; sepa@dahp.wa.gov; enviroreview@yakama.com; jessica_lally@yakama.com; noah_oliver@yakama.com; casey_barney@yakama.com; kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov; guy.moura@colvilletribes.com; sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com; jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com; darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com; milton.davis.adm@colvilletribes.com; karen.capuder.adm@colvilletribes.com; kiana.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; shalena.bent.adm@colvilletribes.com; steve@snoqualmietribe.us; dahp@snoqualmietribe.us; adam@snoqualmietribe.us; russell.mau@doh.wa.gov; brietta.carter@doh.wa.gov; tebu461@ecy.wa.gov; lowh461@ECY.WA.GOV; FormerOrchards@ecy.wa.gov; wendy.neet@ecy.wa.gov; crosepa@ecy.wa.gov; rand461@ECY.WA.GOV; Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov;

Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov; Cassandra.Weekes@dfw.wa.gov; Emily.Grabowsky@dfw.wa.gov; Michael.Ritter@dfw.wa.gov; Michelle.Huppert@dfw.wa.gov; solarandwind@dfw.wa.gov; rivers@dnr.wa.gov; luke.warthen@dnr.wa.gov; SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov; MARTIN.MAUNEY@dnr.wa.gov; Amanda.Moody@dnr.wa.gov; lhendrix@usbr.gov; jhoff@usbr.gov; ken.graham@parks.wa.gov; John.Ernster@parks.wa.gov; rachel.mazzacavallo@parks.wa.gov; Real.Estate@parks.wa.gov; kimberly.larned@usda.gov; Jenae.N.Churchill@usace.army.mil; Jacob.Prilucik@wsdot.wa.gov; SCPlanning@wsdot.wa.gov; AviationLandUse@wsdot.wa.gov; CMOlcese@bpa.gov; jcmurray@bpa.gov; accastle@bpa.gov; vlconnell@bpa.gov; dxrodgers@bpa.gov; rightofway@pse.com; jorgenja@cwu.edu; nelmsk@cwu.edu; brooksideconsulting@gmail.com; tribune@nkctribune.com; legals@nkctribune.com; terry@nkctribune.com; snutt@kvnews.com; legals@kvnews.com; kimberly.peacher@navy.mil; Bright, Robert D CIV USARMY IMCOM PACIFIC (USA) <robert.d.bright10.civ@army.mil>; mark.a.gradwohl.civ@mail.mil; ronaldwaterdistrict@hotmail.com; sara@krdistrict.org; cid@fairpoint.net; westsideirrigationco@gmail.com; eburgwater1885@gmail.com; jbrunson@fairpoint.net; ktbrunson@fairpoint.net; Lakeshore206@fairpoint.net; kcfd1@fairpoint.net; johnsond@kvfr.org; habermanj@kvfr.org; prevention@kvfr.org; D.J. Goldsmith <goldsmithd@kvfr.org>; Chris Moen <moenc@kvfr.org>; kcfd3102@yahoo.com; asstchief.eastonfd3@gmail.com; jwiseman@spfire.org; sdavies@kcfd7.com; Alowe@kcfd7.com; robertsb@cersd.org; communityrelations@cersd.org; timothy.lawless@dammanschool.org; marsha@dammanschool.org; kombola@easton.wednet.edu; jensens@easton.wednet.edu; kim.snider@esd401.org; leslee.caul@esd401.org; angela.garrettgordon@esd401.org; carol.chrisman@esd401.org; traci.russell@esd401.org; Anita_mata@ksd403.org; tim_praino@ksd403.org; casey_widner@ksd403.org; perkinsa@thorpschools.org; roslyn@inlandnet.com; planner@ci.roslyn.wa.us; publicworks@ci.roslyn.wa.us; Mike Engelhart (GOV) <mengelhart@cleelum.gov>; dlee@cleelum.gov; VirgilAmick <vamick@cleelum.gov>; CleElumPlanning <planning@cleelum.gov>; clerk@cityofkittitas.com; debbie.lee@cityofkittitas.com; kurin.simplot@cityofkittitas.com; yusid@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; pubworks@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; comdev@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; energyservices@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; jonesc@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov; townofsouthcleelum@gmail.com; sce@inland.net; Carryn.VandeGriend@pse.com; marj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org; anna.lael@kccd.net; Nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org; susankaspari@gmail.com; Nathen.Lamb@pse.com; Dylan.Marcus@pse.com
Cc: Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Zach Torrance-Smith <zach.torrancesmith@co.kittitas.wa.us>
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Proposal: Kittitas County is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate appropriate areas for permitting a variety of different energy uses. This is a non-project action. The energy uses being studied include solar, wind, geothermal, small modular reactors (SMRs), and battery storage systems (BESS). The purpose of this project is to proactively address siting and strengthen local evaluation and permitting of energy projects by establishing permitting pathways that are clear and predictable, identifying where energy uses are appropriate, and ensuring that the permitting processes sufficiently evaluate and mitigate impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

To learn more about the proposal, read frequently asked questions, see the project schedule, and how you can get involved and stay updated, please visit the project website at https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx . This website will continue to be updated throughout the project.

Determination of Significance (DS) and EIS Required: As the lead agency, Kittitas County has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

Alternatives: A comparative evaluation of alternative courses of action will be included in the EIS. Kittitas County will study three alternatives as part of the EIS. Alternatives are anticipated to include a No Action Alternative and two-Action Alternatives that will consider approaches to siting criteria, clean energy uses, and mitigation and minimization measures.

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Scoping Events: The County will hold two scoping events to provide the community the opportunity to learn more and talk with County staff and consultants on **May 2, 2026:**

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4th & Pearl Street, Ellensburg WA 98926

Dru Bru - Cle Elum, WA May 2nd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1015 E 2nd Street, Cle Elum WA 98922

These engagement opportunities are designed to provide project background and information for those interested in submitting scoping comments.
Written Comments from the public may be submitted to the Kittitas County Community Development Services no later than **Monday, May 18 , 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** After reviewing the comments received during the scoping period, Kittitas County will finalize the alternatives and elements of the built and natural environment that will be analyzed under the EIS. Comments may be submitted via email to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us or in person at 411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Designated Permit Coordinator (staff contact): Ellie Myers, Planner I, Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Community Development Services, 509-962-7048, cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

Ellie Myers

From: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 12:49 PM
To: Ellie Myers
Cc: Chad Bala; cleanenergy; Jeremy Johnston; Jamey Ayling; Bradley Gasawski
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Hello Ellie,

Glad to see notification to the DoD in the Comp Plan. Thank you for sending the link.

Is there implementing guidance in the zoning regulations or a map of the low altitude airspace in either guiding land use document? Ideally there would be a process similar to what we have in Benton or Columbia counties detailing how notification and, primarily, coordination would work.

V/R,

Kimberly Peacher
Community Planning & Liaison Officer
Northwest Training Range Complex
(360) 930-4085
NIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil
SIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.smil.mil

From: cleanenergy <cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2026 11:13 AM
To: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>; Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Cc: Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Good morning Kimberly,

The current (2021) Kittitas County Comprehensive Plan incorporates policy U-P25 in Chapter 6 – Utilities, which requires the County to provide written notification to the Department of defense when the County receives application for an energy plant or alternative energy resource (p.79). The draft (2026) Comp Plan incorporates this same policy as U-P23 in Chapter 7 – Utilities (p.139).

https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/uploads/documents/cds/comp-plan/2021/2021%20Comprehensive%20Plan.pdf

https://www.kittitascounty2026.com/documents

Please let me know if you have any questions about this.

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

From: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 1:05 PM
To: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Cc: Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Hello Ellie,

Thank you for the military distro.

To ensure we have the time to review and deconflict proposals, coordinate with developers, and provide a multi-service response, the goal would be a viable process for projects located in military equities.

Such a process would ensure continuity through staff changes and transparency to the community. In addition, a process integrated into the guiding land use documents would implement state law to include RCW 36.01.320

For reference, attached is the map of the military equities in Kittitas County.

Happy to setup a call to discuss this concept further.

V/R,

Kimberly Peacher
Community Planning & Liaison Officer
Northwest Training Range Complex
(360) 930-4085
NIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil
SIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.smil.mil

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Friday, April 24, 2026 11:38 AM
To: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Cc: Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Good morning Kimberly,

Are you interested in notification and coordination for all land use projects processed by the County, or just related to this project, the Comprehensive Plan, and zoning?

We currently have Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil, Robert.d.bright10.civ@army.mil, and mark.a.gradwohl.civ@mail.mil on our list to receive notice for land use permits.

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

From: Peacher, Kimberly N CIV USN COMNAVREG NW BGR WA (USA) <kimberly.n.peacher.civ@us.navy.mil>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 9:50 AM
To: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Good morning Ellie,

Thank you for your email.

In regards to notification and coordination, who can we talk to regarding a long term process i.e. in the Comp Plan & zoning?

V/R,

Kimberly Peacher
Community Planning & Liaison Officer
Northwest Training Range Complex
(360) 930-4085
NIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil
SIPR: Kimberly.peacher@navy.smil.mil

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Dan Young <dan.young@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Marvin Douvier <marvin.douvier.sh@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; adminstaff@kittcom.org; storch@kittcom.org; Julie Kjorsvik <julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Laura Kukes <laura.kukes@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Public Health Inspectors <PublicHealthInspectors@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kelee Hodges <kelee.hodges.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Tate Mahre <tate.mahre@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jackie Sharp <jackie.sharp@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Samantha Cox <samantha.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Josh Fredrickson <josh.fredrickson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rebecca Cruse <rebecca.cruse.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Larson <jeremy.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Steph Mifflin <steph.mifflin@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Haley Mercer <haley.mercer@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Christy Garcia <christine.garcia@co.kittitas.wa.us>; ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com;

THastings@snopass.org; sepa@dahp.wa.gov; enviroreview@yakama.com; jessica_lally@yakama.com; noah_oliver@yakama.com; casey_barney@yakama.com; kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov; guy.moura@colvilletribes.com; sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com; jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com; darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com; milton.davis.adm@colvilletribes.com; karen.capuder.adm@colvilletribes.com; kiana.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; shalena.bent.adm@colvilletribes.com; steve@snoqualmietribe.us; dahp@snoqualmietribe.us; adam@snoqualmietribe.us; russell.mau@doh.wa.gov; brietta.carter@doh.wa.gov; tebu461@ecy.wa.gov; lowh461@ECY.WA.GOV; FormerOrchards@ecy.wa.gov; wendy.neet@ecy.wa.gov; crosepa@ecy.wa.gov; rand461@ECY.WA.GOV; Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov; Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov; Cassandra.Weekes@dfw.wa.gov; Emily.Grabowsky@dfw.wa.gov; Michael.Ritter@dfw.wa.gov; Michelle.Huppert@dfw.wa.gov; solarandwind@dfw.wa.gov; rivers@dnr.wa.gov; luke.warthen@dnr.wa.gov; SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov; MARTIN.MAUNEY@dnr.wa.gov; Amanda.Moody@dnr.wa.gov; lhendrix@usbr.gov; jhoff@usbr.gov; ken.graham@parks.wa.gov; John.Ernster@parks.wa.gov; rachel.mazzacavallo@parks.wa.gov; Real.Estate@parks.wa.gov; kimberly.larned@usda.gov; Jenae.N.Churchill@usace.army.mil; Jacob.Prilucik@wsdot.wa.gov; SCPlanning@wsdot.wa.gov; AviationLandUse@wsdot.wa.gov; CMOlcese@bpa.gov; jcmurray@bpa.gov; accastle@bpa.gov; vlconnell@bpa.gov; dxrodgers@bpa.gov; rightofway@pse.com; jorgenja@cwu.edu; nelmsk@cwu.edu; brooksideconsulting@gmail.com; tribune@nkctribune.com; legals@nkctribune.com; terry@nkctribune.com; snutt@kvnews.com; legals@kvnews.com; kimberly.peacher@navy.mil; Bright, Robert D CIV USARMY IMCOM PACIFIC (USA) <robert.d.bright10.civ@army.mil>; mark.a.gradwohl.civ@mail.mil; ronaldwaterdistrict@hotmail.com; sara@krdistrict.org; cid@fairpoint.net; westsideirrigationco@gmail.com; eburgwater1885@gmail.com; jbrunson@fairpoint.net; ktbrunson@fairpoint.net; Lakeshore206@fairpoint.net; kcfd1@fairpoint.net; johnsond@kvfr.org; habermanj@kvfr.org; prevention@kvfr.org; D.J. Goldsmith <goldsmithd@kvfr.org>; Chris Moen <moenc@kvfr.org>; kcfd3102@yahoo.com; asstchief.eastonfd3@gmail.com; jwiseman@spfire.org; sdavies@kcfd7.com; Alowe@kcfd7.com; robertsb@cersd.org; communityrelations@cersd.org; timothy.lawless@dammanschool.org; marsha@dammanschool.org; kombola@easton.wednet.edu; jensens@easton.wednet.edu; kim.snider@esd401.org; leslee.caul@esd401.org; angela.garrettgordon@esd401.org; carol.chrisman@esd401.org; traci.russell@esd401.org; Anita_mata@ksd403.org; tim_praino@ksd403.org; casey_widner@ksd403.org; perkinsa@thorpschools.org; roslyn@inlandnet.com; planner@ci.roslyn.wa.us; publicworks@ci.roslyn.wa.us; Mike Engelhart (GOV) <mengelhart@cleelum.gov>; dlee@cleelum.gov; VirgilAmick <vamick@cleelum.gov>; CleElumPlanning <planning@cleelum.gov>; clerk@cityofkittitas.com; debbie.lee@cityofkittitas.com; kurin.simplot@cityofkittitas.com; yusid@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; pubworks@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; comdev@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; energyservices@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; jonesc@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov; townofsouthcleelum@gmail.com; sce@inland.net; Carryn.VandeGriend@pse.com; marj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org; anna.lael@kccd.net; Nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org; susankaspari@gmail.com; Nathen.Lamb@pse.com; Dylan.Marcus@pse.com
Cc: Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Zach Torrance-Smith <zach.torrancesmith@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

Notice of SEPA Action

Determination Of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Date of Issuance: Thursday, April 16, 2026
Lead Agency: Kittitas County, Community Development Services
Location: Kittitas County, including unincorporated urban areas, rural lands and natural resource lands.

Proposal: Kittitas County is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate appropriate areas for permitting a variety of different energy uses. This is a non-project action.

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Determination of Significance (DS) and EIS Required: As the lead agency, Kittitas County has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

Alternatives: A comparative evaluation of alternative courses of action will be included in the EIS. Kittitas County will study three alternatives as part of the EIS. Alternatives are anticipated to include a No Action Alternative and two-Action Alternatives that will consider approaches to siting criteria, clean energy uses, and mitigation and minimization measures.

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Designated Permit Coordinator (staff contact): Ellie Myers, Planner I, Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Community Development Services, 509-962-7048, cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

Ellie Myers

From: fred padjen <fredpadjen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 9, 2026 7:10 PM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: clean energy siting alternatives

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Kittitas County network. Do not click links, open attachments, fulfill requests, or follow guidance unless you recognize the sender and have verified the content is safe.

The alternative cited in your project that would best serve the County and its citizens would be Alternative #1, with one small modification of the conditional uses for Solar Overlay Zone 1.

County staff has done a commendable job in establishing overlay zones that meet the needs and preferences of rural County residents. Solar Overlay Zone 1 adequately protects agricultural lands but may be too restrictive in one regard based on the latest empirical evidence. There is now considerable anecdotal and experimental evidence that it is possible to build solar generation projects that operate concurrently with agricultural uses on the same sites. In fact, there is some evidence that solar panel systems may enhance agricultural production on dual-use sites. Therefore, it may be appropriate to add to the conditional uses in Solar Overlay Zone 1, a condition that allows solar generation that is intended for concurrent agricultural use.

Alternative 2 mentions battery energy storage systems as if that can describe clearly a system for storing electrical energy. Unfortunately, the shape and scope of what constitutes such a system can be so varied that there is no practical way to form a regulation that would anticipate all the possiblities. Is it a group of lithium cells in metal boxes, a flow battery that would incorporate large scale excavations and interconnected piping and tanks, or some sort of pumped storage water system. There are so many possibilties out there that this category of clean energy system should only be considered for industrial siting or rezoning petition under present regulations.

Likewise, geothermal electrical generation would require large landholdings, local grid interconnection as well as a not insignificant 24-hour labor-force. Geothermal clearly requires an industrial designation under present code and should be regulated as such, again subject to present zoning and/or through petition for rezone, as needed.

To summarize, please consider this resident as in favor of Alternative 1 with an additional conditional use for Solar Overlay Zone 1.

Frederick Padjen

Ellie Myers

From: Downes, Scott G (DFW) <Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 7:54 AM
To: Ellie Myers; cleanenergy
Cc: Jamey Ayling; Ritter, Michael W (DFW)
Subject: RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action WDFW Comments
Attachments: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project WDFW Comments.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Kittitas County network. Do not click links, open attachments, fulfill requests, or follow guidance unless you recognize the sender and have verified the content is safe.

Please accept WDFW comments on the scoping document. We would like to set up a time to meet to go over our comments and the resources listed in our comments. Please reach out for times for a meeting.

Thanks for the opportunity to review and provide input.

Scott
Scott Downes
Fish & Wildlife Habitat Regional Land Use Lead
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Region 3 Habitat Program
1701 South 24th Ave
Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov
Cell-509-607-3578

From: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:00 PM
To: Dan Young <dan.young@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Marvin Douvier <marvin.douvier.sh@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kim Dawson <kim.dawson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; adminstaff@kittcom.org; storch@kittcom.org; Julie Kjorsvik <julie.kjorsvik@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Laura Kukes <laura.kukes@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Public Health Inspectors <PublicHealthInspectors@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Lisa Lawrence <lisa.lawrence@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Patti Stacey <patti.stacey@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Kelee Hodges <kelee.hodges.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Candie Leader <candie.leader@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Tate Mahre <tate.mahre@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jackie Sharp <jackie.sharp@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Cox, Samantha (DOHi) <samantha.cox@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Josh Fredrickson <josh.fredrickson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Rebecca Cruse <rebecca.cruse.pw@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Larson <jeremy.larson@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Steph Mifflin <steph.mifflin@co.kittitas.wa.us>; DOR CU Kittitas <haley.mercer@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Christy Garcia <christine.garcia@co.kittitas.wa.us>; ken.edwards@kittitaspud.com; Tom Hastings <thastings@snopass.org>; DAHP SEPA <sepa@dahp.wa.gov>; enviroreview@yakama.com;

jessica_lally@yakama.com; noah_oliver@yakama.com; casey_barney@yakama.com; Jeff Kozma <kozj@yakamafish-nsn.gov>; batt@yakamafish-nsn.gov; guy.moura@colvilletribes.com; sam.rushing@colvilletribes.com; jordan.bovee.hsy@colvilletribes.com; darnell.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com; john.sirois.adm@colvilletribes.com; milton.davis.adm@colvilletribes.com; karen.capuder.adm@colvilletribes.com; Kiana Sam <kiana.sam.adm@colvilletribes.com>; shalena.bent.adm@colvilletribes.com; steve@snoqualmietribe.us; dahp@snoqualmietribe.us; adam@snoqualmietribe.us; Mau, Russell E (DOH) <Russell.Mau@DOH.WA.GOV>; Carter, Brietta J (DOH) <brietta.carter@doh.wa.gov>; Petropoulos, Terra (ECY) <tebu461@ECY.WA.GOV>; White, Lori (ECY) <lowh461@ECY.WA.GOV>; ECY RE Former Orchards <formerorchards@ECY.WA.GOV>; Neet, Wendy (ECY) <wnee461@ECY.WA.GOV>; ECY RE CRO SEPA Coordinator <crosepa@ecy.wa.gov>; Anderson, Ryan (ECY) <rand461@ECY.WA.GOV>; Downes, Scott G (DFW) <Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov>; Nelson, Jennifer L (DFW) <Jennifer.Nelson@dfw.wa.gov>; Weekes, Cassandra L (DFW) <Cassandra.Weekes@dfw.wa.gov>; Grabowsky, Emily R (DFW) <Emily.Grabowsky@dfw.wa.gov>; Ritter, Michael W (DFW) <Michael.Ritter@dfw.wa.gov>; Huppert, Michelle (DFW) <Michelle.Huppert@dfw.wa.gov>; Solar and Wind (DFW) <solarandwind@dfw.wa.gov>; DNR RE AQ LEASING RIVERS <DNRREAQLEASINGRIVERS@dnr.wa.gov>; Warthen, Luke (DNR) <Luke.Warthen@dnr.wa.gov>; DNR RE SEPACENTER <SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov>; MAUNEY, MARTY (DNR) <MARTIN.MAUNEY@dnr.wa.gov>; Moody, Amanda (DNR) <Amanda.Moody@dnr.wa.gov>; lhendrix@usbr.gov; jhoff@usbr.gov; Graham, Ken (PARKS) <Ken.Graham@PARKS.WA.GOV>; Ernster, John (PARKS) <John.Ernster@PARKS.WA.GOV>; Mazzacavallo, Rachel (Parks) <Rachel.Mazzacavallo@PARKS.WA.GOV>; Real Estate (Parks) <Real.Estate@parks.wa.gov>; kimberly.larned@usda.gov; Jenae.N.Churchill@usace.army.mil; Prilucik, Jacob <jacob.prilucik@wsdot.wa.gov>; SCPlanning@wsdot.wa.gov; AviationLandUse@wsdot.wa.gov; CMOlcese@bpa.gov; jcmurray@bpa.gov; accastle@bpa.gov; vlconnell@bpa.gov; dxrodgers@bpa.gov; rightofway@pse.com; jorgenja@cwu.edu; nelmsk@cwu.edu; brooksideconsulting@gmail.com; tribune@nkctribune.com; legals@nkctribune.com; terry@nkctribune.com; snutt@kvnews.com; legals@kvnews.com; Kimberly.peacher@navy.mil; Robert.d.bright10.civ@army.mil; mark.a.gradwohl.civ@mail.mil; ronaldwaterdistrict@hotmail.com; sara@krdistrict.org; cid@fairpoint.net; westsideirrigationco@gmail.com; eburgwater1885@gmail.com; jbrunson@fairpoint.net; ktbrunson@fairpoint.net; Lakeshore206@fairpoint.net; Kittitas County Fire District #1 (DNR) <kcfd1@fairpoint.net>; johnsond@kvfr.org; habermanj@kvfr.org; prevention@kvfr.org; D.J. Goldsmith <goldsmithd@kvfr.org>; Chris Moen <moenc@kvfr.org>; kcfd3102@yahoo.com; asstchief.eastonfd3@gmail.com; jwiseman@spfire.org; sdavies@kcfd7.com; Kittitas County Fire District #7 (DNR) <alowe@kcfd7.com>; robertsb@cersd.org; communityrelations@cersd.org; timothy.lawless@dammanschool.org; marsha@dammanschool.org; kombola@easton.wednet.edu; jensens@easton.wednet.edu; Kim Snider <Kim.Snider@esd401.org>; leslee.caul@esd401.org; angela.garrettgordon@esd401.org; carol.chrisman@esd401.org; traci.russell@esd401.org; Anita Mata <anita_mata@ksd403.org>; Tim Praino <tim_praino@ksd403.org>; Casey Widner <casey_widner@ksd403.org>; perkinsa@thorpschools.org; roslyn@inlandnet.com; planner@ci.roslyn.wa.us; publicworks@ci.roslyn.wa.us; Mike Engelhart (GOV) <mengelhart@cleelum.gov>; Debbie Lee <dlee@cleelum.gov>; VirgilAmick <vamick@cleelum.gov>; CleElumPlanning <planning@cleelum.gov>; clerk@cityofkittitas.com; debbie.lee@cityofkittitas.com; kurin.simplot@cityofkittitas.com; yusid@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; pubworks@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; comdev@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; energyservices@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; jonesc@ci.ellensburg.wa.us; hendersons@ellensburgwa.gov; townofsouthcleelum@gmail.com; sce@inland.net; Carryn.VandeGriend@pse.com; marj@yakamafish-nsn.gov; mlong@kittitasconservationtrust.org; anna.lael@kccd.net; Nicky.pasi@mtsgreenway.org; susankaspari@gmail.com; Nathen.Lamb@pse.com; Dylan.Marcus@pse.com
Cc: Jamey Ayling <jamey.ayling@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Bradley Gasawski <bradley.gasawski@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Chad Bala <chad.bala@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Jeremy Johnston <jeremy.johnston@co.kittitas.wa.us>; Zach Torrance-Smith <zach.torrancesmith@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) - Notice of SEPA Action

External Email

Notice of SEPA Action

Determination Of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Date of Issuance: Thursday, April 16, 2026
Lead Agency: Kittitas County, Community Development Services
Location: Kittitas County, including unincorporated urban areas, rural lands and natural resource lands.

Proposal: Kittitas County is initiating a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to evaluate appropriate areas for permitting a variety of different energy uses. This is a non-project action. The energy uses being studied include solar, wind, geothermal, small modular reactors (SMRs), and battery storage systems (BESS). The purpose of this project is to proactively address siting and strengthen local evaluation and permitting of energy projects by establishing permitting pathways that are clear and predictable, identifying where energy uses are appropriate, and ensuring that the permitting processes sufficiently evaluate and mitigate impacts during construction, operation, and decommissioning.

To learn more about the proposal, read frequently asked questions, see the project schedule, and how you can get involved and stay updated, please visit the project website at https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/cds/cesp.aspx . This website will continue to be updated throughout the project.

Determination of Significance (DS) and EIS Required: As the lead agency, Kittitas County has determined that this proposal is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c) and will be prepared.

Alternatives: A comparative evaluation of alternative courses of action will be included in the EIS. Kittitas County will study three alternatives as part of the EIS. Alternatives are anticipated to include a No Action Alternative and two-Action Alternatives that will consider approaches to siting criteria, clean energy uses, and mitigation and minimization measures.

Scoping: Scoping provides notice to the public and other agencies that an EIS is being prepared, and initiates involvement in the process. There will be additional opportunities to comment on the DEIS once it is issued and any policy, code, or map changes which may be considered by Kittitas County in the future. Agencies, affected Tribes, and members of the public are invited to comment on the scope of the EIS. You may comment on alternatives, mitigation measures, probable significant adverse impacts, and licenses or other approvals that may be required.

Scoping Events: The County will hold two scoping events to provide the community the opportunity to learn more and talk with County staff and consultants on **May 2, 2026:**

Ellensburg Farmers Market, May 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
4th & Pearl Street, Ellensburg WA 98926

Dru Bru - Cle Elum, WA May 2nd from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
1015 E 2nd Street, Cle Elum WA 98922

These engagement opportunities are designed to provide project background and information for those interested in submitting scoping comments.

Written Comments from the public may be submitted to the Kittitas County Community Development Services no later than **Monday, May 18 , 2026 at 5:00 p.m.** After reviewing the comments received during the scoping period, Kittitas County will finalize the alternatives and elements of the built and natural environment that will be analyzed under the EIS. Comments may be submitted via email to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us or in person at 411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926.

Designated Permit Coordinator (staff contact): Ellie Myers, Planner I, Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Community Development Services, 509-962-7048, cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

Best,

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

State of Washington
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Central Region • Region 3 • 1701 South 24th Avenue, Yakima, WA 98902-5720
Telephone: (509) 575-2740 • Fax: (509) 575-2474

May 11, 2026

Ellie Myers
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby Street, Suite 1
Ellensburg, WA 98926

SUBJECT: WDFW comments on Scoping for Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP)

Dear Ms. Meyers,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the scoping for the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP). We provide these comments on the scoping to help in the siting of clean energy projects while in accordance with WDFW's mission to preserve, protect and perpetuate the state's fish, wildlife and ecosystems.

Resources:
We list several resources below that should be included as part of the siting and permitting project.

- Washington State University (WSU) Least Conflict Solar Siting. Least Conflict Solar Siting takes a holistic view factoring in fish and wildlife habitat, but also agricultural lands and solar suitability models. The report recommends avoiding siting of projects in high conflict areas. WDFW participated in this effort. https://waenergy.databasin.org/

- WDFW produced solar and wind guidelines in September 2025. While these guidelines were developed for solar and wind projects, the guidance also likely applies to other clean energy projects and likely should be applied to all projects being considered under the CESP. Guidelines for Utility-Scale Solar and Onshore Wind Energy Development in Washington State

- WDFW as part of the Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) program has mapping for Biodiversity Areas and Corridors (BAC), Riparian and Shrubsteppe habitats. The PHS maps also contain sensitive wildlife locations. PHS maps should be used in the analysis to map areas of avoidance for fish and wildlife and their habitats. Priority Habitats and Species: Maps | Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

- Washington State developed the Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI) as a long-term effort to protect and restore the shrubsteppe

ecosystem. As part of the long-term strategy, spatial priorities were mapped. These maps should be used to identify priority shrubsteppe areas to avoid in the siting of projects. Maps | WSRRI

- Washington State developed the Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan (WAHCAP) to identify wildlife connectivity areas needing protection, restoration and connectivity. The spatial data in the plan should be used in the siting of projects to identify areas of high wildlife connectivity that are not suitable for project siting. One of the spatial layers produced is likely particularly relevant for the CESP, the conflict layer of connectivity and solar potential. Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan Spatial Data

These resources should initially be used for a desktop analysis of potential development sites and where siting of energy projects may reduce conflict with fish and wildlife and their habitats. These resources may indicate that habitats and wildlife covered by county code (Critical Areas Ordinance) could be impacted. It is at this stage, or earlier, that a project should begin coordination with WDFW. Field verification through wildlife and habitat surveys may be required to to map areas of both avoidance and areas that have less conflict with energy siting. WDFW guidelines recommend avoidance of projects in PHS BACs, WSRRI Cores and GOA and areas of high connectivity value (8+) in WAHCAP.

Permitting Requirements

WDFW recommends that WDFW solar and wind guidelines should be used in environmental permitting requirements, particularly in regard to fish and wildlife and their habitats. These guidelines can be appropriate for including studies as part of the permit application, mitigation sequencing, and construction best management practices. The guidelines also give recommendations on topics such as weed management and fire, both of which are important components to ensure that the project does not have impacts beyond the project area.

Determining Impacts and Mitigation Strategies.

The document should identify how much potential impacts to priority habitats and species are possible with the proposed permitting project and identify potential mitigation strategies to offset those impacts. WDFW recommends the following mitigation sequencing of avoidance of high valued species and habitat areas listed under the resources section in these comments and then planning for compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts at the suggested ratios listed in our solar and wind guidelines. These impacts should be for any potential project that could be sited in fish and wildlife habitat areas, including but not limited to solar and wind projects. We recommend that the county developed holistic strategies for compensatory mitigation such as development of a mitigation bank for habitat impacts.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment. We would like to request a meeting with Kittitas County planning to demonstrate the mapping resources mentioned in these comments and discuss our solar and wind guidelines. Please contact me at 509-607-3578 or Scott.Downes@dfw.wa.gov to

set up a time to discuss these comments. We look forward to working with the county on this project to ensure that projects are cited to preserve and protect fish and wildlife and their habitats.

Sincerely,



Scott Downes
Regional Land Use Lead

Cc:
Jamey Ayling, Kittitas County Planning Manager
Mike Ritter, WDFW Lead Planner Solar & Wind Energy Development

Ellie Myers

From: Philip Friend <philipjfriend@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2026 9:04 AM
To: Ellie Myers
Subject: Re: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting PEIS

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Kittitas County network. Do not click links, open attachments, fulfill requests, or follow guidance unless you recognize the sender and have verified the content is safe.

I truly appreciate your efforts, and thanks for contacting me. I do not, however, understand why you would pose these questions to the public.. It does not make sense to me. I do not understand how the public can have valuable input into mitigation, adverse impacts make a little sense in that we could share how your work impact public lands, but any additional licenses or approvals. Maybe. Maybe there are community members with expertise in these areas?

Maybe these invitations are required as part of the grant application?

We are looking forward to seeing the results of your study.

Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Phil Friend
206-713-4125

On Mon, May 11, 2026 at 8:53 AM Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us> wrote:

> Good morning,
>
> Thank you so much for taking the time to stop by the County's Scoping Event for the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Programmatic EIS last weekend. We truly appreciate your interest and the opportunity to connect with you, and we're looking forward to working through this process together.
>
> As a reminder, the scoping comment period is open through May 18, 2026. We welcome your input on alternatives, potential mitigation measures, possible significant adverse impacts, and any licenses or approvals that may be needed.

We also want to apologize for a small error on the paper comment form, the email address provided there was incorrect. Please send your comments to cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us.

Thank you again for your time and participation, we value your voice in this process.

Best,

Ellie Myers

(she/her/hers)

Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**

411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926

P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us

https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

Ellie Myers

From: DNR RE SEPACENTER <SEPACENTER@dnr.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 7:31 AM
To: cleanenergy
Cc: Nelson, Scott (DNR); Woodward, James (DNR); SHAFER, ANA (DNR); DNR RE SEPACENTER
Subject: EIS Scoping Comment- DNR
Attachments: Kittitas Clean Energy Siting and Permitting EIS Scoping- DNR Comment .pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Kittitas County network. Do not click links, open attachments, fulfill requests, or follow guidance unless you recognize the sender and have verified the content is safe.

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Kittitas County's Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Scoping efforts. Please accept attached comments from Washington State Department of Natural Resources and confirm receipt.

Best,

Emma Oliver
SEPA External Affairs Coordinator
Office of Legal Affairs & Business Practices
Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
(360) 902-1709
Emma.Oliver@DNR.wa.gov
www.dnr.wa.gov

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL & LEGAL AFFAIRS – SEPA CENTER
PO BOX 47015
OLYMPIA, WA 98504-7015

360-902-2117
SEPACENTER@DNR.WA.GOV
WWW.DNR.WA.GOV

May 13, 2026

Jamey Ayling and Ellie Myers
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: Clean Energy Siting and Permitting EIS Scoping

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting, SEPA File #202601587.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) wishes to formally comment on the above referenced project, with regards to the following issues:

DNR State Lands:

Kittitas County is proposing a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate appropriate areas for permitting a variety of different energy uses. As part of this proposal, via telephone communication, Kittitas County communicated the transmission line siting may be potentially included within the scope of this EIS.

Within the Purpose of the EIS includes the authority over "Natural Resource Lands."

DNR trust lands are managed for the benefit of the individual trusts, and DNR has a fiduciary responsibility to manage those lands. Besides trust lands, DNR also manages other types of public lands in Kittitas County, such as the Teanaway Community Forest. Each parcel and location will have their own unique land management plans and activities, and DNR is unable to delegate that authority to the county.

Any grant of easement will require the payment of full market value of the land in advance, per RCW 79.36.355: **Grant of easements and rights in public land.**

> *"The department may grant to any person such easements and rights in public lands, not otherwise provided in law, as the applicant applying therefor may acquire in privately owned lands. No grant shall be made under this section until such time as the full market value of the estate or interest granted together with damages to all remaining property of the state of Washington has been ascertained and safely secured to the state."*

DNR Product Sales and Leasing:

DNR manages 3 million acres of trust lands, including properties within Kittitas County, to provide a continuous flow of revenue to beneficiaries. For potential clean energy (e.g., solar, wind, geothermal) projects on DNR managed properties, initial feasibility studies and exploration require land-use licenses. Follow-on development (e.g., energy generating infrastructure), where appropriate, requires DNR leases that necessitate the applicant to first obtain all required local, state, and federal permits.

Washington Geological Survey of DNR:

There are conventional and unconventional sources of geothermal. Conventional sources of geothermal in the Kittitas Valley are not likely to produce megawatt-level power given what we presently know. Unconventional sources are not proven and would be very deep. This would involve a very different set of drilling and operational practices. It also could involve fracking, which should be disclosed in the conversation.

If you have questions, please contact our subject matter experts on the following topics:
Scott Nelson- Rights of Way Assistant Division Manager, Scott.Nelson@dnr.wa.gov, (360) 902-2143
James Woodward- Clean Energy Program Manager, James.Woodward@dnr.wa.gov, (360) 790-0858
Ana Shafer- Washington Geological Survey Acting Director, ANA.SHAFER@dnr.wa.gov, (253) 569-2307

Thank you,

Emma Oliver
SEPA Center External Affairs Coordinator
360-902-2117
sepacenter@dnr.wa.gov

Ellie Myers

From: ECY RE CRO SEPA Coordinator <crosepa@ecy.wa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 14, 2026 4:29 PM
To: cleanenergy
Cc: Ellie Myers
Subject: SEPA 202601587 ECY Comments for Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting
Attachments: SEPA 202601587 ECY Comments.pdf

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Greetings,

Attached is the Department of Ecology comment letter for the Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting.

Please share these comments with the applicant.

Thank you,
Amber Johnson (she/her)
SEPA/ERTS Coordinator
Department of Ecology, Central Region Office
Ph. 509-723-5677

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

Central Region Office

1250 t Alder St., Union Gap, WA 98903-0009 • 509-575-2490

May 14, 2026

Ellie Myers
Kittitas County Community Development
411 N. Ruby St., Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

RE: SEPA 202601587

Dear Ellie Myers:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Determination of Significance/Scoping Notice for the Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting. We have reviewed the documents and have the following comments.

Shorelands and Enviromental Assistance (SEA) Program

As directed by the Legislature, Ecology has prepared programmatic environmental impact statements (PEISs) for utility-scale solar and onshore wind energy facilities and green hydrogen production and storage facilities. These were finalized in June 2025 and contain extensive information about the environmental impacts of these types of facilities, as well as measures to avoid, reduce, and mitigate impacts. The PEISs may already address some of the County's goals with the CESP Project. Ecology is available to meet with the County to provide information about these clean energy PEISs.

- Under state law (RCW 43.21C.538), these PEISs must be considered and used during project-level environmental review of applicable projects. RCW 43.21C.538 also requires that projects following the recommendations of the PEIS are considered to have mitigated project-specific impacts, unless the project-level review identifies impacts that were not addressed in the PEIS. The CESP Project documentation should reference these PEISs when describing the overall environmental review process for proposed utility-scale solar and onshore wind energy projects and green hydrogen production and storage facilities. The County's PEIS should be consistent with impact findings

and the required and recommended measures in Ecology's clean energy PEISs for solar and onshore wind.

- The CESP Project documentation should clearly articulate how an Ecology PEIS, if applicable, will be considered and used by the County during project-level environmental review of applicable projects.

As directed by the Legislature, Ecology is currently leading a geothermal energy collaborative process to identify the opportunities and risks associated with geothermal energy development. We are considering conventional and enhanced and advanced geothermal energy systems. The process involves gathering input, considering the potential impacts of development, identifying key siting factors, and conducting a regulatory gap analysis. We will provide findings and recommendations from the collaborative process to the governor and Legislature in an update planned for release June 30, 2026 and in a final report due June 30, 2027. The County should consider the information gathered through the collaborative process for the CESP Project, in its PEIS evaluation, and if developing and modifying County code to address geothermal energy development. Ecology is available to meet with the County to discuss the geothermal energy collaborative process.

For additional information or to schedule time to meet, please contact Diane Butorac, Shorelands and Environmental Assistance Program at diane.butorac@ecy.wa.gov or (360) 763-2394.

Ecology's comments are based upon information provided by the lead agency. As such, they may not constitute an exhaustive list of the various authorizations that must be obtained or legal requirements that must be fulfilled in order to carry out the proposed action.

If you have any questions or would like to respond to these comments, please contact the appropriate reviewing staff listed above.

Sincerely,



Amber Johnson
SEPA Coordinator, Central Region Office
509-723-5677
crosepa@ecy.wa.gov

Ellie Myers

From: Susan Kaspari <susankaspari@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 5:31 AM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: EIS Scoping Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Kittitas County network. Do not click links, open attachments, fulfill requests, or follow guidance unless you recognize the sender and have verified the content is safe.

Hello,
I am a resident of Ellensburg, and writing to comment on the Environmental Impact State for the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project. I am supporting of the growth of renewable energy in the county, but want to ensure that the environmental impacts of new renewable energy projects are considered. My primary comments are as follows:
1. In the Fact Sheet, I urge the county to pursue Alternatives #2 and #3. I wasn't able to attend an informational session, so perhaps I am misunderstanding, but I hope that the county isn't choosing to assess either solar, wind and BESS OR geothermal and small modular reactor facilities. All of these need to be thoroughly assessed.

2. I am a strong proponent of modifying hte Solar Power Production Facilities Overlay Map. My 15 year old son and I researched the Schnebly Coulee solar project two years ago, and found large issues with the solar power production overlay map. The Washington State University Least Conflict Solar Siting resources should be considered by the county. Granted there are very few sites that don't have some conflict in the county, but the current map forces solar power production onto the outskirts of the county into prime shrub-steppe habitat. This habitat is crucial for a wide range of birds and mammals, and provides important travel corridors for elk and other species. I would like to see the solar siting revisited to consider allowing solar on land that has already been modified. Land that has already been considerably altered for agriculture or grazing could be used for solar, and returned to its original use when a solar project is decommissioned in the future. If the county maintains that large solar projects can only happen on the edges of the valley this pushes development into prime habitat. I'd much rather see development on agricultural or ranching lands.

3. I am a strong proponent of the county supporting expansion of renewable energy in an effort to decarbonize, and I think the county should thoroughly investigate all options. Of the options being considered, I am least comfortable with small modular reactors. I would need much more information about these to be comfortable with those being installed locally. I am excited about the geothermal that is happening at CWU. I think there is the potential for geothermal to be utilized more widely for heating and cooling in the valley. I am skeptical that Kittitas County has the heat necessary for geothermal electricity production, but geothermal heating and cooling seems viable.

Please keep me updated on the developments of the plan. I am the Environmental Studies Director at CWU, and this project provides educational opportunities for our students. If there are opportunities for student or class involvement, please let me know.

Best,
Susan Kaspari
509 859-2361

Ellie Myers

From: Mark Rud <rudm@ellensburgwa.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 11:22 AM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: EIS Scoping Comment
Attachments: EX26-002 - Ellensburg Planning Comments.pdf

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Good morning, Attached find a scoping comment from the City of Ellensburg re. Kittitas County's clean energy facility siting regulations Programmatic EIS.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,

Mark Rud (*he/him/his*) | **Associate Planner**
(509) 962-7235 | rudm@ellensburgwa.gov
501 N. Anderson St, Ellensburg, WA 98926

Confidentiality Notice: This e-mail may contain confidential and privileged information. If you have received this message by mistake, please notify me immediately by replying to this message or telephoning me, and do not review, disclose, copy or distribute.

Advisory: Please be advised the City of Ellensburg is required to comply with the Public Records Act, Chapter 42.56 RCW. This act establishes a strong state mandate in favor of disclosure of public records. Therefore, the information you submit to the City via email, including personal information, may ultimately be subject to disclosure as a public record.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
501 N. Anderson St., Ellensburg WA 98926
Land Use Permitting (509) 962-7231 **Construction Permitting (509) 962-7239**
comdev@ci.ellensburg.wa.us **permits@ci.ellensburg.wa.us**

DATE: May 18, 2026

FROM: Mark Rud, Associate Planner

THRU: Dan Carlson, Community Development Director

FILE #: EX26-002 – EIS Scoping Comment

RE: Clean Energy Facility Siting Regulations

TO: Ellie Myers, Planner I & Jamey Ayling, Planning Manager, Kittitas County Community Development Services

The City of Ellensburg is providing scoping comments on Kittitas County's Programmatic EIS, for development regulations amendments regarding the siting of clean energy facilities.

Community Development is the only department providing comments on scope, and appreciates opportunities to provide additional feedback in the future that may include other departments. We request to remain a notified party through required SEPA procedures for this EIS, as well as for any notices required re. associated code updates.

Our main areas of interest are the unincorporated Urban Growth Area (UGA), and how County energy facility siting regulations would impact UGA properties while in County jurisdiction. Under the Growth Management Act (GMA), lands mapped into a UGA are presumed to be serviceable with urban development within a 20-year window. In brief, such lands may not be appropriate for land intensive, low productivity uses being considered by Kittitas County (i.e., standalone battery energy storage systems).

Ellensburg Community Development would have concerns with development of energy generation or storage uses in the unincorporated UGA without formal City consultation pursuant to the "Interlocal Agreement Between The City of Ellensburg and Kittitas County Concerning Annexation and Development Within the Ellensburg Urban Growth Area" (ILA). We respectfully request the EIS scope include specific attention to potential impacts of these facilities on the Ellensburg UGA, to City review and approvals required there under the ILA, and to whether revisions will be made to Chapter 17.11 of the Kittitas County Code with code amendments.

We appreciate the County proactively addressing this topic in its development regulations.

Brent Renfrow
7500 Manastash Rd
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Kittitas County
Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby ST, Suite 2
Ellensburg WA 98926
cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us)

Subject: Scoping for Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP)

Dear Community Development Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the scope of the proposed utility-scale Alternative Energy overlay and permitting project. The scope of the project should include consideration of the following items.

1) Utility scale energy projects should be located where conflicts with environmental concerns can be minimized (e.g. generally avoiding important wildlife habitat such as riparian and shrub steppe habitats, commercial agricultural lands, designated parks and open spaces, etc.). The WSU Least Conflict Solar Energy Siting report (Least-Conflict Solar Siting | WSU Energy Program | Washington State University) should be incorporated in the project scope for this analysis.
2) Geothermal projects should include considerations for protecting groundwater quality and quantity.
3) Light and glare from facilities, including glare from solar panel arrays, should be reduced to the greatest extent practicable.
4) Fire risk and wildfire management issues related to transmission and distribution lines. As we have learned from California, transmission lines in forests and rangelands present increased risk for wildfires. As illustrated by the “Taylor Bridge Fire”, the high winds common in Kittitas County can quickly enlarge and drive a wildfire across large swaths of rural lands, precluding effective fire suppression efforts. The scope should include consideration of how transmission lines can be located to minimize environmental impacts and fire risk, the use of existing rights-of-way for location of new or enlarged transmission lines, placing some lines underground, and transmission line maintenance strategies to reduce risk.

5) Allow the use of relatively small or irregular-shaped parcels of agricultural lands (i.e. lands which have constraints for commercial agriculture) for solar energy generation or a mix of agriculture and solar energy generation. (For example, the existing Tuuso Solar #1 project lies within an agricultural parcel that includes ponds and a watercourse and borders both commercial agricultural lands and rural development.)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment regarding the scope of the review and EIS.

Sincerely,

Brent Renfrow

Ellie Myers

From: Barry Brunson <mathisfun@mac.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 3:12 PM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: EIS Scoping Comment

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Kittitas County network. Do not click links, open attachments, fulfill requests, or follow guidance unless you recognize the sender and have verified the content is safe.

Dear Kittitas County Community Development Services folks,

I do not “believe” in climate change. Rather, I fully accept the overwhelming scientific evidence both for the reality of climate change, and for it largely being the result of the burning of fossil fuels. Even more, the effects of climate change pose a serious, and even an existential, threat to humans as well as many other species. Moving away from fossil fuels, and toward the expansion of renewable energy, is an essential part of addressing climate change. I favor vigorous expansion of large-scale solar and wind energy, and battery energy storage systems. However, I think that nuclear reactors, even small modular ones, create major issues of safety and environmental damage.

As for siting of renewable energy facilities, attention should be paid to the 2023 WSU “least-conflict” report.

Sincerely,

Barry Brunson
PO Box 102
Cle Elum WA 98922

Ellie Myers

From: Steve Loitz <steveloitz@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 3:24 PM
To: cleanenergy
Cc: Kittitas Audubon board
Subject: EIS Scoping Comment (Clean Energy Siting) -- Kittitas Audubon
Attachments: CESP.Comment.KittitasAudubon.051826.pdf

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Greetings,

Attached in PDF format is the comment submission of Kittitas Audubon Society in connection with the Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you,

Kittitas Audubon Society
By Steve Loitz
Its President

--
Steve Loitz
Ellensburg, WA
steveloitz@gmail.com

The mission of Kittitas Audubon Society is to develop an appreciation of nature through education and conservation, with a focus on birds. Based on over 100 years of scientific study, the National Audubon Society concluded that climate change is the number one threat to birds. We recognize that climate change also poses an existential threat to humans. Expansion of renewable energy, along with reduction in reliance on fossil fuels, plays an essential role in addressing climate change. **KAS strongly encourages the vigorous expansion of large-scale solar and wind energy, as well as battery energy storage systems**. We have concerns about the safety of small modular nuclear reactors.

KAS also recognizes the need for an enlightened approach, which includes least-conflict siting for such renewable energy projects, to avoid harmful impacts on Important Bird Areas (see **https://energy.wsu.edu/our-work/renewable-energy/least-conflict-solar-siting/** and **https://www.audubon.org/important-bird-areas**). Actively productive agriculture does not necessarily preclude renewable energy siting, and they may coexist, e.g with crops or grazing underneath raised solar panels. Mitigations should include native vegetation, appropriate grazing practices, and limitations on new roads. We appreciate the opportunity to express our concerns via the CESP Project.

Ellie Myers

From: Andrew Sadowski <andrew.j.sadowski@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 1:49 PM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: Written Comment
Attachments: Scoping Comment Form_sadowski.pdf

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Hi

Please see my attached comments. Sorry I had little time to comment and was only aware of this opportunity hours ago.

Thanks
Andrew

Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project

Scoping Comment Form

Personal Information:

Name: Andrew Sadowski

Email: andrew.j.sadowski@gmail.com

Address: 1617 N Brooklane St

City: Ellensburg **State:** WA **Zip:** 98926

The scoping comment period for the CESP Project is from April 16th, 2026, to May 18th, 2026. Written comments on the EIS can be submitted any time prior to 5:00pm on May 18th, 2026.

Online comments may be emailed to cleanenergy@kittitas.wa.us with "EIS Scoping Comment" in the subject line.

Please send written comments to the following address:

Reference:	Clean Energy Siting and Permitting EIS Scoping Comment
To:	Kittitas County Community Development Services
Address:	411 N Ruby ST, Suite 2 Ellensburg WA 98926

Designated Comment Space:

PARKING LOT SOLAR
Scope out a draft proposal for costs and scale of power production possible for covering all parking lots in the city of Ellensburg with solar panels, especially in partnership with CWU facilities. Bonus if private parking lots of grocery stores and businesses join the effort. Focus is on big parking lots.

Maybe there are LOCAL municipal tax incentives to creatively encourage private businesses to solarize their parking lots, roofs, and facilities. Over 15 years, 10 years, or 5 years? This will also be an economic boon for local workers who will install these panels and inverters.

Also, I was made aware of this commenting form with only hours to provide comment. Therefore, my comments are short by time-constraint.

Ellie Myers

From: Ellie Myers
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 4:42 PM
To: cleanenergy
Cc: cleanenergy
Subject: RE: EIS Scoping Comments

Ellie Myers
(she/her/hers)
Planner I | **Kittitas County Community Development Services**
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2 Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-7048 | E: ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us
https://www.co.kittitas.wa.us/

If this is about a Public Records Act request, please go to http:/www.co.kittitas.wa.us/request/default.aspx and fill out a request for public records through the GovQA portal.

From: hydrojude <hydrojude@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 4:39 PM
To: Ellie Myers <ellie.myers@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Cc: cleanenergy <cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us>
Subject: Fwd: EIS Scoping Comments

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I am not receiving an acknowledgment of receipt like my husband and friends have. I want to make sure these comments are received.

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** hydrojude <hydrojude@gmail.com>
> **Date:** May 18, 2026 at 16:12:23 PDT
> **To:** cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us
> **Subject: EIS Scoping Comments**

Sending a second time because I never received a response/acknowledgment the first time.
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: hydrojude <hydrojude@gmail.com>
Date: May 16, 2026 at 22:46:04 PDT
To: cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us
Subject: EIS Scoping Comments on clean energy

I support clean renewable energy development in Kittitas County, when appropriately and properly sited and designed. My concerns and interests are protecting our Shrub Steppe habitat that is under appreciated and shrinking in area. Shrub steppe is a unique ecosystem and not a wasteland. Other areas to be protected are designated Important Bird Areas. I would direct your attention to the State sponsored Least Conflict Study completed by Washington State University and to Audubon Washington's Important Bird Areas for information where to properly site energy development.
Mitigations needed for energy development should include native vegetation and agriculture crops as ground cover, appropriate grazing practices and limiting of road development.
Please address water use and consumption expected for all energy proposals, especially small nuclear facilities, and where the water supplies would come from.
Please address noise levels for all energy proposals and what mitigations would be required to reduce noise.
Please address loss of wildlife habitat, both winter and summer ranges.

Judy Hallisey
380 Landers Ln
Cle Elum, WA 98922

Sent from my iPad

Ellie Myers

From: Jordan Ryckman <jordan@conservationnw.org>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 7:05 PM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: EIS Scoping Comment
Attachments: Kittitas County CESP_scoping comment.pdf

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Hello,

Please see our scoping comment attached.

Thank you,

Jordan Ryckman (she/her/hers)
Sagelands Heritage Manager
Conservation Northwest
Keeping the Northwest Wild

Conservation Northwest
Keeping the Northwest Wild

18 May, 2026

Kittitas County Community Development Services
ATTN: Ellie Myers and Jamey Ayling
411 N Ruby Street, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926
cleanenergy@co.kittitas.wa.us

RE: Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project Determination of Significance and Request for Comments on Scope of Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Ellie and Jamey,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide scoping comments on Kittitas County's Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Project (CESP) Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). We appreciate the County's proactive effort to guide clean energy development while protecting local land-use priorities and natural resources.

Conservation Northwest's Sagelands Heritage Program supports a responsible clean energy transition in Washington that also protects the state's natural heritage, including shrub-steppe habitat, productive agricultural land, and important natural and cultural resources. We see this process as a timely opportunity to incorporate updated resource mapping, refine overlay locations, avoid sensitive areas, and improve permitting clarity.

Clean energy development can have significant adverse impacts on local soils, vegetation, water quality and availability, wildlife habitat and connectivity, cultural resources and properties, and other values. For long-term planning, avoiding those impacts should come first, before considering ways to minimize or mitigate them. Given Kittitas County's strong agricultural roots, we encourage consideration of an alternative that includes agrivoltaics, such as grazing livestock under solar panels or among wind turbines, growing crops beneath raised panels, and other innovative dual-use practices.

Kittitas County's intermixed agricultural, shrub-steppe, and forested landscapes support extensive public lands and important wildlife habitat. Species such as the Colockum elk herd, mule deer, golden eagles, greater sage-grouse, sagebrush songbirds, pygmy short-horned lizards, and many others depend on these sensitive areas. At the same time, drought, wildfire, and development pressures are increasingly affecting Washington's shrub-steppe habitat, which has already declined by an estimated 80 percent statewide. These lands are not only important for wildlife but often provide valuable working lands and recreational spaces for this growing community.

Several statewide spatial data resources and guidelines can help inform and refine siting criteria, minimization and mitigation measures, and supplement Kittitas County's Solar Overlay Zone maps, including:

- WDFW Wind and Solar Guidelines[1]

[1] We recommend working closely with WDFW staff to ensure siting criteria and mitigation expectations reflect current science and management priorities.

Conservation Northwest
Keeping the Northwest Wild

- WDFW Priority Habitats and Species (PHS)
- Washington Shrub-steppe Restoration and Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI) spatial priority maps
- WSU's Least Conflict Solar Siting study
- Washington Habitat Connectivity Action Plan (WAHCAP)
- Arid Lands Initiative data

These tools can help identify potential clean energy-ready zones that align with the County's land-use objectives while avoiding critical corridors and sensitive resources. They may also support future project-level and cumulative impact review during permitting by highlighting where development could impede wildlife movement, increase fragmentation, or degrade priority habitat and agricultural lands.

Meaningful Tribal consultation and community engagement should continue throughout the PEIS process and any subsequent policy, code, or map updates. Ongoing engagement is essential to identify avoidance measures, minimize impacts, explore dual-use opportunities (e.g. agrivoltaics), and shape mitigation or community benefit agreements where impacts cannot be avoided, drawing on Tribal and local knowledge of cultural resources, traditional use areas, and locally important wildlife and habitat values.

Thoughtful siting, grounded in comprehensive mapping and meaningful Tribal and community engagement, can help direct clean energy development to appropriate locations while protecting irreplaceable resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jordan Ryckman
Sagelands Heritage Manager
Conservation Northwest
Ellensburg, WA
jordan@conservationnw.org

Ellie Myers

From: Vande Griend, Carryn <Carryn.VandeGriend@pse.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 5:58 PM
To: cleanenergy
Subject: PEIS comments
Attachments: Kittitas County CESP comment letter_PSE_5.18.26.pdf

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Hi Ellie,

Please see PSE's comments on the Kittitas County Clean Energy Siting and Permitting PEIS. We appreciate the opportunity to comment.

Thanks,
Carryn

Carryn Vande Griend
PSE Local Government Affairs
Central & Eastern Washington
Carryn.VandeGriend@pse.com
509.218.9012

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Puget Sound Energy
P.O. Box 97034
Bellevue, WA 98009-9734
PSE.com

May 18, 2026

Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N Ruby St, Suite 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Dear Kittitas County Commissioners and Planning Staff,

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project. As Kittitas County's largest electric utility and renewable energy developer, PSE has a strong interest in land use policies that support responsible clean energy development while maintaining environmental protections and meaningful local review.

PSE supports the approach outlined in Alternative #2, directing staff to conduct a county-wide re-evaluation of overlay zones for utility-scale solar and wind facilities. We hope this study provides clarity and flexibility for new energy development in the county, without restricting existing solar and wind zones. As seen in Kittitas County, renewable energy development can co-exist with agricultural, recreational and environmental uses and supports the County's unique economic landscape.

PSE also appreciates the County including battery energy storage systems (BESS) in CESP study. As mentioned in our comments on the Comprehensive Plan, energy storage technologies play an increasingly important role in supporting grid stability, integrating renewable generation, managing peak demand and improving outage response. National safety standards and zoning regulations for BESS have advanced in recent years to support clear permitting pathways for integrating BESS on the grid. Establishing clear standards and appropriate locations for these facilities will help ensure that impacts are well understood and mitigated early in the process.

Finally, we appreciate the County's commitment to establishing clear mitigation expectations. Known and transparent mitigation measures can reduce uncertainty, shorten timelines, and improve project design, provided they are implemented in a manner that remains proportional, adaptable, and grounded in site-specific analysis.

PSE looks forward to continued collaboration with Kittitas County as the CESP Project advances. We remain committed to working with the County and local communities to support clean energy development that is responsibly sited and beneficial to the region.

Sincerely,



Carryn Vande Griend
Puget Sound Energy
Local Government Affairs