MEMORANDUM

To:	Chad Bala, Community Development Services Director Ellie Myers, Planner
From:	Zoë Tapert, Clay White
	Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Date:	September 30th, 2026
Subject:	Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) DEIS Progress Report

CESP DEIS Overview

Kittitas County continues to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the Clean Energy Siting and Permitting (CESP) Project. The CESP Project is evaluating how energy facilities are sited and permitted in the County and identifying potential updates to County regulations. The Draft EIS evaluates suitable locations, potential environmental impacts, and mitigation measures for utility-scale solar, utility-scale wind, geothermal energy, battery energy storage systems (BESS), and small modular reactors (SMRs).

The EIS findings will inform potential updates to County code, which will undergo a separate public review process following issuance of the Draft EIS. Preparation of the Draft EIS has progressed from the document framework and environmental review questions through to the environmental analysis. The project team is currently completing County review, revisions, formatting, and other preparations for Draft EIS issuance.

WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

May: Developed the Draft EIS outline to guide preparation of the EIS; developed key questions to guide the EIS analysis; and identified the environmental elements to be evaluated.

June: Prepared and provided initial Draft EIS background sections, including the Summary of Alternatives, Introduction, and Energy Permitting sections.

July: Continued refinement of the Summary of Alternatives and prepared the Energy Facility Overview. Affected environment analysis in early drafting.

August: Prepared the first batch of Volume 2 affected environment sections, including Biological Resources, Earth Resources, Environmental Health and Safety, Land Use, Public Services and Utilities, Transportation, Tribal Rights, Interests, and Resources, and Visual Quality.

September: Compiled the Draft EIS into Volumes 1 and 2 for comprehensive review. Supporting appendix materials are also being compiled.

CURRENT DRAFT EIS ORGANIZATION

The Draft EIS is being compiled into three volumes for ease of review and use:

Volume 1 – Summary and Background: Project background, alternatives, energy facilities background, summary of impacts and mitigation, major conclusions, and siting analysis.

Volume 2 – Affected Environment Analysis: Existing conditions and evaluation of potential environmental impacts and mitigation by environmental element.

Volume 3 – Appendices: Supporting documentation, technical information, and other appendix materials.

CURRENT STATUS

The table below summarizes major milestones completed to date and the current status of the Draft EIS.

Component	Current Status
Draft EIS outline	Complete
EIS questions for analysis	Complete
Volume 1 – Summary and Background	Drafted; County review/revisions underway
Volume 2 – Affected Environment	Draft compiled; editing and County review underway; further edits anticipated
Volume 3 – Appendices	Supporting materials being compiled
Overall Draft EIS	Editing, review, and document formatting underway
Anticipated Draft EIS issuance	October 29, 2026

Next Steps

The CESP Project is currently on schedule for Draft EIS issuance. Remaining work includes the following:

- Complete County review of the compiled Draft EIS.
- Address review comments and complete technical and editorial revisions.
- Finalize supporting appendices, figures, tables, references, and document formatting.
- Complete final quality assurance/quality control review.
- Prepare the Draft EIS and associated public materials for issuance.
- Issue the Draft EIS for public review and comment.

The Draft EIS is anticipated to be issued October 29, 2026, with a public comment period through December 11, 2026. Two open houses are anticipated in mid-November, with one in upper Kittitas County and one in lower Kittitas County.