From: Jenna Kay
To: Cnty 2025 Comp Plan; Jeffrey Delapena
Subject: FW: Battery Energy Storage Systems, Moratorium?
Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2026 1:11:41 PM

For comp plan record if not already in it.

From: Don Steinke <crvancouverusa@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 27, 2026 7:31 PM
To: Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Heidi Cody <heidi@waconservationaction.org>; Rick and Cassie Marshall <camasrick@gmail.com>
Subject: Battery Energy Storage Systems, Moratorium?

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

From Don Steinke

To Clark County

cc others

Re: Battery Energy Storage Systems, Moratorium?

Hello Kathy, Oliver, Jenna and Chair Marshall,

It is almost certain that large Battery Energy Storage Systems will be proposed and *needed* in Clark County.

Three BESS projects are being developed nearby by PGE, and 1 BESS system is being developed by Puget Sound Energy in Thurston County near Centralia.

The PSE project was initially rejected by the hearing examiner a year ago. The major concerns were fire safety, potential water pollution, and compatibility with the Rural Commercial Center Zoning.

The applicant appealed and the hearings examiner approved the project 3 weeks ago. The hearing examiner's report mentioned the lack of policy in Thurston County.

In my opinion:

- it might be wise for Clark County to get ahead of this and to develop a policy for BESS systems.
- I urge the county's policy to be the least restrictive while being protective. *BESS are essential for grid decarbonization.*

The purpose of a BESS is to store surplus wind, water, and solar energy in the battery, and then use the battery energy when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.

Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) batteries are widely considered to have superior fire safety characteristics compared to conventional nickel-manganese-cobalt (NMC) lithium-ion batteries in utility-scale energy storage systems (BESS). While no large-scale lithium battery is completely risk-free, LFP's inherent chemical stability offers a higher thermal runaway threshold and reduced risk of catastrophic fire propagation.

The press report and records of decision are linked below. I enjoyed reading the hearing examiner's report.

https://www.chronline.com/stories/hearing-examiner-approves-controversial-rochester-battery-energy-storage-system-after-successful,398633

https://www.thurstoncountywa.gov/departments/community-planning-and-economic-development/permitting/hearing-examiner/hearing-examiner-decisions/project-records-hearing-examiner

chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/thurstoncountywa.gov.if-us-west-2/s3fs-public/2026-03/cped-hex-docs-DECISION-ON-RECONSIDERATION-2024104116.pdf

Don Steinke