



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

May 6, 2026

Mayor James Mayhew
City of Snoqualmie
38624 SE River Street | PO Box 967
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

Members of the Snoqualmie City Council
38624 SE River Street | PO Box 967
Snoqualmie, WA 98065

cc: King County Executive
King County Council

Dear Mayor Mayhew and City Councilmembers,

I am writing in response to your April 30, 2026 letter (Community Concerns Regarding Proposed Cascadia Ridge Resiliency Battery Energy Storage System Project). I appreciate your bringing Snoqualmie residents' concerns regarding the proposed Cascadia Ridge project to my attention.

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is the state's largest utility, serving over 1.2 million electric customers and nearly 900,000 natural gas customers. For more than 150 years, the energy we provided has fueled the growth of our local communities in one of the most innovative regions of the world. PSE is proud to serve the Snoqualmie community with safe and reliable energy.

PSE enjoys a strong connection to Snoqualmie. Our Snoqualmie Falls Hydroelectric Project, in operation dating back to 1910, produces 53 MW of hydroelectric power for PSE customers. A redevelopment project there a decade ago made plant improvements alongside upgrades to the Snoqualmie Falls Park and historic buildings near the falls. Hundreds of PSE employees also call Snoqualmie home when they work from one of two office locations we have on Snoqualmie Ridge. We provide the City of Snoqualmie all of its energy from a dedicated, local renewable source through our groundbreaking Green Direct program, ensuring 100% clean power and supporting the City's sustainability goals with a cost-efficient solution.

As you know, Washington State is currently embarking on one of the most ambitious clean energy transitions in the nation. The Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA), passed in 2019, commits Washington to a carbon-neutral electricity supply by 2030 and 100% carbon-free electricity by 2045. This landmark law, which was supported by groups including the King County-Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C), also mandated the phase-out of coal by 2025.

Since the passage of CETA, PSE has more than doubled the amount of renewable resources used to serve our customers, eliminated coal power from our energy supply portfolio, and reduced the greenhouse gases from our electricity generation by almost 50%. While we are making progress, the scale and pace of the energy transition are unlike anything we have seen before. The urgency is further heightened by the rising demand for energy due to the widespread adoption of electric vehicles and electrification of buildings.

We know that nearly every facet of modern life depends on safe and reliable power. Several studies show our region faces a significant shortfall in resources to meet peak demand for power. The region needs to add 9 gigawatts – roughly the power needed to serve the entire state of Oregon – by 2030. Intermittent renewable power alone cannot fill this gap because we must add resources that can run when customers need them at scale, which restricts current technology choices to natural gas plants and batteries.

Battery energy storage systems (BESS) are an important part of PSE's plans to provide the reliable power our customers expect while delivering more of the clean energy required by Washington's aggressive clean energy requirements. We currently estimate that we will need approximately 1,500 MW of storage by 2030. We are evaluating proposals for BESS at locations across our service territory and beyond that could help meet this need.

As your letter indicates, the Cascadia Ridge project will undergo thorough review via King County's permitting process. King County underwent over a year of intensive stakeholder engagement in developing their BESS ordinance to determine where projects could be sited and to further strengthen safety requirements, among other elements. With King County's oversight, we believe that energy storage projects can be safely located without burdening established communities. The concerns raised by Snoqualmie community members should be considered in the permitting process.

As mentioned above, PSE has multiple assets in the Snoqualmie community, where hundreds of our employees work every day. Safety remains our number one priority for our customers and employees. With robust regulatory regimes in place, we are confident that utility-scale energy storage – including the Cascadia Ridge project - can provide the energy our customers need while operating safely.

Again, thank you for bringing forward the concerns you have heard from community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Kipp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Kipp" clearly distinguishable.

Mary Kipp
President & Chief Executive Officer
Puget Sound Energy