

Responses to Comments in Letter 158 from Ken Wilcox, Clean Water Alliance

Note: The responses listed below are numbered to correspond to the numbers shown in the right-hand margin of the preceding comment letter.

1. Please see Letter 3 for discussion of air quality impacts. The City of Sumas, in its 1999 Water System Comprehensive Plan, indicates that in the event of a water shortage, residential customers would have first priority to receive water from the municipal water supply. SE2 understands that the water supply to the plant could be reduced or curtailed in the event of reduced capacity from City wells. The applicant has also agreed that they would mitigate any impairment of water quantity to private wells and water rights within a one-mile radius of the Sumas municipal well field south of the Canadian border that results from the increased pumping required for the S2GF project (Adjudicative Hearing Transcript, testimony by Ms. McGaffey, pages 906-910). These provisions are discussed in Section 3.2.5.2 of the Final EIS.

As discussed in the EIS, the City of Sumas intends to put its full water rights to beneficial use. A City of Sumas official indicated that the City determined there is sufficient water available for the next 20 years for other new businesses in addition to SE2. After that, additional water availability is not as certain (Adjudicative Hearing Transcript, testimony by David Davidson, pages 946-957).

2. The location of the facility is based on size, proximity to available utilities and gas pipeline easement, compliance with City of Sumas zoning and comprehensive plans, access to the site, and availability of the property.