

Attachment C: Benton County Fire District #6 Letter

Robert Crow
Commissioner
Harold Juergens
Commissioner
Jarrold Boyle
Commissioner
Rolland Watt
Fire Chief

Benton County Fire District No.6

P.O. Box 218 Paterson, Washington 99345



May 25, 2023

Tanner Gillespie
Manager, Project Development
One Energy

RE: Wallula Gap Solar Project, Plymouth WA.

Tanner,

Thank you for including my agency in the initial planning process for the Wallula Gap solar project. I have reviewed the site plan you provided. I am familiar with the area and ground you are planning to build on. This area has had several wildland fires over the past decade. Most were from vehicle fires on SR14 that spread to the surrounding farm and wildland areas. A few were from power lines arcing.

After our discussion this morning about the ground cover (grass) you anticipate being around and under your solar panels, I am concerned that fire can spread to, or from your site. Therefore, I would recommend at least a sixteen-foot gravel roadway be constructed around the outside perimeter of your solar panel site. This would allow for fire apparatus to better protect your facility and help keep fire from entering or exiting your site.

Our agency covers 279 square miles, and we rely predominantly on volunteer help. Within the vast area we cover there are very few residents. Our ability to gain volunteers is limited and our mutual aid response is typically thirty to forty minutes away. Anything you can do to help protect your investment will pay dividends in the future should a fire occur.

Within the past year, nine of the largest corporations and farms in our area have agreed to build a new fire station and donate it to our agency. This new station will house career firefighters and is located just a couple of miles from your site. If your company is interested in participating in this project, Dennis Wright with Agri NW is the point of contact and will handle the tax deductible contributions. In recent

years these corporations have also come to the realization that they need to be active in fire prevention and response.

Once again, thank you for including us in your planning process. If I can be of further assistance, please don't hesitate to call or email.

Thank you,

Rolland Watt

Rolland Watt
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