

Aileen Kogut-Aguon

From: Brady, Pamela <Pamela.Brady@bp.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 2, 2025 5:33 PM
To: PDS_Planning_Commission
Subject: bp comment re: WCC 20.82.030
Attachments: bp comment re 20 82 030.pdf

Dear Planning Commission Members,

On behalf of bp Cherry Point Refinery, attached please find our comment letter regarding WCC 20.82.030. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

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Energy for today *and* tomorrow




April 2, 2025

Whatcom County Planning Commission
VIA Email: PDS_Planning_Commission@co.whatcom.wa.us
Subject: Whatcom County Code 20.82.030

Dear Planning Commissioners,

On behalf of bp's Cherry Point Refinery, I am writing to express support for the Planning Commission's consideration to amend the Whatcom County Code 20.82.030 to allow higher capacity 230kV electric transmission lines.

As our region grows and policy changes drive the demand for electricity, it is essential to have a robust and resilient grid to meet these needs. Upgrading to higher capacity power lines will provide the region with increased flexibility and capacity, greatly improving the stability and resiliency of energy supply for users across the region, both for industrial, commercial and residential users alike.

bp's Cherry Point Refinery has made substantial investments over a 20-year period in our own electrical infrastructure at the plant to put in place redundancies to minimize the risk of power disruptions. But our investments are predicated on a reliable and predictable supply of electrons to the refinery on the upstream side of the meter. Refineries are complex facilities that require a stable power grid to maintain continuous production, prevent equipment damage, and avoid costly downtime. A stable grid helps refineries manage the demand for electricity efficiently and reduces the risk that critical processes will be interrupted. Grid stability also plays a vital role in maintaining safety standards, as sudden power fluctuations can lead to hazardous situations.

bp supports improvements to the reliability of the electrical grid as vital to the continued growth and development of our region, as well as necessary to achieve the goals of the Climate Commitment Act. The electrification of vehicles and the increasing commercial demand for clean energy depend upon new infrastructure to support growth. Allowing 230kV lines in Whatcom County will be an important part of enabling an energy transition to lower carbon electrons.

Growth in the region is expected over the next planning period, and since 230kV projects require a long-time horizon to go from idea to execution, we urge the Planning Commission to act now to lift the current restriction so that the electrical needs of the future may be planned for today.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Pamela Brady
Government Affairs Manager
bp Cherry Point Refinery