

PROPOSED BY: _____
INTRODUCTION DATE: _____

ORDINANCE NO. _____

ADOPTING AMENDMENTS TO WHATCOM COUNTY CODE TITLE 20 ZONING TO ALLOW AND REGULATE BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, NextEra Resources Development, LLC, has submitted an application for amendments to WCC Title 20 Zoning to allow Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS).

WHEREAS, as BESS is a new technology not anticipated when our code was written, BESS are not a specified use in Title 20 and thus prohibited and a code amendment is necessary to allow such use; and,

WHEREAS, The Whatcom County Council reviewed and considered Planning Commission recommendations, staff recommendations, and public comments on the proposed amendments; and,

WHEREAS, The County Council hereby adopts the following findings of fact:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. NextEra Resources Development, LLC, has submitted an application for amendments to WCC Title 20 Zoning to allow Battery Energy Storage Systems as a conditional use in the Rural district.
2. After consideration of the application, and in order to accommodate future anticipated BESS facilities, PDS, has expanded on NextEra's request and proposes to allow BESS in several zoning districts, along with adding some standards so as to minimize impacts on surrounding residences and other adjacent uses, to which the applicant agrees.
3. A determination of non-significance (DNS) was issued under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) on May 27, 2021.
4. Notice of the subject amendment was submitted to the Washington State Department of Commerce on June 02, 2021, for their 60-day review.
5. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the proposed amendments on July 8, 2021, notice of which was published in the Bellingham Herald on June 25, 2021.
6. The County Council held a duly noticed public hearing on the proposed amendments on August 10, 2021.
7. The amendments are consistent with Comprehensive Plan Policy 5B-1, which supports the facilitation of the use of new technologies by allowing flexibility in regulations and policies affecting utility facilities when it can be shown that a net benefit to the public is likely to result.
8. The amendments are consistent with Comprehensive Plan Policy 5B-2, which supports development and use of new technologies
9. The amendments are consistent with Comprehensive Plan Policy 5F-1, which supports periodically reviewing existing regulations to identify and eliminate unintended or unreasonable constraints on the provision of necessary utilities as defined in this section.

10. The amendments are consistent with Comprehensive Plan Policy 7C-3, which supports working with service providers for a dependable electric power supply, alternative energy sources, communications, and evolving technology to support existing and future business development.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1. The amendments to the zoning code are in the public interest.
- 2. The amendments are consistent with the Whatcom County Comprehensive Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Whatcom County Council that:

Section 1. Amendments to the Whatcom County Code are hereby adopted as shown in Exhibit A.

Section 2. Staff is authorized to work with Code Publishing to correct and update any cross-references made ineffective by these amendments.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2021.

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL
WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

ATTEST:

Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

Barry Buchanan, Council Chair

APPROVED as to form:

() Approved () Denied

/s/ Royce Buckingham, approved electronically
Civil Deputy Prosecutor

Satpal Sidhu, Executive

Date: _____