

## Brooke Sullivan

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**From:** Royce Meyerott <rmeyerott@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 18, 2024 11:56 AM  
**To:** Brooke Sullivan  
**Subject:** RE: B.7 Request 24-0007: Orcas Power and Light Cooperative  
**Attachments:** Lettter to Hearing Examiner#2.odt

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My name is Royce Meyerott and I have been leading the opposition to Opalco's power plant at Bailer Hill/Douglas rd. During the course of a campaign since Oct. of 2023, I have learned that the people of this island highly value the preservation of the San Juan Valley and are against any development proposal that will weaken the land use restrictions that are written within the code that defines the Heritage Plan Overlay District (2-2002). Please read my letter to the Hearing Examiner that I have attached below.

The following paragraphs are copied from an email communication sent by Opalco dated Jun 18, 2024. These are a couple of the most poorly worded paragraphs that have been written by any quasi-public agency. What climate impacts do they refer to? What idiots in the State and Nation wants us to stop using natural gas, propane and oil before we develop new grid scalable energy sources. What are their degrees in? I have not seen one politician with a degree in Engineering propose that we shut down existing power sources and replace them with intermittent resources such as solar or wind. Solar and wind have both been proven to be very expensive and harmful to our environments. Any "grown up" engineer who has studied solar will tell you that solar does not scale to grid size because of costs and massive land use needs (even if it was not weather dependent). The above referenced idiot politicians want us to quit using propane on our islands even as they state that we don't have the electricity to replace the propane use (or for that matter enough to charge the Ev's that people bring here). Opalco has already stated that the 19 acre Micro-grid that they have proposed on Douglas Rd. would supply (at most) 2% of our present electrical needs. Their current plan is to build 10 more of these micro-grids on our beautiful islands. I have told Opalco that they should be educating themselves on both the limitations of solar and the real costs before devoting so much of our limited space to it.

I sent Opalco's micro-grid proposal to a friend of mine who built a very large solar company in Calif. His response was that you do not trade scarce and beautiful San Juan Island property for an ill conceived attempt to boost our energy security. If our state and nation want to get off of "fossil" fuels then our only grid size choice is modern modular nuclear plants. Until then I will continue to advocate to conserve the one resource that sets these Islands apart from everywhere else- our open spaces, rural charm and occasional common sense.

Royce Meyerott  
San Juan Island

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The energy world is changing dramatically due to climate impacts and the transition toward renewable power. The goal of the state and nation is to transition away from fossil fuels and heat our homes and fuel our vehicles using electricity. This lofty goal is **proving to be highly challenging for the islands and communities across the nation.**

The dilemma we are facing is to figure out how to satisfy increased demand for electricity while the supply of carbon-free firm power shrinks. As more coal plants shut down and are **replaced with intermittent resources (solar and wind), energy blackouts are predicted.**

