



Glosten



GUEMES ISLAND FERRY REPLACEMENT

Technical Question and Answer No. 02

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Question 1

There is a reason why other municipalities have not gone to all electric ferries. First, no one in the US is trained to work on them so when they breakdown, you have to hire a team from the country of origin to come identify the problem and make the repairs, if they are able to. If parts are needed, they have to be purchased from the country of origin because they are not available in the US. This results in long periods of down time and very costly. Remember Bertha? Same holds true if Skagit County decides to go to an all-Electric ferry.

- Electric propulsion of ships in general is not a new technology. What is changing is the battery technologies that allows for higher power densities and rapid recharging rates. The domestic content of the propulsion system is not determined by the complexity or the choice to have an all-electric propulsion system. As an example, the propulsion drives on the existing Guemes ferry are of foreign manufacturer, while the hybrid propulsion system on Kitsap Transit's new ferry is of domestic origin. We are working with our Naval Architect to select equipment that best fits the needs of the county.