

## Amy Herzog

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**From:** TOM GORDON <tndgardens@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 23, 2024 5:55 PM  
**To:** Planning Department.UserGroup  
**Subject:** Follow-up Comment for NXT Hearing, Jan. 10, 2024

Some people who received this message don't often get email from tndgardens@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

(Thank you for accepting comments until Jan. 24 - sorry to be so late to submit this. Our Comcast Internet went out and has just come back on.)

Dear Commissioners,

A further concern I have about that RR spur that goes to the refinery is that it is in an earthquake zone. When there is an earthquake, the land next to the refinery will liquify and I fear dump the RR and all the cars and their contents into the area flooded by collapsed dikes. This area is connected to the Columbia River Estuary which is the subject of an ongoing salmon and steelhead restoration campaign costing millions of dollars. The ecological and economic value of the Columbia River Estuary is clear to us all.

Mercifully, the latest earthquake in your area (epicenter about 20 miles away) on Nov. 24, 2023, was only 3.3 magnitude and most people were probably unaware of it at the time it happened. However, a major fault line, the Portland Hills Fault, runs nearby and the several other faults are in the vicinity. If the quakes they produce will confine themselves to 3.3, we don't need to worry. Sadly, they won't.

The best thing we can do, I think, is not put ourselves in harms' way. We should not site things that will explode, pollute, cause major damage, etc. in areas prone to earthquake damage. This is not a good place for a refinery whose product has the potential to cause lasting harm to a fragile area.

I think that both of these current applications from NXT should be refused. Profits and a number of permanent good jobs could be forthcoming with a different type of facility, not one that could render the area surrounding it a real and continuing Superfund Site.

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January 23, 2024