

Attention: Planning@ColumbiaCountyOR.gov

January 10, 2024

I am a resident of Washington State and have lived in Kalama since 2003. Google map distance from Port Westward is approximately 23.5 miles as the crow flies with northwest winds prevailing in the summer. We share the same air-shed and the Columbia River. All the citizens in the surrounding area have a vested interest in the need to clean air and water. The environment we live in is the responsibility for all to protect.

The portion of the rail yard (zoned industrial use) would go through agricultural farmland (zoned PA80) which LUBA determine on October 27, 2022, that the rail yard is not allowed on farm land.

LUBA also concluded the rail facility that this County approved is NOT a branch line under OAR 660-012-0065 (3 (j)).

The rail facility is a complex series of parallel tracks for loading, unloading, maintaining and storing rail cars. The purpose of the facility is to receive, store, sort and unload trains carry supplies feedstock and finished product.

The portion of the rail yard going through agricultural land will negatively impact farmers.

This region is quality farmland, the abundance of clean water provides sandy loam soil, producing the successful abundance of crops year after year. The negative impacts to farmers, from the portion of the rail yard cutting through agricultural land could be catastrophic.

Mile long trains carrying toxic spent clays, flammable liquids, caustic processing chemicals, make NXT's environmentally risky project and has the potential to harm both the land and the Columbia River.

The area of the proposed rail yard sits behind dikes that are not certified by the Army Corps of Engineers. Provisional certification is an acknowledgement that the dikes are inadequate.

The Beaver Drainage Improvement Company Inc. has informed the Port repeatedly that the dikes are not certified.

Your position as Pubic Port Commissioners is to carefully assess all the comments from the public and implement due diligence. We must be good stewards of the resources and Deny NXT the conditional Use Application.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the last word.

Linda Leonard

217 Pebble Lane

Kalama, Washington