

Re: NEXT proposal for refinery at Port Westward

Cathryn Chudy <chudyca@gmail.com>

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To: Jacyn Normine <Jacyn.Normine@columbiacountyor.gov>



To the Columbia County Commission,

I am writing to ask you to do the right thing for the community by recognizing the many local voices that are coming to you to express their deep concerns about the NEXT proposal for a biodiesel refinery and it's impacts on the legacy farms and local habitat that are at risk with this kind of industrial development.

The many acres of critical wetlands and farms are crucial to the health of the Columbia River estuary where this refinery is proposed to be sited, and the natural resources and water impacts are a serious and valid concern that I urge you to consider and factor in as you make this decision.

The NEXT project (refinery and rail spur) pose multiple impacts including air and water pollution, rail traffic, gas flare emissions etc. which put the health and safety of all those who live and work there. Those impacts that local voices are identifying as they come before you are significant and deserve to be weighed seriously as you make this decision.

I urge you to carefully and thoughtfully consider all of the ways that this industrial-scale biodiesel fuel plant and rail line serving the proposed plant are directly and clearly in conflict with use of surrounding agricultural lands as well as put at risk the ecological functions and wildlife habitat at this bend in the Columbia River Estuary. Please hear and respect the local voices that you represent, and say NO to this proposal on their behalf.

Sincerely,

Cathryn Chudy

Vancouver, WA 98663