

RE: NEXT Energy Port Westward proposal

Primus Postremus <skeely.2013@gmail.com>

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



My name is Sally Keely. I have lived along the Columbia River for over 40 years, the past 25 in Kalama Washington just upriver from the proposed Next Energy plant. Both the refinery and rail spur are inconsistent with the agricultural uses adjacent to the site. Risks from increased rail traffic, water pollution, air pollution, soil contamination, and gas-flare emissions all impact the health and safety of the site's neighbours and entire rural region.

Fresh locally grown foods are vital to me and my family. We are in a climate crisis and buying local produce is one important way I am able to reduce transportation emissions and provide my family healthy meals. The proposed plant will alter the character of the area in a manner that substantially impairs surrounding well-established farming properties by introducing long, slow-moving trains preventing timely harvest and transport of crops, and industrial processes that create air, water, noise, and light pollution.

Additional concerns I have regarding the risk to agriculture, soil, and farming include:

- Local ramifications: NEXT has yet to disclose their full waste treatment protocol and the specific toxicity and ingredients that would travel via the highway 30 railway.
- Global ramifications: NEXT has yet to address that their feedstock sourcing will promote the worldwide destruction of soils, communities, and habitats including the Land Use Change of wetlands, forests, and rainforests. This effect is amplified given a nationwide retooling for Renewable Diesel and increased demand for oil crops.

Using this site for expanded industrial use would be a poor decision. Protecting the irreplaceable rich soils near the site for continued successful agricultural operations and ecologically valuable wetlands is imperative. I urge you to completely reject Next Energy's proposed refinery and rail spur.

Sally Keely
Green Mountain Rd
Kalama WA 98625