



Public Comment for the January 19th Columbia County Board of Commissioners Meeting regarding NEXT Renewables at Port Westward

Kristin Edmark <kristinedmark@hotmail.com>

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

Dear Jacyn: Please accept my comment regarding NEXT Renewables at Port Westward

From: Kristin Edmark, a concerned citizen, kristinedmark@hotmail.com, (360) 666-1285

Comment:

Please deny NEXT Renewables request to locate at Port Westward. Port Westward is the wrong place.

The world's 2nd largest biodiesel facility should be near the oil supply, away from fragile ecological environments and waterways. There is no need to be near a harbor or river as evidenced by the locations of other large biodiesel facilities. The site is in an earthquake sensitive area or unstable soil where storage of dangerous chemicals close to a river must be avoided. Air discharges would be above safe limits due to other large facilities in the immediate vicinity.

There is **overwhelming local opposition** to the project. It will smell. It would necessitate many more trains and probably methane pipeline extensions. This is a **destructive, short-term project**. Over the next decade, the project would be expected to fail due to the costs. Initially, the high cost of biodiesel production may be tolerated to encourage petroleum diesel production for mixing. There is not enough used oil; so, mostly virgin oil will need to be used. The environmental impact of using virgin oil transported from the mid-west makes the product costly and similar to drilled diesel for the environment. Legislation will soon prohibit biofuel made from virgin oil. This large industrial complex will affect water, air, species and needs a full EIS to evaluate. In addition, hydrogen production has been proposed. These energy intensive production facilities will require large amounts of water and methane and the accompanying power facility.

The facility would destroy some of the most fertile land in Oregon. In addition, the water flow is toward adjacent farmland. The mitigation plans have been criticized by local professionals, farmers, community members and the Beaver Drainage District as being flawed and invasive. Please review their comments carefully. The site is protected by a dike system and an essential part of the local drainage. Fill exacerbates the present drainage toward farms and the community. Nearby Columbia wetlands are valued by Washington and Oregon and there have been numerous projects to protect these important habitats by both states. Destroying or harming the adjacent wetlands would be counter to state and federal policies. **The site and surrounding dikes could become unstable with earthquakes** exposing life in the Columbia and surrounding areas to dangerous chemicals.

The facility is too large for the site and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality finds that it is not dock dependent. The proposed facility will produce 50,000 barrels a day. There are plans to make and store hydrogen to be used in the biodiesel refining process. Would there be plans for mixing with drilled petroleum diesel on site? The facility would require large amounts of methane to power multiple refinery projects within the facility with transportation and storage of that methane uncertain. Large amounts of chemical waste will be generated but disposition, drying, disposal site of the waste is yet undetermined. A complex of this size requires a full EIS to assess impacts on wildlife habitats and communities.

The chemicals stored, used and transloaded at the site are inappropriate for the site. Safeguards to prevent leakage are not well defined and questioned by the community. There is concern among farmers regarding oil feedstock made with GMOs which could contaminate their fertile farmlands.

Dangerous chemicals would be necessary to store, would be used or produced on site including bleached earth, sulfuric and hydrochloric acid, sodium methoxide, propanol, heptane, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide. The riverside site is unstable and prone to earthquakes, mudslides, flooding, erosion and any breach harms the entire Columbia River systems as well as adjacent farms and communities. The area peat soils are prone to liquification. There is no way to adequately mitigate many natural problems with the site for this large industrial complex.

The present wastewater plan is not adequate. The Port's wastewater system is not large enough to handle the estimated peak increased load of this water intensive facility. Large amounts of water are required but disposition of waste water so as not to endanger the Columbia habitats is uncertain because the present Port waste water system will not be able to always handle the increased load.

NEXT Renewable Fuels cannot be trusted. NEXT had bad outcomes in Longview and in Odessa WA NEXT abandoned an EPA Superfund site. Executives work closely with related neighboring energy businesses. Zenith Energy in Portland leased a site at Port of Portland permitted for asphalt and used those permits to quickly expand oil transloading, storage and export. Biodiesel has been found by other facilities to not be economically viable; if the facility fails, are there assurances that it would not become another large oil export terminal?

Port Westward is the wrong place for this large industrial complex.