

From: Tom Jackson <tomjaxon91@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:49 AM
To: Henry Heimuller <Henry.Heimuller@columbiacountyor.gov>
Subject: Objections to the NEXT Renewable Biodiesel Plant



Dear Commissioner Heimuller,

I am writing to object to the proposal to situate the NEXT Renewable Biodiesel Plant at Port Westward.

I live as a member of Great Vow Zen Monastery, which is located at the old Quincy Mayger School right next to the proposed site of the NEXT plant. As a community, we support local businesses. We buy food directly from our neighbors and patronize local hardware stores, grocery stores, restaurants, etc. We recently completed a \$100,000 remodeling project contracted to Clatskanie builders. People come to our retreats from all over the country, sometimes the world, to breathe the fresh air, listen to the geese and sandhill cranes, and enjoy the peaceful flow of the Columbia River. Frequently they stay at the Clatskanie River in or at a local AirBnB as part of their travels.

The plant will not be compatible with the way our community uses the land here. We offer the Columbia River valley as a place of refuge to people in need of spiritual and emotional renewal. The proposed plant will render animal fat into biodiesel--a notoriously smelly process. If the air in our valley smells of the world's worst flatulence, it will undermine the mission of our community. Who would want to come to a retreat and breathe air that smells of hydrogen sulfide? The same goes for noise and light pollution as well.

Moreover, I personally am very concerned about the impact of living in such a stink on my overall wellbeing. Sometimes, when weather conditions are just right, we can smell the paper plant in Longview, and it makes life substantially less pleasant. To live in such conditions for months at a time would be intolerable.

A frequent pastime of mine is kayaking on the Columbia out by Crims Island. I enjoy being out on the water, in proximity to our native waterfowl. The noise and water pollution from the plant will detrimentally impact our local ecosystems and my own ability to enjoy the land on which I live.

You absolutely NOT approve this proposal unless it contains specific and detailed pollution control measures in all relevant areas: air, water, light, noise, and odor pollution.

I have reasons to doubt the proposed benefits of the plant as well. Most of the jobs staffing the current plants at Port Westward have gone to workers brought in from other locations. These plants have pulled fast ones on us in the past, shifting their operations away from what they initially indicated. The founder of NEXT Energy has abandoned a plant in Odessa, WA, leaving its employees jobless and the land saddled with pollution. Do we really trust these people to deliver on their promises?

I ask you to consider the people who live on the land here before you proceed with this proposal, and that you represent us well by saying no to this project.

Thank you for all the work you do and for hearing my voice,
Tom Jackson