

NEXT

Cass Martinez <cassidymart@gmail.com>

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

Good morning, County Commissioners. This is testimony regarding the NEXT Renewable Diesel proposal at Port Westward.



We ordinary citizens have a hard time with the claims made by the NEXT company. For example, in an email statement to questions posed by affected Clatskanie residents, NEXT wrote:

"Mike and Warren Seely have repeatedly commented on KOHI radio that they have nothing against the renewable diesel facility and think it is a good project for this region."

The Seelys are not in favor of NEXT's proposal, because it would impact their farm negatively.
We citizens do not understand why NEXT would tell an opposite story.

And the previous business of the company: during a time when the previous head of the company was at liberty, the state of Washington requested that EPA enter their Odessa Washington project on an emergency basis. Cleanup of the chemicals abandoned in the biodiesel facility was one of the highlights of 2015 for EPA:

<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.epa.gov%2Femergency-response%2Femergency-response-and-management-activities-2015&data=04%7C01%7Cjacyn.normine%40columbiacountyor.gov%7Cebecdae32be143b961a708d9db765fae%7Ccafdaa97351d48ec971d9f125b7c0dbc%7C0%7C0%7C637782123743180084%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljoIMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2FNXBA5Y02%2B3tYlt8b3FiAWgN4vuxJ92%2F%2BIRGlutwNJo%3D&reserved=0>

NEXT flatly denies what the State of Washington and USEPA are on the record describing: "The interior of the building contained several unsecured large tanks and chemical totes that had not been drained and decontaminated. Many drums and totes were leaking and in poor condition. Several incompatible chemicals were stored together and posed risk of a spontaneous chemical reaction or explosion. EPA found approximately 1,000 chemical containers ranging from large above ground storage tanks to totes and buckets in various states of integrity."

To take just one aspect of NEXT, there is a problem with integrity.

Cass Martinez
St Helens OR