

FW: Reject the NEXT Application

Robert Wheeldon <Robert.Wheeldon@columbiacountyor.gov>

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

Cc: Robin McIntyre <Robin.McIntyre@columbiacountyor.gov>; Jesse Winterowd <jesse@winterbrookplanning.com>



From: David Snyder <david.a.snyder.law@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 24, 2022 8:10 PM

To: ePermits - Planning <planning@columbiacountyor.gov>

Subject: Reject the NEXT Application

Dear Columbia County Commissioners,

My name is David Snyder. I am a semi-retired lawyer living in Portland. Since 2010 I have enjoyed many visits to the Great Vow Zen Monastery in Clatskanie. One of the great benefits of the monastery is looking out on the beautiful Columbia County landscape. It is clear that these farms and wetlands are of great economic and aesthetic benefit to the people of Columbia County. I strongly urge you to protect this sensitive area from the dangers of the NEXT Energy project and reject their application. The future of these lands, which were preserved by many prior generations, should not be wagered on such a questionable proposal.

Many grave concerns have been raised, any one of which is more than reasonable basis for rejecting the NEXT Energy application.

- "The Commission cannot accept NEXT's mitigation plan as adequate, because it conflicts with uses in the area. NEXT's wetland mitigation plan will prevent the Beaver Drainage District from controlling flows of water to a significant number of farms that contribute to the character of the area and that provide valuable contributions to the local and state agricultural economy.
- Individuals associated with NEXT have a history of leaving communities with environmental contamination. The Transmissis Columbia Plateau failure and cleanup site in Odessa, WA, raises questions about NEXT's trustworthiness.
- Using this site for a biodiesel fuel plant is a poor decision, given that the soils allow for successful agricultural operations and that the area contains ecologically valuable wetlands.
- Proposed use is not water-related or water-dependent and thus, locating the use in the riparian corridor is not permitted. The impacts of the project in wetland and riparian areas are unnecessary and significant.

- The characteristics of the site (successful agricultural operations and sensitive wetland areas) are not suitable for a rail line used to transport fuels on an industrial scale.
- The proposed use will alter the character of the surrounding area in a manner that substantially impairs use of surrounding properties by introducing long, slow-moving trains preventing timely harvest and transport of crops, and industrial processes such as a gas flare that could create air, water, noise, and vibrational pollution in the area.
- Potential flaring, leaks/spills, fires, air pollution, water pollution, noise, and vibrations do not complement nearby agricultural operations, ecological functions, and wildlife habitat.

Please reject the application from NEXT Energy to protect our local farmers, wildlife, human health, and our Monastery's sacred stillness and natural beauty.

Sincerely,

David A. Snyder
100 NE Bryant St.
Portland, Oregon 97211