



1/25/22

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Terri Dudek, and I am a former resident of Great Vow Zen Monastery (GVZM). I reside in Portland, and I am a long-time community member of Zen Community of Oregon (ZCO). I strongly urge you to protect the communities of Clatskanie and the surrounding areas from the potential risks of the NEXT Renewable biodiesel energy project and reject the application. The major reason is NIMBY (Not in My Backyard), an acronym previously used during the time of nuclear power plants.

**Here are some points to consider.**

- While the project proposes to create 200 to 240 jobs, as stated in a Portland Tribune article, it is doubtful that most of these jobs will be high-paying. Consider this fact: there were only four functional renewable biodiesel plants in the country in January of 2021, one of which was fully built in Dickinson, North Dakota, according to **Biodiesel Magazine**. Nevertheless, the magazine lists 14 potential plants as five are in the proposal phase. Projects of this kind require engineering expertise, which will most likely originate in North Dakota or another state, such as California, where similar plants are under construction.
- Since renewable biodiesel is a new source of energy, the ramifications of potential harm to the environment are unknown. This includes land, water, air and noise pollution.
  1. Land – the Columbia River Valley is home to farms and ecologically-unique wetlands. Transportation of fuel, e.g. fracked gas, one of the most flammable sources of energy to be used in the refining of the renewable biodiesel, will impact the towns of Port Westward and Clatskanie in an unprecedented manner.
  2. Other transportation, including barges to and from Port Westward, will bring the potential of accidents, involving fuel, and upset to the marine and wildlife of the area, not to mention water pollution. Besides these dangers, water flow to farms will be impacted, according to a report by the Columbia Riverkeepers.
  3. Air pollution remains to be seen because data from the functioning renewable biodiesel facility in North Dakota is hard to find. **The Bismark**

**Tribune** reported in a May 19, 2021 article that “several ethanol plants in North Dakota are developing systems to capture the carbon dioxide they produce and bury the emissions underground, which makes their fuel more attractive to customers in states such as California.” While Next Renewable’s proposed plant may not be ethanol, the tactics of fuel companies to “bury emissions” is troubling. At the least, the Army Corps of Engineers’ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) deserves time and digestion by the commissioners and townspeople of Clatskanie and Port Westward, as well as neighboring areas.

**Other points of concern:**

- Vegetable oil sources to be used for renewable biodiesel
- Reputation of Next Renewables regarding the plant in Odessa, WA
- Reputation of BP which will be involved in the renewable biodiesel plant

I appreciate your time in reviewing my letter. I have never written one to any commissioner, senator or politician, but I am breaking my pattern because I have really appreciated my time at the monastery. Everyone who visits remarks about the peacefulness of the monastery. Last summer, I had the pleasure of attending retreats with people from this country and others. During the stressful times of the pandemic, the monastery has been a blessing to many. I cannot imagine a peaceful meditation experience in the future with a looming, 90-plus acre fuel facility in the foreground, nor can I foresee a plant that will have no impact on the town of Clatskanie or Port Westward. I ask you to consider the impact your decision will have on your lives, the lives of your children and the environment..

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

Sincerely,  
Terri Dudek