



March 11, 2015

Planning & Sustainability Commission

1900 SW 4th Avenue
Portland, OR 97201-5380
psc@portlandoregon.gov

(via postal and electronic mail)

RE: Pembina Terminal Testimony

Dear Planning & Sustainability Commission,

I write on behalf of the Concordia Neighborhood Association (CNA) to express our concerns about the proposed Pembina Pipeline Corporation propane export terminal. The development of a Port of Portland Terminal 6 propane facility **directly contradicts the intentions of the landmark draft Climate Action Plan, and poses a real and significant danger to health and safety** of residents of the Concordia neighborhood, much of North Portland, Northeast Portland, and Vancouver, WA.

Pembina Pipeline Corporation, the largest pipeline company in the Alberta tar sands mining industry, wants to ship propane liquefied petroleum gas via rail, through the fragile Columbia River Gorge and vibrant Northeast & North Portland neighborhoods to the Port of Portland's Terminal 6 for export to Asian markets. This project would locate 10 large tanks with a capacity of 33.6 million gallons of volatile propane in a flood and earthquake hazard zone on the banks of the Columbia River, **placing the residents of the Concordia neighborhood within the boundaries of a potential catastrophic blast zone.**

According to chief scientist Ian Madin of the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, if an earthquake of 6.0 or stronger struck the vicinity, it could cause catastrophic ground movement and liquefaction. Such a ground failure could, in turn, cause structural damage to the tanks, pipeline, or propane-filled rail cars. A leak of toxic, highly explosive propane vapors would be extremely dangerous, especially in combination with the large amount of fuel stored at the site. A mere spark from a cell phone or train wheel could ignite leaked fumes with catastrophic results.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the blast zone for a 125,000-gallon propane tank to be more than a half-mile. **The total capacity at the Portland site, at 33.6 million gallons, would be more than 250 times the EPA example estimate, resulting in an exponentially greater blast zone,** that would even by conservative estimates be likely to engulf residences in the St. Johns neighborhood and West Hayden Island, as well as Kelley Point and Pier parks, the Smith and Bybee Wetlands Natural Area, and the entire span of the Columbia River well into Vancouver, Wash.

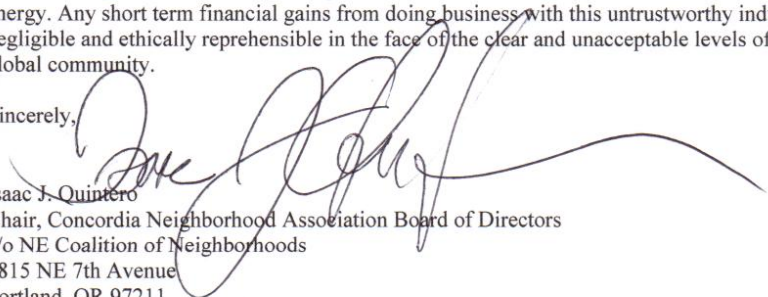
Rather than offering solid information to the most affected communities, Pembina has not responded to the request for the blast zone size in a worst-case scenario, and instead, it has presented an estimate, based on other sites, of 300 yards, or about three or four blocks in all directions. Based on the EPA data, **Pembina is offering patently false information.** Even under normal operating conditions, the diesel combustion emissions and noise would increase from additional train traffic, causing adverse impacts to neighbors as a certain outcome. The facility operations alone would account for 0.7% of Portland's entire carbon emissions, according to a city report on the proposed terminal. Prevailing winds blow toward the Concordia neighborhood, bringing not only predictable emissions from trains and Terminal 6 operations, but also increasing the likelihood of hazardous exposure, should an explosion take place at the terminal or along the rail lines.

At-grade road crossings along the proposed alignment to be used by the rail cars transporting propane to this facility would increase the potential for vehicle/ train collisions. The federal government predicts that trains hauling crude oil or ethanol will derail an average of 10 times a year over the next two decades, causing more than \$4 billion in damage and possibly killing hundreds of people if an accident happens in a densely populated area. The Concordia neighborhood represents such a densely populated area.

In addition to the clear safety issues to the Portland community, the high carbon dioxide and methane emissions from the processing, shipping and burning of great quantities of propane would add to the growing global problem of climate warming. Pembina has portrayed propane as a transition fuel even though it is a hydrocarbon byproduct of gas and oil processing. Pembina's propane is obtained by hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, a practice that destroys groundwater quality and poses "significant health risk to both human and non-human life," according to Physicians for Social Responsibility. The fracking process also causes the release of large amounts of methane gas, which is even more damaging to the atmosphere than carbon dioxide. This proposal clearly expands fossil fuel use, in obvious conflict with our city's draft Climate Action Plan.

The Concordia Neighborhood Association urges the City to **reject the Pembina propane terminal**, in the name of the safety of the residents of North and Northeast Portland, and in the name of saying no to practices that contribute negatively to global warming and environmental degradation. The decision to accept or reject this proposal is where climate change rhetoric meets on-the-ground action, and where the choice is made between fossil fuels or renewable energy. Any short term financial gains from doing business with this untrustworthy industry giant would be both negligible and ethically reprehensible in the face of the clear and unacceptable levels of risk to our community, and the global community.

Sincerely,



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