

February 6, 2015

Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability
1900 SW 4th Ave
Portland, OR 97201

Dear Chair Baugh and Director Anderson,

We appreciate the decision of the Planning and Sustainability Commission (PSC) to take the time necessary to reach a reasoned decision and hold an additional hearing on March 17th regarding the environmental zoning code amendments associated with the proposed Pembina Propane Facility at Terminal 6. This facility has significant negative implications for the health and safety of our community, the city's commitment to combatting climate change, recreational access on the Columbia River, and existing and potential jobs that rely on access to river and rail infrastructure. It is a topic of significant interest to the community as evidenced by the strong turnout at the January 13th hearing. Unfortunately many of those attending the hearing were not able to be heard due to public testimony being cut.

We believe that it is critical that the City use these hearings to fully explore the implications of the Pembina proposal. We would note that, based on the information provided by the Port and Pembina to date, there is no indication that the community will have another opportunity for a comprehensive review of this proposal. The City of Portland hearings on the zoning code amendments are likely to be the only opportunity the public will have to review and comment on the full range of impacts that will be caused by this project.

We would also note that we are deeply concerned about the quality of information provided to date. The Pembina proposal has been public since September and was quietly in the works for months prior to September. Despite repeated requests from the public, basic information regarding issues of fundamental concern to the community such as a blast radius¹ and safety during transport was not made available prior to or during the January 13th hearing. Instead, the public was offered information that clearly evaded the issues being raised. This behavior has already undermined Pembina's credibility and commitment to transparency and a meaningful public process.

¹ This should include information such as worst-case scientifically-determined and EPA/NOAA/NTSB-determined thermal threat, overpressure-blast threat, and shrapnel threat zone radii for various accident/incident/terrorist/earthquake scenarios, including likely domino-effects caused by pressurized tank boiling liquid expanding vapor explosions in the unit trains and the bullet transfer tanks, loss of refrigerated tank contents and subsequent heavy vapor cloud coverage of Portland and/or Vancouver with multiple flame pockets, fires, and deflagrations, all of which are referred to collectively in this document as the "blast radius."

Our understanding based on discussions with BPS is that there will be public testimony allowed at the March 17th hearing, that an information package associated with the March 17th hearing will be made available by March 1st, and that the City is still considering whether or not it will contact experts on various subject matters to speak as invited testimony at the March 17th hearing. In order to facilitate a complete and inclusive public process we would respectfully suggest the following:

- 1) **Consult with independent experts on key issues** such as risk associated with potential explosions/ fires at the facility and during transport, emissions related to extraction, transport, storage and use at the local and global scales and economic impacts. The city should not rely on the applicant or the Port, parties with a clear conflict of interest, to provide this information. We would be happy to provide recommendations to BPS regarding independent experts.
- 2) **Provide at least 30 days to review the information package prior to the March 17th hearing.** Neighborhood associations and organizational boards typically only meet once per month. In order to allow the community adequate time to review and comment on the proposal, a 30-days notice is essential.
- 3) **Provide notice to all of the following:**
 - a. All neighborhood associations within the City of Portland that occur in part or wholly within the blast radius of the proposed facility or the transportation corridors that trains or ships transporting the propane for this facility would pass through.
 - b. All property owners within the City of Portland whose property occurs in part or wholly within the blast radius of the proposed facility or the transportation corridors that trains or ships transporting the propane for this facility would pass through.
 - c. All property owners (including houseboats) along the Oregon Slough regarding potential periodic closures or travel restrictions along the Oregon Slough due to operations at this facility.
 - d. The Oregon State Marine Board (for distribution to interested boat owners) of potential periodic closures or travel restrictions along the Oregon Slough as a result of this facility.
 - e. Native American Tribes with treaty rights associated with the affected segments of the Columbia River.
 - f. Businesses that rely on access to river and rail infrastructure to provide jobs in our community and that will be impacted by congestion and safety issues related to the transport of propane.
- 4) **Provide adequate time for public testimony at the March 17th Hearing and any additional hearings.**
- 5) **Ensure that any panels at the March 17th hearing or any additional hearings are comprised of credible independent experts.** We would be happy to provide recommendations.
- 6) **Postpone the March 17th hearing if the City is not able to provide complete, reliable information on key areas of concern one month in advance of the hearing.**

Thank you for your consideration of these requests. Please let us know if you would like to discuss any of these further.

Respectfully,

Bob Sallinger
Conservation Director
Audubon Society of Portland

Jeff Geisler
Chair
Hayden Island Neighborhood Association

Lenny Dee
Onward Oregon
Adriana Voss-Andreae
350PDX

Regna Merrit
Physicians for Social Responsibility

Dan Serres
Conservation Director
Columbia Riverkeeper

Rev. Kate Lore
Social Justice Minister
First Unitarian Church of Portland

Barbara Quinn
Friends of Baltimore Woods

Ben Poe
Occupy Saint Johns