

April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Planning and Sustainability Commission  
City of Portland  
1900 SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97201

Re: The proposed Pembina Propane Terminal in Portland.

Dear Chairman Baugh and PSC Commissioners,

Thank you for giving more time for people to give testimony concerning the proposed Pembina propane export terminal at Terminal 6.

It is extremely important that the e-zone at T-6 continues to be protected and that Pembina is not allowed to run a pipeline for propane through it. Allowing this would set a dangerous precedent and we could expect more pipes from Pembina and others.

After reading up on Pembina (Pembina Pipeline Corp./Pembina Marine Terminals) and listening to their company representatives speak to the community on at least three separate occasions now, I have become increasingly concerned by what they want to do. Pembina repeatedly state that they are basically a transport (or trucking) company. This Canadian trucking company plans to transport highly flammable pressurized propane by 100-unit-long rail cars over aged bridges and miles of varying quality rail tracks, through many towns and cities, plus through sensitive natural areas. Pembina have continually stated that they are NOT responsible for the product (pressurized propane) during rail transportation. They obviously have to take more responsibility when it comes to using their own long pipelines. However, it seems that no one, except perhaps terrorists, really want to take responsibility when something terrible happens and cleanup or restitution is demanded.

What is also scary is reading reports that the railway companies are greatly under-insured and say that they would be unable to cope with the costs if there was a very serious rail accident/incident in a residential area. We have already seen some of what happened after the tragic rail accident in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. The rail company filed for bankruptcy. Victims and victims' families have been put through even more distress.

Storing refrigerated propane in numerous large metal tanks, and with the stated intention of building even more tanks, at a Portland marine terminal situated on seismically unsafe ground, seems like a very bad plan for our city. How on earth does Pembina intend to build such a facility up to an M9 earthquake rating? Eric Dyck stated publically during

the March 15<sup>th</sup> PSC work session that Pembina would do this. Pembina cannot in truth give any guarantee that these tanks will hold up, if or when the unthinkable happens, whether earthquake, human error, materials failure, or a deliberate act of sabotage or terrorism. It disturbs me that Pembina makes statements that certain events at their facility such as BLEVEs, are impossible, perhaps based on their table-top exercises, and too much confidence in their safety system, when we already know that many things are in fact possible, in real life.

I read in the Portland Tribune that the PSC may seek to charge Canadian exporter Pembina \$6.2M a year to offset its carbon emissions. The news report states the funds will be used to reduce carbon locally, such as by promoting wind and solar electricity, or planting trees. I am sorry, but no mitigation can make up for the damage that this propane facility would do to Portland's world-wide known reputation of being a Green City.

In spite of all the 'green-washing' done by the propane industry, the truth is that propane is NOT green. Yes, it burns more cleanly than some fuels, but this propane exists because of the OIL industry who are drilling, fracking and mining toxic oil fields. Do we really want our city to align itself with that? It seems to go against everything we stand for. I see ads on TV proudly saying how Portland recycles, bicycles, and replants trees. How do we honestly add Pembina's industry to that? Trying to make up for things with carbon credits just doesn't cut it. Oregon's new Governor, Kate Brown, signed a Clean Fuels Standard which includes propane as a clean fuel. Sadly this is a mistake. Clean energy needs to mean clean from start to finish. We must not ignore the process used to extract the energy!

I and others have so many questions. We have also learned to distrust. The proposed Pembina propane export facility was shrouded in secrecy right from the start. The public first read about it in the news. It was disclosed that the Port of Portland and Pembina had been in talks for about 6 months, and that an agreement had already been signed. It also appeared that it already had approval of Governor at the time, Gov. Kitzhaber, and strong approval of Portland's Mayor Hales. Why were things handled this way? I think it was because something was being planned that would change the whole character of Portland forever!

T-6 would need to become a high-security zone (with Homeland Security involved). We have learned that marine traffic, both commercial and recreational, would have to be regularly disrupted for hours. Knowing that commercial marine traffic would be held up due to the propane ships fueling-up could have been enough to completely discourage and chase the last of the large container ship companies away from Portland's port forever.

It is possible that other companies may leave Portland, as not everyone wants the added risk of operating in the close vicinity of a massive terminal dealing in a highly flammable material. There are also many very concerned residents living within the propane blast zone (as calculated using EPA/ALOHA software), and also those who live within the

blast zone of thousands of miles of railway tracks, who strongly don't want to have this propane export facility built here.

Portland is standing at the crossroads. An unhappy Port of Portland standing alongside an eager Pembina is on the one side. Our reputation of being a green city that deeply cares about the environment and the safety of its population is on the other. Scientists are telling us that the only way to a sustainable future is to leave 80-90% of the fossil fuels in the ground. If we embrace a propane terminal, we encourage more oil extraction and are a bigger part of the problem, not part of the solution. We sincerely ask that our city public officials make the right choice for us, our children, and our children's children. The world is watching.

Thank you.

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