



April 15, 2015

VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL TO: EFSEC@utc.wa.gov

Energy Site Evaluation Council
c/o Chairman William Lynch
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172
EFSEC@utc.wa.gov

RE: Tesoro-Savage Oil Terminal: DEIS and Public Comment Period

Dear Council Members and Chairman Lynch:

The City of Vancouver is very concerned about the proposed Tesoro-Savage oil shipping terminal. This project, if approved, would receive and ship over 360,000 barrels of crude oil every day—crude oil that would travel by rail through Vancouver’s urban area, downtown, along the banks of the Columbia River, and then be shipped by barge or tanker out the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. This proposal increases the risk of oil spills, derailments, and accidents; it threatens communities, waterways, natural resources, economies, and ways of life.

The public review process for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Tesoro-Savage is of great importance to people across Washington. While Vancouver was granted party status and other cities and organizations have been allowed to intervene in the upcoming EFSEC adjudication, many municipalities and members of the public are relying upon the DEIS public review and comment period as their primary avenue for participation in this process. It is imperative that the Council provide a full and fair process to ensure all voices are heard.

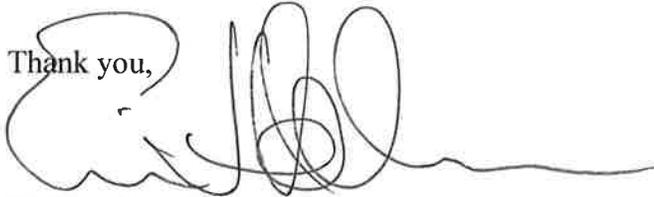
At the March 17, 2015 EFSEC meeting, EFSEC staff told the Council that the DEIS would be several thousand pages long and that, in general, the public comment period for DEISs was 30 days. Thirty days is simply too short for public review and comment on such a major proposal. SEPA regulations provide that “Agency efforts to involve other agencies and the public in the SEPA process should be commensurate with the type and scope of the environmental document.” WAC 197-11-502. Similar proposals, such as the proposed coal export terminals at Cherry Point and Longview, Washington, have been given 90-120-day public comment periods. For the last project EFSEC reviewed, the Whistling Ridge Energy Project, EFSEC originally announced a 59-day comment period for the DEIS that was later extended to 98 days. (The Whistling Ridge DEIS was approximately 1,500 pages, including appendices.)

To ensure adequate time for public review and comment given the scale and impact of this project, we respectfully request that:

- EFSEC hold a public comment period for the Tesoro-Savage DEIS of 120 days;
- EFSEC hold public hearings on the DEIS during the evening hours in accessible locations in Vancouver and Spokane;
- EFSEC provide paper copies of the DEIS in a timely manner upon request;
- EFSEC allow both written (on-line and hard copy) and oral comments at hearings on the DEIS; and
- EFSEC plan its hearings to accommodate all citizens who wish to provide testimony. We anticipate a high level of engagement in the review of the DEIS and recommend that you choose locations and approaches to the public comment period that accommodates this interest, including ensuring venues that are large enough and there is enough time for all attendees to present their concerns. It is important that all these meetings are ADA-approved facilities and/or accommodations have been made for hearing/sight/mobility impaired citizens.

Finally, we remind EFSEC that SEPA's regulations require environmental impact statements to be "readable reports ... written in plain language" to allow the public to "understand the most significant and vital information concerning the proposed action, alternatives, and impacts." WAC 197-11-425. The Council is faced with a vital decision in its review of the Tesoro-Savage proposal, and we appreciate the work of the Council to ensure this process is open, transparent, and fair.

Thank you,



ERIC HOLMES
City Manager

Cc: Susan Drummond, Co-Counsel
Kelly Flint, Tesoro Savage Petroleum Terminal, LLC
Jay Derr, Counsel for Tesoro Savage
Matthew Kernutt, Assistant Attorney General
David Bartz, Counsel for the Port of Vancouver
Alicia Lowe, Counsel for the Port of Vancouver
Taylor Hallvik, Counsel for Clark County Board of Commissioners

William Lynch, Chairman
Energy Site Evaluation Council
April 15, 2015
Page 3

Terence Pruit, Assistant Attorney General
Kristin Boyles, Counsel for Earthjustice Northwest Office
Janette Brimmer, Counsel for Earthjustice Northwest Office
Matthew Baca, Counsel for Earthjustice Northwest Office
David Bricklin, Counsel for Columbia Riverkeeper, et al
Bryan Telegin, Counsel for Columbia Riverkeeper, et al
Linda Larson, Counsel for Columbia Waterfront LLC
Daniel Timmons, Counsel for Columbia Waterfront LLC
Julie Carter, Counsel for CRITFC
Robert Lothrop, Counsel for CRITFC
Cager Clabaugh, Representative of International Longshore Warehouse Union Local 4
Jared Smith, Representative of International Longshore Warehouse Union Local 4
Nancy Isserlis, Counsel for City of Spokane
Michael Piccolo, Counsel for City of Spokane
Brent Hall, Counsel for Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
Joe Sexton, Counsel for The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakima Nation
Donald English, Counsel for the City of Washougal
Scott Russon, Counsel for the City of Washougal
Brian Bonlender, Department of Commerce
Maia Bellon, Department of Ecology
Phil Anderson, Department of Fish and Wildlife
David Danner, Utilities and Transportation Commission
Lynn Peterson, Department of Transportation