

July 7, 2017

Office of the Governor
Legislative Building
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, Washington 98504

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**ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL**

Honorable Governor Inslee:

In light of continued delays by the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) in reviewing the proposed Vancouver Energy crude oil transload facility, I am writing to request that you direct EFSEC to provide a publicly available schedule for the entire review process and require the council to adhere to that schedule.

On June 27, 2013, the Port of Vancouver USA heard compelling testimony from Jim Luce, then-chair of EFSEC, explaining the comprehensive review process that would unfold for the proposed Vancouver Energy facility. Much time was spent describing how the process would consider all potential impacts of the project, and how the process would provide an efficient evaluation of the proposed siting of this facility. There was also a detailed discussion of timelines and the statutory requirement for EFSEC to complete the process within 12 months. Mr. Luce noted that the statute governing EFSEC has a "policy directive to ensure that decisions occur timely and without unnecessary delay."

We are now in month 22 of this 12-month process, and we just received word that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is once again delayed and not scheduled to be released for public comment until November 2015. This is simply unacceptable and has far-reaching consequences.

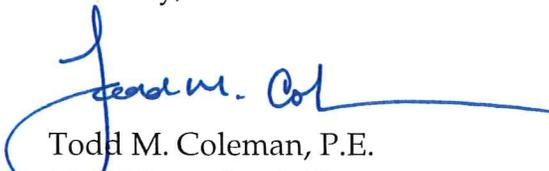
The Port of Vancouver's mission is to provide economic benefit to our community through leadership, stewardship and partnership in marine and industrial development. In 2009 the port purchased what now is referred to as Terminal 5 from Alcoa and Evergreen Aluminum for the purpose of returning unutilized industrial resources to job- and tax-producing uses to benefit the state and the region. We worked with the previous owners to return the property to usable status and have invested millions in developing rail infrastructure to facilitate movement of cargo on the Columbia River. Terminal 5 is now primed for development and is the proposed site for the Vancouver Energy facility, which was originally slated for construction in December 2014. Every day EFSEC delays its release of the DEIS means another day this site will not provide an economic return to the community.

In addition, when we market the port's ability to move cargo on the Columbia River, we rely on the ability of regulatory agencies to efficiently approve, deny or condition permits on mitigated factors. Customers invest millions into permitting and ultimately construction of projects in our communities, and they depend on a process that provides certainty within a reasonable timeframe. When these processes do not result in certainty, it becomes very difficult for ports in the state of Washington to convince businesses to invest in our state. This costs our state thousands of jobs and puts at risk billions of dollars of private capital investment.

Our request is simple: find a way to move the process forward. The Port of Vancouver still believes the EFSEC process is the most comprehensive review process available to consider the impacts of siting these regionally significant facilities. But if EFSEC is not able to complete reviews in accordance with its statutory requirement or even within a reasonable timeline, the council's effectiveness is diminished and the process is fatally flawed.

Again, we request you direct EFSEC to provide a publicly available schedule for its entire review process and require the council to adhere to this schedule.

Sincerely,



Todd M. Coleman, P.E.
Chief Executive Officer
Port of Vancouver USA

Cc: Bill Lynch, Chair, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
Nancy Baker, Commissioner, Port of Vancouver USA
Jerry Oliver, Commissioner, Port of Vancouver USA
Brian Wolfe, Commissioner, Port of Vancouver USA