

From: [Jeannine Lish](#)
To: [Council](#)
Subject: Say "NO !!!" to tar sand, coal, oil, or gas
Date: Wednesday, June 27, 2018 3:44:10 PM

Honorable Councilmembers,

Things have gone terribly wrong in the past few years - even decades- as we witness the loss of so many 'natural' things in our world: the shocking shrinking of our glaciers & polar caps, the extreme weather experienced around the world, the deforestation of our lands & jungles, the needless killing of so many animals that are endangered or near extinction, the polarization of so many countries due to wars, lack of food, cruel treatment of those who are "different", the increasing dependence upon drugs of many types, & the alienation of folks within family units. We need to turn around so many dire concerns - the pollution in our air, in our water, in our soils - which affects the food chain.

We live within 1/2 mile of the railroad tracks which have L O N G trains filled with coal, oil, & who knows what else— which are whistling day as night as they approach the near-by road crossing. We can feel the vibration as they roll by. When will it end?

Cherry Point is at risk again of becoming a transshipment point to load tankers with 'tar sands' heavy crude oil from Canada's Trans Mountain (Puget Sound) Pipeline, which would increase the risk of an oil spill in endangered species' habitat and on our beloved shorelines of the Salish Sea.

I implore you to strengthen standards and conditions for project permits in the Cherry Point UGA, to protect our communities from the burden of risk and adverse impacts on health and safety from transporting heavy crude oil and other hazardous materials through Whatcom County. New facilities to ship coal, oil or gas should be prohibited. and existing facilities should be held to the highest standards for safety and pollution control. Permits for upgrades must require SEPA EIS review of cumulative impacts with a greenhouse gas life-cycle analysis, total mitigation of climate pollution, and conditions to require no adverse impacts on herring, salmon, orca, or other endangered species.

In 2012, Whatcom County permitted two oil-by-rail unloading facilities which have brought near-daily shipments of >100-unit explosive tank cars through Bellingham and Ferndale, without requiring an environmental impacts study. Projects such as these highlight the inadequacy of County procedures to reasonably protect our communities from unacceptable hazards.

Furthermore, it is a waste of county resources to process or approve project permits without prior federal authorization for compliance with treaty-protected tribal fishing rights and laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Please ensure that our tax dollars are not again wasted on reviewing and permitting unlawful projects, as was done for Gateway Pacific Terminal.

Let's put our energy & funds toward renewable resources — wind turbines, solar power, capturing the tidal forces, & other creative, sustainable measures. Removing the tar sands, oils, gas, & coal have upset "mother nature" — causing earthquakes & other geological calamities. Let's stop these defiling ways —starting NOW!

Thank you for your hard work and diligence in service of our county,

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