

From: [Council](#)
To: [Barbara Brenner](#); [Barry Buchanan](#); [Carol Frazey](#); [Rud Browne](#); [Satpal Sidhu](#); [Todd Donovan](#); [Tyler Byrd](#)
Cc: [Matt Aamot](#); [Mark Personius](#); [Ashley Ubil](#); [Becky Boxx](#)
Subject: FW: Code Amendments for Fossil Fuels Whatcom County
Date: Monday, July 08, 2019 8:36:13 AM

From: Judith Akins [mailto:sunsetjam@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, July 07, 2019 10:59 PM
To: Council
Subject: Code Amendments for Fossil Fuels Whatcom County

Dear Council Members,

As a resident of Whatcom County I am very concerned that we have the best protection possible from fossil fuel accidents not only for the residents of our County but all those who work in fossil fuel facilities and the men and women that transport these fuels. I appreciate all the efforts you have put into the language in the County Code Amendments to allow businesses to flourish while making sure they have the best safeguards for the community. I feel the June 18th draft almost has the right language however there are a few changes needed and if this takes continuing the moratorium one more time to get the language right please continue it.

The language that has me concerned is

1. Environmental Impacts Review

The County has the authority to require mitigation for impacts under SEPA. The current draft does not ensure that refinery projects that are significant to have their impacts studied and mitigated. We need to require as, SEPA does, mitigation for impacts to human health and safety, air quality, climate, plants, animals and water.

2. Conditional Use

Change the current draft language which requires conditional use permits (CUPs) for refinery projects based on arbitrary thresholds for the expansion of refinery capacity to requiring approval based on impacts. The County has the authority to ensure that all expansions use the best technology to control pollution and reduce risk and hazards below the current levels thereby increasing safety and reducing pollution to our air and water.

3. Change of Use

A new provision should be put into the code that when a new use is proposed this would trigger a permit requiring conditions to protect all the public interests. In other words this would be considered a major change and cannot come under permitted uses and approved by the Planning Department.

I have been attending recent meetings where refinery workers are very concerned about their health and safety. We need to hold industries to the highest standards for their workers as well as the public and the environment. These Industries do have the capability to do this and will do so if required. I use my car almost daily and I fly to see my grandchildren and family. I like to drive to spend time in our beautiful state parks and our wonderful national parks. I use carbon products and will continue as we find better ways to transition from our dependence on fossil fuels. I want to feel safe in my home and safe in going to downtown Bellingham by the train tracks, walking Whatcom Falls Park over the pipelines and visiting friends in Ferndale near the refineries. I believe the County Council can and should require

all fossil fuel projects to be conditionally permitted with no piecemealing of projects. The impacts need to be studied as a whole, treating everyone the same and requiring the highest possible standards.

I look forward to the public meeting on July 9th and seeing what you have to say.

Sincerely,
Judith Akins

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