

09/12/2019

Whatcom County Council Planning

RE; Cherry Point Land Use Amendments

Good evening Planning Commission Members,

My name is Dirk Vermeeren; my wife and I have been residents of Whatcom County since 2003, full time since 2014.

We wish to thank the Planning Commission for their work over the last 3 years resulting in the updated amendments for Cherry Point Land use.

As an oil industry professional, including 3 years as an Environmental Engineer I supported the industry; I am fully aware of both sides of this issue. While the proposed draft is an incremental improvement, we suggest additional requirements will increase permitting process transparency and public stakeholder involvement.

Therefore we ask that you include –

- Future projects and or facility changes require an EIS as part of the permitting process.
- The current companies located at Cherry Point prepare a Cascadia Earthquake Spill Response Plan detailing how they will cleanup a Cascadia Earthquake/Fault event. Specifically addressing who will pay for the catastrophic hydrocarbon spill cleanup so that local taxpayers will not bailout companies while their shareholders walk away with profits.

Implementing a forward-looking ordinance will allow all stakeholders to have a voice in their future quality of life and achieving our long-term vision.

Growth in our region is both positively and negatively impacting our quality of life and the Salish Sea eco system. In response communities must taken control of their future and implement forward looking regulations that will maintain the high standard of life we have taken for granted.

Thank you.
Dirk & Kathy Vermeeren
Bellingham, WA