

**From:** [Amon, Bob](#)  
**To:** [PDS Planning Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Cherry Point Comprehensive Plan and Code  
**Date:** Thursday, September 19, 2019 12:55:41 PM

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Planning Commission:

I attended the Sept 12<sup>th</sup> commission meeting; however, due to the number of testifiers, I did not sign up to speak. As witnessed, many of my fellow Phillips 66 co-workers took the time to express their concerns – all of which I concur with their conclusions. I oppose the proposed changes to the comprehensive plan & code.

I am the Senior Rotating Equipment Engineer at the refinery, have been for the past 3 years. Prior to my Phillips employment, I was the senior rotating equipment engineer with Valero – California/Texas. The Ferndale refinery was built in 1954, though the majority of the process units have been replaced in the 90's and early 2000, continual improvements to other process units, and infrastructure must be performed in order for the refinery to stay in business. My job consists of recommending and obtaining the necessary funding to implement reliability improvements, in particular to rotating equipment (pumps/compressors/turbines etc..). We have a continual need to increase our mean time between failure along with improving the efficiency of equipment – the result of which will improve our environmental releases (improved mechanical seal designs, lengthen run times etc). The less equipment is shutdown and /or fails, the less time equipment will be opened up to the atmosphere. Personnel safety will increase by less exposure. As we seek funding from Corporate, viable projects with specific implementation times are all taken into consideration. Any uncertainty with project permitting with time and cost will be taken into account. Corporate funds will thus go to other Phillips refineries that can make the return on investment much quicker. As funds are directed elsewhere, unplanned outages will occur, reliability will decrease, personnel safety will be jeopardized, and a subsequent decrease in the efficiency of the refinery will occur. Eventually, with decrease spending, key employees will leave, and a probable sale or closure of the refinery will occur. In my career I have seen this happen. Phillips 66 is a very good corporate neighbor to have operating in Whatcom county, I would venture to say that other potential buyers of refineries would not be such a good business neighbor. The economic engine that Phillips provides the county is extremely large, a new owner may not be as willing to be as open or as generous.

I'm not going to tackle the global warming issue, or carbon footprint issue. We all have improved lifestyles due to fossil fuels. The US based refineries are light years ahead of other refineries located in the world (environmentally and safety-wise) . To make a step change, for the better, in the world environment, we should open and expand more US based refineries, forcing non US refineries to shutdown. The US can then be an exporter of fuels rather than the eventual (I believe) importer of finished fuels.

Let me know if I can assist in developing a more workable Cherry Point comprehensive plan & code changes.

PS. I live down the street from the County Courthouse, in the Columbia neighborhood.  
Thank you

Bob Amon  
Senior Rotating Equipment Engineer

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**Phillips 66**