

From: [WENDY HARRIS](#)
To: [PDS Planning Commission](#); [Council](#); [Chris Elder](#); [city council](#); rlacroix@cob.org
Subject: Cherry Point Expansion And Fracked Gas
Date: Sunday, October 06, 2019 6:15:34 PM

Dear Commissioners and Council Members;

I direct your attention to the below article which I have linked at the end of my email with the request that you please reconsider the idea of allowing any expansion at Cherry Point, including and particularly with regard to existing facilities and operations. It is not a policy that protects public health and safety.

This is not going to prevent extensive new growth or prohibit new industries from forming partnerships with existing industry as we have already seen with Petrogas and Intalco, the Green Apple Renewable Biofuel Facility working its way through the permitting process as a joint operation by Phillips 66 and Renewable Energy Group (REG.) involving 350 million gallons of biodiesel, the extensive piecemealed infrastructure expansion at BP over the last two years, or the P66 expansion of its tank farm by 250 million **barrels**.

Despite clear evidence that modern-day natural gas is no better for the atmosphere than coal or oil, the industry is expanding almost everywhere, building out new infrastructure designed to operate for 30 years, a half-century, or even longer.

My review of the Cherry Point SEPA determinations issued in the last two years clearly reflects this. The bottom line is that despite the good intentions, **renewable biofuel is powered by polluting natural gas, a fossil fuel that provides justification for ever more harmful fracking.**

And even worse, this new growth is encouraging more and more fracking. I know that was not the intention behind the Cherry Point comp plan changes. but I think somewhere along the way, the county got tangled up in the industry PR and these facts were obscured. We made a wrong turn because we are now encouraging the production of the most harmful method of extracting the harmful form of fossil fuels.

All those new facilities and infrastructure for renewable fuel at Cherry Point require steam methane reforming which is fueled by natural gas and this creates the incentive to continue to frack in more fragile and harmful locations, even in areas where people reside.

The problem is not ours alone but exists in the Northwest on a regional level, where the use of natural gas has increased. This is ironic because that fracked oil and gas returns to us on dangerous trains that travel through our county and idle on tracks in local neighborhoods, including the side station up the road from me. We are continuing to place our county and our region at risk, something that the county council has indicated it is seeking to avoid.

In Washington, policymakers are still torn about allowing big expansions for the gas industry, including a new pipeline in Snohomish County, a new LNG facility in Tacoma, and a giant gas-to-methanol project in Kalama. In Oregon, officials are considering permitting an LNG export terminal in Coos Bay that would be the single-biggest carbon polluter in the state.

All of it hastens the Northwest toward a serious jam: we know we can't continue using fossil fuels for much longer, but we're still letting carbon entangle our economy in ways that make it more difficult to break free. It's like we're standing in the checkout line ready to buy a case of beer and a box of donuts while vowing to eat healthier.

Or approving permits for new Cherry Point infrastructure

without a full understanding of how it is going to be used but knowing that renewable biodiesel plants use natural gas.

That is why I urge you to really rethink the whole idea of Cherry Point expansion for existing facilities. Some cities in the US are now examining whether to allow natural gas in residential housing (and of course, no longer allow burning wood as heat).

Excellent new technologies like heat pumps and induction stoves are not only cleaner, healthier, and more efficient, but they're more affordable to operate. The principal barrier to phasing out gas now is not technical but political. It's the gas industry, including the utilities that profit from selling gas, and some building trade groups."

https://www.sightline.org/2019/10/02/should-northwest-cities-ban-fracked-gas-in-new-buildings/?fbclid=IwAR3pzcWX9-wsMOVXQhn_GOxRof5shamT7T0HwT0q8G0mx7XcX3DYENCxUqo

Thank you for considering my request. Please note there are other reasons that renewable biofuels are undesirable which will be addressd in an additional future email comment on the Cherry Point comp. plan amendment. Please make our home healthier and safer for all life.

Wendy Harris