



For Immediate Release, *January 24, 2020*

Whatcom County Statement on Halt of REG/ Phillips 66 Project

Bellingham, WA: Whatcom County (County) was notified on Tuesday January 21 that Phillips 66 and Renewable Energy Group (REG) were not going to be moving forward with the large-scale build of a renewable fuels plant in Ferndale. The applicant has cited permitting delays as well as other uncertainties as its reasons for canceling.

“We are all surprised with this sudden announcement by Phillips 66 to withdraw from the Green Apple Project partnership” said County Executive Satpal Singh Sidhu, “This is the kind of project that is much needed in our county and our nation to transition to renewable fuels. I believe, this project had several tangible benefits to our community and the whole region like an economic boost and high wage jobs, a transition pathway to renewable fuels and substantial capital investment in our County.”

Sidhu, and Deputy Executive, Tyler Schroeder have reached out to both REG and to Phillips 66 to see if there is anything the County could do to aide the parties in resolving uncertainties. Sidhu further states, “As we understand, both companies have their own overall views on the kind of uncertainties from the perspective of their individual corporate objectives. We will continue to offer our help in future.”

In the meantime, as requested, the County has halted the project’s environmental review and has cancelled public meetings and the comment period. Phillips 66 and REG’s news release expresses appreciation to Whatcom County (and the State of Washington) for their advice and support during the process.

Whatcom County’s process has not changed over the last decade for such large-scale projects. There are other entities like Department of Ecology, Army Corps of Engineers, Tribal governments and other organizations, who also have their role in the permitting process. The County is always eager to hear new ideas from prospective project owners to make its process more efficient and owner friendly.

The facility would have been built within the Cherry Point Urban Growth Area co-located within the Phillips 66 Ferndale Refinery. It would have included a new manufacturing facility that processed fats, oils and grease into renewable fuels.

For more information contact the Executive’s Office at 360 778 5200