William Golding

Good evening. My name is William Golding. I can be reached via e-mail at willgolding92yahoo.com.

I would like to start by acknowledging that we are meeting on the ancestral lands of the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, also on the lands of the 1854 Medicine Creek Treaty, which did provide the United States with this land that we're meeting on while still reserving a number of rights for the sovereign nations who agreed to this treaty.

In regards to U.S. Oil's water quality permit, I'd like to make the comments that currently the U.S. Oil facility sits over the usual and custom areas guaranteed to the Puyallup Tribe of Indians to have rights to gather and fish in these locations, which were the Puyallup River estuary and tide flats, which are no longer currently the case. So in essence, this current facility is already violating treaty rights limiting the access to traditional foods overall. Also I'd like to make a comment regarding the consideration or lack thereof of climate change impacts on water quality, not just upstream or downstream but the actual changes that are occurring in terms of increasing ocean acidification, increased rainfall events in the winter, which are going to lead to higher peak flow events in stormwater systems, potential impacts from sea level rise that could impact the outflows of these stormwater systems and cause backups that might lead to increased pollutants making it back into the marine waters.

Also there's concerns of increasing water temperatures as there's less water in the rivers in the summer, which could then lead to worsening - or greater concentrations of pollutants that will make bigger impacts during the summertimes overall. Also I would just like to acknowledge that most of the activities that are occurring from U.S. Oil are going to lead to these climate change impacts increasing overall and that it would be beneficial moving forward to consider these because climate change has been acknowledged by both the Department of Ecology from their 2012 report "Preparing for a Changing Climate: Washington State's Integrated Climate Response Strategy," as well as the Puyallup Tribe of Indians' recent climate change report titled "Climate Change Impact Assessment and Adaptation Options" from 2016. And so allowing for current fossil fuel development to continue will be both impacting the Department of Ecology's efforts to address climate change as well as the Puyallup Tribe of Indians' efforts to address climate change. So I think those both need to be considered by the Department of Ecology when they are determining the effects of this water quality permit being issued or perhaps denied in some case potentially. And with that, I am finished. Thank you for your time tonight.