Earth Ministry

My name is Maddie Smith, and I'm here with Earth Ministry as a person of faith to speak out today for clean water. And my own Unitarian Universalist faith is based off of seven principles, the seventh of which is respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. And if hearing the sad news about the orcas today is any indication, the interdependent web in our waters is in danger and business as usual is not acceptable. And, I'll keep this short, but I'd just like to ask that when - in considering stormwater there's a way to check for tar sands oil that may have spilled at some point in the grounds of the facility because I know you're checking during the process water. And I'm also concerned that like if this facility does expand - which I know we're not talking about it today, but we are - but I'd ask that Ecology must strengthen the protections and restrictions to preserve water quality. And I know that this hearing is about one water quality permit. But like getting up here as a person of faith, I just have to be mindful that this proceeding is connected to everything else and to the health of salmon and orca populations in the northwest, to possible future disasters involving oil train explosions, to extractive industries that destroy landscapes and communities, and to our warming planet, and to this interdependent web that we're all connected to. Thank you.