

## Earth Ministry

My name is Jessica Zimmerle, and I am the Program and Outreach Director for Earth Ministry and Washington Interfaith Power and Light. So we organize people of faith statewide to live out values of environmental justice and stewardship of creation. And I just have to share that earlier today I was in a meeting of high level faith leaders, so Bishops and the like, planning how we will honor the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which is next year. And one of the five issue areas that we're committing to address is water because it's such a central source of life for all of us and our spiritual tradition. And then also with today, the heavy heart of losing three more of our southern resident orcas I think is very present in the room and something to name as a moral clarion call really that we must do better. And this is an opportunity to do so. So it's beyond serendipitous that we're here now to talk water quality after my day. And I'll share that Earth Ministry is concerned about the renewal due to limited protection from ongoing pollution and then the future impacts of expansion. Although it's not on, on record, U.S. Oil Par Pacific has stated intent publicly to expand. And we would like to address the heavy dilbit laden tar sands oils that are currently accepted at the refinery, which sink in water and are nearly impossible to clean up, threatening our water quality and our health, and ask that - and want to use the right language to go on the record - that you address these sinking oils and require more stringent and frequent monitoring for oil sheens and address the unique impacts of spills or discharges of potentially nonfloating oils in the NPDES permit. We also know that there's copper and zinc contaminating our waters, toxins lethal to our struggling salmon. So we ask that you please implement numerical standards for these chemicals upon permit approval rather than waiting for a more long-term compliance schedule. And finally, as I stated, we know that there is intent to expand, putting us all at risk. So if the permit is approved, please make clear that your role would be to reevaluate that water quality and reevaluate the permit. And I'll just say that really - thank you for your leadership and for your time and for hearing us all. We all need both proactive and reactive responses in this really challenging time. And we thank you for doing what you can to protect our waterways. Thank you.