

Diane Tilstra

April 26, 2017

Kerry Graber, Site Manager
Washington State Department of Ecology
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Re: Public Comments on Feasibility Study, Occidental Chemical Corp. Superfund Cleanup

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide comments on the Occidental Chemical Superfund cleanup, the worst contamination left in Commencement Bay.

My name is Diane Tilstra, I live in Tacoma, WA. I moved to Tacoma just five years ago and I live in a beautiful neighborhood overlooking Commencement Bay. One of the reasons I love living here is because the shorelines are available to the public. I can walk, run, bike and swim along the shore all the way to Point Defiance. I've spent many lovely hours playing on Owen Beach with my grandchildren.

I have been an environmentally conscious elder for many years now after working with Kathy Fletcher at People For Puget Sound. I know your office is aware of the work PFPS did for 20 years in this effort. Why? Because we wanted to leave a clean legacy for our children and their children and a thriving Puget Sound.

I am deeply concerned about toxic contamination from Occidental Chemical Corporation in the Hylebos Water way that now threatens the health of all residents here and beyond. Please hold Occidental Chemical Corporation accountable for the massive toxic mess they have caused. Tacoma is NOT the dumping ground for massive toxic chemical spills and deserves DOE's recommendation for a clean up.

Tacoma is changing its legacy of industrial pollution and the Tacoma Aroma to one of a clean, healthy connection to the waterfront. It will revitalize Tacoma's economy to be seen as the Clean Water community that attracts a healthy lifestyle.

The only acceptable solution is to counter Occidental's legal team's proposal and demand a clean up operation as required by the Model Toxics Control Act.

Thank you,

Diane Tilstra
Tacoma Resident
Environmental Activist
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"We will meet all of us women [and men] of every land
We will meet in the center, make a circle
We will weave a world web
to entangle the powers
That bury our children."

