

Noah Davis

Hi Kerry,

If this email method is acceptable, please add my comments to the Occidental Tacoma Cleanup comments.

First, thank you (and to Dept of Ecology) for holding the public comment hearings.

After moving to Browns Point (from Seattle just under two years ago) and getting notices in the mail about lead and arsenic in the soil (from the Asarco plant) I have to admit I was mortified (as we have a 3 y.o. and a 3 month old). I had planted a small garden directly in the soil were eating the vegetables and are often outside in the yard. Was I seriously endangering my family by living here? Why were there no warnings before I moved here? Was that my fault?

I suppose I was super naïve to think that the pollution of old would not affect me today.

I started to read more about the Port area and learned of the Superfund Site designation and was shocked at how widespread and prevalent the contamination was.

But, even after taking in the information that was available to me online, the hearing/forum at the Norpoint Center was the first opportunity for me learn the rather sordid and specific details on the severity of the Occidental Site together with the almost incomprehensible amounts of toxic dumping that had occurred (and that STILL exists).

As I said during the hearing, and as I still feel strongly about...what occidental did is morally unacceptable if not criminal – destroying our bay, waters, air, shoreline, marine life and, apparently, greatly increasing the risk of (and potentially even causing) cancer among nearby residents and workers.

There is no amount of apologizing that can change that inexcusably destructive past conduct.

But, and getting to the second point, is what do we do now?

As I'm no chemist, engineer or environmental scientist, I'm unable to provide any technical guidance in the ongoing cleanup; and instead, just have to chime in with practical reminders that I hope guide the cleanup efforts.

1) DON'T MAKE IT WORSE. Please don't allow the cleanup to endanger people, the environment, marine life and future generations.

One possible cleanup method that I heard at the hearing at the Norpoint Center was to try and "vaporize and then capture" the underground contaminants. That sounds fraught with danger to me and unless it could be absolutely guaranteed that no vapors could possible escape and be carried in the wind, I just don't think that that a "vaporizing" cleanup method is the best route to take.

So, my vote is to take efforts to clean up the site that will not make the contamination worse (or lead to new ways to contaminate us)

2) STOP THE SPREAD. It appears that the contamination continues to spread. So obviously Ecology and the citizens of this State (and speaking for the environment and wildlife that we are caretakers for) ...want to stop the spread of the contaminants. What can stop the spread? Besides

containment devices, for each contaminant/chemical, is there some type of bacteria or organism that can be inserted to neutralize the particular contaminant (or does the introduction of an organism or bacteria violate principle #1? (Making it worse)

3) BE COMPLETE IN THE CLEANUP

So long as #1 and #2 are accomplished, the cleanup cannot be partial, quarterish or half-ish. It must be as complete as possible and Occidental should be on the hook until the cleanup is done....all done.

Occidental profited from their activities which led to the contamination/toxic dumping and appear to continue to be doing pretty well financially – and they should absolutely be on the hook for paying for a complete and not partial cleanup no matter how long it takes. That should be the penalty and duty imposed on Occidental (as we should not be left alone to bear the decades of contamination and harm). They've taken from us (the community) and now they have to give back.

So, how do we continue to clean it up (all of it), while containing it and definitely not making it worse or exposing area residents to even more toxicity? That I just do not have the breadth of knowledge to know and have to defer to the more scientific minds.

But I am going to stay involved in this process/cleanup and oversight because I believe that the Port commissioners (and city) and state have failed us in overseeing these polluting, damaging and irresponsible institutions like Occidental Chemical and unless people stand together to demand justice, safety, clean air and clean water, then who is going to stand for those ideals for us?

Finally, and point #3 is LNG.

I do not see how a new gas/chemical/manufacturing facility can go into a superfund site before it is cleaned up and where it could limit clean-up efforts by its pipelines, chemical instabilities, dangers, increased traffic and who knows what else. The Port Commissioners appear profit centered as to environmentally centered.

During LNG's huge facility construction, What possible effects will this have on the Oxy cleanup?

After the LNG facility is up and running, what types of cleanup efforts will be limited by the running of LNG's facilities (ships fueling, tanker trucks loading, traffic in and out). Would "vaporization" be a danger to a natural gas facility? Are there other cleanup methods (controlled fracking?) that would potentially destabilize a huge liquid natural gas and natural gas facility?

I just cannot see how it's possible or permissible for a new site to almost (though admittedly, not entirely) overlay an existing superfund site.

I know this is not Dept of Ecology's fault, but the Dept of Ecology should not be limited by the ongoing short-sighted, profit geared motives of the Port to prevent Ecology's attempt to ensure that the citizens of Pierce county and the residents of this State are protected from past and future contaminations and unnecessary risks (especially risks that could have been mitigated before they occurred).

Thank you again for considering my comments and for Ecology's ongoing efforts under difficult circumstances.

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