

Carol Kindt

My name is Carol Kindt. My email is carolkindt@msn.com. A second email is carol@350tacoma.org. I am writing regarding Air Quality Notice of Construction Order No. 15833 "Determination of Non-Significance." After fighting for years on end with the Port of Tacoma, the City of Tacoma, and Department of Ecology regarding their decision to make the City of Tacoma the lead SEPA agency for the PSE LNG facility being constructed on the Port of Tacoma absent an air quality emissions permit (now undergoing an SEIS by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency [PSCAA]), I am speaking out in advance to contest the Dept. of Ecology streamlined process.

I am contesting that a public comment period of only three days is sufficient to notify all stakeholders in the greater Tacoma area of this proposed expansion. The same thing happened with the LNG project, where a public notice was only sent to entities within a 400 square foot radius of the LNG site. That mean virtually no one was notified until well after it was a done deal. The City of Tacoma is undergoing a major subarea planning review. They have been requested by the majority of residents in this city to impose a moratorium, not only on new construction, but on expansion of existing industries which have been major polluters in the past. The Puyallup Tribe of Indians has not been consulted. They are a sovereign nation and a major stakeholder, as their salmon have been adversely affected, and the Orca population, as you heard last night, is down to 75 resident whales, almost extinct.

The environmental community has been fighting on several fronts, almost 24/7 and cannot possibly attend every single hearing. We are trying to call attention to an abusive ICE detention center run by the GEO Group, which sits on an EPA Superfund site. We are trying to halt the online operation of the PSE LNG refinery. We are trying to call attention to U.S. Oil's expansion in the Port of Tacoma. We cannot keep track of all of the major polluters all day, every day. That should be the Department of Ecology's mission. It should be to protect our environment. It should be to run cumulative air monitors, which track in real time, and not go off at night when the major pollution is taking place. It should be the job of the Department of Ecology to protect the waters, including Commencement Bay, from further pollution. What exactly is an acceptable standard of pollution? When the Puyallup River runs dry, and Commencement Bay (aka part of the Salish Sea) is so polluted that nothing will live in it and it will become a dead body of water? Until and unless there is a means and a way for air quality in this region to be monitored more than quarterly, or every six months, or annually, the monitoring is not effective. It does not prevent asthma from occurring in school age children in Pierce County well above the national average. It does not take into account the numerous cancers and the shortened life spans of residents in this region, both Native and non-Native.

Hanford was considered safe until it wasn't. Why does a government agency always have to act retroactively, after the damage has been irrevocably done, to have an agency come in to do damage control, mitigation, capping toxic soil? After how many people are sick or dying, how many mammals, fish and wildlife destroyed, is it going to occur that prevention, and not mitigation is the Department of Ecology's responsibility. If the Department of Ecology needs more funds to fully operate as it should, I will be the first to lobby the state legislature to expand Ecology's budget. I don't want unqualified or underqualified agencies, or contracted "experts" to prepare prejudicial Environmental Impact Statements. I don't want to go to a Protect Mother Earth Conference in Nisqually, only to be told by the EPA representative that they've been doing such a great job with Ecology and the Nisqually Tribe, and that Scott Pruitt is really a nice guy. Three days later Pruitt

quit under pressure. I'm tired of being lied to by people who have agendas different from environmental health, and that includes the City of Tacoma.