

Judy Ferguson

To: SEPA Lead Agency RE: WestRock Tacoma Wood Chip Screening Project

As a 30 year resident of Browns Point whose home is directly across Commencement Bay from the Asarco smokestack site, I know the effects of airborne pollutants on one's property and health. Given that, I have questions regarding WestRock's boost in volume of product and the resulting increase in overall pollution.

This Monday, July 16th was a very smoky evening in Tacoma as a result of fires burning in Mason County. The smoke in the area was not only odiferous, but also stung the eyes and throat. It was fortunate that the weather shifted and a longer term inversion layer did not develop. That was a Mother Nature event, not an industry created one.

My concerns are:

1. Who will monitor, study, and report on how WestRock's increased particulates and toxic pollutants interact with the particulates and toxic pollutants of the Port's other industries. The cumulative effect of Port emissions are currently not being monitored by the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency, which is very confusing to me. The cumulative effects of toxic pollutants that have been put into Commencement Bay waters are monitored and we know that a toxic soup has been created. Why are we not studying the air in the same way? There really is no difference between the two and yet the health consequences of breathing in toxic air pollutants is brushed off.

2. As construction continues on the LNG Facility, new tanks are added to the Targa Tank Farm, and a gravel pit is reopening on 509, it seems obvious that the increased production at WestRock will only add to these additional new pollutants. How will pollutants be tracked, studied and monitored? Is a monitoring being done now to establish a baseline? US Oil adds semi-liquid 'burps' of pollutants into the air on a fairly regular basis that rain toxic goo down on people, cars, things, etc. How do these 'burps' factor in to the pollution measurement levels?

Over the last 5 or 6 years, it seems obvious to me that climate change is very real. Winters are milder, Summers are warmer and Spring rains have been torrential at times. As WestRock's pollutants (dust, formaldehyde and Chloroform) are added into the air, who is studying and monitoring their effects?

How will the added particulate matter raining down into the Bay, river and city storm water systems affect the water and aquatic habitat?

How will young children, the elderly and folks with respiratory conditions or weakened immune systems be affected by inhaling these increased particulates and toxins?

Tacoma's Superfund cleanup sites speak to the area's history of industry pollution. The area's water, land and air show the effects of bad practices, many intentional. Pollution is cumulative and needs to be studied as such. City of Tacoma zoning has resulted in urban growth and residential housing ringing the Port on all sides. From semi truck gridlock going in and out of Port roads, to Port employees, to work and school commuters driving Port of Tacoma Road and 509, the Port is not an isolated place of industry anymore. Just as traffic has cumulative effects on other roadways and routes when it is disrupted, so do toxins and pollutants - - - they can not be viewed in isolation, but as a whole. I urge the Department of Ecology to do your due diligence in measuring the cumulative

effects of particulate and airborne toxins of Port emissions from all industry in order to make appropriate decisions.

I would also request that the period for citizen input on WestRock's request be extended in light of the 1 day comment period following the July 17th meeting. Gathering input should allow adequate time for citizens to respond.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.