

Dirk Vermeeren

Thank you very much for affording me the time to comment. My wife and I retired from the industry in 2014, choosing Bellingham, Washington as our home. After roughly 30 plus years moving throughout the world in my career for both international and national oil companies, I'm today speaking on behalf of myself, the local community and taxpayers of Washington State. In urging of ecology to fulfill its stated responsibility to the citizens of Washington State by requiring local industries to maintain effect based level environmental impairment liability insurance (EIL), of roughly 60,000 barrels minimum. \$60,000 for barrel bill minimum to cover costs related to a major catastrophe. My professional career includes operations assignments as refiner manager at Point at Chevron Point Wells, now known as Alon Asphalt, and marketing and business development assignments with Chevron aviation in Singapore and project development assignments in Saudi Arabia. My professional experience allows me to speak with insight on the oil industry. In my view, the proposed level of financial responsibility is far from adequate to cover actual cleanup and restoration costs of a worst case scenario, which for us is a Cascadia Fault earthquake. It appears DOE is more focused on the short term financial success of industries that have stated obligation to the citizens of Washington state by allowing the industry to define what is affordable. As we say in the oil industry, it is not whether an incident will happen, it is when. This is why we have spill response plans and annual drills. The oil industry has plenty of examples of major incidents in spills. It can be used by DOE or engaging an independent insurance industry expert that will develop an up-to-date cleaned up cost estimate using current dollars. Washington state cannot or Washington state cannot depend on the federal government support via the oil spill liability trust fund OS LTF of 1 billion dollars as a backup. A change administrations every 4 years can undermine those funds as was seen in 2017 when Congress has spent it collecting those levies for the oil industry. In closing, allow me to highlight the DOE environmental justice statement. I'll all Washington residents, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, color or national origin. Have a right to live, work, and recreate in a clean and healthy environment. Low income communities, communities of color, and indigenous people in Washington and across the country often wear bear the brunt of pollution and the impacts of climate change. We're committed. We are committed to making decisions that do not place disproportionate environmental burdens on these communities. Therefore, I ask DOE to review their proposed inadequate financial limits and develop to current dollar cost based financial responsibility limits thereby placing Washington taxpayers ahead of oil industry shareholders. Thank you for the time.