

From: [Danner, Dave \(UTC\)](#)
To: [Records Management \(UTC\)](#)
Subject: FW: PSE LNG is not in the public interest!
Date: Sunday, April 18, 2021 12:22:21 PM

From: Judith Ferguson
Sent: Sunday, April 18, 2021 12:22:15 PM (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)
To: Danner, Dave (UTC)
Subject: PSE LNG is not in the public interest!

External Email

Dear Commissioner Dave Danner,

Commissioners Rendahl, Danner, and Balasbas,

As a proximate resident to the LNG facility and the Port of Tacoma for the past 30+ years, I have closely followed the activities at the facility site since its inception and have been listening daily to the Pollution Control Board hearing that is currently under way regarding the facility's permitting. I am writing to request an investigation and public hearing regarding Filing No. UG-210111, to ensure that the affiliated interest contract between Puget LNG and Puget Sound Energy serves the public interest.

As a Tacoma Public Utility user and rate payer, I strongly believe that the contract between Puget LNG and Puget Sound Energy is not in the public interest. Due to 2017 design changes that have not been examined for safety risks and an inadequate SEPA review, their timetable to begin operation on May 1, 2021 should not be allowed to proceed. In addition, Washington Attorney General Robert Ferguson's January 2021 filing of an amicus brief in support of the lawsuit challenging PSE's LNG facility, stated that "by obscuring the Project's actual climate impact and omitting the speculative nature of its assumptions, the FSEIS failed in its primary purpose under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)."

PSE's flaunting of construction permitting requirements over the past 2+ years of construction has been more than upsetting. Not only did PSE ignore notices of violation, but a decision has not yet been issued by the Pollution Control Board on the appeal that is currently being heard. Onsite construction should not have been allowed to begin until all permits were in place. The completed structure currently looming over the Hylebos waterway and the Marina, just a stone's throw across, is a sorry reminder of permitting agencies turning a blind eye to unlawful behavior. It would be a further disregard of both public interest and public trust if PSE is allowed by your agency to begin operating in the midst of unresolved legal challenges and PSE's past track record of untruths. A homeowner building a new home with changes along the way would certainly be in a lot of hot water if they proceeded in a similarly deceptive fashion. It is not uncommon for me to see 'cease and desist' signs posted in front of homes that are being built, remodeled or 'worked on' in the neighborhoods that I routinely walk.

May I remind you that PSE stated many times that the affects of an explosion at the LNG plant could be contained within a cyclone fence surrounding the facility. The Beirut, Lebanon

explosion 'blew up' that ridiculous statement. PSE has also completely altered the original purpose of the LNG facility, which was two fold: Fueling for Tote vessels and 'Peak Shaving.' They stated many times in the early years that bunkering or export was not in their plans. Testimony this week during the Pollution Control Board appeal stated the now 'well known' fact that LNG will be bunkered, barged and put on both ocean going vessels and interstate tractor-trailer rigs. I remain flabbergasted that an SEIS was not required for this complete change of usage. Given the Williams and Mosier explosions and fires, I adamantly believe that the Port of Tacoma is not capable of assuming the explosive nature of 8 million gallons of LNG in an urban setting and don't believe that Tacoma's Fire Department currently has sufficient training or planning to handle a worse case scenario.

The good news is that there is no urgency to begin operations at the facility. Per testimony this week at the Pollution Control Board hearing, PSE currently has no demand for Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG). They have no customers other than TOTE, their original client, whose ship retrofit is not expected to be completed until the first quarter of 2022 at the earliest. Nor does PSE anticipate needing LNG for peak shaving until at least December 2021, because it is only forecast to be needed during periods of high demand during the coldest winter months.

Allowing the Tacoma LNG facility to begin operation on May 1st before legal challenges have been resolved is not acceptable. PSE's rush to begin operation is solely for their own self interest. Over the past 6 years, hundreds of citizens have shown their opposition to the LNG facility through active demonstration, as well as public and written statements. Opponents of the facility are not only community residents, but concerned professionals from many disciplines - engineers, chemists, healthcare workers, emergency management, geologists, marine biologists, to name a few. For 6 years residents, with singular valid concern for their community, have put a pause on their lives in order to share both their expertise and worry about the LNG plant to decision makers. 6 years of learning about LNG, actively demonstrating, attending meetings, reading newspapers, writing letters, listening to hearings, informing neighbors, paying attention. I strongly believe that that individual citizen's unselfish motivation to curb corporate greed and prevent catastrophe in their community deserves your weighted consideration. Furthermore, there remains unexamined safety issues, inadequate environmental review, and no immediate need for LNG stored at the facility.

The UTC should delay the effective date of this contract, prepare updated siting and safety studies, and conduct further proceedings, including an investigation and public hearing, to ensure any contract between PSE and Puget LNG truly serves the public interest.

Thank you for reading and considering my concerns.

Sincerely,
Judith Ferguson
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Tacoma, WA 98422