LIVING IN MY NIGHTMARE……

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO LIVE NEXT TO A WATER TANK CONSTRUCTION SITE? Help!!!!!

I've lived in my home for 12 years. It's located on June Place in a quiet cul-de-sac in rural Sequim, Washington. I'm a single Mom who raised two sons in my 3- bedroom home. I've always been self-employed and worked from home. I am on friendly terms with my nearby neighbors, and we look out for each other. We are all appalled at how Cascadia Water has treated our small community.

Since late December of 2023 working from home has not been possible due to the teardown, excavation, and massive erection of a 30- foot- tall concrete water tank about 20 feet from my property line, please see enclosed pictures. We endure weekday sound nuances 5 days a week starting before 7 am until 6:30 pm on some nights.

Try working and running a business when all you hear is loud heavy equipment drilling, grinding, pounding, beeping, and male voices shouting to one another.

Myself and my 4 other neighbors whose property are next to the water tank received no notice from Cascadia about the demolition and construction of an above ground tank. We found out about this construction the morning it started. That's the day I called Culley Lehman. I was livid, angry and asking a lot of questions. Culley Lehman told me a new above ground tank was required because the underground tank had roots growing in it and was not in compliance. He assured me the construction would be completed by March 31.

The day the construction started my water pressure dropped significantly. I called my nearby neighbors, and they reported the same for theirs too. I called Cascadia and Dale reported back that Cascadia had nothing to do with the low pressure; that it was our problem. Weeks of no water pressure, it suddenly improved. Apparently one of the water connections had been closed. I'm glad I didn't spend thousands of dollars on a plumber trying to figure out what the problem was!

To date, Cascadia has never provided a construction schedule and ignores my request for one. Culley Lehman, who has been in the water business for years has never stopped by to observe the day-to-day operations and see for himself the impacts to our small neighborhood. Cascadia never alerted us that ear piecing digging equipment would be used producing high pitch sounds that would go on for weeks. I've worn noise canceling headphones in my house since January. Some days I leave my home because I can't take the noise disruptions.

I live 20 feet from the construction zone and can see the daily activity. I was told by one of the contractors the new tank would only be 5 feet high. My next- door neighbor who has enjoyed a beautiful Olympic Mountains view now looks at a 30- foot cement wall.

I haven't been able to enjoy my yard on weekdays or open my windows or have my friends or clients over for weekday visits due to the high pitch machine noise, drilling and workmen yelling Stop, stop, stop!!!

The new generator sounds like a jet engine, and again, no warning when it is going to sound. It amazes me the foreman on this project doesn't force his crew to wear ear protection and a hard hat.

To date, the work continues. The tank site is a mess with deep holes, caution tape, building materials laying around, mud, and a backhoe. A massive barrier of dirt can be seen from my street. What new sound nuances will be heard now? I really don't know what to expect now as Cascadia doesn't communicate with me or anyone near this massive $1 million dollar unfinished eyesore.  If I have questions, I ask the workers as Cascadia has no obligation to address my complaints. Maybe you can help me? Considering your UTC job title is one that references consumer protection.

One worker stated he and his crew are staying in nearby hotels. Had I known about the impacts of this project, I might have sought a rental home somewhere in Sequim.

I'm bothered that there used to be trees on the property and a combination of wildflowers and grass. For years my next -door neighbor used to mow the grass and in exchange was not charged for summer water. Now the trees and wildflowers are gone, and the patches of grass are left unattended. Culley assured me the tank will have a nice patina finish over time. He also told me living near the new tank won't affect my home values.

I'm upset that I spent over $2,000.00 in July 2023 on an RV electrical panel that's installed in my backyard. My son has his motorhome hooked up to the panel. Sadly, his motorhome is 20 feet from the water tank and with the trees gone, it's not private anymore. I would have put the electrical panel elsewhere had I known about the massive cement tank.

I'm over the top upset about having this tank close to my property line. Surely, Cascadia could have come up with a better solution. I have lost months of my life trying to manage the stress of living 20 feet from a noisy and unpredictable construction zone, and recovering from my neighbor's home located just steps from my home that blew up and burned to the ground in late July 2023. Burning debris from the home landed in my backyard and the impact from the explosion damaged my studio windows, but worst of all, my neighbor and his dog were inside the house and died. My son witnessed the entire tragic event and called 911. For months, outsiders have driven by to see the wreckage. Coupled with the abrupt water tank construction, the deafening generator that comes on unexpectedly, and the lack of privacy, it’s been difficult to stay positive. The impacts to my overall health are yet to be determined. I am concerned for both myself and my elderly neighbors – our pleas for information have gone ignored by Cascadia; the construction disturbances continue without any idea of an end date in site. Most mornings I wake up to the construction noise which puts me in a bad mood, making me ask myself how will I manage my stress again today?