

Getting the Protections We Need for the Tacoma Tidelands!

For years Tacomans have stood up against one dangerous fossil fuel project after another and called on the City to permanently ban new and expanded fossil fuels. Right now, the Tacoma Planning Commission is developing new regulations that could do just that--proposing a permanent prohibition on all new fossil fuel and petrochemical facilities in the Tacoma Tidelands, including a ban on structures that would allow existing facilities to expand their operations!

Comments are due by 5:00pm on Monday March 8th.

Comments can be emailed to planning@cityoftacoma.org

Use the talking points below to help draft any comments you would like to submit in support of stronger Tidelands regulations.

You can also [click HERE](#) to send a letter directly to the City of Tacoma Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission should maintain and seek approval for the following amendments:

- Prohibition of new major fossil fuel facilities, petrochemical manufacturing, coal storage and power plants, and smelting within the City of Tacoma
- Prohibition of new driveways, private rail sidings, docks, piers, wharves and floats, and storage tanks at existing fossil fuel facilities, as well as any modifications that would increase the capacity of these facilities
- Prohibition of new refining or processing equipment at existing facilities
- Conditional use permit requirements for replacement or modification of existing tanks, and replacement or modification of transshipment equipment
- Conditional use permit requirements for new Renewable Fuel Refineries or Renewable Fuel Transshipment Facilities or the conversion of any existing Major Fossil Fuel Facility to a Renewable Fuel Production Facility

For robust regulations, the Commission should fix the following shortcomings in the code:

- Conversion from Renewable to Fossil Fuel Facility: Tacoma *should not* permit the conversion of existing or future permitted Renewable Fuel Facilities to fossil fuel facilities, even with a conditional use permit requirement. Such a conversion would pose the very same health, safety, and environmental risks as would a new or expanded facility and is inconsistent with the City's stated policy goals.
- Replacement or modification of storage tanks: Replacement or modifications of any storage tank should prohibit a capacity increase, while the conditional use requirement for replacing storage tanks should only allow for replacing with existing storage capacity
- Conditional use criteria: Expanded conditional use criteria for high impact facilities should specifically require minimization of adverse human health impacts associated with project proposals and also address unreasonable adverse impacts to "large concentrations of people" beyond nearby residential and commercial areas, including impacts to incarcerated populations and workers within in Tacoma's industrial areas
- Definition of "Major Fossil Fuel Facility": The volumetric threshold for a "major fossil fuel facility" should be lowered to encompass all six existing fossil fuel storage, refinement, and processing facilities, including Pacific Functional Fluids which appears to fall roughly 80,000 gallons short of the classification
- Mitigation requirements for projects should address full lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions, not solely facility emissions