

Port of Anacortes

Public Hearing – SEPA – Former Scott Paper site February 18, 2009

The Port of Anacortes held a public hearing at 7:00 P.M. on the evening of February 18, 2009. This hearing was held in the Commission Meeting Room of the Port Main Warehouse Building, 1st & Commercial Avenue, Anacortes, Washington.

In Attendance: Executive Director Hyde, Director of Engineering Elsner, Project Manager Darden, Environmental Administrator Thoman, and Administrative Coordinator Lindsey.

Also in attendance: Port Commission President Rubin, Commission Vice-President Mooney, Commissioner Hopley and Commissioner Short.

CALL TO ORDER

At 7:00 P.M. Executive Director Hyde opened the Public Hearing and welcomed all in attendance. He also welcomed court reporter Wendy Raymond who was present to record the meeting. Executive Director Hyde introduced Director of Engineering Elsner who provided those present with an explanation of the SEPA and regulatory processes and a presentation explaining all aspects of the environmental cleanup at the former Scott Paper Mill site, including information regarding the involved parties, the site history and future plans for the Seafarers' Memorial Park and adjacent marine aquatic areas.

Director Elsner explained that the Port has worked through the RI/FS process to be performed under an Agreed Order or Consent Decree with the Department of Ecology. The Port will accept public comment on the draft Consent Decree and Cleanup Action Plan until March 31, 2009. Remedial construction is scheduled to begin June 1, 2009.

Director Elsner invited those who had signed up to speak to come forward as they were called.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2008 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

1. *Mrs. Cynthia Richardson, 315 V Avenue, Anacortes. Mrs. Richardson thanked the Port for working so hard on this project, noting that all the work done would benefit the entire community. Mrs. Richardson noted a couple of concerns, as a member of the City Council, from the City's point of view, regarding the increase to truck traffic on city streets and the additional wear and tear above normal traffic, which was not addressed in the SEPA document, and for which the City should be compensated. Mrs. Richardson also voiced concern regarding the movement of the contaminated soil and materials over Pier 2, believing that doing so was importing a problem into the Cap Sante neighborhood. She believed a better solution was to store the materials and soils near the Scott site. Mrs. Richardson was concerned about dust from the sorting of contaminated soils at Pier 2 being next to a residential neighborhood. She asked that the SEPA document be amended to address the soil sorting issue and how the Port would mitigate the impact to city streets.*
2. *Mr. Tom Richards, 1311 5th Street, Anacortes. Mr. Richards noted the onsite description is quite clean, but he was concerned with the impact to forage fish habitat in Fidalgo Bay, believing the armoring of the beach could be harmful to the habitat.*

3. *Mr. Don Measamer, City of Anacortes. Mr. Measamer read two letters on behalf of the City into the record. Copies of both letters will be attached to the approved version of these minutes.*
4. *Mr. Joe Halton, 516 V Avenue Anacortes, inquired if contracts for this work hadn't been signed yet, did contractors bid the job of transporting and handling the materials with 10 p.m.-6:00 a.m. quiet hours in mind.*
5. *Mr. Bill Langshire, 115 B Avenue, Anacortes. Mr. Langshire believed there would be cost issues to consider in handling the contaminated materials as many times as has been proposed. He stated he was not concerned with the safety process for the handling of the materials noting that the Port had done a good job of isolating the materials from the Project Pier 1 cleanup at the Pier 2 facility, and with the exception of some noise, that had been handled well. Mr. Langshire was more concerned with the costs involved in trucking the materials from the Scott site to Pier 2, and the impact on city streets.*
6. *Ms. Boshie Morris, 1618 7th Street, Anacortes. Ms. Morris thanked Executive Director Hyde, Director Elsner, Environmental Administrator Thoman, and Project Manager Darden for including the public in all of the process and working to keep the cleanup on target and moving ahead to completion. She also thanked the Port for collecting most of what was discussed regarding the Seafarers' Memorial Park beach and marine areas and breakwaters and incorporating that into the Port's recently adopted Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Morris commended the work done thus far and noted she wished to see the 2 years it would take for completion go quickly.*
7. *Mr. John Pope, 4001 Peters Lane, Anacortes. Mr. Pope noted that the Seafarers' Memorial Park is a very active park with many diverse uses by the community. He wished to see the park retain an area for small craft launching, a more defined place for weddings not impacting the water access, and improvement to the dock and breakwater architecture to allow people to get onto the water. Mr. Pope believed the park provided an economic draw to the community as well as a very real water access element that needed to be returned in an improved condition.*
8. *Mr. Pat D. Mooney, 2010 41st Street, Anacortes. Port Commissioner Mooney wished to note that in regards to the transportation of materials, he didn't believe there was any impervious surface at the Scott site, causing there to be no way to keep contaminated soils and materials out of the dirt and water at the 17th street location. Therefore it would be better to truck it to Pier 2 where all the equipment and catch basins were already in place to handle the materials.*
9. *Mrs. Vera Langshire, 115 B Avenue, Anacortes. Mrs. Langshire noted in regards to Commissioner Mooney's comments, what the cost difference might be to have a container brought to the site and have some mechanism to sort and catch run-off. She believed any possible savings to the tax payers should be considered.*
10. *Mr. Ross Barnes, 1004 7th Street, Anacortes. Mr. Barnes spoke to the results of computer modeling versus reality, noting he'd had much experience in that area. Mr. Barnes stated that computer models are by necessity oversimplifications of the end results, and if the model presented were accurate it would be the first time in history. Mr. Barnes voiced concern over the impacts to fish habitat, noting the SEPA should recognize the need for a period of monitoring after construction is complete.*
11. *Mr. Bill Turner, 4401 Anaco Beach Place, Anacortes. Mr. Turner inquired how many cubic yards of soil and material were going to be removed and moved to Pier 2.*

Director Elsner noted that information was in the SEPA document.

Mr. Turner noted that the public may need some assistance in understanding the amounts and characterization of the contaminated soil and materials to be removed.

This concluded those wishing to speak. Hearing no others, Director Elsner and Executive Director Hyde closed the Public Hearing at 7:57 p.m. Director Elsner stated he would stay to answer questions.

Julie Johnson Lindsey, Administrative Coordinator
February 18, 2009