

HCEC Opposed to North Kitsap Legacy Project Proposal

After careful study of the pros and cons involved in the proposed North Kitsap Legacy Project, the HCEC Board has concluded that we cannot support it. The NKLP would indeed let Kitsap County acquire some 7000 acres of wooded open space – a most attractive prospect – but at a cost we consider prohibitive. In exchange for availability of this open space, the Olympic Property Group is asking to develop 800 half-acre lots in the uplands above Port Gamble.

Under current regulations OPG is free to develop 232 lots, or it can develop the town of Port Gamble under the state's Historic Town provisions. Apparently neither of these is acceptable to the OPG, which has its eye on the increased revenue of urban development in this unsuitable area. Such development would not only destroy an attractive rural community, it would be disastrous for Port Gamble Bay, one of the Hood Canal's most important bays for shellfish harvesting. It is also one of the few remaining bays in which surf smelt, sand lance and herring still spawn. These smaller fish are of immense importance to the food cycle for numerous other species, including of course many seabirds and commercially important larger fish. Port Gamble Bay has the largest herring spawning population on Hood Canal – and the second largest in the state. The health of this bay would be destroyed by a large development just above it, not to mention the marina the OPG would want to locate there. The state closes to shellfish harvesting any bay contaminated by a marina.

Furthermore – or perhaps all the above is “furthermore” and this should come first – Port Gamble and its Bay are not only the ancestral home of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe but a central component of their continuing water-based economy. They have the law on their side but have indicated their interest in working on alternative proposals. HCEC joins them in their considered opposition to this one.

Westside Hood Canal Sewer Projects

In response to the serious water quality problems in lower Hood Canal, the Tri-Party Consortium, which consists of the Mason County Public Utility District No. 1, the Skokomish Indian Tribe, and Mason County, is pushing ahead on plans for sewerage along the canal's lower westside. The goal of the project is to provide sewer service to the area around Potlatch State Park, the central Skokomish Indian Reservation area, and the central Hoodport community. Each new wastewater reclamation system will consist of a new sewer system, wastewater reclamation (treatment) plant and a subsurface, effluent infiltration site. The treatment plants will use membrane filtration and disinfection technology to remove pollutants, nutrients and pathogens from wastewater.

So far, there is only enough funding for the design and construction of the Potlatch sewer

system. The area to be seweraged includes the Potlatch State Park and homes and businesses along Highway 101, from the new Skokomish Tribal housing area at the south end to the Waterfront Hotel at the north end. Construction for this system is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2011 and the system is expected to be fully operational toward the end of 2012.

A public meeting to provide information on the planned Potlatch system was held on September 3, 2010 at the Hoodport Community Center. Another meeting of the Tri-Party Consortium members and Congressman Norm Dicks was held on September 20, 2010 in Shelton. Congressman Dicks is credited with securing federal grant money which, along with matching money from Washington State, is intended to fund the Potlatch system.

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Incinerators in Mason County Raise Concern for Hood Canal's Air Quality and Watershed

HCEC is increasingly concerned about proposals to construct several biomass (at least 3) incinerators to produce electricity in Mason County.

The most prominent of these is proposed by ADAGE, a subsidiary company of a partnership of AREVA and Duke Energy. AREVA is the contractor in the Government Owned - Contractor Operated (GOCO) French nuclear industry. Duke Energy is a North Carolina based, largely coal fired, electric utility that supplies power to the Southeast and Eastern Seaboard and is expanding globally.

ADAGE, as well as the other two known projects, Simpson, John Deere, proposes to fuel the incinerator with "waste" wood from the forests surrounding Hood Canal, Mason and Grays Harbor Counties – an estimated 3000 TONS/day, every day, or approximately 150-200 semi truck loads/day.

Burning **anything** produces known potent carcinogens (dioxin, furans, etc.), mercury and other toxics, and haze.

Due to prevailing winds, the emissions of carcinogens and other toxics, though minute on a daily basis, can be expected to settle on Hood Canal, enter the food chain and bio-accumulate in fish and shellfish. Western Washington (including Hood Canal and the Olympics) is already adversely impacted by haze from the coal fired electricity plant in Centralia. In terms of haze, burning wood waste would be **worse than burning coal** according to recent studies cited by opponents.

If built, the power generated (at approximately 3X the cost of hydro) will likely be sold out of state (California), meaning we get the pollution and haze, California gets the electricity, and multinational corporations get the profits.

In good news, on September 10th, Mason County, in response to a request from ADAGE for an early determination, informed ADAGE that it would issue a Determination of Significance and thus an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be required.

HCEC intends to partner with local opponent groups and will be involved in any environmental reviews. For further information, the following links are provided:

- ADAGE Company Web Site: <http://www.adagebiopower.com/>
- Incinerator Free Mason County: <http://www.incineratorfreemasoncounty.org/>
- Shelton Blog (a linked list of reference documents and studies):
<http://masoncountyprogressive.blogspot.com/p/reference-documents.html>

Board Member Monica Harle, at 275-6208, is the lead for HCEC.

For links, newsletters, and HCEC contact information visit us online.
www.hoodcanalenvironmentalcouncil.org

The Brinnon Group

Who we are

Barbara Moore-Lewis, member of the Brinnon Group
<http://www.brinnongroup.org/>

The Brinnon Group, a 501c3 status group of Brinnon citizens who are concerned with development on Black Point. Our activities:

- Legal action on the EIS now in Washington Court of Appeals
- Website and active email list of several hundred
- Support from Hood Canal Environmental Council, Olympic Environmental Council, and People for Puget Sound
- Contact with legislators
- Membership in WRIA16
- Mass mailing to inform residents about EB5 Visa program, where the developer is trying to award green cards to foreign investors in exchange for \$500,000 to \$1M in investment funds
- Petition to be delivered to Jefferson, Mason, and Kitsap county commissioners, as well as other elected officials, opposing the current plans for the development
- Active participation in Shoreline Management Program development, and in the DEIS, FEIS, and scoping for the SEIS of this project

What can you do to help?

- Contact elected officials and other decision-makers to let them know your concerns about this development.
- Participate in the SEIS comments (the SEIS is planned for later this year)

What are the environmental issues of the proposed Pleasant Harbor development?

- Impact on Duckabush estuary
- Nitrate runoff into Hood Canal from golf course
- Destroying habitat by removing 2 million cubic yards of earth, displacing another 1.4 million cubic yards, logging and moving trees from 200+ acre site
- Filling or lining 5 natural kettles which may play a part in aquifer recharge
- Salt water intrusion and other aquifer issues
- Microclimate issues, including use of rainfall data from 13 miles away instead of from a NOAA-approved station 1 mile from the development
- Wetland preservation

HOOD CANAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL YEARLY MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Individual - \$10 ____

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Contributions in any amount are welcome. ____

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The HCEC is not opposed to having sewer service where it is needed (e.g. Belfair core) and where it is economically feasible and environmentally safe. The HCEC board recognizes and generally supports the Tri-Party efforts to take action toward eliminating discharges of untreated and partially-treated wastewater from on-site septic systems near the Hood Canal shoreline. However, it has some serious concerns about this project. First and foremost, there has been no discussion at public meetings or in informational literature, of negative environmental impacts from sewer systems, including disruption of natural aquifer recharge and increased development with resultant water quality problems (e.g. stormwater runoff) when sewer service areas are extended in order to make the systems economical. In addition, although sewer systems rarely fail, when they do, the consequences can be catastrophic.

Of major concern to the HCEC is the fact that the Tri-Party members and their consultants appear to be moving ahead in spite of a lack of critical information. With no dye testing of on-site septic systems having been done in the Potlatch

“Bubble” area, the number and extent of failing systems is unknown, thereby making it difficult to convince homeowners and businesses of the need for a sewer system. There is presently no consensus among the Tri-Party members as to original agreements for service system boundaries or governance issues (e.g. who will “own” the systems and who will manage them). Monthly rates for those hooked up to the sewer system have not been established, although numbers ranging anywhere from \$80 to \$400 a month have been discussed. Further, fact sheets provided to the public at the September 3rd public meeting contain statements that are disingenuous at best. Finally, there has been no discussion of alternative solutions, such as case-by-case inspection and correction of on-site systems or small, community systems for problem areas.

The HCEC will continue to stay involved, ask questions and express its concerns to the Tri-Party members and others as the Westside Hood Canal Sewer Project moves along. For more information, contact HCEC Board Member, Donna Simmons, at (360) 877-5747.

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The Board of Directors meets the fourth Wednesday of each month. If you would like to attend, call Bill Matchett at (360) 830-4154.



P.O. BOX 87, SEABECK, WA
98380

www.hoodcanalenvironmentalcouncil.org

