



**NORTHEAST COALITION  
OF NEIGHBORHOODS**

February 8, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler  
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly  
Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
Commissioner Jo Ann Hardesty

Re: Zenith Oil Terminal Land Use Re-permitting

Dear Mayor Wheeler and City Councilors,

I am writing on behalf of the Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods to ask the City of Portland to intercede and request that the Department of Environmental Quality require a new Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) from Zenith before granting a renewed Title V Air Permit.

NECN represents more than 60,000 neighbors in inner Northeast Portland neighborhoods and is bordered on three sides by rail lines. Residents in our neighborhoods, including two elementary schools disproportionately bear the risk of oil train operations and of a potential oil train accident. We are already deeply concerned about the daily transport of hazardous oil products through our communities. We also oppose oil train transit through our district and all other residential Portland neighborhoods, because no community should bear this risk.

It is clear that Zenith is seeking this permit to expand oil terminal operations including three new pipes to McCall Oil and Chemical. The terminal's present capacity is not needed for our local market and oil is shipped through the terminal to other markets. Expanding capacity would directly contradict the goals of Portland's 2035 Comprehensive Plan to build a more sustainable region and improve livability for all Portlanders.

We support the goals of the Comprehensive plan and oppose any expansion to the terminal. As an oil terminal, Zenith's use of the land is fundamentally different than in 1995 when the permit was issued to a previous land holder, and therefore should be subjected to a land use review. It is appropriate for the City of Portland to ensure compliance with its Comprehensive Plan and zoning. Because of the risks to public safety and the climate posed by the Zenith terminal expansion and increased oil train traffic, we urge the City of Portland to assert its local authority and strategically utilize the LUCS process.

As a coalition of neighbors deeply invested in improving health, safety and sustainability region, particularly for marginalized and vulnerable communities in our district, we ask that you take action as soon as possible to oppose the issuance of the permit and expansion of Zenith.

Sincerely,

Mariah Dula  
President of the Board  
Northeast Coalition of Neighborhoods