

Unions endorse oil distribution center proposal in Vancouver

Construction unions will sign a project labor agreement with Vancouver Energy on the \$210 million project

VANCOUVER, Wash. — Major construction unions in Southwest Washington and Oregon have endorsed the proposed crude oil distribution terminal at the Port of Vancouver and reached an agreement with Vancouver Energy to ensure the project is built with union labor.

The Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council, the Pacific Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, and

Operating Engineers Local 701 are partnering with Vancouver Energy on the project, which is expected to create thousands of jobs through the construction and operation of a \$210 million crude oil loading and unloading facility.

The labor organizations and Vancouver Energy agreed that project labor agreements (PLAs) will be in place for construction of the facility, assuring it will be built with union workers.

"This project creates great family-wage jobs, fuels our economy and promotes energy independence," said Willy Myers, executive secretary of the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council. "We agree that transportation of

crude oil by rail and marine vessel to and from the terminal can be accomplished in a safe, environmentally responsible manner, and Vancouver Energy is committed to doing that. We're anxious to help them build it."

Backers say the terminal will provide \$2 billion in economic value to the local and regional economy through labor income and tax revenues during construction and the first 15 years of operation. They estimate more than 1,000 direct, indirect and induced jobs on average annually; 320 full-time construction jobs and 616 direct on-site and off-site operations jobs, including 176 jobs on-site at the terminal and sourced from the local area; \$22 million in state and local taxes during construction; and \$7.8 million in tax revenue annually once fully operational.

"This is great — Southwest Washington needs these jobs and the economic benefits will flow to the entire re-

gion," said Lee Newgent, executive secretary of the Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council. "With all the uncertainty in the world, especially in countries that have been major sources of oil, this is also an essential infrastructure project to increase our country's economic security and energy independence."

"We're impressed with Vancouver Energy's commitment to safety and the specific safety elements to be built and designed into the facility and its operation," said Nelda Wilson, business manager of Operating Engineers, Local 701. "Employing a safety-trained, skilled workforce and utilizing a full array of safeguards, including only newer and safer model rail cars, will help make this a great project for working men and women, their families, and local communities."

Tesoro Refining & Marketing Company LLC and Savage Companies

formed a joint venture — Vancouver Energy — to develop, own and operate the terminal at the Port of Vancouver that will transfer North American crude oil from rail to ship, subject to regulatory approval. At full operation the terminal would receive up to 360,000 barrels of oil a day, which would be transferred to West Coast refineries.

The project is currently being evaluated by Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC), which will produce a draft Environmental Impact Statement for public review. EFSEC required Vancouver Energy to prepare a preliminary analyses to address the range of potential impacts, which the company submitted in August and September.

Ultimately, EFSEC will submit a recommendation on the project to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who decides whether Vancouver Energy should receive a permit.

HOLIDAY PARTY DONATIONS NEEDED

Labor's Community Service Agency (LCSA) and the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (NOLC) are accepting donations of toys and cash for the 18th annual Presents from Partners Holiday Toy Party. The event — for families of unemployed union members and those facing temporary hardships — will be held in mid-December at the Sheet Metal Workers Local 16 Hall in Northeast Portland. Entrance is by ticket only. Members must be referred by their local. Referral forms will be sent to unions and must be returned to LCSA by Dec. 9.

Toy donations also will be accepted through Dec. 9. Toys can be dropped off at the following locations:

eral Credit Union, or the Northwest Oregon Labor Council (Suite 305), or LCSA (Suite 211). All of the offices are located in the same building at 9955 SE Washington St., Portland.

- Oregon AFL-CIO, 3645 SE 32nd Ave., Portland.
- Portland Jobs with Justice, 1500 NE Irving St., Suite 585, Portland.
- Office and Professional Employees Local 11, 3815 Columbia St., Vancouver, Wash.
- American Federation of Teachers-Oregon, 10228 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland.
- Any Sunrise Dental location.

Cash donations can be sent to LCSA, 9955 SE Washington, #211, Portland, Ore., 97216.

Grievance settled: AFSCME members will write parking tickets in Portland Parks

The City of Portland has settled a union grievance over who should write parking tickets in Washington Park. Last year, the City announced it would install parking meters in the park and assign park rangers working for the Portland Parks Bureau to write tickets.

But AFSCME Local 189, which re-

resents parking enforcement officers at the Portland Bureau of Transportation, filed a grievance saying that work should be assigned to its members, who make \$24.94 an hour plus benefits — not to park rangers who make about half that amount. The rangers, though represented by Laborers Local 483,

supported AFSCME's argument in an open letter to the City.

To resolve the dispute, an Oct. 15 hearing was scheduled before an arbitrator. But in late September, the two sides worked out a settlement: The Parks Bureau will hire 1.5 parking enforcement officers. They'll be Local 189 members, and will be paid the same scale as the other parking enforcement officers. Until then, rangers will continue writing tickets, as they have since the beginning of the year.

"It shows a willingness to look at settlement outside of arbitration, and I'm glad to see it," said Oregon AFSCME representative Rob Wheaton, who worked on the grievance.

Wheaton credited City Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who's in charge of Parks, for the settlement.

Portland City Council was scheduled to approve the new hires on Nov. 5, after this issue went to press.

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