

Dredge spoil site could change Oregon LNG dispute

Corps not looking for new site, however, spokesman says

By ERICK BENGEL
The Daily Astorian

WARRENTON — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is unlikely

to give up an easement on a portion of the Skipanon Peninsula voluntarily so that Oregon LNG can build a liquefied natural gas facility there — unless, perhaps, the city of Warrenton can find another site for the Corps to deposit dredge spoils, an Army Corps spokesman said Friday.

The land has been the subject of an ongoing legal squabble between the Army Corps and the energy company.

In September, Mike Connors, a Portland attorney representing Ore-

gon LNG, said at a public hearing on the company's land use permit applications in Warrenton that he suspects the Army Corps may want something in return for the easement. He said that the dispute may get resolved outside of litigation if the two parties can reach an agreement.

But Matt Rabe, Army Corps chief of public affairs, said he doesn't believe that outcome is very probable.

"I don't think it's feasible that the Corps and Oregon LNG would

be able to work out a deal between the two parties," Rabe said. "Where things stand right now, we have an easement with the city of Warrenton to use the property for a disposal site for our navigation activities there on the lower river, and that's a piece of property that we need in our inventory in order to maintain the channel."

He added, however: "I don't see anything moving off from there unless the city of Warrenton were to bring us a proposal for an alternative site."

No need for an alternative

The city has spoken about the easement issue with Oregon LNG and the Army Corps, which has not asked for an alternative site, City Manager Kurt Fritsch said.

"It's just sort of out there as an idea," he said. "It's not something that, at this point, we're taking any actions on. If somebody proposes something to us, then we'll take a look at it."

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A BRIGHT SPOT ON ANOTHER TOUGH SUNDAY



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jordan Poyer lets out a laugh as he takes the field to start the game against the Seahawks at CenturyLink Field in Seattle Sunday.

Poyer returns to Northwest in Browns' loss to Seahawks

By KYLE SPURR
The Daily Astorian

SEATTLE — The Cleveland Browns may have suffered through another lopsided loss on Sunday, but when Jordan Poyer emerged from the visiting team's locker room at CenturyLink Field, he was immediately embraced by his friends and family.

The Browns' safety finished playing his first professional football game in the Pacific Northwest after making a name for himself at Astoria High School and Oregon State University.

Waiting for him was his father, mother, younger brother, high school football coach, teammate in college and dozens of other supporters who made the trip from the Astoria area.

"He was so excited to play here," Julie Poyer, Poyer's mother, said. "This has been his dream from when he was little."



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jordan Poyer blocks Seahawks' Marcus Burley, No. 28, during a kick return in the first quarter of the football game against the Seahawks at CenturyLink Field in Seattle Sunday.

Poyer, 24, played football at CenturyLink Field a couple of times in college against the University of Washington and Washington State University.

Sunday marked his first professional outing playing against the Seattle Seahawks, a team he grew up rooting for. He went to a Seahawks game as a fan years ago

when Seattle played the Miami Dolphins, his mother's favorite team at the time.

Now all of Poyer's family are Browns fans.

"I saw a lot of familiar faces in the stands," Poyer said. "Whether they are Seahawks fans or Browns fans, yelling my name, 'Poyer.' It was super cool."

Loud and proud

Tammie Mayfield, of Rainier, lived in Astoria when Poyer played in high school and led the Fishermen to a state title in 2008.

She watched him grow up and play sports with her children. To show her support, Mayfield made signs for the game Sunday, including one that read: "The loud and proud Astoria crowd!"

"This was huge. He's not home very often," she said. "We used to see him play on the field every Friday night."

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Fire alarm

Volunteer-heavy fire departments cope with changing training standards

Second of Two Parts

By KATHERINE LACAZE
EO Media Group

SEASIDE — Volunteer fire departments, in the past, were a little loose. "Drill nights were beer and poker," Hamlet Fire Chief Bill Boone says. Those days are long gone.

As state requirements and restrictions for volunteers have changed, departments have stepped to a higher level of professionalism, but sometimes at the cost of muddling through time-consuming bureaucracy.

"What's changed is that (volunteers) have to reach a certain level of training prior to actually fighting fires now," Gearhart Fire Chief Bill Eddy said. "Years ago, when you first joined a fire department, you walked in, they gave you a pager, a set of turnout gear and said, 'OK, you can go fight fire.' Now, you join and you get training."

The changes over the past three decades mean volunteers have to possess an increased commitment and dedication to serve their communities. Upon joining a department, volunteers can look forward to at least six months — or, more realistically, about a year — of training and taking classes to obtain their Firefighter I certification, a prerequisite to fighting fires. More training is needed for different specialties, such as surf rescue or wildland fire suppression. If they want to operate a specific apparatus, like a ladder truck or a pumper, there is additional training and practice drives.

"Each piece of equipment, you have to be at a different level to run," Seaside Fire Chief Joey Daniels said.

Aside from firefighting requirements, there is the world of Emergency Medical Service. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration mandates volunteers get standard CPR, first-aid and automated-external-defibrillator certification. Firefighters also are encouraged to become EMTs or emergency medical responders, a training offered through the Clatsop County Firefighters Association or partnerships between departments. Firefighters

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Job Corps student tackles the U.S. Senate

Catherine Sautner, a glazing student at Tongue Point Job Corps Center, has a busy holiday break ahead of her.

In early January, Sautner heads from her hometown of Hillsboro to Washington, D.C., where she will intern for U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., for 12 weeks.

"It's an extremely good opportunity that I didn't expect to get," the 25-year-old Sautner said. "I didn't go to college, so I didn't expect to be a real contender for an internship with a senator."

Sautner has never been to the nation's Capitol before. She graduated from Westview



High School in Portland and attended Le Cordon Bleu College of Culinary Arts in 2011. At Tongue Point, she studies glazing windows and has served on campus as an art technician, a staff aid in a residence hall and as a member of a peer-intervention panel.

As to why she was chosen, Sautner said it might have to do with the platinum National Career Readiness Certificate she received through college

and career testing company ACT A platinum certificate means Sautner's employability skills match 99 percent of the 16,000 occupations ACT researched.

Her acceptance letter for the internship came from Wayne Binkley, a director of scheduling and staff for Wyden.

"You will be responsible for a broad range of constituent services, as well as assisting staff with their official duties," Binkley wrote. "Your assignments will include, but not be limited to, assisting with incoming constituent

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Submitted Photos

Catherine Sautner, a glazing student at Tongue Point Job Corps Center, secured an internship this winter with U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden.

