

Federal regulators uphold approval of Jordan Cove

LNG project in Coos Bay

By **TED SICKINGER**
The Oregonian

Federal regulators on Thursday denied requests from the state of Oregon, affected landowners, tribal, environmental and fisheries groups to reconsider its March approval of the proposed Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas export terminal in Coos Bay and its 230-mile feeder pipeline.

The state had objected to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's original decision to conditionally approve the project before it received required state permits. Those include its water quality certification, dredging permit and a determination that the project is in line with state land use laws — none of which appear to be forthcoming.

After the March decision, Gov. Kate Brown issued her first challenge to the project in her five years in office. She said she was stunned that the commission was issuing a decision during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and she was ready to challenge it legally.

"I want to reiterate that I will not stand for any attempt to ignore Oregon's authority to protect public safety, health, and the environment," she said at the time. "I have asked the state's lawyers to consider all appropriate legal action to assure that Oregon permitting processes will be followed."

She also said that until the project received every required permit from state and local agencies, she

would prevent the company from taking early action on condemning private property or clearing land.

In a news conference after the commission's meeting Thursday, Chair Neil Chatterjee reiterated a statement he made after the March approval.

"I want to be clear that a project cannot begin construction until all required permits have been received," he said. "I'll say that again, the project cannot begin construction until all required permits have been received."

Chatterjee also said the project's backer, Pembina Pipeline Corp., had eminent domain authority today to condemn private property for its pipeline, called the Pacific Connector. But he said no construction on the pipeline or LNG facility, including land clearing, can take place until the company has received all necessary permits.

That leaves Pembina in a standoff with Oregon, but with a longshot strategy to end-run state regulators.

Oregon's Department of Environmental Quality has already denied the project's water quality certification. The Department of Land Conservation and Development, meanwhile, has decided the project would have significant adverse impacts on the state's scenic and aesthetic resources, endangered species, critical habitat, fisheries and commercial shipping. It ruled in February that the project wasn't consistent with the state's coastal zone land use laws.

Meanwhile Pembina withdrew its application for a dredging permit when the

Department of State Lands indicated that it was about to reject that application, too. Pembina also needs the department to grant easements to use state land and waterways to build the gas liquefaction terminal, shipping berth and pipeline. Those are unlikely to be granted given the agency's stance on the dredging permit. And Pembina can't use the eminent domain authority that comes with the commission's approval against the state, only private property owners.

Debate over the controversial project has been intense in Oregon since it was first proposed as a gas import facility in 2005. Boosters tout the \$10 billion project's potential employment and property tax impacts in an area of the state that has lagged economically since the early 1980s. Opponents call it a potential environmental, public safety and property rights disaster.

Pembina hasn't packed up its tent altogether. But it did recently close its office in Coos Bay, and for the time being, is pursuing a strategy that seems sure to prompt a legal response from Oregon. It has asked the U.S. Department of Commerce to overrule Oregon's decision that the project isn't consistent with state land use laws. And it has asked the commission to waive a requirement under the Natural Gas Act that it obtain a water quality certification from the state, arguing that the state failed to make a timely decision on that permit.

The company did not return a call for comment Thursday.

OBITUARIES

Marc Allan Walter Dunedin, Florida 1959 — 2020

Marc Allan Walter, age 60, passed away suddenly on May 7, 2020.

Born in Lyons, Kansas, in 1959, Marc was a resident of everywhere. Not one to spend too long in one place, he had the pleasure of living on either coast and several places in between. Though if you were to ask him, the years that included any measure of snow were not of much consequence.

Marc is survived by all of those who loved him, and will be remembered as a loving husband, father, friend, the best fire protection engineer God ever blessed this planet with, a man of the sea and a restless wanderer.

Everyone who knew Marc could usually expect that his cat, "Murphy," was not far

behind. Murphy would spend every hour of the work day in Marc's office, which often ran past dinner time. If you were a client, it was not uncommon to hear Murphy in the background during calls.

To honor Marc, his best friend Murphy and everyone who makes bonds like this possible, the family requests a donation in lieu of flowers to secure. oregonhumane.org/doggiedash/stephanie

A graveside service will be held on Friday at 3 p.m. at Evergreen Cemetery in Seaside, Oregon.

Hughes-Ransom Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please visit hughesransom.com to leave messages of condolence.



Marc Walter

Ronald E. Saukko Scappoose Dec. 23, 1937 — May 11, 2020



Ronald E. Saukko, age 82, of Scappoose, Oregon, passed away in his home on May 11, 2020.

Ronald was born on Dec. 23, 1937, in Astoria, Oregon, to his father, Ernest, and mother, Aune Laurila.

He became a part of the Army Reserve in the early 1960s.

Ronald enriched his life with activities like trap shooting and fishing, with an additional interest in old cars.

Ronald went to trade school at the Oregon Institute of Technology in



Ronald Saukko

Klamath Falls, Oregon, to become a pipe fitter, and worked in the steam pipe industry for many years. Later in life, Ronald was a member of the Elks Lodge.

He is survived by his son, Vance; his brothers, Leroy Saukko and Gene Kangas; and sisters Millie Minkoff and Kathleen Krause.

Ronald will be buried at Prairie Cemetery in Knappa, Oregon.

Please sign our online guest book at columbiafh.com

OBITUARY POLICY

The Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at DailyAstorian.com/forms/obits, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria.

For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

SPORTS

Takalo set to pitch for Cowlitz

The Astorian

The 2020 summer baseball season may be starting soon for Knappa graduate Dale Takalo.

The right-handed pitcher and former Logger is returning to play for the Cowlitz Black Bears, a collegiate summer league team.

A member of the West Coast League, Cowlitz announced Takalo's plan to return Thursday, with the season opener still scheduled for June 3 vs. the Portland Gherkins at David Story Field in Longview, Washington.

Takalo made three appearances for Blue Mountain Community College earlier this spring before the season was canceled. The sophomore had a 2-1 record with 20 strikeouts in 16.2 innings pitched for the Timberwolves.

He appeared in 14 games for Cowlitz last summer. Takalo will be transferring in the fall to Lewis & Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho.



Gary Henley/The Astorian

Knappa brothers Dale Takalo, left, and Eli Takalo are ready for the return of summer baseball.

"Dale is a bulldog," said Cowlitz head coach Grady Tweit. "He wants the ball every game and is ready for any situation you put him in."

Takalo's younger brother Eli will play next season at Mt. Hood Community College.

Meanwhile, several local players are on this year's

summer roster of the Lower Columbia Baseball Club in Longview. Lower Columbia will open its summer season with Warrenton's Devin Jackson, Austin Little and Jake Morrow, Astoria's Dylan Rush and Naselle's Ethan Lindstrom on June 10 in Hillsboro against the Portland Barbers.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
59 49	62 52	62 51	62 49	66 51	71 54	78 55

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low 57/47
Normal high/low 61/47
Record high 86 in 1914
Record low 36 in 1973

Precipitation

Thursday 0.11"
Month to date 3.06"
Normal month to date 2.33"
Year to date 35.12"
Normal year to date 32.62"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: New moon (10:39 a.m. PDT).

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:34 a.m.
Sunset tonight 8:51 p.m.
Moonrise today 6:21 a.m.
Moonset today 10:07 p.m.

New First Full Last

May 22 May 29 June 5 June 12

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:45 a.m.	8.4	8:58 a.m.	-0.6
3:20 p.m.	6.8	8:42 p.m.	2.9

Cape Disappointment

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:26 a.m.	8.3	8:02 a.m.	-0.7
2:51 p.m.	6.7	7:48 p.m.	3.2

Hammond

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:35 a.m.	8.6	8:23 a.m.	-0.9
3:05 p.m.	6.9	8:10 p.m.	2.9

Warrenton

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
1:40 a.m.	8.8	8:42 a.m.	-0.5
3:15 p.m.	7.2	8:26 p.m.	3.0

Knappa

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
2:22 a.m.	8.6	9:59 a.m.	-0.5
3:57 p.m.	7.0	9:43 p.m.	2.5

Depoe Bay

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
12:36 a.m.	8.3	7:33 a.m.	-1.0
2:09 p.m.	6.6	7:17 p.m.	3.1

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	88/69/pc	90/68/t
Boston	62/47/pc	58/45/pc
Chicago	79/67/t	86/69/t
Dallas	88/73/c	84/67/t
Denver	81/45/pc	61/41/t
Honolulu	87/71/pc	85/72/pc
Houston	91/76/pc	88/73/t
Los Angeles	76/58/s	81/60/s
Miami	87/75/c	84/77/c
New York City	67/54/sh	67/52/pc
Phoenix	93/70/s	95/69/s
San Francisco	74/53/s	76/55/s
Wash., DC	81/62/t	72/57/c

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, l-ice.

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REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Seattle	65/50	68/42/c	Wenatchee	71/51	64/53/c
Aberdeen	59/48	61/43	Spokane	61/43	64/53/c
Olympia	65/46	68/42/c	Moses Lake	73/47	64/46
Longview	64/47	68/42/c	Yakima	72/48	64/46
Astoria	59/49	68/42/c	Kennewick	74/46	64/46
Portland	66/50	68/42/c	Walla Walla	64/46	64/46
Salem	65/47	68/42/c	Lewiston	65/45	64/46
Corvallis	67/47	68/42/c	Enterprise	65/45	64/46
Eugene	67/47	68/42/c	Hermiston	72/46	66/44
Bend	64/39	68/42/c	Pendleton	66/44	66/44
John Day	63/36	68/42/c	La Grande	62/38	66/44
Burns	63/33	68/42/c	Ontario	68/43	66/44
Caldwell	65/41	68/42/c	Medford	74/48	66/44
Klamath Falls	66/39	68/42/c	Medford	74/48	66/44