## **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 environ-ment" 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

**SPORTS** 

**Takalo set to pitch for Cowlitz** 

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 bilproject's potential lion 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 rest-

less wanderer. Everyone who knew Marc could usually

expect that his cat, "Murphy," was not far

#### **Ronald E. Saukko Scappoose**

Dec. 23, 1937 — May 11, 2020

**Marc Walter** 

Ronald E. Saukko, age 82, of Scap- Klamath Falls, Oregon, to become a pipe poose, 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.

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 book at columbiafh.com

### **OBITUARY POLICY**

**Ronald Saukko** 

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.





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

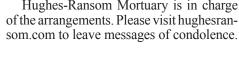
> was not uncommon to hear Murphy in the background during calls.

A5

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 hughesran-





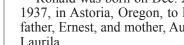
fitter, and worked in the steam pipe industry for many years. Later in life, Ronald was a member of the Elks Lodge. He is survived by his son,

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-

Ronald enriched his life with



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

Dale Takalo.

The Astorian

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

A member of the West League, Cowlitz Coast 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.

GGERS

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 Dvlan Rush and Naselle's Ethan Lindstrom on June 10 in Hillsboro against the Portland Barbers.

WATER BISTRO

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74/50/c

68/53/sh

65/41

