

Portland leaders poised to limit expansion of fossil fuel terminals

By REBECCA ELLIS
Oregon Public Broadcasting

Portland leaders are poised to limit the expansion of fossil fuel terminals after years of legal challenges from industry groups. They're considering a zoning code change that would prohibit the construction of new fossil fuel terminals in the city and prevent the 11 existing terminals that dot the Portland harbor from adding fossil fuel storage tank capacity. The city defines a fossil fuel terminal as any facility that transports and stores fossil fuels with "access to marine, railroad, or regional pipeline."

Supporters at a Thursday hearing on the zoning change said the move was a necessary step to reduce the region's greenhouse gas emissions and prevent a disastrous oil spill into the Willamette River during the next major earthquake.

"As we work to make our community safer, the first step is to make sure the situation does not get worse," said Commissioner Carmen Rubio, who oversees the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, which spearheaded the ordinance. "Continuing to allow new fossil fuel terminals and new fossil fuel storage tanks increases the risk to the surrounding district, the Willamette River and the entire city."

Ten of the city's existing terminals handle petroleum products, such as fuel, lubricant, asphalt, and one handles liquid natural gas for heating in the winter, according to Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Supervising Planner Tom Armstrong. All pose a risk of a catastrophic spill or explosion in an earthquake.

"All of these terminals are located in an area that is at high portability and high risk of liquefaction in a major earthquake," Arm-



Bonnie Stewart/Oregon Public Broadcasting

Fuel storage tanks in Portland.

strong told the City Council. "There's no location that's at lower risk ... in Portland where these fossil fuels terminals could be sited."

Armstrong said the terminals will still be able to add tank capacity for renewable fuels and jet fuel.

This is the third time city leaders have tried to get these zoning changes codified. They first tried in 2016, but that ordinance was appealed to the Oregon Supreme Court. The city tried again in 2019, but the region's major industry groups — the Western States Petroleum Association, the Portland Business Alliance, Oregon Business and Industry and Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council — again fought its passage.

The Land Use Board of Appeals, a state agency with the final say on controversial local land use decisions, said the city had more work to do to prove the zoning code change was consistent with its land use policies.

Armstrong told city councilors that the city's ongoing fight with the oil terminal operator Zenith Energy would not be impacted by the ordinance they're considering. Last year, the city

denied a land use compatibility statement to Zenith, which operates a controversial oil terminal in the industrial area of northwest Portland, blocking the operation from expanding. The company has since appealed the decision to the Land Use Board of Appeals.

Thursday's public hearing on the proposed change came hours after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling severely limiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate carbon emissions from power plants, which experts say will make it impossible for the federal government to significantly reduce U.S. pollution by the end of the decade as President Joe Biden had pledged.

"Whether we like it or not, it does fall on local governments at this critical moment to regulate the fossil fuel industries in our own backyards," testified Elijah Cetas, a law student and climate activist.

While the dozen or so people that showed up to testify Thursday were unanimous in urging the City Council to pass the ordinance, some accused the city of not going far enough.

They argued the council had carved out too large an exemption for storage of renewable fuels and left the existing 11 terminals untouched, operating at their current capacity.

"I have to point out that just blocking expansion of fossil fuel infrastructure does nothing to prevent Portland or the region from oil train derailments and fires from dangerous oil trains," said Janet Weil, with environmental justice group Extinction Rebellion.

City leaders will discuss the zoning code changes again — and possibly take a final vote — in late July.

Asked after Thursday's hearing if he expected yet another legal challenge should the ordinance pass, Armstrong said he was the wrong person to answer.

"We'll see," he said. "That's a good question for the PBA, the Working Waterfront Coalition, and Western States Petroleum Association."

OBITUARIES

Gladys Jean Nygaard Dyer

Warrenton

Sept. 14, 1933 — June 22, 2022

Gladys Jean Nygaard Dyer was born Sept. 14, 1933, in Nehalem, Oregon. She was the daughter of her Norwegian immigrant father, Ingvald Nygaard, and mother, Agnes (Thorsen) Nygaard, a first-generation Norwegian American.

She passed away peacefully on June 22 in Seaside with her sons by her side. She was greeted in heaven by her husband, Keith Dyer; her oldest son, Jon; her parents; her brother, Melvin; and countless friends.

She graduated from Warrenton High School in 1951, and was a co-valedictorian. She married Keith on Aug. 25, 1951, in Stevenson, Washington. They lived and raised their four boys in Warrenton.

Gladys was a pillar of the community. She worked 37 years for the Warrenton School District as a librarian, and then as a secretary at the grade school. Those who encountered her warm smile, kind words and understanding eyes quickly became better versions of themselves.

She was very involved with the Sons of Norway Lodge, the Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Methodist Youth Fellowship, Jaycettes, Warrenton High School's Booster Club and the Clatsop Cruise Hosts, and was grand marshal of the Warrenton Fourth of July parade.

Gladys was a Sunday school teacher and played

the piano at the Methodist church for many years. She loved watching her kids and grandchildren playing sports, bowling, gardening and playing cards (especially when she won).

Gladys is survived by her sons, Don (Diane), Ron (Linda) and Tom (Ginny); and her sister, Louise Nygaard Tucker (Ernie). Gladys is also survived by her grandchildren, Paul, Bryan, Andrew, Mark, Stephen, Ronda, David, Rachel and Ruby; 15 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the WHS Keith and Gladys Dyer Memorial Scholarship, Warrenton High School Scholarships Inc., P.O. Box 316, Hammond, OR., 97121.

There will be a public viewing on from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on July 8 at Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary, 1165 Franklin Ave.

There is a graveside service at 11 a.m. on June 9 at Ocean View Cemetery in Warrenton, and then a celebration of life at 2 p.m. at Warrenton High School.

Caldwell's Luce-Layton Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. Please sign our online guest book at caldwells-mortuary.com

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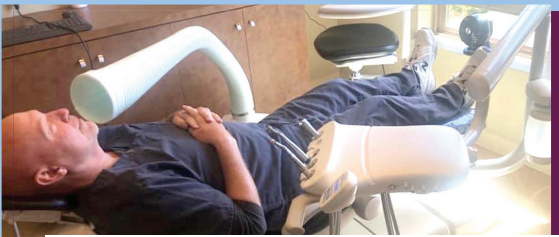


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I saw the highest standard of health safety practices in effect during my hygienist appointment today—much higher precautions than I'd seen in a local hospital when having tests last month. The new sanitation equipment and attention to patient safety at Klemp Family Dentistry is in keeping with a dental practice I consider cutting edge with respect to all my dental needs. It's wonderful having a world class dental practice here at the coast, one where I can have procedures performed for which I used to have to travel to a specialist in Portland. I have been a patient of several local dentists in the past, but none had the skill and, more importantly, the attention to patient comfort that Dr Klemp provides.

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SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
						
65 55	63 53	66 52	68 54	70 55	69 56	70 55
Partly sunny	Cloudy with a shower	Chance of a shower	Sunny to partly cloudy	Partly sunny	Mostly sunny, a shower	Sun and some clouds

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low	69/57
Normal high/low	66/52
Record high	88 in 1915
Record low	40 in 1985

Precipitation

Thursday	0.00"
Month to date	3.83"
Normal month to date	2.30"
Year to date	42.57"
Normal year to date	37.17"

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Before sunrise from east to southwest: Mercury, Venus, Uranus, Mars, Jupiter, Neptune, Saturn, Pluto.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today 5:29 a.m.
Sunset tonight 9:10 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:39 a.m.
Moonset today 11:50 p.m.

First	Full	Last	New
			
July 6	July 13	July 20	July 28

TODAY'S TIDES

Astoria / Port Docks	Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
3:12 a.m.	7.7	10:28 a.m.	-0.6	
5:04 p.m.	6.6	10:28 p.m.	3.0	
Cape Disappointment	2:55 a.m.	7.7	9:42 a.m.	-0.6
4:42 p.m.	6.4	9:36 p.m.	3.5	
Hammond	3:07 a.m.	8.0	9:58 a.m.	-0.8
4:53 p.m.	6.8	9:59 p.m.	3.3	
Warrenton	3:07 a.m.	8.1	10:12 a.m.	-0.5
4:59 p.m.	7.0	10:12 p.m.	3.1	
Knappa	3:49 a.m.	8.0	11:29 a.m.	-0.5
5:41 p.m.	6.9	11:29 p.m.	2.6	
Depoe Bay	2:05 a.m.	7.8	9:11 a.m.	-0.9
4:00 p.m.	6.4	9:06 p.m.	3.4	

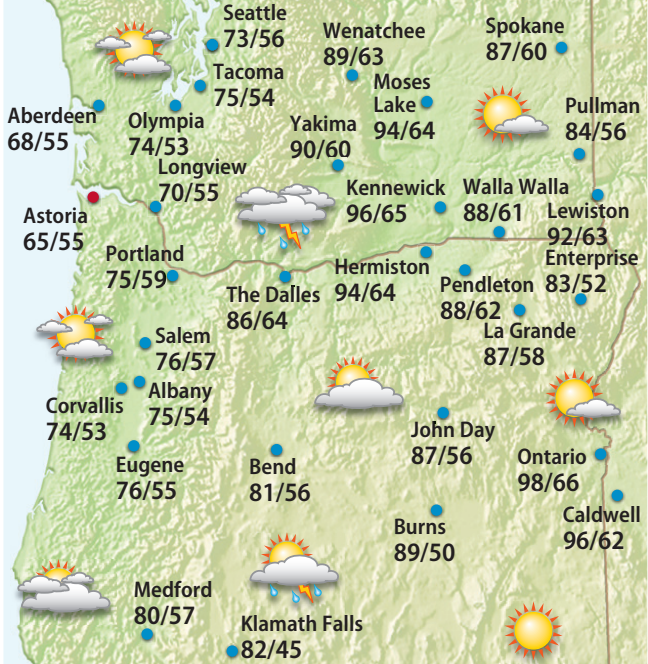
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today	Sun.
Atlanta	88/74/t	89/74/t
Boston	82/68/t	83/64/s
Chicago	85/67/s	88/68/s
Dallas	97/80/t	97/79/pc
Denver	90/63/pc	89/61/t
Honolulu	87/75/s	87/75/pc
Houston	92/77/t	94/77/s
Los Angeles	80/60/pc	76/60/pc
Miami	90/80/t	90/79/t
New York City	86/70/t	85/70/pc
Phoenix	106/84/pc	105/85/pc
San Francisco	66/56/pc	67/56/pc
Wash., DC	88/73/t	86/73/pc
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	Sun.	City	Today	Sun.
Baker City	86/54/s	77/49/pc	North Bend	62/54/pc	61/51/c
Brookings	60/52/c	61/51/c	Roseburg	74/56/pc	74/52/c
Ilwaco	63/55/pc	62/56/c	Seaside	64/54/pc	65/53/c
Newberg	75/56/pc	69/54/c	Springfield	76/55/pc	72/52/c
Newport	60/52/pc	58/50/pc	Vancouver	74/57/pc	71/56/c