



Appeal of Pacific Seafood housing extension denied

BY CINDY YINGST
The Columbia Press

A man who lives next to a planned dormitory for workers at the Pacific Seafoods plant has lost an appeal of the city's decision to extend the company's construction timeline.

"I'm not opposed to them having that housing," Scott Widdicombe said after the meeting. "I'm opposed to the way they want to do it."

A year ago, Warrenton's Planning Commission approved the company's request to turn a 27,750-square-foot former metal fabrication building at 1815 N.W. Warrenton Drive into employee housing. At the time, the company had said it was nearly impossible to find enough places to house its seasonal workforce.

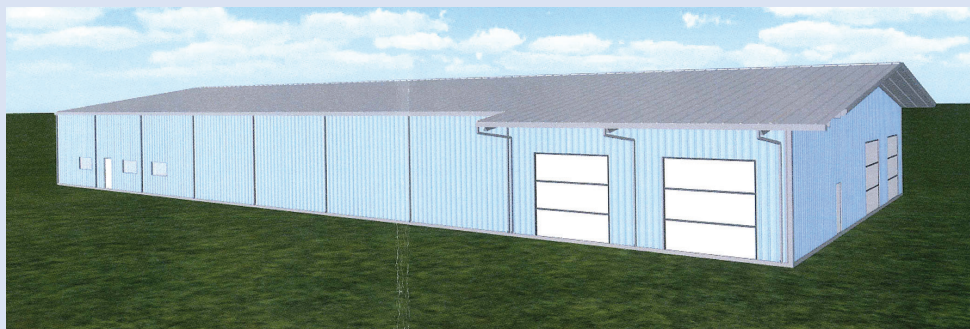
But the commission's approval and initial site development review was good for only one year.

The property has restrictions because it's in a water-dependent industrial shorelands zone and language was added to city codes allowing dorms for water-dependent businesses as a conditional use there.

But the project has been delayed by the

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Port's hopes build for industrial park at airport



Source: City of Warrenton

Above: A schematic of the proposed Scoular seafood processing plant with selected paint colors and self-contained drive-in bays for offloading fish parts.

Below: An aerial shot of the plant's location in the Airport Industrial Park and its proximity to Astoria Regional Airport.



Rowney



Wortmann

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Nothing is quick when it comes to construction. The adage certainly applies to plans for a fishmeal plant near the airport.

Concerns about capacity at Warrenton's wastewater treatment plant and whether the business would attract birds that could pose flight-safety hazards continue to plague the Scoular company's plans.

Time is of the essence, company officials have said, because they'd like to begin processing fish by July.

The Scoular plant is a key component of the Port of Astoria's as-yet-undeveloped Airport Industrial Park, expected to ensure the airport becomes financially self-sustaining.

But, during their Nov. 12 meeting, Warrenton planning commissioners declined to approve the plant's design.

Interim City Planner Mark Barnes told the commission the company hadn't convinced the city it won't overtax the treatment plant.

"The capacity issue of this devel-

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VA doctor's lung cancer assessment idea gives him medical 'Shark Tank' win

The Columbia Press
and news services

Those who enjoy the TV show "Shark Tank" may be interested to learn the Veterans Administration has a similar program to boost and fund encouraging new medical research ideas nationwide.

This year, the VA's annual version of Shark Tank gave the top prize to a team from VA Portland Health Care System. There were more than 400 VA health innovators in the competition from across the country.

The Portland team was led by Dr.

Christopher Slatore, who created a centralized lung cancer screening program designed to save veterans' lives by identifying and treating early stage lung cancer sooner. Their idea will be deployed to veteran facilities nationwide.

Slatore is a pulmonary/critical care physician and director of research education at the Portland VA's Center to Improve Veteran Involvement in Care.

Slatore's idea – to offer tests for lung cancer to all veterans when they come in for other reasons -- began with one



primary care provider in Portland and gradually grew to capacity. Now, almost all veterans cared for at VA Portland's 12 sites are systematically assessed and offered lung cancer screening.

VA leaders in the Shark Tank competition gave him one of the highest vote totals ever because of the way

it will save money and save lives overall.

Lung cancer is the No. 1 cause of cancer-related deaths for veterans because of their exposures to cigarette smoke and occupational hazards in the military. The lung cancer screening program provides veterans with a highly inclusive, safe, veteran-centric process that minimizes the burden for primary care providers and increases access to life-saving annual lung cancer screenings, VA officials said.

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