

RedLine Tacoma
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Judge upholds ruling that LNG safety records are public record; case heads to appeals court

TACOMA — June 23, 2016 — Tacoma residents will have to wait until January of 2017 to find out if Puget Sound Energy’s safety assessment of its proposed \$275 million liquefied natural gas facility will be released to the public. Friday, Pierce County Superior Court Judge Frank Cuthbertson denied PSE’s Motion for Reconsideration, upholding his ruling that public records regarding the safety of the facility are public record. PSE is appealing his decision, and a hearing is set for January of 2017.

The City of Tacoma is the lead agency in the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process which is mandated to investigate the safety and environmental impacts of such projects. The LNG facility’s Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) was released in September of 2015.

John Carlton is a Tacoma resident who initiated the public records request that prompted the legal action and is named as a defendant in the case.

“The permitting process and development should stop until PSE’s appeal is settled. The city, as the lead agency, needs to start a supplemental EIS,” Carlton said after the judge’s decision.

RedLine Tacoma supports the call for an SEIS and the idea that taxpayers need additional and updated information about this evolving proposal. Individual members of the RedLine Tacoma group say they have written or plan to write letters calling for the secondary evaluation. Carlton is also a member of RedLine Tacoma.

“In order to keep the SEPA process transparent and public, information regarding citizens’ safety around the proposed LNG facility must be made public and included in the EIS,” said Claudia Riedener, another RedLine Tacoma member.

In addition to the absence of the safety information, residents cite changes to PSE’s initial proposal in their push for the SEIS. For example, truck, maritime and rail traffic needs appear to have shifted since the initial proposal. The public also have questions about the feasibility of the continued operation of the fire station slated to be recommissioned in the port.

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RedLine Tacoma is a grass roots movement to stop the LNG facility and large-scale fossil fuel projects proposed for the tideflats at the Port of Tacoma. We are concerned community members from all walks of life. We are neighbors volunteering our time and energy to stop the selling off of our precious resources and to end the further degradation of our fragile Pacific Northwest environment. RedLine Tacoma is building and mobilizing community. We aim to alert, educate, inform and advocate!