

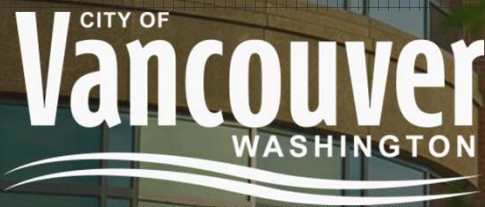
Fossil Fuel Facilities Moratorium and Potential Permanent Regulations

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Vancouver City Council Workshop

Chad Eiken, Director, and Bryan Snodgrass, Principal Planner, Community Development Department

Aaron Lande, Policy & Program Manager



Presentation Overview

- Current moratorium
- Potential permanent zoning standards and issues and objections raised
- Next Steps

Fossil Fuel Facility Moratorium

- Adopted June 2020, most recently extended May 2021, expires December 8. State law limits extensions to six months.
- Based on concerns over impact to local public and environmental safety and health, and to climate change
- Followed local 2014 moratorium and zoning prohibition of crude oil facilities
- Applies to new or expanded facilities engaged in distribution, extraction, refinement, processing or bulk movement of fossil fuels, or bulk storage of over two million gallons. Fossil fuels defined as petroleum and by-products; coal; natural gasses, including methane, propane and butane.

Fossil Fuel Facility Moratorium - Exemptions

- Railyards, airports, or marine serving facilities
- Facilities producing energy from landfill gas, fossil fuel by-products such as asphalt or others, or direct consumer sales such as gas stations
- Upkeep, repair, maintenance, or City-mandated health and safety improvements to existing facilities

Fossil Fuel Facility Moratorium – Impacted Uses

- Five existing facilities initially identified, located on or near the Port of Vancouver on lands with moderate to high liquefaction susceptibility in the event of an earthquake
- Generally process, store, or transport propane, natural gas, and petroleum products

Potential Zoning Code Changes

- Intended to follow moratorium definitions and thresholds
- Consultation sought with all parties commenting on moratorium. Meetings held with nine groups: Port of Vancouver and NuStar (tenant), Western States Petroleum Association, Tidewater, NW Natural, SW Washington Beyond Fossil Fuel task force, Columbia Riverkeeper, Washington Environmental Council, Friends of the Gorge, Physicians for Social Responsibility.
- Environmental groups generally supportive. Industry groups concerned about impacts to overall economy, and existing facilities potential inability to undergo maintenance including seismic retrofits, and to transition to renewable fuels.

Potential Zoning Code Changes (cont.)

- Code language drafted and SEPA Determination of Non-Significance issued.
- SEPA comments and then appeal filed by Western States Petroleum Association arguing analysis insufficient, particularly impacts from preventing new facilities, or upgrades or relocations of existing facilities, that would increase efficiency, public safety, and environmental protection.
- SEPA comments from Port of Vancouver supporting overall climate efforts but with concerns that uses with ancillary fossil fuel activities may be inadvertently subject to new standards.
- SEPA Determination withdrawn by staff

Next Steps

Prior to December 8 expiration of current moratorium staff recommends and additional six-month extension to allow for the following:

- Determine appropriate and defensible treatment of existing facilities, and whether some allowances for transitions to cleaner fuels, other public or environmental safety improvements, or other considerations are warranted
- Confirm inventory of current impacted uses, and ensure ancillary users of fossil fuels are exempt
- Determine appropriate standards for facility relocation or consolidation

Next Steps (cont.)

- Complete appropriate environmental and other analysis to support code changes
- Complete additional research and consultation with comparable jurisdictions, particularly Whatcom County and the City of Tacoma

Questions and Discussion

Aaron Lande, Policy and Program Manager

aaron.lande@cityofvancouver.us

Bryan Snodgrass, Principal Planner

bryan.snodgrass@cityofvancouver.us

