



Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association

Neighborhood: the closest community...

May 24, 2006

City of Olympia
P.O. Box 1967
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Mayor Foutch and Members of the City Council:

The Board of the Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association (NWONA) wishes to share with you our concerns regarding the Port of Olympia's proposed log export facility and to request your assistance in addressing and resolving our concerns on anticipated significant increases in industrial light, noise and air pollution originating from this new long-term operation.

As you are aware, the lease signed on August 31, 2005 between the Port and the Weyerhaeuser Company provides for "constructing approximately 17, 60 foot high wooden light poles around the perimeter of the lease site" (see attachment, p. 43). It also provides that "[t]he Port agrees that it will not object to, but publicly support (when asked by any person or entity regarding Tenant in any public forum), Tenant's operation of the Premises twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week" (see attachment, p. 12). These stated lease provisions raise strong concerns among NWONA'S Board members since our neighborhood would be directly impacted due its proximity to the anticipated industrial lights, noises and air emissions emanating from a new 24/7 operations directly across the narrow waters of Budd Inlet.

Members of the neighborhood have asked how the NWONA Board can effectively support their enjoyment of the night sky. Neighborhood members have queried how the Neighborhood Board could improve night sky access and reduce development impact on nocturnal environments. The proposed perimeter installation of 17, high-performance 60 foot high poles around the lease site will markedly elevate the Port's night-time glow, including the dispersed glow beyond the lease site. Our concern is that the anticipated night-time glow and its associated dispersed glow will trespass across Budd Inlet and onto a facet of our neighborhood's quality of life we respect and wish to preserve. We request that the City investigate and inform us if the proposed 17, high-performance 60 foot high poles meet or exceed City Codes. In addition, we would urge that the City of Olympia support that all proposed luminaries will be properly shielded, especially those with more than 1,000 initial lamp lumens, and that all luminaries with more than 3,500 initial lamp lumens meet Full Cutoff IESNA (Illuminating Engineers Society of North America) Classification.

It should be remembered that noise easily is carried across marine waters, even more so in the still evening hours. During the descending 'stillness' of the night-time hours, current noise levels readily travels across the confined marine waters of Budd Inlet, even upslope into the

heart of the neighborhood. We are concerned that even more noise will be generated from shipping and trucking activities directly supporting a 24/7 industrial operation. For example, a visiting cargo ship recently signaled its fog horn at 2:30 a.m., abruptly arousing and disturbing residences in our neighborhood. We request that the City investigate and inform us if all proposed operations within this 24/7 industrial operations are consistent with City Codes and Ordinances regarding noise levels.

In addition, with the elevated numbers of logging trucks being proposed to utilize Weyerhaeuser's leased areas, there will be a proportionate elevation of diesel powered cargo ships entering, docking, loading and exiting the Port of Olympia to transport their log cargo. Besides transit to and from the Port, cargo ships usually are docked, idling their engines during loading operations. With more ships docking and the frequency of idling sessions and running times greatly increased, NWONA is greatly concerned of elevated diesel emission and its particulate material (i.e., PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) impacting residential areas closely abutting the Port. There are many transportation studies illustrating public environmental health issues tied to diesel emissions and upper respiratory health issues, especially of children. We request that the City investigate and inform us if the proposed Weyerhaeuser port operations will always meet air quality standards authorized by Olympic Region Clean Air Agency.

Taken together, the highlighted provisions between the Port of Olympia and Weyerhaeuser raise many concerns. We request that in its review and permitting procedures for this proposed facility, the City require identification of the nature and extent of noise, light and air pollution resulting from these provisions in the lease and that it require identification of measures to fully mitigate such impacts. We would also request that the City work with us to see that such mitigation measures are fully implemented.

In view of the schedule for the construction of the proposed log export facility, we would appreciate an early response to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Tom Connor
President, Northwest Olympia Neighborhood Association
719 Thomas Street NW
Olympia WA 98502

Attachments (3)