

Fossil Fuel Terminal Zoning Amendments – August 2016



Project overview

The Fossil Fuel Terminal Zoning Amendments project would begin to implement new policy direction for fossil fuel distribution and storage facilities through changes to the Zoning Code. This proposal would restrict the development and expansion of bulk fossil fuel terminals.

Why is this important?

- Fossil fuel distribution policy – New policy directions adopted by City Council in November 2015 and in the 2035 Comprehensive Plan would limit fossil fuel distribution and storage facilities to those serving the regional market. City Council adopted these policies after holding public hearings and hearing testimony from hundreds of Portlanders.
- Climate action goals – Fossil fuels are major contributors to climate change and pollution. The rapid development of fossil fuel resources in the Western United States and Canada since 2009 has prompted many proposals for new export terminals in the Pacific Northwest. But the City's Climate Action Plan seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with fossil fuels being the largest source of emissions.
- Public safety and environmental protection – Several recent accidents involving fossil fuel distribution across the nation highlight public safety risks in cities and environmental risks along rivers. Most of Portland's industrial areas have moderate to high liquefaction susceptibility in a major earthquake.
- Oregon's industrial center – Portland is Oregon's largest, most diverse distribution hub, and existing Portland petroleum terminals serve more than 90 percent of the statewide market. Proposed code changes would restrict the expansion of these facilities in Portland.

Proposed industrial zoning amendments would ...

- Identify "bulk fossil fuel terminals" as a regulated land use, characterized by marine, railroad, or pipeline transport access and storage capacity exceeding 5 million gallons.
- Prohibit Bulk Fossil Fuel Terminals in all base zones.
- Existing Bulk Fossil Fuel Terminals would become legal, non-conforming uses that can continue to operate. Expansion would be limited to their current site and require approval through a Nonconforming Situation Review.

For more information, contact Bureau of Planning and Sustainability: Tom Armstrong, Supervising Planner, 503-823-3527, tom.armstrong@portlandoregon.gov

Project schedule and public engagement

- Discussion Draft, June 2016 – Stakeholder focus groups, public outreach, interagency review
- Proposed Draft, August 2016 – Public hearing at the Planning and Sustainability Commission
- Code adoption, end of 2016 – Public hearing at City Council

