

## **The Oregonian**

# **Zenith Energy threatens to sue Portland for blocking new pipes at its terminal**

*By Everton Bailey Jr.  
October 24, 2019*

Zenith Energy threatened Thursday to sue the city of Portland unless it reverses a recent decision to block the firm from adding underground pipes at its oil terminal along the Willamette River.

Zenith gave the city a week to change its stance or face legal action.

Portland's city attorney and mayor's offices declined comment on the letter, citing the possible legal action. Mayor Ted Wheeler said earlier in the week that he supported disallowing the pipes at the Zenith property along the Willamette River, where the firm has stored and transferred tar sands crude oil.

Eric L. Martin, an attorney representing the energy company, sent a letter Thursday to Portland interim Community Technology Director Elisabeth Perez, saying the city's Oct. 18 refusal to allow it to add the three pipes violates the business' agreement with the city.

Zenith says the city's refusal to allow it or, it argues, anyone else to add pipes to transport biofuel directly counters a city policy promoting green energy in Portland. In its application to add the pipes and in its letter threatening legal action, the company said it plans to run only biofuels and other non-fossil-fuel liquids through the pipes.

The letter says the Bureau has until Oct. 31 to approve Zenith's proposal or the company will prepare to take action "to protect its right under the franchise to install new pipelines for the transportation of petroleum, petroleum products, liquid intermediates and/or renewable fuels."

Martin asserted that the city's office of Community Technology gave no legitimate basis to deny Zenith's proposal and he criticized the office for one of its stated reasons, that it lacks employees trained to inspect oil pipelines. Martin denied the city's assertions that the company has struggled to make required reports to the city.

Martin acknowledged that the city has a policy that prohibits new infrastructure to transport or store fossil fuels inside city limits or on adjoining waterways. But he said that wouldn't apply to Zenith's proposed pipes because, while they could serve that purpose, they're being built strictly to move and store renewable fuels and other liquids not derived from fossils.

Zenith has previously raised controversy in Portland because tar sands crude oil from Canada is transported by train through Portland neighborhoods to the firm's terminal on the Willamette. There it was unloaded, stored and loaded onto ships for export, primarily to other West Coast ports.

Zenith said the company needs the new pipes to expand its role in Portland's green energy sector.

The Oregonian/OregonLive reported in April that the company didn't comply with its promise to state safety regulators to conduct a safety drill using tar sands oil.

## **Willamette Week**

# **Northwest Portland Walking Bridge Could Be Named for Beatrice Morrow Cannady or Ursula Le Guin**

*By Aaron Mesh  
October 24, 2019*

**But some people want to name it after Ned Flanders.**

For years, Portland transportation planners have been aiming to build a walking and bicycle bridge over Interstate 405 in the Pearl District. Construction is slated to begin next year.

The project has always gone by the name "Flanders Crossing," since it would extend Northwest Flanders Street across the highway. But at an Oct. 1 meeting of the Pearl District Neighborhood Association's transportation committee, co-chair Reza Farhoodi offered another idea.

"He suggested two candidates that may be worth considering: Ursula Le Guin, the author based in Northwest Portland who recently passed away, and Beatrice Morrow Cannady, one of Oregon's early civil rights advocates who spent much of her time in what became the Pearl District in the early 20th century, when it was a thriving African American neighborhood," meeting minutes say.

Other committee members suggested a name change could be confusing—and that it might be better to contact cartoonist Matt Groening and ask to name the bridge after Simpsons do-gooder Ned Flanders.

One problem: People weren't sure how to reach Groening.

"There is a lack of consensus around this proposal," the meeting minutes observe, "and Reza expressed reticence about a Simpsons-themed name unless there was a sponsorship opportunity using external funding."

## **Further Reading**

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