

RESOLUTION NO. 1325

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES, WASHINGTON, opposing the development and operation of a natural gas-to-methanol production plant in the City of Tacoma.

WHEREAS, Northwest Innovation Works Tacoma, LLC ("NWIW"), a business venture formed with funding from the Chinese government and British Petroleum, has proposed to develop and operate a natural gas-to-methanol production plant in the City of Tacoma on approximately 125 acres leased from the Port of Tacoma, and

WHEREAS, the development and operation of the proposed project has created concern for the health and safety of citizens and an impact on resources, and

WHEREAS, the potential air pollution, water pollution, and exposure to methanol produced by this project could be related to various diseases, cause serious negative health impacts, and have unknown impacts on the natural environment and human health, and

WHEREAS, the development and operation of this project has the potential for increased risks of exposure to pollutants and toxic chemicals due to spills, leaks, fires, explosions, and natural or other disasters, and

WHEREAS, the project has generated concerns about the methods and costs to address mitigation measures such as accident and disaster preparedness, health impacts, decreased property values, and medical expenses due to increased exposure, and

WHEREAS, the project has generated concerns about the methods and costs of restoring damaged ecosystems such as waterways, plants, and animals, and

WHEREAS, the development and operation of this project will require an estimated water consumption of between 10 to 14 million gallons per day and, at full production, require up to 450 megawatts of electrical power, and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines shares both a border and a shoreline with the City of Federal Way and is with close proximity to the proposed project site in the Port of Tacoma, and

WHEREAS, despite the City of Des Moines' close proximity to this proposed project, neither the City of Tacoma nor the Port of Tacoma has reached out to the City of Des Moines or its residents regarding the potential impacts of this proposed plant, and

WHEREAS, the lack of transparency regarding the public process and input surrounding the project is of great concern to the City of Des Moines and its residents, and

WHEREAS, it is unclear what the exact environmental impacts to the City of Des Moines and its residents will be, and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines is still dealing with environmental impacts that resulted from the former Asarco Smelter which was located in the City of Tacoma, and

WHEREAS, environmental impacts such as air quality and the safety of residents will not stop at the King-Pierce County line, and

WHEREAS, the February 5, 2016 City of Tacoma EIS Draft Scope of Work for the NWIS Methanol Plant does not clearly state that the off-site impacts to Des Moines' residents will be taken into consideration; now therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF DES MOINES RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 1. Opposition to proposed project. Due to a lack of information and the apparent absence of an adequate and transparent process surrounding this proposed project, the Des Moines City Council is opposed to Northwest Innovation Work's methanol plant proposal at this time.

Sec. 2. Scoping comments. The Des Moines City Council submits the following issues for inclusion into the EIS Scope of Work by the City of Tacoma:

(1) Consideration of off-site impacts that extend into the City of Des Moines.

(2) Environmental impacts, safety records and mitigation measures for other methanol facilities, on an international basis for the methanol industry and the principals involved with the Tacoma project.

(3) Public health risks of exposure to methanol pollutants, including air quality, water quality and usage, soil leeching, and industrial accidents.

(4) Workplace safety risks for employees of the methanol plant and neighboring industrial users of the Port of Tacoma.

(5) Risk analysis for industrial accidents and impact of man-made or natural disasters, both during construction and operation.

(6) Pipeline safety, during construction and operation.

(7) Short and long term impacts on natural resources during construction and operation, including:

(a) Impacts of dredging;

(b) Air and soil plume formation and migration;

(c) Water temperatures, both in Puget Sound, nearby rivers and streams, and watersheds;

(d) Water supply impacts, including drought-year planning; and

(e) Impacts to wildlife and marine species.

(8) Cost-benefit analysis during construction and operation, including:

(a) Net job gain or loss to regional and U.S. economies as a result of the project, and contribution to the U.S. trade deficit with China;

(b) Impacts to other U.S. industries;

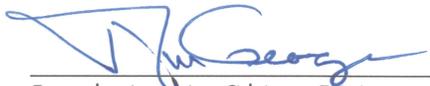
(c) Consideration of other geographic or technical alternatives to the project location; and

Sec 6. Effective date. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon passage by the Des Moines City Council.

ADOPTED BY the City Council of the City of Des Moines, Washington this 25th day of February, 2016 and signed in authentication thereof this 25th day of February, 2016.


M A Y O R

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Assistant City Attorney

ATTEST:


City Clerk