

Character of the Area

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My wife and I moved to the country after years of living in NW Portland, in fact we made the decision after a few months of my return from active duty in Iraq, taking possession of the property in October of 2004. To put it simply, we were tired of Portland's deteriorating environment, I for one realized I had felt safer in Baghdad under combat circumstances than I did walking the streets of Portland.

A short time after our move, the city of Portland built a small water facility on Lusted near Hudson. The dump trucks used for the construction phase routinely shook the windows of our house, and caused damage to the boulders securing the water culvert under Lusted Rd. These incidents were reported, but nothing was done nor did the city of Portland attempt to contact us to discuss our concerns. A Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputy did respond to our complaint about speeding dump trucks and did observe a truck traveling well over the posted 45mph limit.

There is no doubt in my mind that construction of a major facility would be harmful to this area. The city of Portland has no idea of traffic conditions in this area, has shown little interest in restricting construction traffic to accommodate school hours, nor did they seem to understand the need for agricultural equipment on the roads when the issue was brought up during public meetings.

The Portland water bureau has stated in several meetings that construction traffic would only be for a few months, never mentioning the daily traffic of trucks needed to support the plants daily operation. There seems to be no plans for icy or hazardous road conditions. Overall, the impact on area roads will not be for a few months, but for all the coming years this plant is scheduled to be in operation.

I am also greatly concerned about the hazardous materials scheduled to be used at the new plant, and the lack of hazmat planning on Portland's behalf. It appears that the city's plan to paper over such concerns with "special teams", and then call on country officials for actual support. During one meeting with the local Fire department, a water bureau official was forced to state that the "team" consisted of first aide providers with some additional training. The local Fire Chief stated this was unacceptable, that his department could not support the plant and that the city had to come up with a better plan. So far it appears they have not done so.

I feel strongly that an industrial plant utilizing hazardous materials in its daily operation has no business being placed in an agricultural setting where it will negatively impact the lives of farms workers, several of whom have farmed land for generations.