

Character of the Area

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I have lived at 35715 SE Lusted Rd for 31 years. My house is on the Sandy River and only one mile as the crow flies from the proposed site of the PWB's filtration plant on Carpenter Lane. From my living room I've watched mountain lion, bear, elk and deer wander along the river, and each spring my wife and I await the arrival of newborn Mergansers, Mallards, and even Wood Ducks swimming in single file behind their mothers. At those times I keep quiet when I'm on my deck overlooking the river, as the slightest noise will cause them to flee. It is hard to imagine a more inappropriate place to site a 1.5 billion-dollar industrial plant than 1 mile from the scene I have just described.

I have heard the PWB estimates noise pollution from the construction of the plant to be 60 decibels during the day, and 50 at night. I have no doubt these are underestimates given that, for example, city traffic heard from inside a car is 85 decibels. It is clear that the 115 heavy truck trips per day needed to construct the plant over a 5-year period will exceed that. And as any acoustician will tell you, the absolute decibel level does not predict the level of potential harm to humans or animals. Rather, it is the difference between the background noise level and the offending noise that matters, and around here the background noise is just the rustling of leaves if the wind blows. I anticipate disruption to the natural activities of wildlife along the Sandy River if this filtration plant is approved.

For example, every May the peace is broken by the cacophony of Canadian geese during mating season on the opposite shore of the river from my house. Then they fly off once the season is finished. Will the plant disrupt their natural activities?

Here is another example of how plant construction will likely effect local wildlife:



I took this photo on Lusted Rd about half way between my house and Carpenter Lane in December 2021. A piece of the Toyota that hit it was nearby. The elk, deer, bear and lion don't just live along the river. They live among those of us who call this area home, moving through fields and backyards along Carpenter Lane, Dodge Park Blvd, and Lusted. How many have to die to satisfy the PWB's love of large unnecessary projects as the trucks driving on our crumbling roads with no shoulders run them down, along with the joggers, bicyclists and other pedestrians.

The one lie I keep getting from the PWB in the email updates they send me is that "this project is required by the federal government to remove Cryptosporidium from Portland drinking water". In fact, "this project" is not required, but only the removal of the parasite. The EPA also lists use of UV light as an acceptable method, and there are thousands of municipalities currently using it for that purpose. Such a project could be built in the Bull Run at one tenth the cost without disrupting the lives of hundreds of families in this area.

This filtration plant is the wrong choice, in the wrong area, and a conditional use permit should be denied.