



THE
PUYALLUP TRIBE
OF INDIANS

Puyallup Tribe asks Gov. Jay Inslee to stop construction of LNG plant

Fourteen Northwest Tribes join Puyallup in its fight

PUYALLUP, Wash. – Joined in solidarity by fourteen Northwest Tribes, the Puyallup Tribal Council today called on Gov. Jay Inslee to halt construction of the Puget Sound Energy’s (PSE) Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility that is endangering Puyallup tribal members, treaty-protected homelands, resources and surrounding communities. **View the letter in full, [here](#).**

“Last week the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency called for a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to look at the greenhouse gas effects of a liquid natural gas plant on our region. The decision reinforces what we have been saying all along – the process has been flawed since day one,” **Puyallup Tribal Chairman Bill Sterud** said. “And this week Governor Inslee rejected an oil terminal along the Columbia River because it posed serious risks to aquatic life. We now urge the Governor to step up and protect the Puyallup Tribe’s treaty lands, waters and resources from the very real threats of the liquid gas plant.”

Supporting tribes contend that the City of Tacoma and Port of Tacoma bypassed normal regulatory processes and rushed through an EIS without proper consultation with the Puyallup Tribe and all the tribes who have an interest in the treaty protected resources that are threatened by this Project.

“Tribes stand united with the Puyallup in opposition to this LNG plant that threatens the homelands of the Puyallup people and the citizens of Tacoma,” said Leonard Forsman, president of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) and Suquamish Tribal Chairman. Suquamish and thirteen other tribes sent a letter to Inslee supporting the Puyallup Tribe’s demand that PSE cease construction of the LNG plant.

“Governments at all levels must conduct proper consultation with our sovereign tribal nations before pushing through projects like the LNG plant,” said Forsman. “A threat to one tribe’s treaty rights is a threat to us all.”

The Puyallup Tribe has called on the City of Tacoma, Department of Ecology, U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers, and the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to demand PSE cease construction until a full environmental review of the project is completed and all permit requirements are satisfied. They have also requested that the Army Corps of Engineers step in as the federal trustee responsible for upholding the tribe's treaty rights.

"Our treaties and our way of life are at risk from corporations more interested in profits than the protection of our lands, resources and people," Sterud said. "We demand that PSE cease construction until all tribal consultation and public participation requirements are met and all permit requirements are satisfied. The environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the LNG plant must be adequately analyzed and this information must be released to the public."

The proposed LNG plant in Tacoma, already under construction without required permitting and environmental review, includes an 8 million gallon liquefied natural gas storage tank and will produce approximately 250,000 gallons of fuel each day for use or transport. The fuel would be transported by truck and ships and used in PSE's natural gas distribution system during high demand periods. The plant will take raw methane gas and convert it to a liquid form through a purification and cooling process to allow for the storage of greater volumes of gas. The plant will also be capable of converting the liquid gas back into its gaseous form for use by PSE. Mishandling of that process can lead to leaks and explosions. On March 31, 2014, a 14.5 million gallon tank at an LNG plant near the Tri-Cities exploded, injuring five workers and forcing hundreds of residents to evacuate their homes. The tribe and environmental groups note that the blast zone of the Tacoma LNG plant includes tribal homelands, Tacoma residents, schools, day-care centers and an immigration detention center.

"The LNG facility poses a very real risk to our ancestral homeland," said Sterud. "We demand that the appropriate consultation take place and that our treaty rights and our people are protected."

View the Northwest Tribes' letter to Governor Inslee:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/f1qdu5kavjwq9ck/Washington%20Tribes%20Stand%20with%20the%20Puyallup%20Tribe.pdf?dl=0>

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About the Puyallup Tribe

The Puyallup Tribe of Indians is a federally recognized Tribe with over 5,000 tribal members with its homelands in Tacoma, Washington.

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