

NWR Air Quality Permit Coordinator
700 NE Multnomah St.
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232

Re: Please Approve NEXT Renewable Fuels Standard Air Containment Discharge Permit – Application No: 32808

Dear Melissa Hovey, NWR Air Quality Permit Coordinator:

I am writing to express my strong support for NEXT Renewable Fuels and urge the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality to approve their Standard Air Containment Discharge permit (Application No. 32808). NEXT meets the stringent regulations for an air permit and in its public notice, the Department of Environmental Quality states that “NEXT Renewable Fuels Oregon, LLC is not a major source of EPA-listed hazardous air pollutants” and “DEQ has concluded the potential emissions meet health risk standards for the community and do not require additional controls to be protective of public health.”

The Oregon DEQ recently adopted the Climate Protection Plan, which clearly calls out renewable diesel as a beneficial and necessary green alternative fuel to replace petroleum diesel. NEXT renewable diesel will protect public health and meet Oregon’s aggressive clean air goals. Renewable diesel is 60-80 times cleaner than petroleum diesel and will drastically decrease particulate matter, nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide in our air. Communities throughout Oregon and along the West Coast will benefit from decreased toxic emissions, especially vulnerable communities adjacent to transportation corridors. Approving NEXT’s permit for renewable diesel production in Oregon should be a high priority for DEQ in order to meet its own established standards and goals.

The NEXT renewable diesel facility will be the backbone of green fuels production in Oregon and a major contributor to the growth of green jobs in the state. NEXT will create more than 3,500 green jobs during construction and more than 240 green jobs during operation.

NEXT is publicly committed to supporting green job training to maximize local participation in hiring, and the company has signed a Memoranda of Understanding with the Columbia Pacific Building Trades Council and Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters to use highly-skilled union labor to construct the facility. NEXT has also signed a Neutrality Agreement with United Food & Commercial Workers 555 if the facility workers choose to unionize. The growth of green jobs and incorporation of union labor is a model for 21st-century industry in Oregon, and it’s something Oregonians hear touted by Governor Brown, gubernatorial candidates, State Legislators, County Commissioners, City Councilmembers and thought leaders all the time. It’s time that DEQ and other decision-makers support what they preach.

NEXT has earned the support of city, county and state elected officials, port commissioners, the Oregon Building Trades (and all regional trade councils in Oregon), Northwest Regional Council of Carpenters, Oregon AFL-CIO, environmental leaders, Columbia County businessowners, environmental justice organizations, business advocacy groups and thousands of Oregonians throughout the state.

In DEQ’s own words, “if a facility meets all legal requirements, DEQ will issue the facility’s air quality permit.” I firmly believe the NEXT Renewable Fuels clean fuels proposal meets all legal requirements – and goes above and beyond in design to protect air, water and health – and should be granted approval without delay.

Sincerely,

NAME

CITY, STATE