FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 25, 2014

Location change for Shell refinery air permit public hearing

What: Northwest Clean Air Agency public hearing – Shell Puget Sound Refinery air operating permit

When: 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., April 30, 2014

Where: Skagit County downtown Administration Building, 700 S. 2nd St., Room C, Mount Vernon

The Northwest Clean Air Agency is changing the location of its public hearing on April 30, 2014, to accommodate more people.

NWCAA has learned that groups are organizing demonstrations and advertising the public hearing to protest oil trains and refinery emissions. The anticipated crowd is expected to be larger than the 35-person capacity of the agency’s conference room. The new location at the Skagit County Administration Building downtown has seating for about 70 people, with some additional standing-room capacity.

Each speaker at the public hearing will be allowed two minutes of testimony, and the hearing will be open for three hours. The agency will consider written and verbal comments equally.

What the public hearing is about

The subject of the public hearing is the Shell refinery’s draft air operating permit. The permit does not address trains carrying oil. It also does not allow the refinery to increase its emissions or require the refinery to decrease its emissions.

The largest air pollution sources, based on their maximum possible air emissions, are required, by law, to have air operating permits.

The purpose of an air operating permit is to compile existing regulations into one comprehensive document. They pull together operational and procedural air quality requirements – including monitoring and reporting, emissions standards, and other regulatory requirements.

How the public can help

The most useful comments will point out if NWCAA missed something or if people disagree with the agency’s interpretation of the requirements. Some examples include comments that point out if the agency misapplied or left out a requirement, if the requirements are too vague, or if the monitoring and reporting requirements are inadequate.

NWCAA will open the public hearing with a short presentation before taking comments for the record.

Send written public comments to:
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1600 S. Second St.
Mount Vernon, WA 98273
Questions: Contact Lyn Tober at 360-428-1617 or info@nwcleanair.org.

More information:
- Air operating permit information: www.nwcleanair.org/aqPrograms/airPermits.htm
- Air operating permit facilities: www.nwcleanair.org/aqPrograms/airPermits_pg2.htm
- Social media: www.facebook.com/nwcleanair and https://twitter.com/NWCleanAir

Contact:

Katie Skipper, Northwest Clean Air Agency Communications Director, office: 360-428-1617 ext. 235, mobile: 360-319-0739, kskipper@nwcleanair.org

Mark Asmundson, Northwest Clean Air Agency Executive Director, 360-428-1617 ext. 208

The Northwest Clean Air Agency is responsible for enforcing federal, state and local air quality regulations in Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties. In addition to permitting and regulating industrial sources of air pollution, the agency offers services that deal with asbestos, business assistance, climate change, indoor air quality, outdoor burning, woodstoves and fireplaces. More information about the agency is available at www.nwcleanair.org.