



Comments to Mayor Kenney for the Invitation to the March for a Clean Energy Revolution, June 23, 2016, Philadelphia City Hall

Green Justice Philly, the City coalition of environmental, social justice, and community groups, is here today to extend an invitation to Mayor Jim Kenney to stand with the people of Philadelphia by supporting clean air and water and jobs over more pollution from oil development by Philadelphia Energy Solutions, the largest and oldest oil refinery on the Eastern seaboard.

The Southport Development Project is a private-public partnership to develop a marine terminal complex on state-owned land in Philadelphia on the Delaware River, about 1 mile south of the Walt Whitman Bridge. The Philadelphia River Port Authority has issued a Request for Proposal to develop a terminal there and those companies that qualified will be submitting project proposals for the site. The Philadelphia River Port Authority will choose this fall between the proposals submitted – some include oil and gas development, some are container and warehouse concepts. The public already knows the basics of the plans and that is why we are here today.

Philadelphia Energy Solutions has proposed building an oil import/export terminal at Southport, which would mean more dangerous oil train traffic, toxic emissions and water pollution. It would mean new pipelines, one of them going right out into the river to a platform, and other oil and gas operations utilizing fracked fossil fuels.

According to Governor Wolf, who appoints the members of the Philadelphia River Port Authority Board who will make the decision about what will be built at Southport ...if Southport is developed entirely as an “energy terminal” up to 590 jobs could be created. If the site is developed completely for a "non-energy use," he said, up to 3,720 potential jobs could be created. Philadelphia Energy Solutions’ proposal is entirely “energy” – in fact, only two of the proposals for Southport seem to be non-energy container-based and only one looks like it will be solely warehousing and Roll-on/Roll-off.

BUT Philadelphia Energy Solutions has the worst proposal out there but if PRPA applied their own scoring criteria* when they evaluate the proposals Philadelphia Energy Solutions would be disqualified for their repeated violations of environmental permits. Green Justice Philly submitted a letter to Philadelphia River Port Authority calling for immediate disqualification of Philadelphia Energy Solutions from the process based on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) finding that Philadelphia Energy Solutions is currently in “non-compliance” with major environmental permits as recently as the first quarter of this year. In fact, Philadelphia Energy Solutions has NEVER been in compliance with the environmental laws tracked by EPA since the company took ownership with Phil Rinaldi as CEO in 2012 (except for two yet-to-be-reported quarters of the Clean Air Act for recent operations).

We are asking Mayor Kenney to not allow a lawbreaker, a polluter, to expand their poor performance and habitual scofflaw operations to Southport. The neighborhoods around PES are suffering the unjust burden of rotten air and toxic emissions from the Philadelphia Energy Solutions oil refinery now, an intolerable situation. A Columbia University professor pointed out today in an Environmental Health News article that policymakers must consider health effects and the economic cost of those health effects when making energy decisions - especially

the costs for children our most vulnerable population who will bear the mark of toxic exposure and development impacts early in life throughout their lifetime.

It is unconscionable to allow Philadelphia Energy Solutions' toxic trespass to set up shop on Southport, state owned land for which the City has such high hopes. The state must not partner with Philadelphia Energy Solutions!

Mayor Kenney, we invite you to stand with us for thousands of jobs without dirty energy development, without more pollution and asthma affecting Philadelphia's families, without the degradation of the quality of the City's environment. Please march with us for Clean Energy on July 24, Mayor Kenney, march for clean water and air for Philly; please choose to support our Right to Breathe.

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Green Justice Philly Steering Committee