

For Immediate Release: June 23, 2016

Contact: Sam Bernhardt – sbernhardt@fwwatch.org, 267-428-1903

Tracy Carluccio – tracy@delawariverkeeper.org 215-369-1188 x104

GREEN JUSTICE PHILLY TELLS KENNEY: NO MORE FOSSIL FUEL POLLUTION AT SOUTHPORT

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Today, Green Justice Philly, the City coalition of environmental, social justice, and community groups, gathered supporters at City Hall today to encourage Mayor Jim Kenney to protect local communities from toxic pollution, and to show leadership in the fight against climate change, by publicly opposing a plan to expand the Philadelphia Energy Solutions (PES) refinery in South Philly.

Green Justice Philly and over 100 supporters delivered an invitation to Mayor Kenney to oppose the proposal to expand the PES Southport refinery. The company wants to build an oil import/export terminal, which would mean toxic emissions and water pollution, more dangerous oil train traffic, new pipelines and other oil and gas operations utilizing fracked fossil fuels.

The state-owned land at Southport is controlled by Philadelphia River Port Authority, which is choosing between the PES proposal and others that would produce hundreds more jobs.

"Mayor Kenney can stand up for the health and safety of Philadelphia residents by keeping his campaign promise to create thousands of well-paying jobs at Southport—jobs that aren't tied to the expansion of dirty energy," said **Sam Bernhardt of Food & Water Watch**. "We need him to show leadership in stopping the construction of this terminal, and making Philadelphia a clean energy city."

The coalition today invited Kenney to join the **March for a Clean Energy Revolution**, which will take place in Philadelphia on July 24, on the eve of the Democratic National Convention.

“Our invitation to Mayor Kenney to march with us July 24 is made in earnest, hoping that he will stand with Green Justice Philly in support of clean air and water and jobs in Philadelphia. We are asking Mayor Kenney to recognize that the PES oil terminal proposal at Southport would increase pollution, which simply can’t be tolerated by neighboring communities,” said **Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director of Delaware Riverkeeper Network** and a steering committee member of Green Justice Philly.

The Southport refinery has been the target of protests for years. Community activists cite the facility's toxic industrial emissions and a long record of violating federal clean air and water standards, cited by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as “noncompliant” with environmental permits since Philadelphia Energy Solutions took ownership in 2012 (except for two quarters of the Clean Air Act which have not yet been reported for recent operations). Expanding the fossil fuel infrastructure at the site will make matters worse, and will create far fewer local jobs than non-energy development.

###