



Linnton Neighborhood Association

TANK THE TANKS
Info@tankthetanks.org



What is the Critical Energy Infrastructure [CEI] Hub?

The CEI Hub is a bulk fuel storage facility, essential to the flow of energy to all Oregonians and businesses.

- Stores 90% of all liquid fuels used throughout the state (gas, diesel, oil), 100% of all jet fuel used at PDX airport, more than 150 chemicals used by Oregon companies; houses electrical substation, pipelines, RR lines, docks.
- Spans 200 acres, along a 6-mile stretch of land between the Willamette River and Hwy 30 in north Portland.
- Houses more than 600 above-ground storage tanks, over 400 tanks in active use.
- Contains more than 350 million gallons of fuels and chemicals (530 Olympic-sized swimming pools).
- Owned and operated by ten private corporations. (BP West Coast, Chevron, Conoco Phillips, Equilon, Kinder Morgan, McCall Oil, Nustar Energy, NW Natural, Pacific Terminal Services, Zenith Energy)

How does the CEI Hub endanger Portland area residents and all Oregonians?

The CEI Hub is located in a super high-risk zone, exposed to real scientifically predicted and predictable disasters that threaten lives, communities and the environment.

- **Earthquake.** CEI Hub tanks and pipelines are on unstable in-fill land subject to two major faults (liquefaction zone).
- **Wildland-Urban Interface Fire.** A WUI fire can be triggered by lightning, human error, equipment failure, repairs. (think 2023 Maui, HI; 2020 Alameda-Phoenix, OR; 2020 Detroit, OR; 2017 Paradise, CA).
- **Train Derailment.** Fuel and toxic railcar derailments are frequent, not rare, events. 743 derailments in the US were reported Jan-Oct 2023 (think East Palestine, OH; Toledo, OR) and over 1,000 total derailments in 2022.

Why is public action urgently necessary?

The CEI Hub is a ticking time bomb, described by researchers and public officials as a “looming catastrophe that would result in a devastating loss of life,” and a “disaster on the order of Fukushima and Deepwater Horizon combined.”

- **Immediate dangers. Currently there is no possibility of containing major spills, toxic releases, fires.** Up to 400 tanks are predicted to fail, spilling 100-200 million gallons of toxic fuels on land and into the Willamette and Columbia Rivers and exposing 30,000+ workers and residents to toxic gasses in a high-magnitude earthquake.
- **Mid-long-term health and economic losses.** CEI Hub tanks hold a week’s fuel supply. Loss of this facility will leave the entire state without the capacity to receive or distribute fuel, limit emergency response capacity statewide, shut down PDX airport, and raise fuel and business operating costs statewide.
- **CEI Hub firms have not stepped up to the plate.** CEI Hub owners/operators have not voluntarily implemented risk prevention and mitigation measures recommended by numerous public studies over more than a decade.
- **Public policies are not yet sufficient.** The 2023 Fuel Tank Seismic Stability Act (SB1567) seeks to resolve one key danger, but makes no pretense to address the full complex of CEI Hub risks or public agency recommendations.

What public policies can prevent or mitigate these CEI Hub dangers?

- Public information program focused on disaster preparedness for a CEI Hub-related event.
- First responder staffing, training, and resources capable of meeting health, safety, and environmental emergencies.
- Prevent toxic fuel releases by regulating Volatile Organic Compound [VOC] emissions.
- Seismic safety standards to prevent releases of non-fuel hazardous materials.
- Install early warning systems with integrated operational shutdowns for all bulk storage facilities.
- Remove out-of-service storage tanks at risk of collapsing and releasing toxic residues.
- Facility operator bonding to hold operators responsible and protect taxpayers and residents from bearing the predictable emergency and recovery costs, whether from accident or an “act of God.”
- A plan to relocate/diversify this essential infrastructure to stable ground, not subject to a catastrophic earthquake.