

Public Scoping Meeting

City of Tacoma

Planning and Development Services

**LU20-0107 – Environmental Review
SeaPort Sound Terminal Modernization
February 18, 2021**

A faint, circular seal of the City of Tacoma is visible in the background on the right side of the slide. The seal features a harbor scene with a ship and a mountain range in the distance, surrounded by the text "SEAL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA".

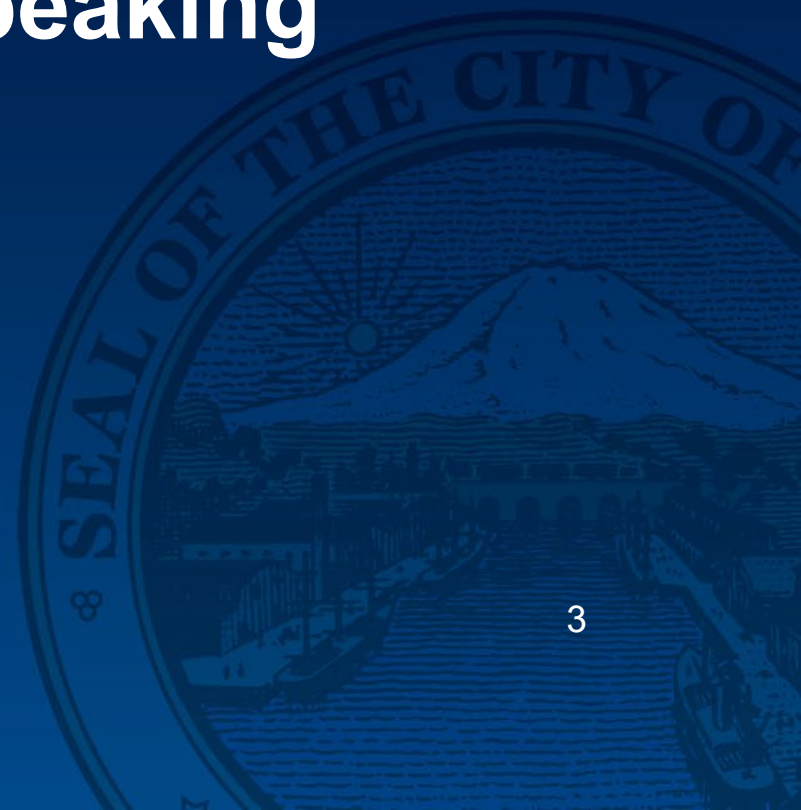
Agenda

- Introduction
- Staff Presentation
- Public Comments
- Adjourn



Introduction

- Purpose of meeting
- Procedures for speaking
- Other logistics



Staff Presentation

- History of request
- Brief description of proposal
- Purpose and Content of an EIS
- Schedule/Next Steps

Staff Presentation

- **History of request**
 - SeaPort Sound Terminal applied for a shoreline permit and SEPA environmental review last summer
 - A public information meeting was held in early September
 - The applicant was requested to provide additional information about the project, which was submitted in December
 - A SEPA Determination of Significance was issued February 4

Staff Presentation

- **Description of proposal**
 - demolish existing refinery equipment
 - replace it with new storage tanks and appurtenances
 - new storage tanks would total approximately 166,856 barrels, which is about a 10% increase for the whole Seaport Facility

Staff Presentation

- **Description of proposal**
 - new tanks would store diesel, bio-diesel, fuel oil, and other distillates
 - no additional barge, train, or truck capacity would be added
 - additional site work would include containment and stormwater infrastructure

Staff Presentation

■ SEPA Review

- SEPA review is conducted with every permit
- There are several paths for a Lead Agency (in this case the City) to make a SEPA threshold determination
- In this case, the initial preliminary SEPA determination was issued with the public notice and then was withdrawn
- The Determination of Significance (DS) means that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required

Staff Presentation

- **The EIS – WAC 197-11-400**
 - The primary purpose of an environmental impact statement is to ensure that SEPA's policies are an integral part of the ongoing programs and actions of state and local government.
 - An EIS provides impartial discussion of significant environmental impacts and informs decision makers and the public of reasonable alternatives, including mitigation measures, that would avoid or minimize adverse impacts or enhance environmental quality.

Staff Presentation

- **The EIS – WAC 197-11-400**
 - An EIS shall be concise and clear, relying on technical appendices.
 - An environmental impact statement is more than a disclosure document. It shall be used by agency officials in conjunction with other relevant materials and considerations to plan actions and make decisions.

Staff Presentation

■ Impacts

- An EIS analyzes impacts of a proposal
- The EIS is generally limited to adverse impacts that are probable and significant, though other subjects may be added
- The EIS should also analyze potential for mitigation to minimize impacts to a non-significant level, or to avoid impacts entirely

Staff Presentation

- **Steps in the EIS Process**

- Determination of Significance/Scoping
- Final Scope/Preparation of Draft EIS
- Issuance of DEIS, review/comment period
- Response to comments, issuance of Final EIS
- Appeal period for FEIS, Final action on permits

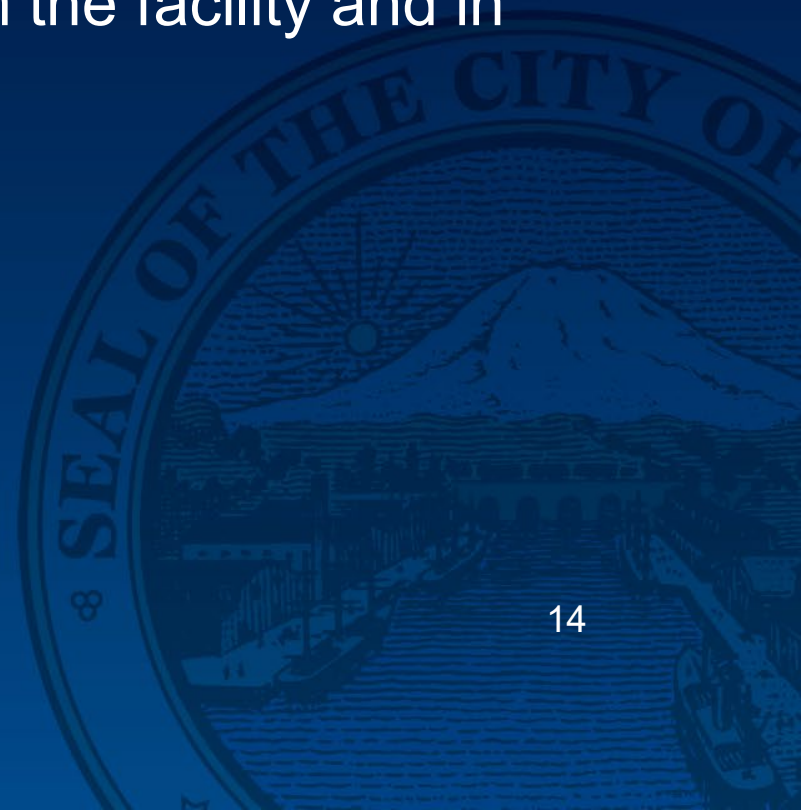
Staff Presentation

- **Scoping – Included so far**

- Human Health Impacts (potentially a full or partial Health Impact Assessment)
- Safety Impacts / risks from an increase in bulk fossil fuel storage at the site
- Emergency access/Intelligent transportation related to safety risks
- Spill prevention and response
- Air Quality, including life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions due to the project

Staff Presentation

- **Scoping – Also Suggested**
 - Environmental Justice
 - Cumulative Emissions from the facility and in the Port
 - Road Condition Impacts



Staff Presentation

- **Comments**

- Comments on the scope of the EIS should be related to what other areas of study should be included or
- What specific information should be included within the subject areas

Staff Presentation

■ Next Steps

- Scoping period ends February 25, 2021; written comments are strongly encouraged
- The scope of the EIS will be finalized
- A Draft EIS (DEIS) will be published and notification sent out
- The DEIS will have a minimum 30-day review and comment period
- The Final EIS (FEIS) will be issued and action will be taken on the shoreline permit₁₆

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**Comments due February 25 to:
Shirley Schultz
shirley.schultz@cityoftacoma.org**

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