



# The CEI Hub & Portland Harbor

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# Who are we, and what is PYCS?



- Portland Youth Climate Strike (PYCS):
  - Collective of young people dedicated to the fight for climate justice
  - Aim to educate and mobilize our peers
  - Strive to make climate action a priority in city and statewide politics





# Portland Youth Climate Strike Affiliations

- PYCS had over 30 climate and social justice partner organizations from across the state, including:
  - 350 chapters
  - Breach Collective
  - Extinction Rebellion Chapters
  - OPAL
  - Kalikasan Solidarity Organization
  - Portland Harbor Community Coalition
- PYCS has played a major role organizing over 20 organizations from Bend, Salem, Eugene, Corvallis, and Portland for the upcoming September 15th strike



# History of EJ along the Willamette/Willamette Valley

- Kalapuya, Molalla, and Chinook have lived in the Willamette Valley for over 10,000 years
- In World War II, there was a large migration of Black workers to Vanport
- In 1948, Vanport flooded and over 6,300 Black residents were displaced
  - Forced to work dangerous shipyard jobs in the Portland Harbor, high exposure to asbestos and other carcinogens
  - Redlining forced the Black population into parts of North and NE Portland with the most industrial pollution



# Our Issue: The CEI Hub

- CEI Hub:
  - 7-mile stretch of land adjacent to the Willamette
  - Contains 90% of Oregon's fuel resources (up to 351 million gallons of oil) within its tanks
    - This includes all the fuel for planes at PDX
  - Owned by several large, environmentally damaging corporations, including Chevron, Shell, Northwest Natural Energy, and Zenith Energy





# Impacted Communities

- Indigenous Communities:
  - The fossil fuel infrastructure and pollution in the CEI Hub violates multiple treaties and tribal rights, including those of the Grand Ronde, Siletz, and Nez Perce
  - Pollution of CEI Hub makes unsafe to exercise fishing and land-use rights, which are crucial for cultural survival
- North Portland is also at risk, home to thousands of working class, low income, and BIPOC Portlanders

# Risks of the CEI Hub

- Oil Transportation:
  - Transportation of oil by train is unsafe
    - Particularly Zenith's crude oil
  - There are always risks of derailment:
    - In 2016, a Union Pacific unit train carrying nearly 3 million gallons of oil derailed in the Columbia River Gorge
    - 16 tanker cars derailed, and 42 thousand gallons of oil were spilled, including into the Columbia River



# Risks of the CEI Hub

- Earthquake:
  - CEI Hub is built on unstable soil classified as a **liquefaction zone**
  - In the event of the Cascadia Subduction Zone earthquake:



- 43% of these fuels will be **dumped into the Willamette River**
- The remaining fuel will **disperse into the atmosphere and surrounding environment**
- Between **95 and 194 million gallons of fuel will be released**, (on par with the Deepwater Horizon spill of 2010, the largest American oil spill to date)





# Consequences of CEI Hub Meltdown

- The CEI Hub oil spill would cause:
  - Colossal damage to every facet of the environment
  - An economic shutdown for the state of Portland
  - The loss of thousands of lives
- The area would become intensely flammable, and several tanks could explode



# Zenith Energy

- One of these aforementioned companies operating in the CEI Hub, Zenith Energy, has expanded their operations greatly
  - 167 million gallons of crude oil and diesel in 2019 to 374 million gallons in 2022
- 2022: the Portland City Council's Bureau of Development Services approved a LUCS for Zenith Energy behind closed doors



# Agencies Involved

- **Zenith's Air Contaminant Discharge Permit must be denied by the Department of Environmental Quality**
  - This is our only chance to regulate Zenith's operation in the CEI Hub
  - Zenith's ongoing land, water, and air pollution currently cause great environmental harm
  - Additionally, their operations pose immeasurable future risks to residents of North Portland, Oregon's ecosystem, tribal sovereignty, and the health of our communities



# EJC Action Requested

- **PYCS asks that the Oregon Environmental Justice Council issue a public statement condemning Zenith Energy's operations in the Portland CEI Hub**
  - We request that they directly mention:
    - The DEQ's role in overseeing Zenith Energy's Air Contaminant Discharge Permit
    - The approval of Zenith Energy's LUCS by the Portland City Bureau of Development Services
    - The impacts of CEI Hub operations regarding seismic risks as well as tribal rights



# Agency Follow-Up Requested

- Department of Environmental Quality:
  - PYCS asks the DEQ to deny Zenith Energy's Air Contaminant Discharge Permit
    - We ask the Department to review the investigation of Zenith Energy's contamination of the surrounding communities
  - PYCS calls on the DEQ to prioritize the cleanup and just transition of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site (2068)

# Upcoming Events!

- September 15th, 2023:
  - PYCS is hosting a statewide climate strike!
  - Oregon will be calling on Tina Kotek to issue an executive order declaring a state of climate emergency
  - The Portland march will be specifically targeting the DEQ to deny Zenith Energy's Air Contaminant Discharge Permit
  - Thousands of Oregonians will be taking to the streets to fight for climate justice!

