

Testimony before Seattle Port Commission

My name is Langdon Marsh. I'm a resident of Seattle and have lived here for 14 years. I've been a lawyer and government official including heading the New York State and Oregon environmental agencies. I was a major participant in the passage and implementation of New York's counterpart of the National Environmental Policy Act's environmental impact statement requirement for major Federal actions. One of my current interests is life cycle analysis.

I agree with the points made by the other speakers calling for cancellation of the lease, but I want to offer an additional perspective.

Environmental analysis of projects like the Shell lease should include the full life cycle consequences of the project. That means that in addition to the environmental effects of the specific activities of Shell and the Port that affect the Port's immediate environment, The Port should analyze the full impacts of producing, processing, transporting, use and ultimate disposal or decommissioning of facilities, barges, ships and other equipment, facilities and fuels. Above all, a full life cycle approach should include disclosing the impacts of the transport to Alaska and the use of the drilling and other equipment in Alaska. That means that the carbon and other emissions from those activities and from the refinement and ultimate combustion of the fuels in vehicles and equipment around the globe should be analyzed and disclosed.

Only by doing a comprehensive life cycle analysis can the Port evaluate this lease and compare it with other potential leasing opportunities the Port may have or want to attract.

This analysis need not be burdensome, time consuming or unduly costly. The protocols for life cycle analysis are well established. Life cycle data is available from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and other sources. Expert assistance is available.

I urge you to do this kind of analysis on the Shell lease and other projects the Port considers in the future.

Thank you.