

Tell Oregon Department of State Lands to Deny Removal-Fill Permits for Jordan Cove by February 3rd 2019

For more than 14 years, southern Oregon communities have been fighting a proposal from a Canadian energy company to build a 229-mile Pacific Connector fracked gas pipeline and the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal, collectively called “Jordan Cove”. If approved, the pipeline and terminal would be the largest climate polluter in the state and pipeline and terminal construction would threaten Oregon rivers, streams and the Coos Bay estuary.

On December 6th, 2018 the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) opened a 60-day public comment period for an important permit known as the “Removal-Fill Permit.” DSL is one of several state agencies that can shut down the Jordan Cove LNG by denying necessary ‘removal-fill’ permits needed for dredging related to the pipeline and terminal. **In 2014, DSL denied removal-fill permits for the Coyote Island coal export terminal near Boardman, Oregon.**

This January, DSL Director Vicki Walker and DSL staff will host hearings in Southern Oregon and Salem to hear from community members about the Jordan Cove LNG and Pacific Connector pipeline project.

What can you do?	<p>You can help by writing comments and attending hearings to give testimony to let our agencies know why you are concerned about the Jordan Cove project and Pacific Connector pipeline and how you would be impacted by the pollution and degradation of our rivers and streams. The following is a guide to help you draft and submit comments or testimony that will help stop Jordan Cove!</p> <p>DSL is taking written and oral comments.</p> <p>Present your testimony at a hearing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Klamath County: Monday, Jan. 7 from 5:30-8 p.m. at Klamath Falls Community College (7390 S 6th St, Klamath Falls)● Jackson County: Tuesday, Jan. 8 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Jackson County Expo (1 Peninger Rd, Central Point, Ore.)● Douglas County: Wednesday, Jan. 9 from 5:30-8 p.m. at Seven Feathers Casino (146 Chief Miwaleta Ln, Canyonville)● Coos County: Thursday, Jan. 10 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Mill Casino (3201 Tremont Ave, North Bend)● Salem: Tuesday, Jan. 15 from 5:30-8 p.m. at the Department of State Lands (775 Summer St NE, Salem)
-------------------------	---

Removal-Fill Comment/Testimony Writing Guide

What is the permit that I'm commenting on?

Permit	State Removal-Fill Permit
Agency	Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL)
What is the agency reviewing?	DSL is one of several state agencies that can shut down the Jordan Cove project by denying necessary 'removal-fill' permits needed for dredging related to the pipeline and terminal. Under Oregon law (ORS 196.795-990), DSL is required to determine whether (1) the project is consistent with the protection, conservation, and best uses of the water resources of the state; (2) the project is the practicable alternative with the least adverse impacts on the water resources; and (3) the project does not unreasonably interfere with the preservation of waters for navigation, fishing, or public recreation. DSL is also required to review the public need for the project, the economic costs to the public, public health and safety, compatibility with existing land uses, and proposed mitigation for impacts to waterways.
Deadline	60 days to comment starting Thursday, December 6th 2018; The comment deadline is February 3, 2019, at 5 p.m

Where do I send my comments?

Online:	http://nolngexports.good.do/DSL/DSLComments/
Email	To: DSL Coordinator Bob Lobdell at robert.lobdell@dsl.state.or.us Subject line: Public Comment DSL Application Number 60697 NWP-2017-41
Mail	Jordan Cove comments, Oregon Department of State Lands, 775 Summer St. N.E., Ste 100, Salem, Ore. 97301

What is "removal-fill"?

"Removal-fill" refers to a specific permit required by the state of Oregon under the Department of State Lands for activities that involve moving material, such as rocks, sand, or gravel within waters of the state or depositing materials at any one location (See ORS 196.800). As one example, because Jordan Cove proposes to dredge Coos Bay (removing sand, gravel, and other materials from the bottom of the bay) and to deposit those materials at other sites, the company is required under Oregon law to obtain a removal-fill permit from DSL.

How does the Jordan Cove pipeline and terminal impact Oregon's rivers and streams?

- **Jordan Cove LNG Terminal:** Dredging of Coos Bay for the terminal and navigation channel to allow LNG tankers to access the port will likely increase turbidity (murkiness) in the bay. This can harm habitat for salmon and shellfish, like oysters and clams. The project will also cause the permanent loss of critical habitat at the bottom of the Bay, increased temperatures from discharges of cooling water, injury to fish and other aquatic life from construction of the marine slip, and permanent loss of coastal riparian vegetation. Dredging the Bay and navigation channel could significantly increase risks to public safety in the event of a tsunami.
- **Pacific Connector Gas Pipeline:** Construction of the 229-mile pipeline would impact wetlands and waterways at a minimum of 485 individual locations and would effect a total of nearly 6 miles of wetlands. At each place where the pipeline crosses stream and rivers, the construction will degrade fish habitat and water quality. Removing streamside vegetation and damming, dredging, or diverting waterways will likely increase pollution by increasing stream temperature, turbidity (murkiness), and impairing healthy aquatic habitat for fish. These and other water quality impacts will diminish the quality of habitat for fish. It may also harm drinking water supplies for more than 116,000 Oregonians.

The goal of our comments is to:

- 1) **Tell the Department of State Lands (DSL) to deny the removal-fill permit** because:
 - a. Jordan Cove has failed to demonstrate that the project is consistent with the protection, conservation, and best use of Oregon's waters.
 - b. Jordan Cove has failed to demonstrate that the project is a practicable alternative with the least adverse impacts on water resources.
 - c. Jordan Cove has failed to demonstrate that the project won't interfere with navigation, fishing, or public recreation.

Get specific! Include your concerns and specific ways you may personally be impacted.

Why should DSL deny the removal-fill permit for Jordan Cove?

1. **Beneficial uses of waterways:** This project would unreasonably interfere with including navigation, fishing, and public recreation. (See ORS 196.825(1)(b)). You can comment on your concerns about how the project would impact any of the following beneficial uses.

- **What to write about:** Do you like to go fishing, boating, swimming, rafting, or hiking on or near the Rogue, Umpqua, Klamath, Coos, or Coquille rivers? Do you like to go fishing, boating, or swimming in Coos Bay? Do you use water for irrigation or livestock watering? How would you be impacted if these waters became polluted as a result of dredging these rivers and streams or filling in wetlands? **Include your specific concerns about how you recreate on the impacted rivers and streams.**
- **EXAMPLE:** *I love fishing on the Rogue River and am concerned that pipeline construction will harm fish. Constructing the pipeline will cut down trees near streams, which can heat the stream and harm fish and fish habitat.*
- **EXAMPLE:** *I own (or I work) for a rafting company that holds trips on the Klamath, Rogue, Coos, and/or Umpqua Rivers and are concerned that the river would become inaccessible during construction and that impacts will permanently alter the aesthetic value of the river, which would negatively impact your business/place of employment.*
- **EXAMPLE:** *I go clamming in Coos Bay and I'm afraid giant tankers will create too much traffic for the public to navigate the channel and that dredging will harm wildlife where community members traditionally fish.*

2. **Increased harm to Oregon's waters:** The project is not consistent with the protection, conservation, or best use of Oregon's waters. (See ORS 196.825(1)(a)).

- **What to write about:** How would you be impacted if the Klamath, Rogue, Umpqua, Coos, or Coquille Rivers became polluted as a result of dredging these rivers and streams or filling in wetlands? Consider possible impacts to fish, wildlife, or public safety (polluted drinking water, increased flooding). How would you be impacted if dredging in Coos Bay destroyed aquatic habitat for fish and shellfish? **Include your specific concerns about how the project is not in the public interest and will harm our rivers and our communities.**
- **EXAMPLE:** *I am concerned that trenching, blasting, and damming streams will pollute the water by increasing muddiness, and will harm fish. I spend time every summer at the South Umpqua River with my kids and dogs when we visit my folks.*
- **EXAMPLE:** *This project is one of the largest and most environmentally harmful private projects in Oregon. It threatens fish, clean water, recreation, and wildlife.*

3. Increased risks to public health and safety: The terminal and pipeline would likely interfere with public health and safety. (See ORS 196.825(3)(e)).

- **What to write about:** How would you be impacted if construction of the pipeline resulted in increased pollution of your drinking water supplies? How would you be impacted if dredging of Coos Bay and the navigation channel increased tsunami risk to your community? The pipeline would also cross the source streams for 11 municipal drinking water supplies.
- **EXAMPLE:** *I live (or I work) in Medford and am concerned that the pipeline will cross tributaries to my local drinking water supply.*
- **EXAMPLE:** *I am concerned about the public safety impacts of this project including that the Jordan Cove LNG export terminal would put over 16,000 people in a hazardous burn zone and that this high-pressure explosive gas pipeline would cross some of Oregon's most fire-prone forests.*

