

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY  
FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

In the Matter of Application )  
No. 76-2 of the )  
  
NORTHERN TIER PIPELINE )  
COMPANY )  
..... )

ORDER ALLOWING INTERVENTION  
BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE

Summary of the City of Seattle's Petition to Intervene.

The City of Seattle, Washington, a municipal corporation and City of the First Class, has filed a Petition and Application for Intervention in the subject proceedings, stating as follows: The City owns and operates, through its Department of Water, a municipal water storage and supply system for approximately 925,000 people within the Seattle metropolitan area. For over 70 years the City has relied upon the Cedar River watershed as its primary source of supply, and its basic approach to water quality has been directed towards protection of the natural purity of the source rather than upon reliance on expensive treatment processes. Accordingly, all access to and activities within the Cedar River watershed are strictly controlled, and the City already owns most land within the watershed area outright, and has committed itself to acquire the remainder. Supplemental information received since the original application in the subject proceedings indicates that the selected route corridor is adjacent to the southern boundary of the Cedar River watershed for some distance, then passes through the watershed in the vicinity of Selleck. Petitioner's interests and concerns are stated as follows:

- A. The construction, operation and maintenance of an oil pipeline is fundamentally incompatible with the principle of strictly controlled Cedar River watershed management and access, involving basic risks constituting serious water supply and environmental hazards.
- B. The area near Selleck is such that a precise hydrographic watershed boundary is virtually impossible to ascertain and thus the proposed route corridor's impact on the Cedar River watershed may be greater than indicated by the map, and this concern is especially valid in view of the City's plans for future water supply wells near Selleck.

- C. Any branch line route to existing oil refineries near Bellingham and Anacortes, to which references have been made during the subject proceedings, would probably involve a direct and hazardous crossing of the Cedar River watershed at a point upstream from the present water supply intake.

The Council finds:

The City of Seattle has a special and pertinent interest in the subject proceeding and a need to be timely informed. Its interest will not be adequately represented by existing parties, including the Counsel for the Environment. The participation in this proceeding by the City of Seattle, by and through its Water Department, will be in the public interest and will not unduly delay or prejudice the adjudication of the rights of other parties.

The Council orders:

The Petition and Application for Intervention in these proceedings by the City of Seattle, by and through its Water Department, is accepted and granted and the City is hereby permitted to intervene in this proceeding with respect to its above stated interests and concerns with all rights of intervention according to title 463 of the Washington Administrative Code.

Dated at Olympia, Washington and effective this 8th day of November 1976.

WASHINGTON STATE ENERGY FACILITY  
SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

By Keith Sherman  
Keith Sherman  
Chairman

ATTEST:

By Roger Polzin  
Roger Polzin  
Executive Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

By Thomas F. Carr  
Thomas F. Carr  
Assistant Attorney General