

Zenith Energy



Zenith Energy, a Houston-based fuel company, transports highly volatile fossil fuels on dangerous pressurized trains right through dense, low-income neighborhoods for storage at the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub and export out of our community. In addition to the danger of derailment these trains pose, the 6-mile CEI Hub is built on a liquefaction zone, meaning in the event of a major earthquake, the tanks will spill into our waterways, ignite fires in our city, and pollute our air. A broad coalition is fighting Zenith, including DSA, 350PDX, CRITFC, and Columbia Riverkeeper.

Timeline of the fight against Zenith

- **2017**: Zenith begins operations in Portland, rapidly increasing the amount of crude oil they transport through our city. The City of Portland refuses to act.
- **2021**: The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) orders Zenith to get a new air quality permit (an ACDP), which first requires a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) from the City, which the City denies after intense pressure.
- **2022**: The City strikes a deal with Zenith and grants them a new LUCS so long as they transition to vaguely defined “renewable” fuels.
- **2024**: DEQ discovers illegal activity and cancels Zenith’s ACDP application.
- **2025**: Despite public outcry, Portland grants Zenith another new LUCS. Portland City Council, though, votes to investigate Zenith’s relationship with the City while DEQ considers Zenith's new permit.

