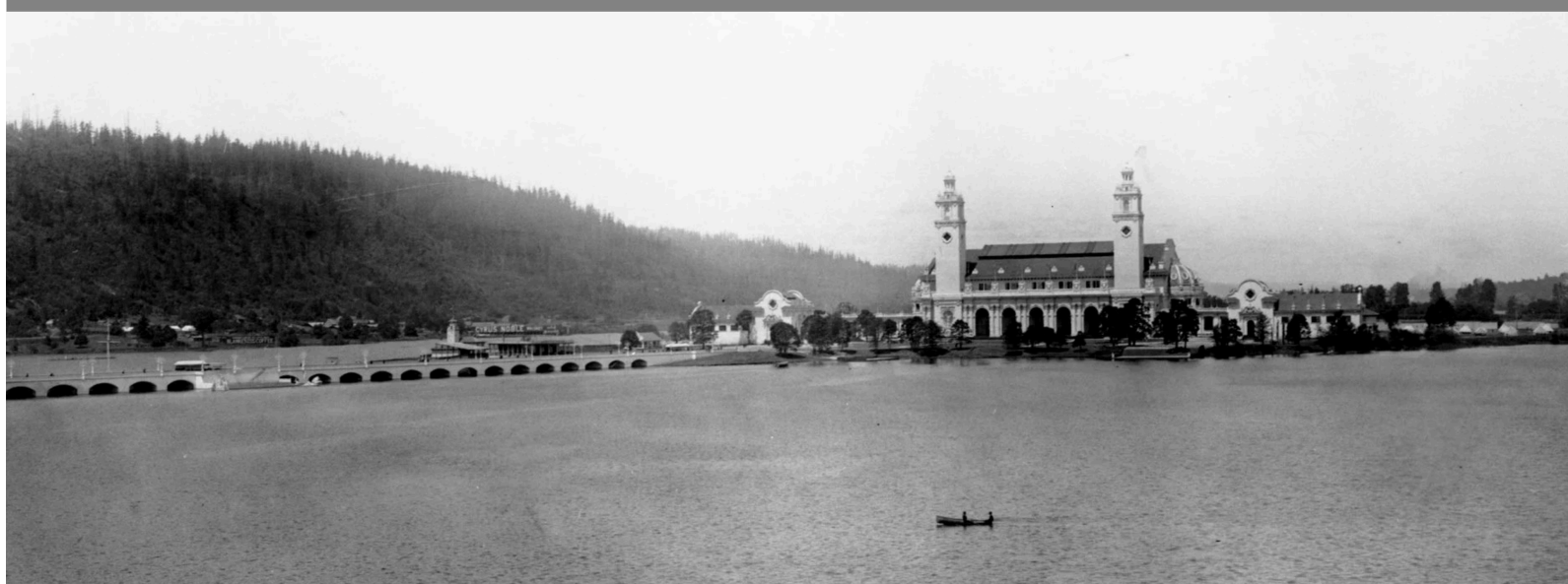




Portland Democratic Socialists of America
ECOSOCIALIST WORKING GROUP



Photo: Guild's Lake ca. 1905 - This became the "Guild's Lake Industrial Sanctuary." Vantage point is due north, where the Critical Energy Infrastructure (CEI) Hub currently resides.



ZENITH ENERGY IS A DANGER TO US ALL

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, Braided River Campaign, Portland Harbor Community Coalition, and Columbia Riverkeeper.

TIMELINE OF THE FIGHT AGAINST ZENITH

2017 – Zenith Energy acquires the terminal from Arc Logistics. Shortly after, it begins receiving crude oil and tar sands via mile-long "unit trains," significantly increasing the volume of hazardous materials moving through the city without a new public environmental review.

2018 – **The Violations Begin:** Zenith fails to pay franchise fees on time. Reports emerge that it had broken a verbal promise not to increase fossil fuel throughput.

2019 – **Failure to Comply:** The company defies state orders to conduct mandatory oil spill drills, raising alarms about its preparedness for a derailment or explosion.

2021 – **A Small Win:** In a rare victory for environmental advocates, the City of Portland denies Zenith's Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS), citing conflict with the city's climate goals. This denial causes the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to deny Zenith's air permit.

2022 – **A City Betrays Its Citizens:** While Zenith appeals the denial in court, it submits a new LUCS application promising to phase out crude oil in five years. In October 2022, the City quietly approves the LUCS without public input or tribal consultation.

2023 – **Performative Accountability:** The Portland City Auditor finds Zenith guilty of violating lobbying laws in 2022. The company failed to report hundreds of hours of lobbying used to secure the 2022 LUCS approval. No fine was issued; the company received only a warning.

2024 – **Illicit Behavior:** A state investigation reveals Zenith illegally constructed and used new piping to transport fossil fuels on at least 34 occasions between 2021 and 2024 without city or DEQ authorization. DEQ issues a \$372,600 fine.

February 2025 – **Hastened Approval:** Despite the discovery of illegal piping and a pending City Council resolution to investigate the company, City Administrators approve a third LUCS for Zenith.

March 2025 – **Resolution 37702:** The Portland City Council votes 11-1 to launch an investigation into Zenith's franchise agreement and the conduct of city staff.

February 2026 – **Self-Absolvement Is Treachery:** The City releases its final report, largely clearing itself and Zenith of wrongdoing regarding the franchise agreement. Community groups formally reject the report as a "fatally flawed" self-investigation.



<https://portlanddsa.org/ecosocialism>

