



April Report

IMMEDIATE ACTION NEEDED

Please E-MAIL the following language to Jamie Hoover, Director of Petroleum Management, Maine Department of Environmental Protection at: Jamie.Hoover@maine.gov

“WE CALL UPON THE MAINE DEP TO DENY THE PPL/SUNCOR LICENSE RENEWAL FOR THIS 80-YEAR-OLD FACILITY, THE HILL STREET TANK FARM.

IT IS AGING, UNDERUTILIZED, AND NO LONGER SERVES THE PUBLIC INTEREST. THE TIME HAS COME TO SHUT DOWN AND THEN REMEDIATE THE HILL STREET TANK FARM.”

Why is this necessary? At the end of April, the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection will decide whether to grant Portland Pipeline Company (PPL) /Suncor a five-year renewal license to operate the Hill Street Tank Farm. This renewal incense outlines the obligations the company be required to meet during the next five years.

The Portland Pipeline Company/Suncor has no intention of operating this facility. For the past 6 + years it has been running at a 3% capacity, and they have no intention of performing their prime function of sending crude oil through the Portland Pipeline that connects the Hill Street Tank Farm to in South Portland to their refineries in Montreal.

Why is the facility not operating at full capacity:

There is no demand by Suncor's refineries for this crude oil. They have all the crude oil they need coming from Western Canada via oil pipelines. There is no market for crude oil coming to Montreal by an underground pipeline from South Portland, Maine.

Why doesn't the PPL/Suncor, simply shut down the facility and not operate it with only 3% capacity?

If the Renewal License is renewed for another 5 years, they will not be obligated to perform any of the mandated remediation tasks that are required by State Law under the Renewal License. With a renewed 5 year license, the 110 acres of land will be postponed for an additional 5 years.

In effect, the company can continue postponing its close out responsibilities—potentially indefinitely—by repeatedly seeking a license renewal every 5 years.

Conclusion

The residents of South Portland should not be asked to wait another five years for action.

Operating at just 3% capacity should not entitle PPL/Suncor to defer its responsibility to safely close, remediate, and restore their 108-acre site to the required residential remediation development standards.

The continued very limited operation of this aging, underutilized facility places the community at unnecessary risk while delaying urgently needed redevelopment opportunities.

This facility should be closed and remediated now—not five years from now.

Contact Tim Honey, the Toss the Tanks Coordinator if you have any questions at:
Stephen.t.Honey@gmail.com