## **Oral Ruling**

Port of Kalama v. Washington Shorelines Hearing Board, et al.

May 8, 2018



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	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF COWLITZ	1 2	APPEARANCES (continued)
	PORT OF KALAMA, ) Petitioner, ) Cause No. 17-2-01269-08 v. ) WASHINGTON SHORELINES HEARING ) BOARD, et al., ) Respondents. ) ORAL RULING The Honorable Stephen M. Warning Presiding May 8, 2018	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	On Behalf of Northwest Innovation Works: SARA ANNE LEVERETTE Stoel Rives LLP 600 University Street, Suite 3600 Seattle, Washington 98101-4109  On Behalf of Department of Ecology: EMILY NELSON Hughes & Nelson Attorneys at Law, PLLC 505 West Riverside Avenue, Suite 650 Spokane, Washington 99201
	TRANSCRIBED BY: Marjorie Jackson, LLC	22 23 24 25	
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1	APPEARANCES	1	May 8, 2018
2		2	May 8, 2018 (10:35:00)
2	On Behalf of Port of Kalama:	2	May 8, 2018
2 3 4	On Behalf of Port of Kalama: JAY PALMER DERR	2 3 4	May 8, 2018 (10:35:00) -00o-
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hole do you go? How much money do you spend at the bottom of that rabbit hole? And that's why we have this rule of reason, which is kind of a common standard for the courts in many areas: What's reasonable? In the context of every man or every woman, what's reasonable?

Here, unfortunately, this whole thing is complicated by what I have to say is just absurd guidance from the Department of Ecology. I forget the terms the Shorelines Hearing Board used for it, but they were fairly polite in how they described it. And that just makes it more difficult for everybody involved in the process.

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But there -- I agree with the notion that that guidance would be, I think, best described as formulaic. And the use of that guidance in the EIS does run directly contrary to RCW 72.35.020 and the mandates that have been given to us there by the legislative and executive branch. It talks about overall reductions in greenhouse gases issued by this state. It puts some sideboards on it, and the sideboards are the boundary lines of the State of Washington.

So I would agree with the Shorelines Hearing Board to the extent that there is no issue of material fact as to the adequacy of the discussion of the impacts of greenhouse gas from this facility in the context of -- I think it's the Klickitat case that talks about the discussion has to be based on all policy available. We have got specific

that's: Where do we go from here? And you have to go back and look at what were really two different process.

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So, first, on the vacature of the permits issue, the permits went through their entire process. For me, and given what I do and where my arena is, they essentially went through the trial. All factual issues were discussed and the permits were granted. They have already decided the whitetail deer issue, all those other issues. Because of that and even though I think it does create some issues of just what the process is, I'm really loathe to order a whole lot of additional time or expense to parties unless it's really appropriate.

The only issue that's going to change when we go back to those permitting agencies is the difference between the current EIS and the future one. So I'm not going to vacate the permits. The permitting agencies need to review that new EIS, but that's the extent of the future review there. We're not starting over at "all issues on the table" because they have had what, in essence, is a trial. We're only reviewing the one fact on the ground that will have changed, and that's what the EIS says.

We're in a different situation with the Shorelines Hearing Board and the issue of res judicata or issue preclusion. The Shorelines Hearing Board never got to their trial. There was a summary judgment motion that said:

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statutory policy that has to be included in that discussion.

So I would sustain the Shorelines Hearing Board to that extent.

It gets more complicated from there, and I try for a variety of reasons to keep my rulings, especially in these sort of areas, as simple as possible. So there is a discussion at footnote 3 that we have referenced multiple times about just what that analysis is supposed to look like. There certainly can be an argument made that that is a significant usurpation of policy by the Shorelines Hearing Board. But I don't have to decide that today because, if you look at what their decision was, everything in that footnote is strictly dicta. It is utterly unnecessary to their decision as to whether or not the discussion of greenhouse gases was adequate. And having found that, because of reliance on the DOE dicta -- or guidance, the discussion was not adequate. They don't need to, and in my view, should not have gone farther than that to create what really are significant policy decisions. Whether or not 2.0 those policy decisions are really within their remit, I don't have to determine, though.

That takes me to the next -- I guess the final issue.

It's two issues that are similar but, in my analysis -- and this is part of why I kept asking that question about adequacy of the discussion versus ANSI determination, and

Here's one issue that blows the thing up. And they made a

decision on that one issue. So I am not making any finding of res judicata or issue preclusion in terms of the

proceedings before the Shorelines Hearing Board because we
 have not yet had that full trial before the finder of fact

in front of the Shorelines Hearing Board.

So any questions on the ruling, Counsel? I hope that's been sufficiently clear.

I am going to be out of town for the next couple of weeks and then a couple of weeks in June where I am utterly unavailable.

MS. LEVERETTE: Can I ask a quick question?

13 THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.

MS. LEVERETTE: Part of what Northwest Innovation Works is struggling with in the remand is the content of

footnote 3 because we will be before that board again with the new analysis.

THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

MS. LEVERETTE: And so any direction from the Court as to what in that footnote goes beyond -- is more of a policy statement than the law or any insight into what analysis is probably part of the new analysis.

THE COURT: For me to do that, I would be doing exactly what I faulted the Shorelines Hearing Board for doing. I think I've got to leave my statement at its dicta, and it

	Page 9	
1	certainly was a broad new pronouncement. Beyond that, I	
2	think I've got to leave it to them.	
3	So what I'm going to ask you if we can't get an agreed	
4	order entered, please contact my judicial assistant,	
5	Michelle Honey. She's got my schedule, but, unfortunately,	
6	May and June, there's a lot of time when I will mercifully	
7	be outside of Wi-Fi.	
8	(Conclusion of oral ruling.)	
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2	CERTIFICATE	
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2 3 4	CERTIFICATE  STATE OF WASHINGTON ) )	
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	<b>beyond</b> 8:20 9:1	courts 5:3	environmental	gases 4:20 5:17
A 10.11	<b>blows</b> 8:1	cowlitz 1:2 2:16,18	4:19	6:15
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