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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUPS ASK OREGON DEQ TO REVERSE DECISION AUTHORIZING MASSIVE OIL TERMINAL

Concerns over air pollution and impacts to public health prompts appeal of key permit for state's largest oil-by-rail terminal

Oct. 17, 2014 (Portland, OR) – Environmental groups filed an appeal with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) today asking the agency to reconsider its August 19, 2014, decision authorizing Global Partners' massive oil terminal on the Columbia River. According to the appeal, the state agency ignored huge air pollution emissions that would result from the Global Partners' operations, thereby allowing the facility to avoid federal review and restrictions on dangerous air pollutants. Pollution from Global Partners' operations includes hazardous air pollutants, fine particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and greenhouse gases. The Northwest Environmental Defense Center, Neighbors for Clean Air, the Center for Biological Diversity, Columbia Riverkeeper, and Sierra Club filed a ["Petition for Reconsideration."](#) an administrative level appeal, with DEQ arguing that the agency ignored fundamental clean air protections in state and federal law.

"Global's air pollution permit gives the green light for the facility to ship up to 1,839,600,000 gallons of crude oil each year. This is a staggering amount of oil," said Mark Riskedahl, Executive Director of the Northwest Environmental Defense Center. "In addition to the significant risks of oil spills and impacts from rail traffic and associated pollution, Global's proposal has significant implications for local and regional air quality."

DEQ's air pollution permit allows Global Partners to legally operate its oil-by-rail and handle 1.8 billion gallons of crude oil annually from the former ethanol facility operating as the Columbia Pacific Bio-Refinery. Global Partners' operations could bring up to 50 oil trains per month through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Portland, and Columbia County towns.

"People eat fish caught near Global's oil terminal. We're talking about some of the highest quality salmon habitat in the entire Columbia River Basin butting up against the shores of this massive oil-by-rail terminal. To say that an oil spill would be devastating is an understatement," said Brett VandenHeuvel, Executive Director for Columbia Riverkeeper. "We're asking DEQ to protect people who live, work, and fish near Global's oil-by-rail complex."

"On paper Global has drawn colored lines around parts of its facility and asked for an air permit for only certain parts of its operations," said attorney Tanya Sanerib from the Center for Biological

Diversity. "But in reality, Global needs a permit for its entire operations – not just its artwork."

Global Partners LP has a history of flaunting environmental and safety regulation. In March, Oregon DEQ fined the company for illegally shipping 250 million gallons of crude in 2013 without the required air pollution permit. Global Partners is currently contesting the \$117,292 fine that DEQ issued for what it called a violation of the "highest level."

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About Columbia Riverkeeper

Columbia Riverkeeper's mission is to protect and restore the water quality of the Columbia River and all life connected to it, from the headwaters to the Pacific Ocean. Representing a diverse coalition of members and interests, Columbia Riverkeeper works to restore a Columbia River where people can safely eat the fish they catch, and where children can swim without fear of toxic exposure. The organization is a member of Waterkeeper Alliance, the world's fastest growing environmental movement, uniting more than 200 Waterkeeper organizations worldwide and focusing citizen action on issues that affect our waterways, from pollution to climate change. For more information go to columbiariverkeeper.org.