

Evidence of Financial Mismanagement: NEXT Renewable Fuels

October 5, 2026

New information regarding NEXT Renewable Fuels¹ or [NXTClean Fuels](#)² (hereinafter, collectively “NEXT”) reveals serious and long-running business and financial mismanagement. Since 2019, NEXT has proposed building a [non-conventional diesel refinery](#) near Clatskanie, Oregon, along the Columbia River. NEXT has received several [state permits](#) from Oregon agencies, and [federal permitting](#) review is underway.

NEXT’s Loss of Corporate Status

According to the Delaware Division of Corporations, NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc. owes more than \$420,000 in back franchise taxes and has been “void” since March 1, 2024. Under Delaware law, failure to pay corporate taxes renders a corporation void and “all powers conferred by law upon the corporation are declared inoperative.”³ In a legal sense, the corporation no longer exists, and “cannot exercise any corporate powers without the agents purporting to act on its behalf committing a crime.”⁴ Despite this, NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc. continued to do business in Oregon and elsewhere after March 1, 2024, including by entering into contracts, filing reports with the Oregon Department of State, and [offering securities](#) such as promissory notes and warrants to purchase common stock.

- Delaware Corporate Entity Report for [NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc.](#) (unofficial).
 - Delaware Corporate Status: Void as of 3/1/2024
 - Tax Due: \$427,472
- Delaware Corporate Entity Report for [NEXT Renewable Fuels Oregon, LLC](#) (unofficial).
 - Delaware Corporate Status: Cease Good Standing as of 6/1/2025.
 - Tax Due: \$1,1150

¹ NEXT does business using two different corporate entities: NEXT Renewable Fuels, Inc. and NEXT Renewable Fuels Oregon, LLC.

² Chris Efird, NEXT’s Executive Chairman, often refers to “NXTClean Fuels, Inc.” There is no “NXTClean Fuels, Inc.” authorized to do business in Oregon, nor is there a “NXTClean Fuels, Inc.” incorporated in Delaware. This appears to be a “doing business as” name.

³ 8 Del C. § 510.

⁴ *Colston v. Greens at Wyoming Homeowners Ass’n*, 2026 WL 1407600, at *6 n.79 (Del. Ch. May 20, 2026) (unpublished).

NEXT's Unpaid Debts

Port Westward Property in Foreclosure

In 2020, NEXT purchased 25.5 acres of land from the Teevin family to serve as part of the proposed refinery for [\\$3,700,000](#). On June 25, 2026, NEXT received a Notice of Default and Commercial Foreclosure on behalf of the Teevin family alleging that NEXT has failed to pay \$3,636,429 in principal, interest, and taxes assessed against the property.⁵ NEXT's property is set to be sold at auction on November 20, 2026.

- [Notice of Default and Election to Sell](#) (6/25/2026)

Unpaid Debts to Investors

A group of investors are suing NEXT in Texas court for nearly \$1,000,000 to recover unpaid loans; the case is set for trial in 2027. NEXT borrowed hundreds of thousands of dollars from several investors in 2021, nominally to pay for the Port Westward property. As security for these loans, the investors were given liens against the property. The lawsuit alleges that NEXT has failed to make required payments on these loans, and is in breach of contract.

- [Motion for Summary Judgment](#) against NEXT (filed 7/23/2026)
- [Declaration & Exhibits](#) to Motion for Summary Judgment (including investment agreements between NEXT and creditors).

Unpaid Debts to Contractor

LJA Environmental Services, LLC ("LJA"), is suing NEXT for \$601,974 for breach of contract. NEXT hired LJA to perform environmental consulting services, including the preparation of a draft Environmental Impact Statement, in order to obtain a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit to develop the proposed refinery. LJA alleges breach of contract against NEXT for refusing to pay for those services. LJA has placed, and is attempting to foreclose, a construction lien on NEXT's Port Westward property.

⁵ On July 13, 2026 (shortly after receiving the Notice of Default), NEXT paid its Columbia County property taxes for 2023 to 2025, which totaled less than \$6,000. Columbia County Account No. 28062.

- [LJA Complaint](#) and exhibits (filed 9/2/2026) (includes LJA's contract with NEXT, work orders signed by NEXT, and a construction lien on NEXT's Port Westward property).

Past Business Dealings of NEXT and its Principals.

- NEXT [backed out](#) of its Lakeview, Oregon, biofuels facility in July 2026.
- NEXT [has not paid](#) full rent, as contemplated in the original lease, to the Port of Columbia County since December 2023.
- In November 2023, NEXT [failed to complete](#) a \$176 million business merger with the now-liquidated SPAC, [Industrial Tech Acquisitions II](#).
- NEXT's Chris Efird (and Lou Soumas) [backed](#) TransMessis, a failed biofuels facility in Odessa, Washington. [TransMessis abandoned](#) the biofuels plant, leaving behind a \$400,000 environmental cleanup and more than \$1.6 million in unpaid bills and taxes.
- Lou Soumas, the former President of NEXT, was [fired](#) in 2020 after being arrested on felony child sex abuse charges. He was [later convicted](#) of a lesser charge.

For additional information or questions, please contact Audrey Leonard, Staff Attorney for Columbia Riverkeeper at audrey@columbiariverkeeper.org or 541.399.4775.