

June 5, 2026

Natural Resources Department  
Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe  
1033 Old Blyn Highway  
Sequim, WA 98382  
Phone: 360-683-1109

**RE: Port Townsend Paper Company — White Liquor Safety, Bay Discharge & Treaty-Protected Waters Following the Longview Disaster — V\_1.13**

Dear Natural Resources Director and Staff,

I am writing to you as a Port Townsend resident and community researcher, and I reach out to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe with deep respect for your sovereign nation and your treaty-protected rights in the waters of this region.

On May 26, 2026, eleven workers died at the Nippon Dynawave kraft paper mill in Longview, Washington, when a 900,000-gallon white liquor tank imploded — the deadliest industrial accident in modern Washington State history. OPB interviewed seven chemical safety experts who confirmed the implosion mechanism involved a blockage that prevented air backfilling the tank as liquid was pumped out, creating catastrophic negative pressure. Workers had reported a structural warning to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health two months before the disaster. No action was taken.

PTPC operates the identical kraft pulping process — the same white liquor chemistry, sodium hydroxide and sodium sulfide — on 450 acres bordering Port Townsend Bay, five miles from residential neighborhoods. PTPC's daily output of 950–1,000 tons per day exceeds Nippon Dynawave's. The size, age, and inspection history of PTPC's white liquor tanks are not publicly disclosed. White liquor is exempt from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk Management Program — there is no required public safety plan, no mandated tank disclosure, and no worst-case release scenario on file anywhere.

Port Townsend Paper Company operates the identical kraft process on 450 acres bordering Port Townsend Bay — five miles from the Jamestown S'Klallam community at Blyn. Your nation holds treaty-protected fishing and shellfish rights in Port Townsend Bay and surrounding waters under the Point No Point Treaty of 1855. PTPC has discharged industrial wastewater into the bay for more than 100 years. The draft National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal identified new toxic compounds — benzo(a)anthracene (probable carcinogen), chlordane, and pentachlorophenol — previously undetected despite a century of continuous discharge.

A Longview-scale white liquor release into Port Townsend Bay would be catastrophic to the marine resources protected by your treaty rights. I am working with community members to present formal safety requests to Jefferson County and the City of Port Townsend. Your Tribe's voice on these issues carries significant legal and moral weight.

**I Would Welcome Your Input On:**

- What does your department's water quality monitoring show for Port Townsend Bay near the PTPC discharge outfall? Are there existing data sets on sediment or shellfish tissue testing?
- Has the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe been formally included in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal process? If not, the Tribe should be a formal commenting party given the treaty rights at stake.
- Would the Tribe be willing to formally support community requests for independent white liquor tank inspection, mandatory Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) testing, and real-time public monitoring of PTPC's bay discharge?

I have compiled extensive research documentation and would welcome the opportunity to share it with your department. I am available to meet in person, by phone, or by video at your convenience and on your timeline.

Respectfully,

**David Ginsberg**

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