

June 5, 2026

Natural Resources Department
Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe
31912 Little Boston Road NE
Kingston, WA 98346
Phone: 360-297-4792

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 Port Gamble 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 approximately 19 miles from the Port Gamble S'Klallam reservation. Your nation holds treaty-protected fishing and shellfish rights in Port Townsend Bay, Admiralty Inlet, and surrounding waters under the Point No Point Treaty of 1855. I am aware that your Tribe has experienced firsthand the long-term impacts of industrial discharge at Port Gamble Bay — the Pope & Talbot legacy contamination. The situation at PTPC has troubling parallels.

PTPC has discharged industrial wastewater into Port Townsend Bay — which drains into Admiralty Inlet and Puget Sound — for more than 100 years without a valid National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit since 2018. A Longview-scale white liquor release

would introduce sodium hydroxide and sodium sulfide directly into waters flowing through Admiralty Inlet, threatening marine resources your people harvest and have protected since time immemorial.

I Would Welcome Your Input On:

- Does your department's water quality monitoring cover Port Townsend Bay and Admiralty Inlet? Do you have existing data on sediment or shellfish tissue contamination in waters affected by PTPC's discharge?
- Has the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe been formally included as a commenting party in PTPC's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal? Your treaty rights create strong grounds for formal consultation.
- Given your Tribe's experience with Pope & Talbot contamination at Port Gamble Bay, would your environmental staff be willing to share insights about regulatory tools and legal approaches most effective in protecting treaty resources from industrial discharge?
- 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?

I am available to meet in person, by phone, or by video at your convenience and on your timeline. Thank you for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe's enduring stewardship of these waters.

Respectfully,

David Ginsberg

[REDACTED]

Port Townsend WA 98368

[REDACTED]

davidbginsberg@gmail.com