

Memo



Metro

600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736

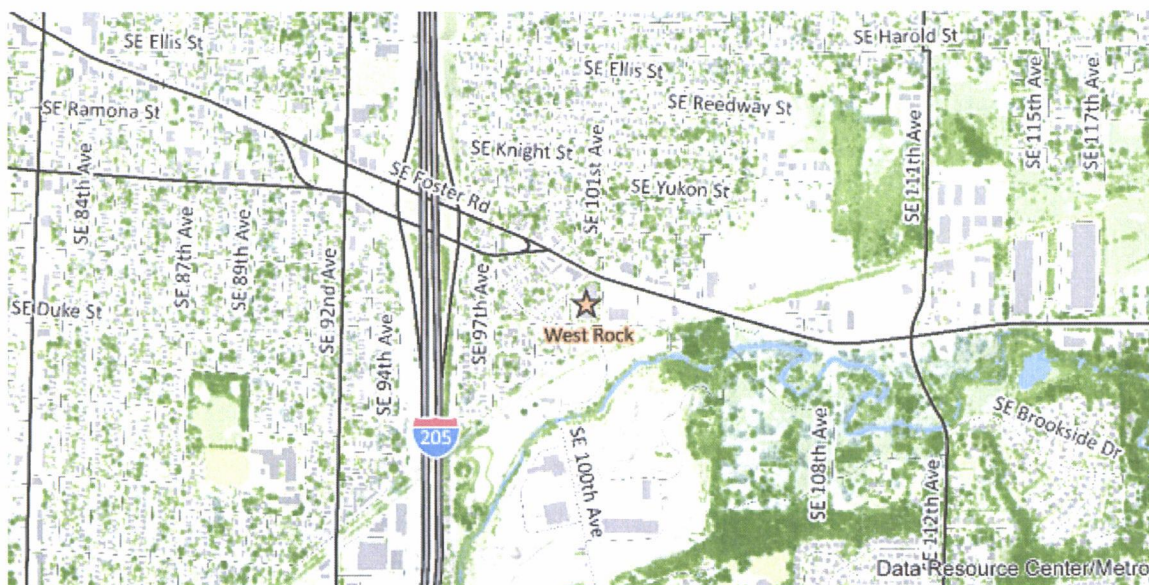
DATE: December 31, 2018

TO: Roy W. Brower, Solid Waste Information Compliance and Cleanup Manager

FROM: Will Ennis, Senior Solid Waste Planner 

RE: Issuance of new Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19 for WestRock Portland Recycle

Attached for your signature is new Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19 authorizing WestRock Portland Recycle (WestRock) to receive and process source-separated recyclable materials at their facility located at 6328 SE 100th Avenue in Portland (Metro District 6). The proposed license includes Metro's standard operating requirements for a material recovery facility, but sets a six-month term instead of the standard five year term that is typically authorized under a license. Staff recommends issuing a short term license in this instance to allow time for Metro to further investigate the concerns that were raised by the neighboring community during the public comment period and solicit additional input from the public to help inform longer-term operating requirements. This memo provides background information on the applicant's request, concerns raised about the facility, and recommends that Metro issue a new, short-term license to WestRock to accept and process source-separated recyclable materials.



WestRock is located at 6328 SE 100th Avenue in Portland

BACKGROUND

Metro is tasked with planning, management, and oversight of the region's solid waste system, and has an obligation to the public to ensure the waste intended for reuse, recycling and other purposes is handled properly and sent to appropriate markets, and that all other waste is safely managed and disposed.

Historically, Metro Code exempted from licensing certain material recovery facilities that exclusively receive non-putrescible source-separated recyclable materials that are collected through a curbside residential or commercial collection program. However, it was determined that collection methods, material composition, and market conditions for source-separated recyclable materials changed significantly since Metro initially established that regulatory exemption. These significant changes over the years have resulted in greater potential for material degradation at recovery facilities and adverse impacts on neighboring communities.

In December 2015, Metro's Solid Waste Alternatives Advisory Committee (SWAAC) commissioned a subcommittee to consider whether material recovery facilities that receive source-separated recyclable materials should be subject to Metro's licensing and inspection requirements similar to that of other solid waste facilities. SWAAC was also charged with identifying which licensing requirements were appropriate for such material recovery facilities.

The 15-member subcommittee, comprised of industry, local government, nonprofit, and general public representatives, held a series of meetings throughout 2016-17 and recommended that Metro establish regulatory requirements for material recovery facilities that receive and process source-separated recyclable materials. The subcommittee's recommendation was subsequently endorsed by SWAAC.

In November 2017, Metro Council adopted Ordinance No. 17-1411 which amended Metro Code Chapter 5.01 (Solid Waste Facility Regulation) to establish licensing requirements for certain facilities that receive and process source-separated recyclable materials, and exempt certain conversion technology and specific material recycler facilities from licensing. WestRock is one of six recycling facilities in the Metro region that are subject to the licensing requirements and must obtain Metro authority to operate by January 1, 2019.

THE APPLICANT



WestRock is located at 6328 SE 100th Avenue in Portland

The applicant, WestRock, is owned by WestRock, CP, LLC based in Atlanta, GA. WestRock is located at 6328 SE 100th Avenue in Portland where similar businesses have operated since 1993. The facility receives commercially generated recyclables, including corrugated cardboard, plastics, glass and paper, for classification and baling for both domestic and international markets.

On August 28, 2018, WestRock submitted a complete application to Metro requesting a new Solid Waste Facility License accompanied by a payment of \$300. The property on which the facility is located is zoned EG2 (general employment 2) by the city of Portland and the proposed use is allowed by right in this zone according to the Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) signed by a representative of the City.

Under Metro Code Section 5.01.080, the proposed license is to be approved or denied by the Chief Operating Officer (COO). On October 9, 2017, the COO delegated authority to the Solid Waste Information Compliance and Cleanup (SWICC) Director to determine whether to approve or deny these types of applications. As such, the SWICC Director is authorized to grant this license.

PUBLIC NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On September 17, 2018, Metro issued public notice of the license application and provided an opportunity for the public to submit comments. Public notice was mailed to about 920 property owners, businesses and residents located within approximately one quarter of a mile from WestRock's facility. Notice was also posted on the Metro website and emailed to a list of Metro-area stakeholders that have a general interest in solid waste issues. The public comment period ended on October 17, 2018. Additionally, Metro staff discussed the proposed license at meetings of the Lents Neighborhood Livability Association on October 11, 2018, and the Lents Neighborhood Association on November 27, 2018. In response to the public notice, Metro received 11 comments regarding the license application including one comment signed by 10 individuals from separate households (see attached).

Summary of Written Public Comments on Application

The comments that Metro received express common frustrations and concerns regarding several ongoing issues that can be summarized as follows:

- Proximity of the facility to a residential neighborhood
- Traffic congestion caused by truck traffic and staging in prohibited zones
- Windblown litter and dust
- Noise during proscribed hours
- Fires originating at the facility
- Vibrations caused by heavy equipment
- Odor generated by materials accepted at the facility
- Increase in rat population

Metro Staff Response to Written Public Comments on Application

The following are Metro staff's responses to the written public comments and are addressed to each individual issue:

Proximity of the facility to a residential neighborhood: The zoning of the facility (EG2 – general employment) and the neighborhood which directly abuts (R2 – residential) is designated by the city of Portland. Metro relies on the determination of its government partners for land use allowances. The applicant provided Metro with a Land Use Compatibility Statement (LUCS) signed by the city of Portland which states that the proposed use is allowed outright at this site. Metro has informed city

of Portland staff of the concerns that we raised during the public comment period. Metro intends to host a community conversation in the Lent's neighborhood in April 2019 to further discuss the community's concerns and Metro will invite the city of Portland to participate in that event to answer questions about zoning requirements.

Traffic congestion caused by truck traffic and staging in prohibited zones: The proposed license includes a requirement that the facility must provide adequate off-street parking and queuing for vehicles and notify customers that vehicles cannot park or queue on public streets or roads except as provided by local traffic ordinances. Metro relies on the city of Portland to determine the traffic allowances for this proposed facility. Metro staff has referred all relevant comments to PBOT, and will continue to work cooperatively with PBOT to mitigate traffic concerns.

Windblown litter and dust: The proposed license includes a requirement that the facility operate in a manner that minimizes dust and airborne debris and litter and which prevents its migration beyond the property boundaries of the facility. Metro staff perform regular unannounced inspections of Metro authorized facilities, and will monitor the effectiveness of the facility's dust, debris and litter control measures.

Noise during proscribed hours: The proposed license includes a requirement that the facility operate in a manner that controls noise that causes off-site impacts and meet applicable noise regulatory standards. Metro acknowledges that this issue will be difficult to address given that the facility's zoning is general employment and directly abuts a residentially zoned neighborhood. Metro shared the public comments it received regarding noise concerns with city of Portland Noise Control office and will continue to work cooperatively with city of Portland Noise Control Office to mitigate community concerns. During its routine inspections, Metro will monitor facility compliance with posted operating hours.

Fires originating at the facility: In addition to local fire marshal oversight, the proposed license includes a requirement that the facility provide fire prevention, protection and control measures including adequate water supply for fire suppression, isolation of potential heat sources and flammables from processing and storage areas.

Vibrations caused by heavy equipment: Metro's licensing requirements regulate the receipt, management, and transfer of recyclable materials and other waste at the facility. Metro's oversight will include routine unannounced inspections and will entail close regulatory coordination with local government partners to ensure that waste received at the site is properly managed and transferred to appropriate sites. Notwithstanding the concerns raised by the commenters, the proposed license is limited to acceptance and processing of solid waste – it does not address vibrations caused by equipment. Metro shares the community's interest in ensuring that facilities managing the region's waste and recyclable materials do so in ways that protect the environment and human health while minimizing impacts on the communities in which they are located. While the scope of Metro's proposed license at this site is specific to the acceptance and management of recyclable materials, Metro will continue to work in partnership with DEQ and other agencies to ensure these goals are achieved.

Odor generated by materials accepted at the facility: The proposed license includes a requirement that the facility operate in a manner to control and minimize off-site odors and follow the odor minimization procedures described in the facility's operating plan. Metro staff perform routine unannounced inspections of Metro authorized facilities, and will monitor the effectiveness of the facility's odor control measures.

Increase in rat population: The proposed license includes a requirement that the facility operate in a manner not conducive to the harborage of rodents, birds, insects or other vectors capable of transmitting infectious diseases. Additionally, the facility must implement vector control measures. Metro staff with expertise in integrated pest management will provide technical assistance to the operator to help establish and maintain more effective vector control measures at the site. Metro staff perform regular unannounced inspections of Metro authorized facilities, and will monitor the effectiveness of the facility's vector control measures.

As mentioned above, due to the nature of the comments received by Metro during the public notice period, staff recommends initially issuing a six-month term license to WestRock in order to allow additional time for Metro to evaluate the facility's operations and solicit input from neighboring residents and businesses. This evaluation period will serve to inform whether Metro should revise or incorporate new conditions in a longer-term license.

METRO CODE REQUIREMENTS

Metro Code states that an applicant seeking to obtain a solid waste facility license must participate in a pre-application conference with Metro before submitting an application. WestRock participated in a pre-application conference with Metro on June 26, 2018. WestRock subsequently submitted to Metro a complete license application and the appropriate application fee of \$300. The application was deemed complete on August 28, 2018.

5.01.070 Applications for Licenses

A license application must also include the following information:

- 1) *Proof that the applicant can obtain the types of insurance specified by the Chief Operating Officer during the license term;*

WestRock has provided documentation demonstrating that it has met Metro's insurance requirements.

- 2) *A copy of all applications for necessary DEQ permits, any other information required by or submitted to DEQ, and a copy of any DEQ permits;*

WestRock has provided copies of all necessary information and permits required by DEQ.¹

- 3) *A copy of any closure plan that DEQ requires, including documents demonstrating financial assurance for the costs of closure. If DEQ does not require a closure plan, the applicant must provide a closure document describing closure protocol for the solid waste facility at any point in its active life;*

WestRock has provided the necessary closure plan.

- 4) *Signed consent by the property owner(s) agreeing to the proposed property use. The consent must also disclose the applicant's property interest and the duration of that interest. The consent must include a statement that the property owner(s) have read and agree to be*

¹ An application for a DEQ Class V Underground Injection Control Authorization by Rule has been submitted to DEQ and is currently under review.

bound by the provisions of Section 5.01.320(f) if Metro revokes the license or refuses any license renewal;

The applicant's parent company is the sole owner of the property on which the facility is located.

- 5) *Proof that the applicant has received proper land use approval; or, if the applicant has not obtained land use approval, then a written recommendation of the planning director of the local governmental unit having land use jurisdiction regarding new or existing disposal sites, or alterations, expansions, improvements or changes in the method or type of disposal at new or existing disposal sites. The recommendation may include, but is not limited to, a statement of compatibility of the site, the solid waste disposal facility located thereon and the proposed operation with the acknowledged local comprehensive plan and zoning requirements or with the statewide planning goals of the Land Conservation and development Commission;*

WestRock provided a copy of a LUCS signed by a representative of the city of Portland stating that the proposed use of the site is allowed outright. WestRock has provided the necessary land use approval.

- 6) *Any current permit and a list of anticipated permits that a governmental agency may require. If the applicant has previously applied for a permit, the applicant must provide a copy of that permit application and any permit that any other government agency granted.*

WestRock has provided copies of all necessary permits.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends issuing new Solid Waste Facility License No. L-156-19 to WestRock with a six-month term authorizing it to accept and process source-separated recyclable materials. The six-month term will allow Metro to further evaluate the concerns raised about the facility during the public comment period and solicit additional input from the neighboring residents and businesses. The proposed license becomes effective on January 1, 2019, and expires on June 30, 2019. A copy of the proposed license is attached for your signature.

ATTACHMENT
WE:bjl

From: Hila Ritter
To:
Subject: RE: public comments regarding WestRock
Date: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 3:24:00 PM

Thank you for these comments, they will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report.

Thanks,
*Hila

Hila Ritter
Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 2:55 PM
To: Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: Re: public comments regarding WestRock

Thank you for your response. This is what I would consider an accurate account of what we have been dealing with, mostly since 2015. We are still having problems with some truck drivers who ignore the no truck signs. 2 trucks today have already come down this street (SE Woodstock Court), and it seems that they are becoming more complacent, and the last time I talked to David Schmidt, he said that they cannot control what the truck drivers do when they are not on their property. If that business was not there, then there would never have been an issue with big tractor trailer rigs even in this neighborhood, so personally, I feel it is WestRock's responsibility to address the issue with the truck drivers in violation. I have talked to the Department of Transportation for the State of Oregon, and was told that I am to call the police every time a truck was on this street, but I do not want to put the hardship on the drivers because the facility is too large of an operation to be here, and it isn't the truck driver's fault that it is a very difficult, and to some drivers, near impossible to enter the yard to access the scale.

I have also worked with several trucking companies, such as Swift Trucking, Gresham Sanitary Service, Rose City Sanitary Service, and others, to ask them to please inform their drivers that every time they come down this street, they are in violation. From some I have talked to, they argued with me that there just is no place for their trucks to sit and wait to get to the scale, so they HAVE to sit on this street, even IF there is a sign. I responded with....Please take this up with WestRock. It's not my responsibility to see to it that there is a staging area that WestRock promised they would provide for the overflow of trucks. So this is almost a daily occurrence when truck drivers still use this street. It is maddening when you have to literally ask permission to exit your own driveway, only to have them cuss you out and tell you to get back in your house.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

On Wednesday, September 19, 2018, 2:26 PM, Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov> wrote:

Thank you for speaking with me this morning. You were prompted to contact me after receiving a public notice post card about WestRock recycling. You explained to me that your home is directly across the street and you described a range of ongoing negative impacts that you have experienced as a result of having an industrial recycling facility in your residential neighborhood. You told me that you have lived in your home for 34 years, and your son and his family live next door. In your tenure at your residence the facility has had multiple owners, and you stated that WestRock has caused the greatest impacts to your home and your health and that in the three years WestRock has been operating that site, it has been a near constant battle with their corporate office and the City of Portland to get some relief. The concerns you described to me include noise, dust, litter, bad odors, traffic safety concerns, health impacts, fire danger, operating outside of posted operating hours, vectors - specifically rats, zoning disparities, and litany of unfulfilled promises from WestRock corporate in Georgia, and unresponsiveness from the City of Portland to your complaints and concerns - specifically around noise.

You expressed concern that if the facility were to begin accepting metal and plastic again that the problems would increase. Based on your observations, it appears they are only accepting paper and cardboard.

You explained to me that when they sweep the street, there is no vacuum or water on the truck, so the grime gets swept onto and into your house, cars, and lungs. You further described the yard and adjacent streets are cleaned infrequently and appear to correspond with visitors to the site. You have also observed that operations cease when there are visitors or inspectors at the site or in the neighborhood.

You have worked with the City of Portland to report ongoing issues with noise, and have developed tinnitus which you attribute to be a direct result of the industrial noises you are exposed to.

I received two emails from you after our phone call. Please let me know if this is an accurate summary of our conversation, and I will include it for the record as a public comment in addition to your emails and map below.

Thanks,

*Hila

Hila Ritter

Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator

Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov

600 NE Grand Ave.

Portland, OR [97232-2736](tel:97232-2736)

[503-797-1862](tel:503-797-1862)

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 12:05 PM

To: Metro Solid Waste Compliance <SWICC@oregonmetro.gov>

Subject: West Rock Recycling

Hello. I would like to submit a few photos to substantiate our concerns here in our neighborhood. West Rock Recycling is across the street from me, and my son and his family live next door. We have had problems with this particular facility being situated in our neighborhood since 1993, when the structure was erected. Our biggest battle with West Rock has been since they took over the facility in 2015. Since that time, the business has far outgrown its ability to accommodate all the product, and business that they do. The truck traffic is horrific, and even though it took so much time and effort working with the Dept. of Transportation to get NO TRUCK signs installed in this neighborhood, there are still truck drivers that ignore the signs. I have had truckers that tell me that they will no longer do business with West Rock due to the difficulty of getting into the yard to approach the scale. I am attaching a picture of the facility from Google Maps. It took us 2 years to get the facility to get rid of the siren that they were using for a warning inside the building that echoed out into the neighborhood every day, causing myself and the neighbor across the street to have severe tinnitus. The neighbors could not let their children play outside because they were afraid of the siren. Finally, they sold their house and moved away. Between the noise, which the city of Portland did not help with, the filth of the street sweeper blowing dirt everywhere, dispersing contaminated residual dust from the asbestos brakes on the trucks, making the air very dangerous to breathe, rather than collect it, and the stink, and explosion in the rat population, and garbage always blowing around when the wind blows, and not being collected unless we complained, the quality of life and livability here in this once quaint neighborhood has been diminished greatly. The hours of operation at this facility are from 7:00 a.m., until 10:00 p.m. Once in a while they will close on Sunday, but not often. How is a person, which there are at least 3 neighbors within a few hundred feet of the facility that get up at 4:00 a.m., supposed to be able to get adequate sleep and still be able to perform their duties on their job to the best of their ability, when this company is allowed to bang big metal dumpsters around until 10:00 p.m. every week night? If the residents are lucky, they may get 6 hours of sleep...period, a night. It has proven to be a worthless effort to plead with the leadership to shorten the operating hours, and maybe consider allowing we neighbors to have some peace on much needed weekend days off. I was told by DJ Van Deusen, who is the head of the company, and based back east, that this is the only facility that they own, on the entire west coast, that is

situated in a neighborhood, and even went so far as to say... "I can't believe that this kind of business was ever allowed in a neighborhood". Those words speak loudly. There have been 3 fires at the facility, the last and probably most dangerous was the plastic fire on December 17th, 2017, which caused the air, according to the air quality person that attended the fire, to be very carcinogenic. I retained my furnace filter, in hopes of maybe getting my air ducts professionally cleaned by West Rock, but have yet to approach them about it, because I know it would be a futile effort. It was a very huge fire. The first large one was due to an explosion in the building of a loader that had a leaking hydraulic line, sparked by what we believe to be due to the fact that the loader had worn out bushings in every moving part, which my son tried to warn them about just 2 weeks prior, and was ignored. I have watched the hyster driver pick up a 4 foot square metal dumpster, raise it about 8 feet in the air, and tip his forks so that the dumpster would fall to the ground and cause a huge concussion. They are retaliating for my "tattling", which the office gal is tired of hearing, and whines to the guys about. I have also watched them, at night, after 9:00 p.m., sit on the huge loader, and a guy on a hyster right next to it, both turn on the brightest lights they have on the equipment, and shine it directly at the front of my house, and just sit there. I had to screw a board across my front room window and stuff chunks of styrofoam between that and the glass to keep it from rattling, because the vibration of the equipment in the lot caused the glazing to crack and fall out. Every window on the North side of my house is cracked because of the vibration. The ground here is mostly rock, which causes the vibration to reverberate for along way. DJ Van Deusen told me personally, when he was sitting on my couch, that West Rock should replace my windows, and that never happened. How is one supposed to believe all the promises that we are told, when nothing ever transpires from anything we are told? I will send the pictures separately from this letter, as I do not want to make the file too large. Thank you for allowing me to vent, and I am sure I could go on and on, but hoping this will give you somewhat of an idea as to the conditions that have been forced upon us by West Rock. We would like to get our neighborhood back to a more acceptable form of livability.

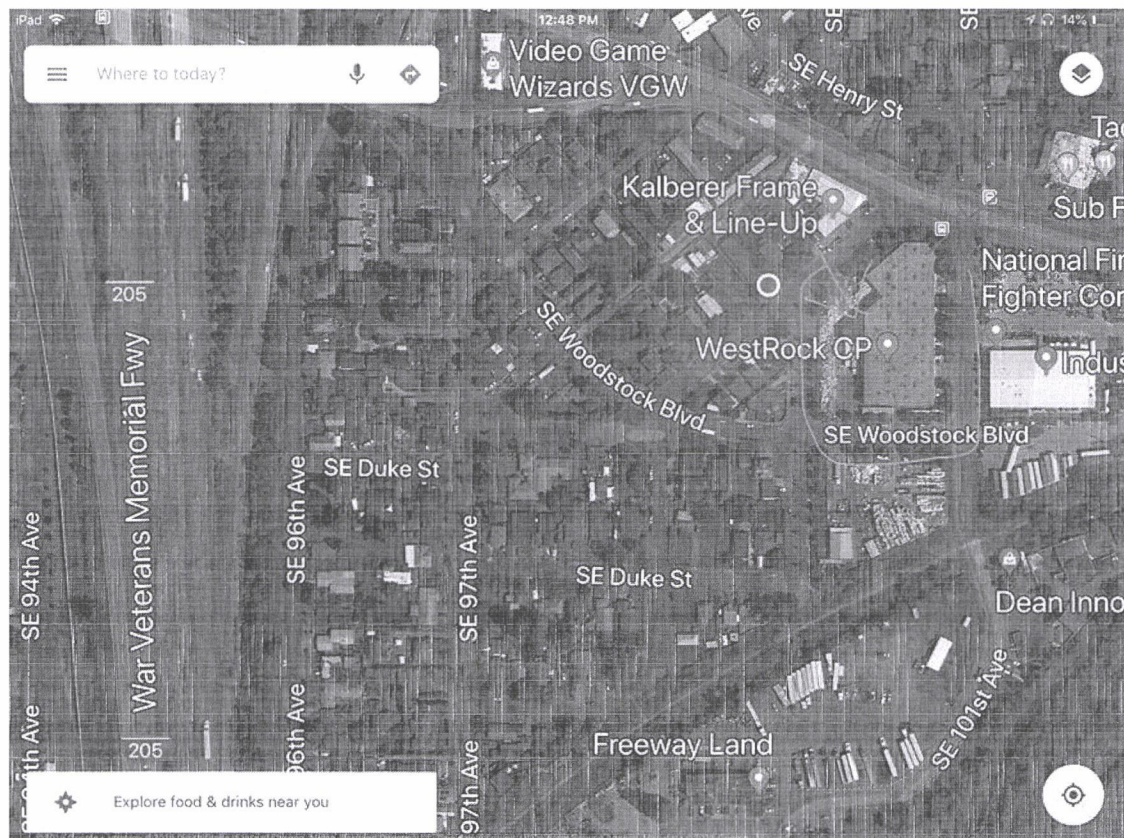
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From:

Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 12:56 PM

To: Metro Solid Waste Compliance <SWICC@oregonmetro.gov>

Subject: West Rock



This is a map of the facility. The red X at the top right is SE 101st Ave, where the trucks are supposed to enter, but regularly turn left, coming from the east, onto SE Woodstock Court, even though there is a "NO LEFT TURN" arrow that they ignore. The green line is the direction they are supposed to go, around to the other side of the building, which is a very tight squeeze for the long trucks, especially if there are cars parked on the west side of SE Woodstock Court..

From: Metro Solid Waste Compliance
To: RE: WestRock Recycling 6328 SE 100th Ave
Subject: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:42:00 PM
Date:

Hello,

Thank you for this comment, it will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report, which will be available on the [website](#).

Thanks,
*Hila

Hila Ritter

Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From:
Sent: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 2:22 PM
To: Metro Solid Waste Compliance <SWICC@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: WestRock Recycling 6328 SE 100th Ave

Hello Metro Solid Waste,

I own a very nice home on 97th and Woodstock Ct near the WestRock Recycling Center. I'm sure you have heard it before, but this use is inconsistent with our developing residential neighborhood. I would hope they might situate in a more commercial location.

Thank you,

Office:

From: Metro Solid Waste Compliance
To: RE: Permitting for Westrock
Subject: Wednesday, September 19, 2018 4:39:00 PM
Date:

Hello,

Thank you for your comment, it will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report which will be available on the [website](#).

Thanks,
*Hila

Hila Ritter

Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

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600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From:
] **Sent:** Wednesday, September 19, 2018 1:08 PM
To: Metro Solid Waste Compliance <SWICC@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: Permitting for Westrock

Dear Gentlemen / Gentlewomen:

I am very concerned with this permit being approved for this facility. There have been several incidents of (not only fires) but trash and debris strewn across this neighborhood. In many people's opinion this facility should have never been allowed to exist in a residential neighborhood. Before approving this permit please consider sitting down with the residents and getting their input. I'm sure many of them will be contacting you.

Sincerely,



From: Metro Solid Waste Compliance
To:
Subject: RE: WestRock Recycling - 6328 SE 100th Ave 972266
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 1:55:00 PM

Hello,

Thank you for this comment with images and maps included, it will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report, which will be available on the [website](#).

Thanks,
*Hila

Hila Ritter

Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

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Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 3:38 AM
To: Metro Solid Waste Compliance <SWICC@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: WestRock Recycling - 6328 SE 100th Ave 972266

To Whom It May Concern:

I received a notice in the mail that WestRock Recycling now has to apply for a license to operate at 6328 SE 100th Ave Portland OR 97266 -

Please, I beg you, do not give them this license. Do not allow them to operate in our small neighborhood any longer. My neighborhood has been battling with this company for YEARS via email, Facebook, phone calls, and visits from the city, all to no avail. This is not an industrial area, it's a neighborhood.

The facility fills the entire surrounding area with disgusting chemical and trash smells, it attracts rats which get into our houses and attack our pets. There are houses that surround the facility that are bombarded with near constant noise - beeps, sirens, employees shouting at each other, booms and bangs so loud that it shakes our houses, rattles our windows and makes it impossible to open our windows and enjoy the weather.

Their massive semi trucks fill/block our streets daily despite the many No Trucks signs posted, creating massive pot holes, traffic jams and too many near-miss

collisions.

The trash from their wire fences blows EVERYWHERE. Into our yards, down every street. The contents of their facility will literally be piled into mountains against these wire fences, not only creating the worst eyesore but just begging for yet another fire.

This facility has caught on fire NUMEROUS times. The building itself is one giant fire hazard that butts up to many residential homes. It's been nothing short of a miracle that none of them have been damaged yet.

My neighbors and I have threads of emails, videos and photos of this place not obeying street laws, breaking sound-level laws, and there were even accounts of employees harassing neighbors for reporting their behavior and purposefully making more noise when they saw us outside recording the events.

This type of business has absolutely NO business being in a residential neighborhood. It has made our lives here a living Hell that the city has proved time and time again that it does not care about. Now is our moment to finally get someone to pay attention and take back our neighborhood, so please, do not give WestRock Recycling any license that allows them to operate in ANY neighborhood, not just ours.

I've attached a map of our neighborhood and marked in green dots where residential houses sit so you have an idea of approximately how many homes are being disturbed every day, all day (and I'm probably missing houses).

I've also attached screen shots from Google Maps that show how disgusting this place is on a "good" day. I have no doubt my fellow neighbors will be emailing you with many, many more photos that are far worse.

So, again, I implore you, do not allow this company to operate in our otherwise quiet Lents neighborhood any longer.

Thank you for your time.









From: [Hila Ritter](#)
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: RE: West Rock
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 2:20:00 PM

Thank you for this comment and image, it will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report, which will be available on the [website](#).

Thanks,
*Hila

Hila Ritter
Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

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600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From: Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018
10:14 AM **To:** Hila Ritter
<Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov> **Subject:** West
Rock

Good morning Hila.

I forgot to send you the picture of the board that I had to screw across my front room window and stuff dense styrofoam between the stick and the glass to keep it from rattling that is caused by the vibrations of the dump trucks dragging their huge metal dump boxes across the rutted pavement in the facility lot, just to dislodge the last piece of paper. The vibration has caused the glazing in the window frames to crack and fall off, or the windows would just crack. Every window on the North side of my house is cracked due to the vibrations, and I cannot afford to have them replaced so have just put tape over the cracks, to hopefully prevent the glass from falling out. The leadership from West Rock told me, at the meeting here, that they should probably replace my windows. I had estimates done, and let them know, and they ignored me, so that never happened. Following image redacted as it would identify the commentor.

As you can see, the vibrating has moved the styrofoam....I have to keep pushing it back up behind the board. Thank you for all of your help. We here in the neighborhood appreciate it.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: Metro Solid Waste Compliance
To:
Cc: Bob Stacey
Subject: RE: Licensing of WestRock Recycling facility for receiving and sorting waste
Date: Thursday, September 20, 2018 4:25:00 PM

Hello,

Thank you for this comment and images, they will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report, which will be available on the [website](#).

Thanks,
*Hila

Hila Ritter
Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

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600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From:
Sent: Thursday, September 20, 2018 3:59 PM
To: Metro Solid Waste Compliance <SWICC@oregonmetro.gov>
Cc: Bob Stacey <Bob.Stacey@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: Re: Licensing of WestRock Recycling facility for receiving and sorting waste

Hello,

I would like to submit a comment to Metro regarding WestRock Recycling's application to be licensed by Metro to continue operating its solid waste recycling facility at 6328 SE 100th Avenue in Portland.

<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/public-notice-opportunity-comment-westrock-recycling-solid-waste-facility-license>

I am a nearby resident and received a postcard inviting my response. I have lived at my current location near the WestRock facility since 2008 and I would like to state my opposition to allowing WestRock to continue to operate at this site. I have observed over the last ten years that WestRock is a very bad neighbor to have in this community.

The company's worse offense is letting trash scatter everywhere. On any given day near 100th

and Foster Road you can find plastic bags, paper trash, partially crushed plastic bottles, and other items intended for recycling in the streets, landscaping, and parking strips. Stacks of these materials are piled outside of the fences intended to contain them on WestRock's property. Nearby residents have WestRock's plastic bags and paper trash blown into their yards. WestRock's negligence in keeping the areas around their operation free of garbage would be unacceptable even if they were the only occupants of this area, but they also share this neighborhood with family homes, apartments, the Springwater Corridor recreation area, and Johnson Creek, and they contribute flagrantly to pollution and degradation of all of these spaces.

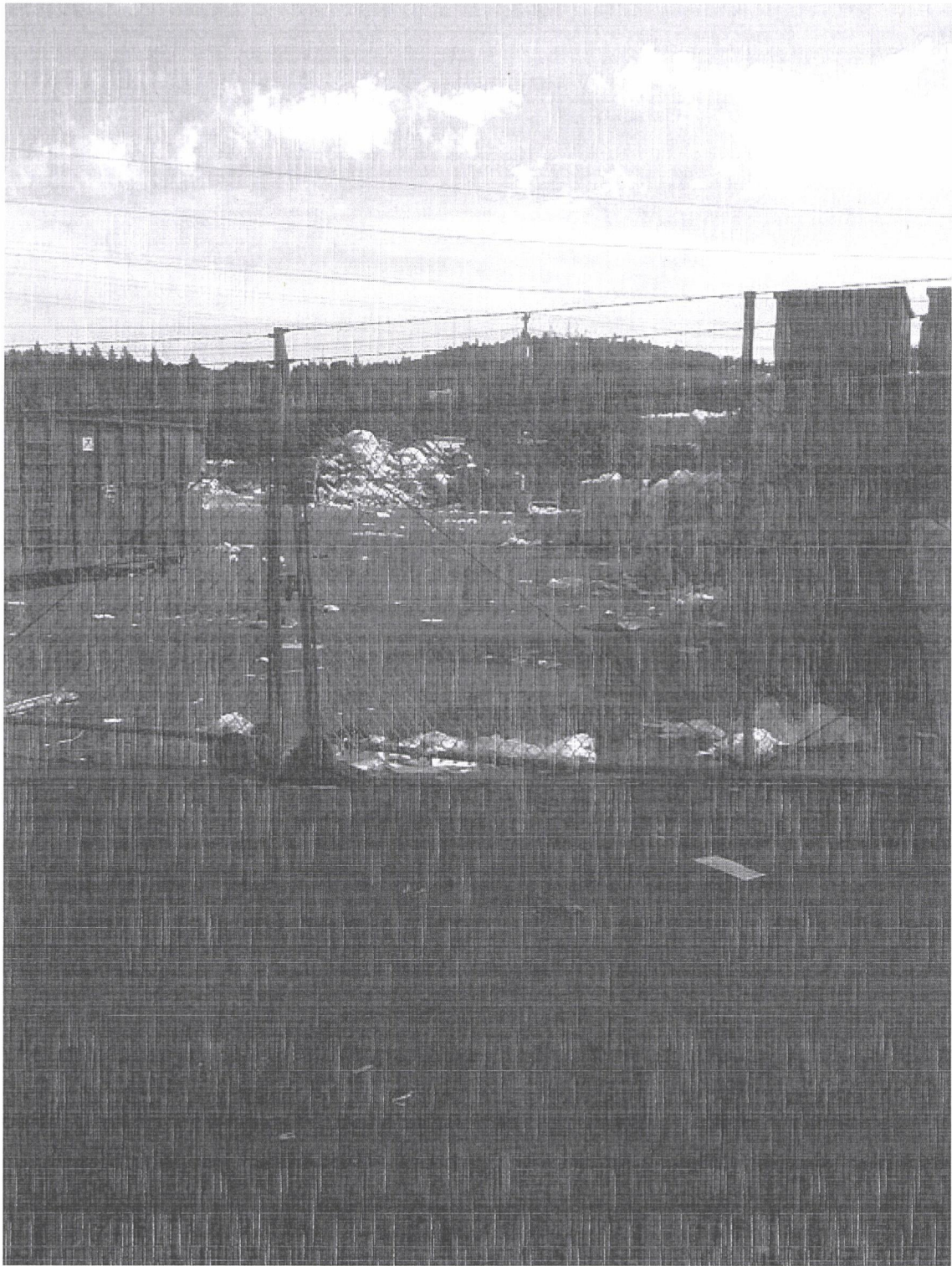
The attached images around the WestRock site were taken *seven years ago*, but they may as well have been shot yesterday. It looks just like this or worse today. WestRock's problem with trash is not new or out of the ordinary. This is how they normally operate in the neighborhood.

I also have strong reservations about WestRock's adherence to noise control regulations that may be applicable to their site, although I have not investigated this. The sound of loud vehicles from their site is a normal occurrence before six A.M., which seems extreme for a residential area.

Finally, the hazards of collecting large quantities of recyclable material near homes and the creek are too great, particularly with WestRock's record of neglect. Last December, there was a massive fire at the WestRock plant in which large bales of plastic burned, sending a column of toxic smoke up to spread around the neighborhood. The fire department observed after the fire that since its location was not served by any nearby fire hydrant, additional water had to be brought in from other hydrants in the neighborhood, requiring Foster Road to be closed.

WestRock is a bad neighbor and their business is a bad fit for a residential and recreational area that includes Portland's last free-flowing urban stream. Their operations should not be located here. Thank you for receiving my comments.

Regards,









From:
To: Hila Ritter
Subject: Re: West Rock.
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 11:40:11 AM

Thank you. I had to leave for a while, but will communicate with ODOT. Have a wonderful day.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

On Friday, September 21, 2018, 11:37 AM, Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov> wrote:

Hi ,

I don't know the answer to that – sorry. Metro's role is specific to the solid waste operations, and legality of trucks parking on the street is outside of my expertise. That question would be best posed to PBOT or ODOT.

Thanks,

*Hila

Hila Ritter

Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From: Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Hila Ritter
<Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov> **Subject:** West Rock.

I have a quick question, Is it legal for trucks to park in the road, next to the cars that are by the curb, for an hour and a half restricting traffic? Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: Hila Ritter
To:
Subject: RE: Public Notice WestRock Recycling (6328 SE 100th ave. Portland, OR 97266
Date: Thursday, October 04, 2018 8:47:00 AM

Hello,

Thank you for this comment, it will be recorded. Metro will formally respond to comments at the close of the comment period in the staff report, which will be available on the [website](#).

Additionally, I invite you to attend the Lents Neighborhood Livability Association(LNLA) meeting on October 11th at the chalet adjacent to the Kingpin Bowling Alley at 3550 SE 92nd Ave. The meeting is from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. and they are providing us with half an hour, beginning at 7:30 p.m., on their agenda to discuss concerns about the WestRock facility.

We are coming to hear from LNLA, the neighborhood association, neighbors and others about the operation of the facility. We envision this as an initial listening session which may lead to us organizing a more formal public forum in the near future on the topic.

Attending from Metro will be:

Hila Ritter, Solid Waste Authorizations Coordinator
Will Ennis, Solid Waste Facility Inspector
and Dan Blue, Solid Waste Compliance Policy Specialist

We will do a brief introduction to the topic and our licensing process, but mainly would like to provide time for input from the community about the facility.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

*Hila

Hila Ritter
Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From: feedback

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2018 8:08 AM

To: Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov>

Subject: FW: Public Notice WestRock Recycling (6328 SE 100th ave. Portland, OR 97266

Good morning Hila – this came in through the website. Are you able to respond to ? Thanks!

Smiles,

Laura Garlie

feedback@oregonmetro.gov

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov

600 NE Grand Ave.

Portland, OR 97232-2736

From:

↓ **On Behalf Of** Metro

Sent: Saturday, September 29, 2018 10:29 AM

To: feedback <feedback@oregonmetro.gov>

Subject: Public Notice WestRock Recycling (6328 SE 100th ave. Portland, OR 97266

New feedback form submission: submitted on Saturday, September 29, 2018 - 10:28am

###

First name: Last name:

Subject: Public Notice WestRock Recycling (6328 SE 100th ave. Portland, OR 97266

Comment or question:

I am a neighbour of wasterock Recycling in the opposite corner my address is SE 100th ave. Portland, OR 97266. The problems here of this company is: to much noise late of the night, early in the morning, trash everywhere in front of my house making our neighbourhood really dirty. Years ago it was a little more respectful of the neighbourhood . That is the big ISSUE whereby this company not to obtain a license from Metro. Thank you very much for let us know . Sincerely.

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: West Rock
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 9:55:11 AM

Hello Hila. [REDACTED], who lives next door to me, and Tuesday, the neighbor next to him, (who reached out to KOIN 6), myself, and KOIN 6 News were on a group chat until after 11:00 p.m. last night. I took screen shots of the conversation. Would you like me to send them to you, or wait until you come on the 12th of October? There are 20 some photos. There was more added to that this morning, so I will take screen shots of the remainder of the information as well. It sounds like KOIN would very much like to do a story for the news. [REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: West Rock
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 1:28:05 PM

10:52 PM

16%  



[REDACTED]



group chat with Koin about
WestRock

Hi...

[REDACTED]

Heres the chat so far... it
wouldnt allow me to add yall
directly to what we were
talkingg about



Probably because Bethany
and I are not "friends"

Oh...that's the pits

Oh



Hi Tuesday, I am a producer with KJON 5 News. I saw your post about WestRock and we think there could be a news story there. Do you have photos of the trash blowing into the streets? Are there certain times of the day or week that are worse than others? And could we use the video you shot of the fire? You can respond here or feel free to email me at barbany.austin@kjon.com or give me a call at 503-454-0771.

Hi there, yes, there's lots of photos and videos. I'm fairly certain Kom had a crew out here during one of the fires. Do you mind if I add a few neighbors to this conversation?

Yes, we were there. Definitely add more neighbors. Is the trash in the street at the time?

They used to send a group out to pick it up but I haven't seen them in months. So yes, it's blown everywhere, usually stuck along our fence lines. Even when the cleaning group was out and about, they still weren't getting it all.



And are they still operating fork lifts in the middle of the night?

They were eventually forced to close at 11pm but it's not unusual to still hear them operating with the doors closed or to hear it coming from the other side of the facility. I heard one of their sirens going off around 1:30am a few nights ago but the outside lights were off. They are also not supposed to operate before 7am but there have been countless times where their deliveries come much earlier, moving their engines and sitting in the parking lot.



Aa



10:52 PM

16% 🔋



other side of the facility. I heard one of their sirens going off around 1:30am a few nights ago but the outside lights were off. They are also not supposed to operate before 7am but there have been countless times where their deliveries come much earlier, moving their engines and sitting in the parking lot.

2

Nice...do you want me to post a few shots of the fire of Dec 17th 2017?

trucks are not supposed to be



Aa



10:52 PM

16%



[REDACTED]



the door is open, and stinks.

[REDACTED]

Their forklifts and delivery trucks are not supposed to be on our streets but they are **CONSTANTLY**. Blocking traffic, parking in front of houses with their engines running...

3

I have been in touch with the Department of Transportation, and it is actually a violation to even have their heavy equipment on the public street,

much less in a neighborhood.
The roads have been destroyed
all the way around the building,
and very seldom maintained or
repaired.

Should I post any photos or
videos here?



Her email is
bethany.austin@koin.com



Cool...thanks.



Aa



10:52 PM

16%



bethany.austin@koin.com



Cool...thanks.

2017?

Every time we've had the city out here to test the sound levels or do something similar, WestRock is informed ahead of time because they always dull it way down and clean everything spotless

Despite reporting with video and photos, still nothing has been done.



Also have a video of the street sweeper just displacing all the dirt, which contains asbestos dust from the brakes on the trucks. Blows into the house if the door is open, and stinks.

Their forklifts and delivery

Be right back

Which i just emailed you,
Bethany, a copy of my letter to
the city about not allowing
WR to get their license
needed to continue operating
in our neighborhood

Yes, and thank you. Their
application to secure a permit to
continue to operate here, should
they actually get it, is to be in
affect by January, 2019.

You can share photos and
videos here or by email. Either
is fine.

Do you know if this new
licensing process has the
potential to shut them down?



potential to shut them down?

[REDACTED]

Or at least get them away



Aa



10:52 PM

17%



[REDACTED], [REDACTED] Vance >



[REDACTED]

Or at least get them away
from us? lol



we have been having quite a problem lately with the trucks ignoring the NO TRUCKS sign, so have photos and videos to substantiate the events.



I was told by Metro, that they may still have permission to operate, but that the permit

operate, but that the permit, should they get it, would have many restrictions on it, ie...hours of operation, noise limits in a neighborhood, and random inspections that could, if any violations are observed, be hit with very hefty fines, which Metro has the power to do.

Tuesday, can you copy this conversation to Bethany? Or would you rather I email her myself?



10:52 PM

17%  



[Redacted text]



would you rather I email her



would you rather remain
myself?



She's part of this conversatin

I have video of the previous
sweeper truck, and sent them to
corporate, and they immediately
hired a different



She can see it all



Thanks @Renee Goeckritz-
Dutton



....truck

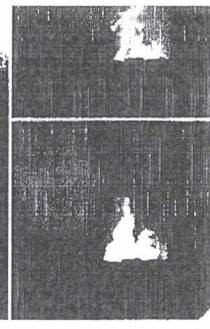
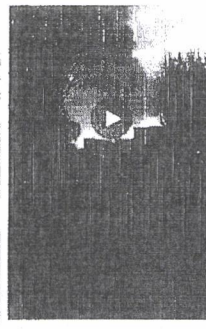
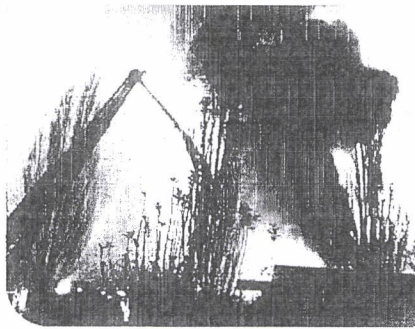
hahny



I can see your posts 😊

Very good. Hi Bethany





Aa



10:53 PM

17% 🔋



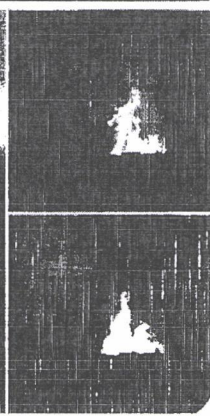
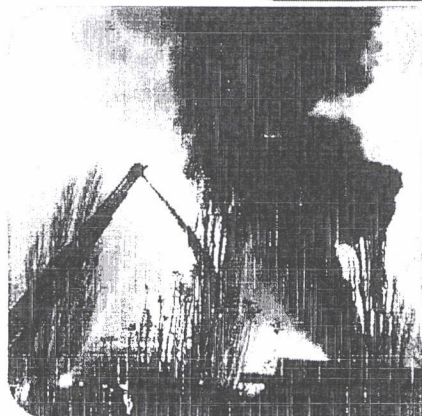
[Redacted text]



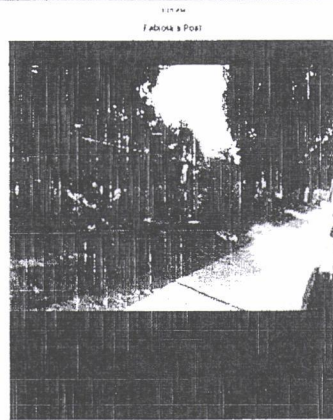
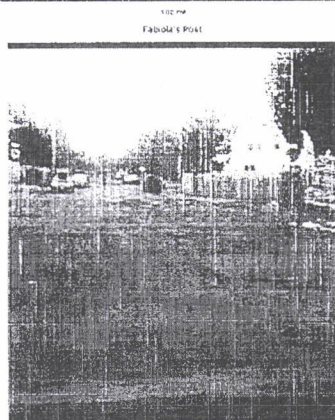
I can see your posts 😊

1

Very good. Hi Bethany



Just a few shots taken by
of the last fire
which was plastic. My furnace
filter was clogged with burnt
plastic residue, so I suppose the
furnace and ducts are too, but to
get West rock to admit to it
much less DO anything to make
it better, they deny everything.



Aa



10:53 PM

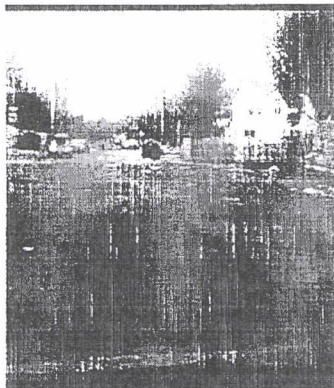
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4



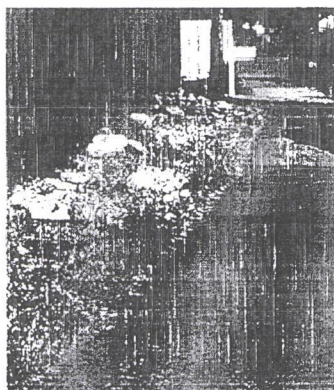
Fabiola's Post



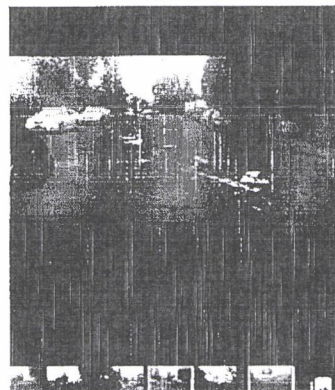
Fabiola's Post



Fabiola's Post



Fabiola's Post



Just a few shots of the garbage
that accumulates.





A couple videos of the dirt that

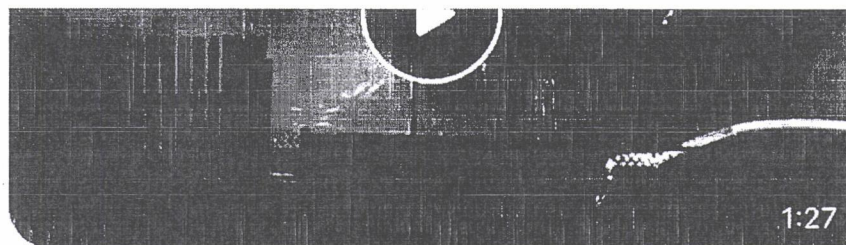


Aa



10:53 PM

17% 🔋



A couple videos of the dirt that just gets displaced rather than collected and disposed of properly.

Contaminating the air we breathe. Not too healthy. This is very concerning as to health problems.

These were just of the guy in the lot pushing a walk behind blower. The sweeper truck is just as bad in the street. They have a different sweeper truck since this video that I took the other day, but I was standing outside watching the new one tonight, and it also displaces dirt, but didn't get outside quick enough to catch it on video.

The rat population has exploded lately as well.



|Aa

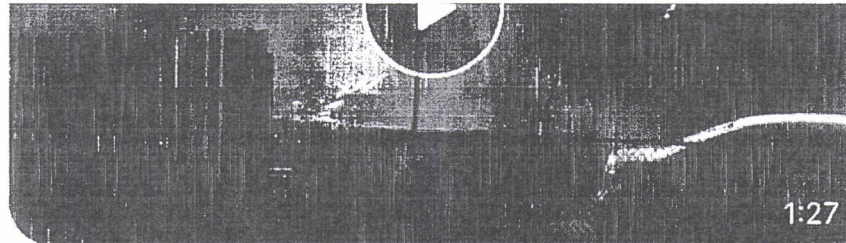


10:53 PM

17% 🔋



[REDACTED]



1 U

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Aa



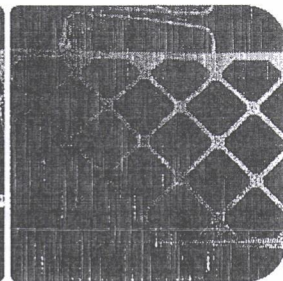
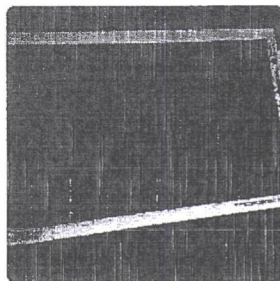
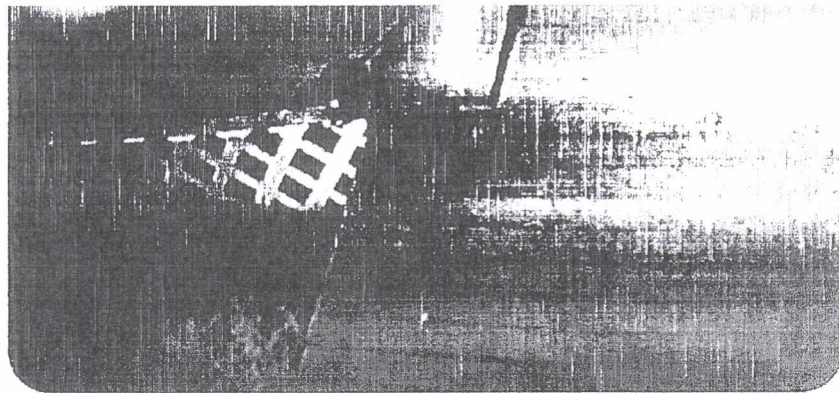
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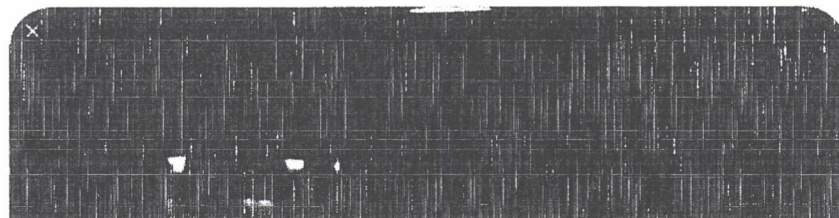
The rat population has exploded lately as well.





This is my furnace filter that I changed after the Dec. 17th fire (Plastic) The inspector at the fire that was doing an ongoing air quality test said that the air was carcinogenic.

The fire was still burning after 24 hours.





Aa

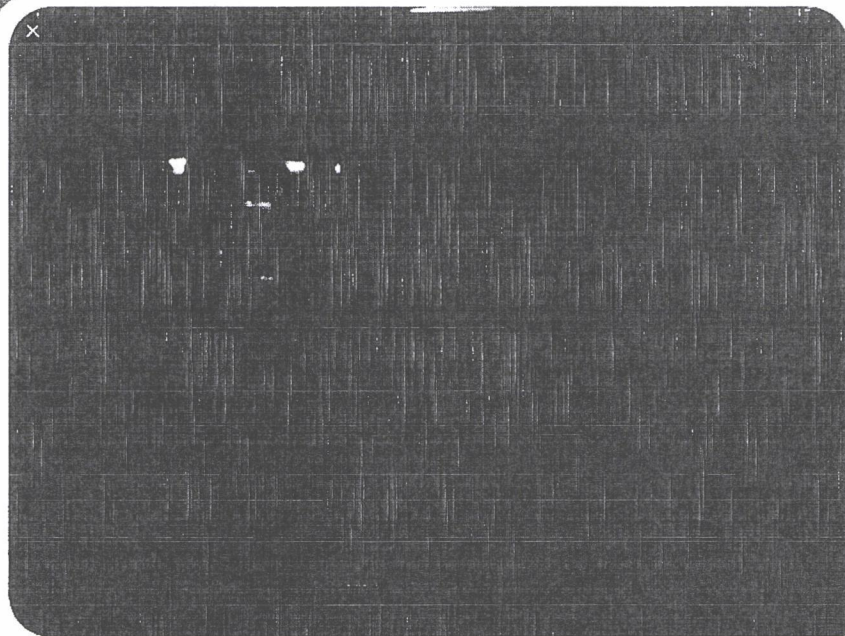


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17% 🔋



24 hours.



This was taken August 29th, at 5:53 a.m....open and doing business.

The reason that the yard

equipment uses the neighboring streets, is because the facility lacks enough room to do the job. Even though the business has been scaled down to paper and cardboard, the facility and property is still not adequate space for them to function, so the trash gets stacked 14 feet high, and falls over the fence, cluttering and blocking the sidewalk. Then the wind blows the garbage throughout the



Aa



10:53 PM

17% 🔋



[Redacted]



13

cluttering and blocking the sidewalk. Then the wind blows the garbage throughout the neighborhood. I talked to a

neighborhood. I talked to a gentleman a block away, and around the corner, and he said he spends most of his days off cleaning up the debris that blows into his yard from West Rock.

[View](#)

[View all photos of this property](#)

This is simply NOT the type of business that should ever be located in a neighborhood. This business has destroyed our quality of life, and livability, and we want our once quaint, quiet neighborhood back.







It is not raining... this dirt just

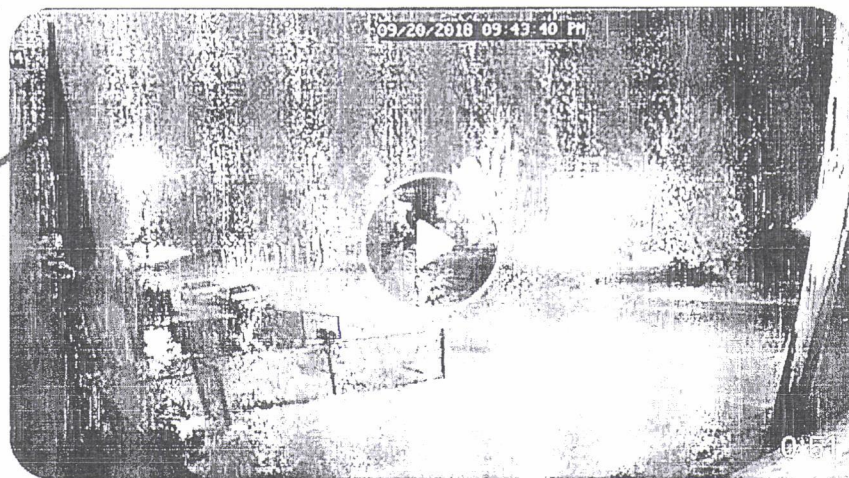


10:53 PM

17%  



 Bethany,  >



It is not raining....this dirt just started to blow when the guy began blowing dirt around in the lot.

I can even back my camera up a

few minutes it need be to show
that there was no dirt blowing
prior to this.



The blower @945pm tonight

On the top of the video.

Date and time



Can't make it out on my
phone. Well its finally shut
down. I can get some sleep
now. Good night all. Thanks



Aa



10:53 PM

17% 🔋



[redacted], Bethany, [redacted] >



down. I can get some sleep
now. Good night all. Thanks



now Good night all. Thanks

5

G'nite e



1 more. Pretty loud 1.

I get woke up every morning by the banging that goes on inside the building before they are even open. 5:30a.m., and on.



Isn't that our own garage company's truck ?





The truck in the video.



When was this video shot?



Time and date?



Aa



10:53 PM

17% 🔋



[redacted] Bethany, [redacted]



down. I can get some sleep



now. Good night all. Thanks

16

G'nite

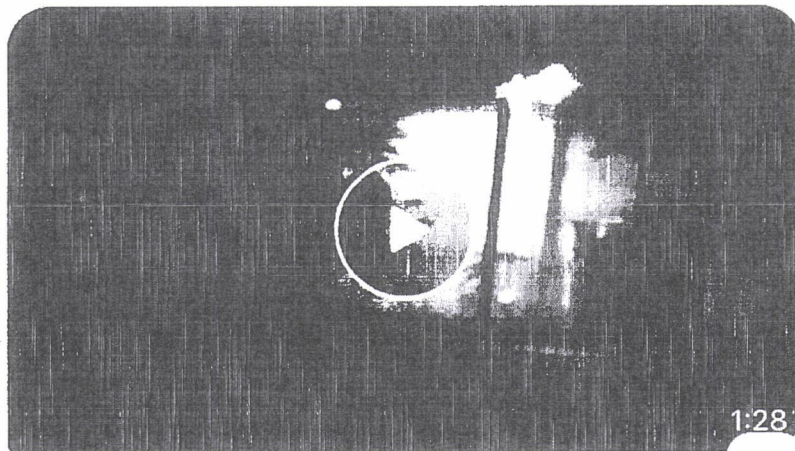


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[REDACTED]

Isn't that our own garage
company's truck ?



The truck in the video.



When was this video shot?





Time and date?



|Aa



10:53 PM

17%  

R

[redacted], Bethany, [redacted]



The truck in the video.



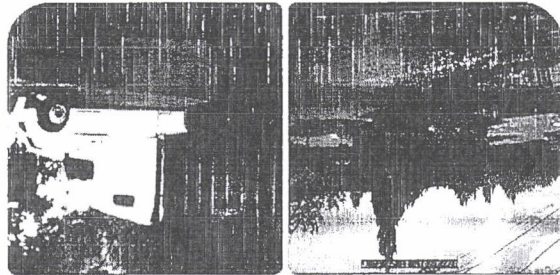
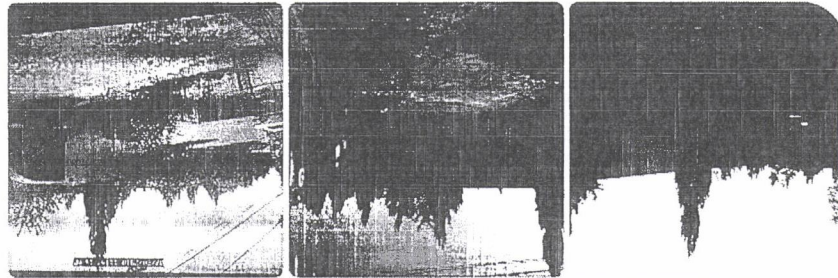
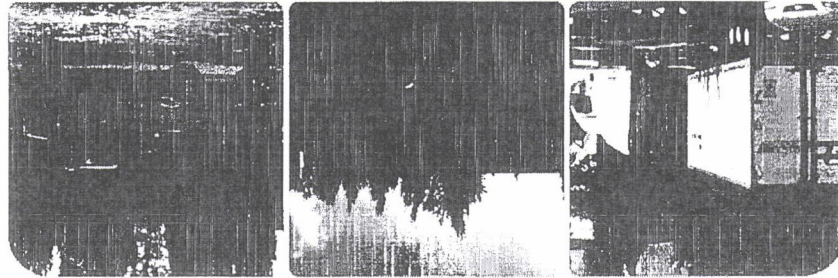
17

When was this video shot?

Time and date?



I didn't see the truck.



These truck drivers don't care

about the NO TRUCKS signs on this street. When you approach them, they either cuss you out, or act like it's our fault that the facility doesn't have adequate space to function properly. I just tell them to take it up with West



Aa

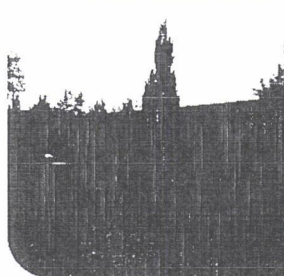


10:54 PM

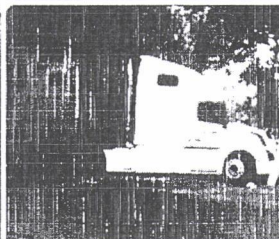
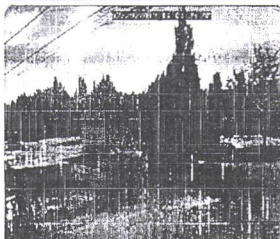
17% 🔋



[Redacted] Bethany, [Redacted]



17



These truck drivers don't care about the NO TRUCKS signs on this street. When you approach them, they either cuss you out, or act like it's our fault that the facility doesn't have adequate space to function properly. I just tell them to take it up with West Rock...NOT our problem.

I believe that the time on the Video that ~ posted was today, 9/20, at 9:45 p.m. The guy blowing the dirt around. That's when it started showing up in front of my cameras.



|Aa



11:39 PM

25%



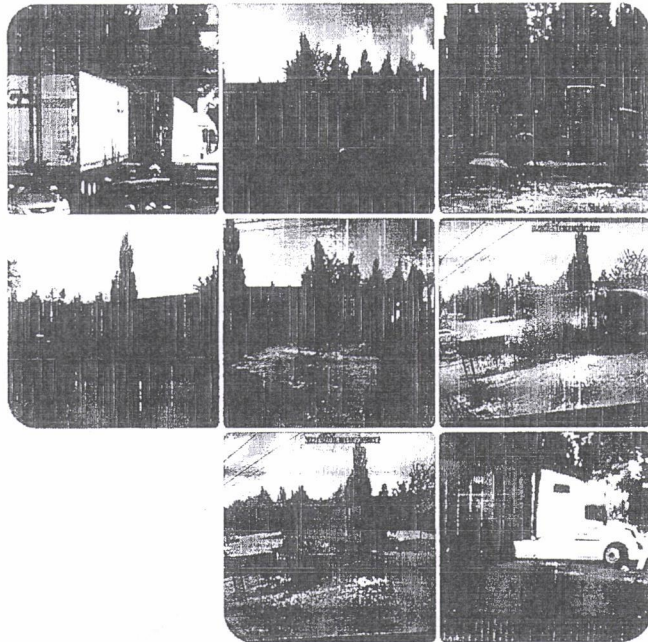
I he truck in the video.



When was this video shot? Time and date?

19

I didn't see the truck.



Aa



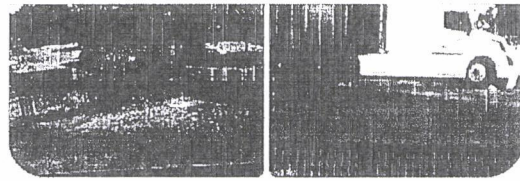
1:39 PM

25% 

[REDACTED]



20



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Aa



11:39 PM

25%



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I believe that the time on the Video that [redacted] posted was today, 9/20, at 9:45 p.m. The guy blowing the dirt around. That's when it started showing up in front of my cameras.



Well, shall we call it a night? We can submit more information as we get it.

Thank you for your time.



Aa



11:41 AM

46%



Bethany, [redacted] >



@ [redacted] did you take this
today?



[redacted]



Couple days ago



Aa



11:42 AM

46%

Bethany, [REDACTED]



23



Is it still flowing over the fence?

WOW! THAT was LOUD!



You mean the 1 of the waste



11:42 AM

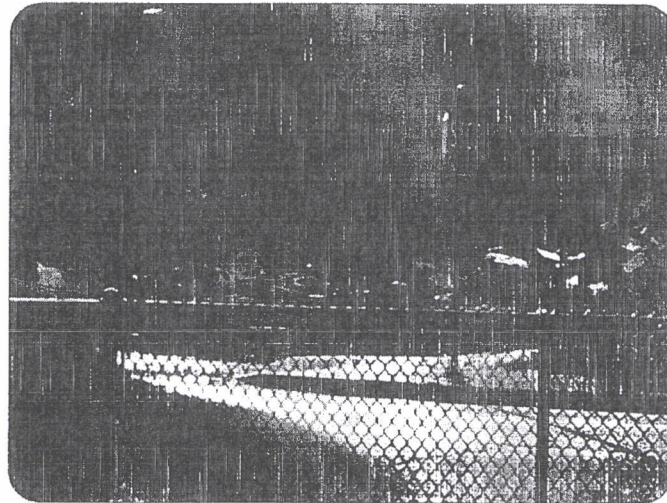
46%

Bethany, [REDACTED]



2/1

This company should NEVER be situated in a neighborhood!



I took this just now, but they will contend that it is in their lot...they have it just inside the line, so "not guilty" of messing up the sidewalk. Nice mess though.



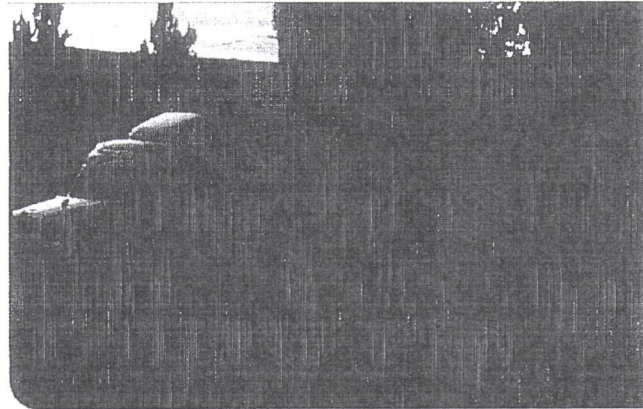
Aa



11:44 AM

46%

Bethany, [REDACTED]



I just took this picture of a truck that is parked on the wrong side of the neighborhood street, blocking the neighbor's driveway. SE 100th Ave.

This causes problems with the flow of traffic, and is also a violation to park facing the wrong direction, much less blocking resident's driveways.



Aa



11:44 AM

46%



Bethany, [redacted]



nb

We were issued a ticket for the one time my husband parked the opposite direction in front of our own house. These truckers do it every single day.

A truck waiting here right now



Aa



11:45 AM

46%

Bethany, [redacted]



Obstructing the flow of traffic every day.

[redacted]
Can we go live on here ? Is that the cam at the top ?



[redacted]
Clearly his parked there.



Aa

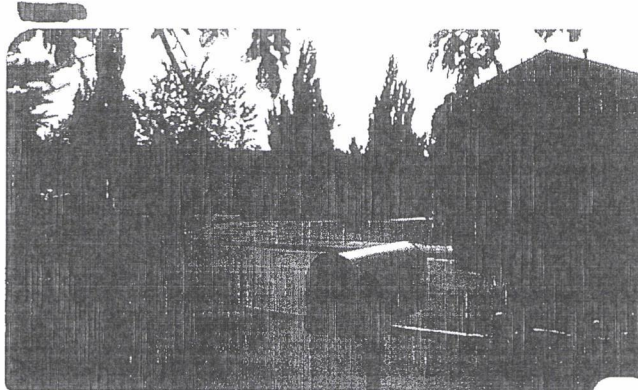


11:45 AM

46%



Bethany, [redacted] >



248



Double stacked

I took one and time stamped it. No one can get through, either way.

The orange one has been there for over an hour.

The white one is in violation. Parked the wrong way, and blocking driveways.



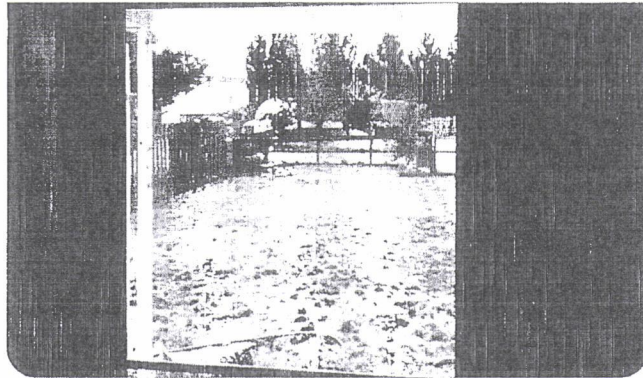
Aa



11:46 AM

46%

Bethany, [REDACTED]



This truck just moved...after causing the traffic to be restricted for an hour and a half. You can see that the employee's cars are parked next to the curb, which makes even less room to get around the trucks that are parked.

Above picture taken at 10:00a.m. Today.



Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: 
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: West Rock
Date: Saturday, September 22, 2018 8:34:18 PM

Hello Hila, I hope that I am not overwhelming you with all these photos. We as neighbors just think it is necessary to let Metro know how this company being in our neighborhood has destroyed our quality of life, and livability here. It is very depressing most of the time, and we should not have to feel like we are being forced out of our homes that we worked so hard to call ours. We pay a good amount of property taxes here, and deserve to have our neighborhood back. That shouldn't be too much to ask, since most of us have been here way before West Rock, and they have had the right to ruin our lives. We will not move to please them, just because they have more money than us, and they just say....if you don't like it, then MOVE! We just want to live happily, and content, and enjoy our lives, but that idea has long since been robbed from us. Anyway, here are some more photos.

7:11 PM

85%

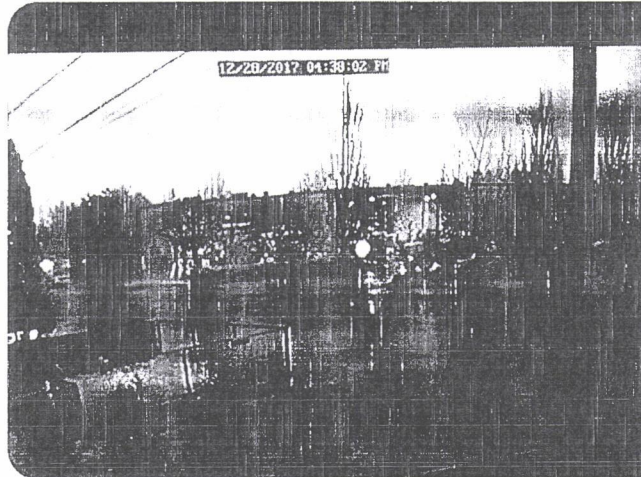


Bethany, [redacted]



I found a picture from Dec. 2017, just as an idea of how long they have been violating ODOT rules.

I think that noise maker comes on duty at about 6:00 p.m....that's when the banging gets a LOT louder....like right now.



Loader in the road.



Aa



7:12 PM

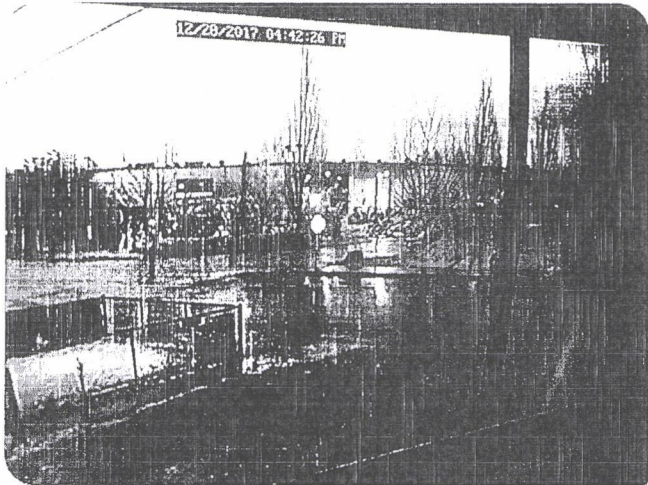
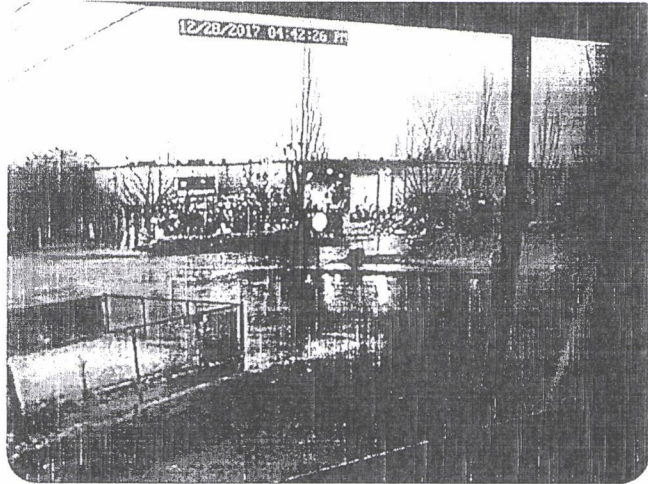
85%



Bethany, [redacted] >



32



12/28/2017 04:30:02 PM



Aa



7:12 PM

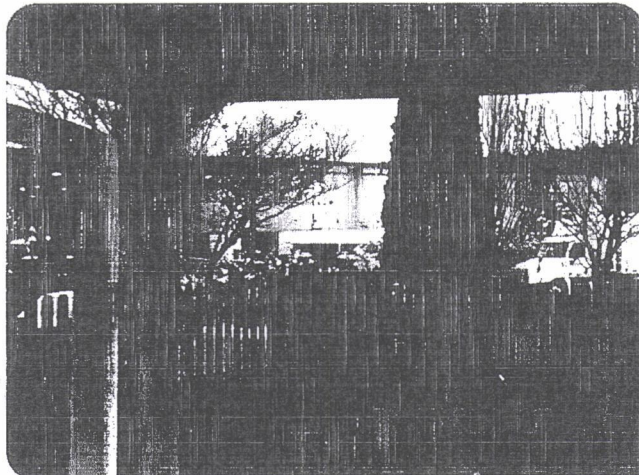
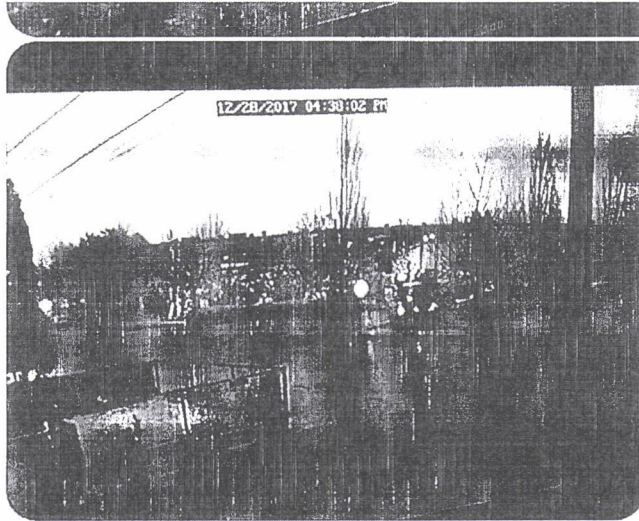
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Bethany, [REDACTED] >



33



7:13 PM

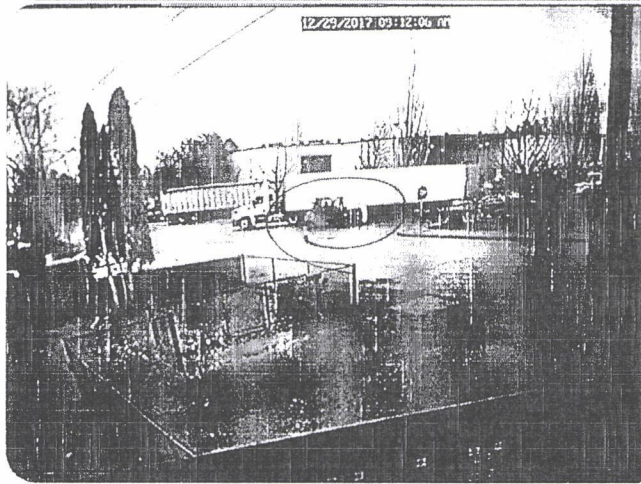
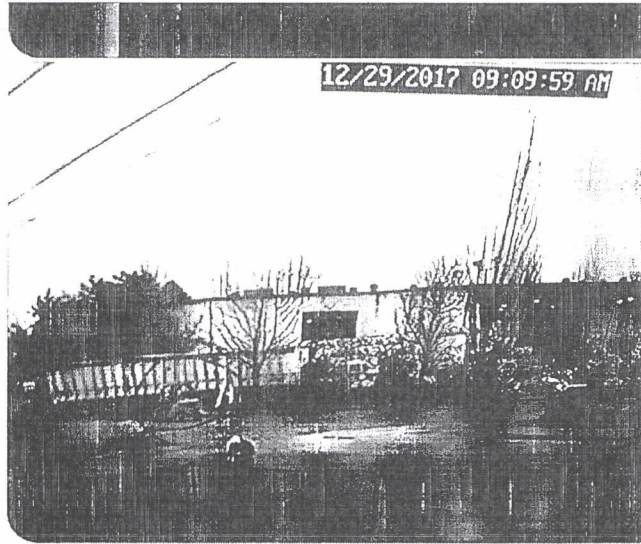
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Bethany, 



24



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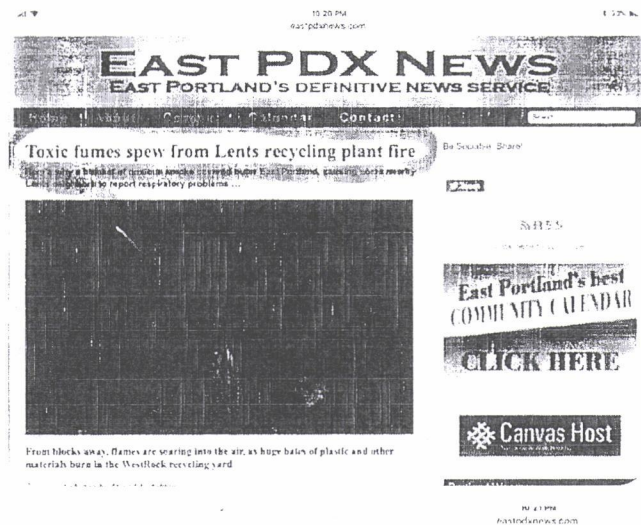
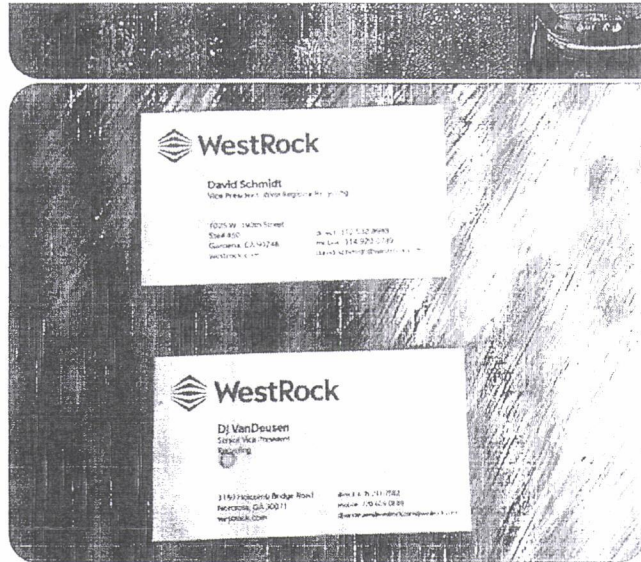


7:14 PM

85%

Bethany, [REDACTED]

35



Aa



7:20 PM

86%

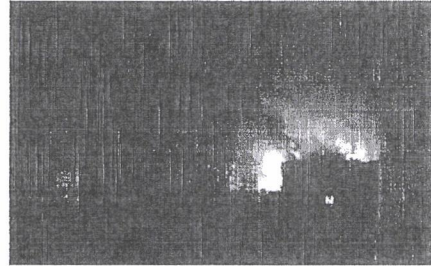


"When the breeze shifted our way, it was almost impossible to breathe, and plastic ashes came down like snow," Hahib told *East Portland News* the following day, watching smoke rise from

eastportnews.com

News and photos by David L. Ashton

It was a tall the Portland Fire & Rescue (PP&R) truck - and engines blocking streets in the "Tree Way Lands" area of the Lewis neighborhood that was concerning residents on December 16, when fire broke out at just after 4:00 p.m. in the storage yard of the WestRock recycling center at SE 100th Avenue and Foster Road - it was the acid smoke and fumes that spewed from the blaze.



Although firefighters pour thousands of gallons of water on the fire at the WestRock recycling yard, flames continue to grow.

"Officials told us to stay inside, but it didn't help my daughter had nosebleeds for two days, and we've been coughing up bad stuff from our lungs," remarked neighbor Vikash Hahib.

"When the breeze shifted our way, it was almost impossible to breathe, and plastic ashes came down like snow," Hahib told *East Portland News* the following day, watching smoke rise from

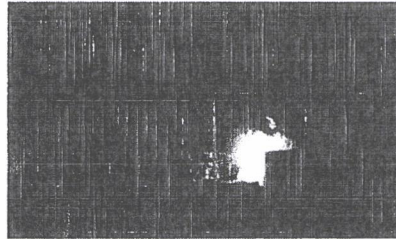
10:17 PM

eastportnews.com

10:17 PM

While not yet officially confirmed by PP&R, reports were that the first fire hydrant tapped for water was dry - as was the second hydrant - delaying the fire attack. It is not known if these hydrants were on the WestRock property or were City street-side hydrants.

"The hydrants for water supply in that area are on a single loop," crews had to lay (water) lines across SE Foster Road to also draw water from a different loop," PP&R Public Information Officer Capt. Louisa Jones told *East Portland News* in a telephone interview.



The fire continues to rage, as firefighters successfully keep it from spreading to surrounding buildings or homes.

By 5:00 p.m., flames were still leaping high into the air, unquenched by the streams of water from nozzles mounted at the top of two extended ladders mounted on Truck 7, and Woodstock's Station Truck 25.

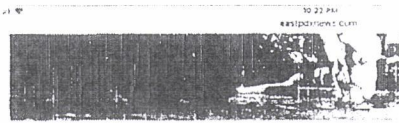
Huge piles of plastic, neatly stacked close together, and up to four stories high, flamed fiercely, sending a column of dense, acid smoke up into the late afternoon sky.

10:22 PM

10:22 PM

10:22 PM

* 86% (87), 4



The cause of the industrial fire, and other information about this blaze, has yet to be made public by the Portland Fire Bureau.

I wanted to share some of the news articles.



Aa



7:23 PM

86%



THIS is why they had the previous fire with the explosions in the building. Failure to maintain equipment, despite the fact that they were warned of the dangers by the neighbor.

I just have to say that we have been lucky that the wind wasn't blowing too bad through the last fires. Too close for comfort!



Aa



7:24 PM

87%



Yet another ODOT violation. They didn't "CARE" when I told them that ODOT said it was a violation.

So management is no better than the rude employees that they hire, because....like DJ VanDeusen said when he was here....."It's a "Culture thing".



Aa



8:13 PM

50%



"Culture thing".

Several trucking companies have quit dealing with them because of the traffic situation, and the difficulty that they have getting into the yard to the scale.

OOPS...."trucking"

I mentioned the culture thing in an e-mail I sent. I thought it would help them get 1 started. It takes all to buy in though. Thinking of others as well as yourself is the key. I people don't live that way outside of work they sure won't practice it at work.



Right and the "Leadership" is



Aa



Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

8:15 PM

49%



[Redacted]



because no matter how early I get up, I can see the smoke, or steam, whatever it is, coming from there.

It's just been this last week so I dunno. I'm just used to WR stanking up the joint



Thank you all for your input. I think we've got enough to start with. I think the story will likely focus on the overflowing trash, noise and rats. If you see overflowing trash, please snap a pic and let me know. We'd like to get our cameras out there to document it as well. And I assume you would all be willing to do a tv interview?



|Aa



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: West Rock
Date: Saturday, September 22, 2018 8:51:37 PM

8:14 PM

49%



Right and the "Leadership" is supposed to be providing a good example of how to be "Good Neighbors".

Right down to management...

The shot of them being open before 7:00 was in January of this year.

It's been smelling like chemicals at night recently. My entire upstairs at night has been smelling like burning plastic from whatever is wafting from their site.



It might be Dean Innovations,



Aa



8:15 PM

49%



43

You are welcome. We can't help but see them. Getting so tired of this. They have no business being in our neighborhood.

Tuesday...are you going to do a TV interview?

Sure. I'd rather not alone but someone's gotta do it



I don't feel safe to because of retaliation. The employees are very rude. I have called other neighbors to join if we can give them a date and time.

I'll be in touch. We have lots of work to do on our end before we do interviews. Thank you all.



Thank you!



Aa



8:17 PM

48%



[Redacted]



do interviews. Thank you all.

✓ ✓

Thank you!



Thank you!!

I have a lot of videos and picks if you need more for the report and will be glad to be part of the interview as well.thankyou.



I will go through the photo file in the morning and post some trash photos here for you to pick through Bethany Thank you again.

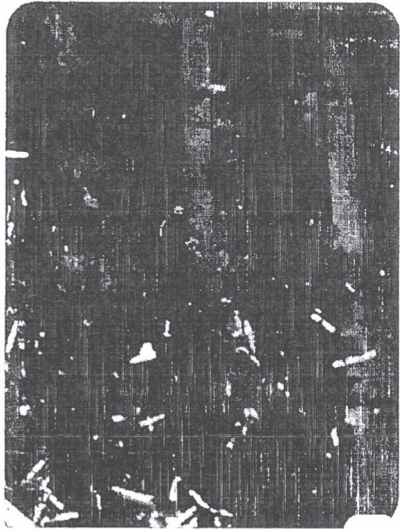


Aa

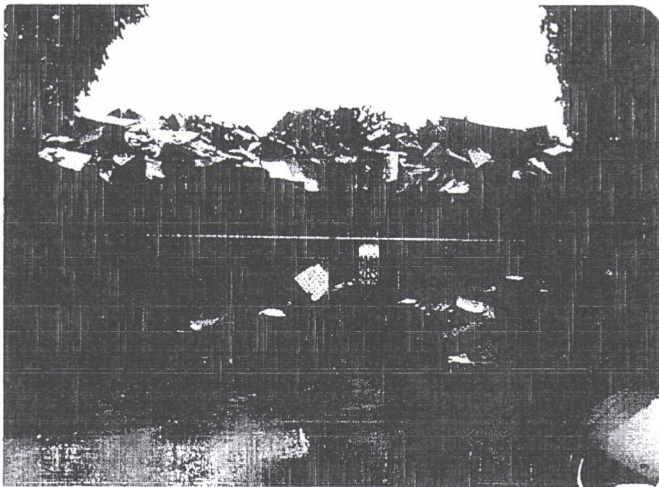


8:18 PM

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Aa

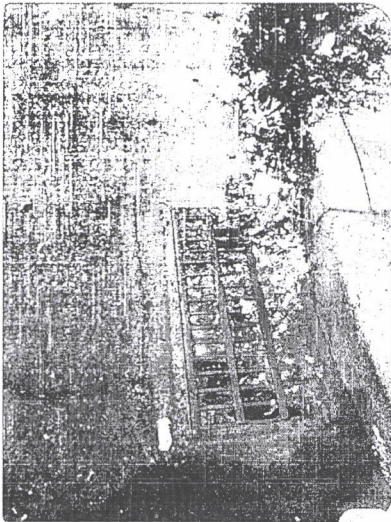


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46



Aa

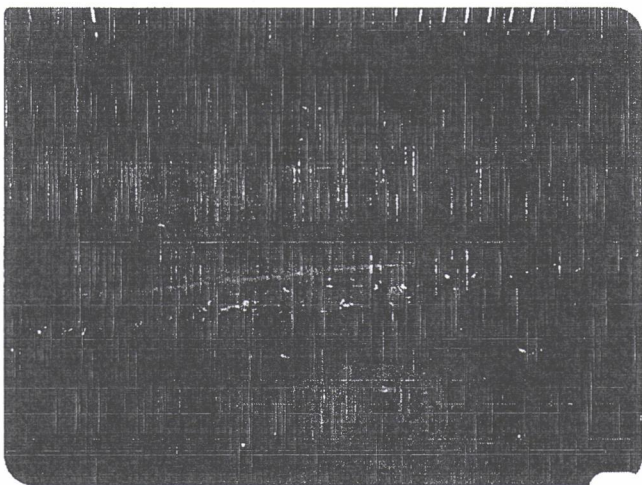


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47



Aa



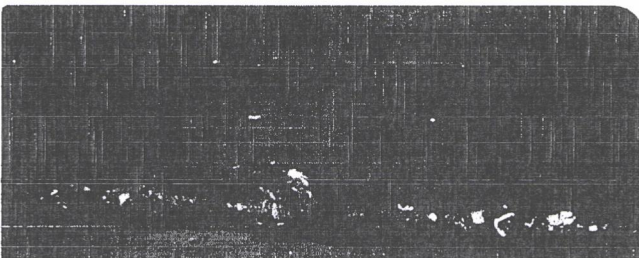
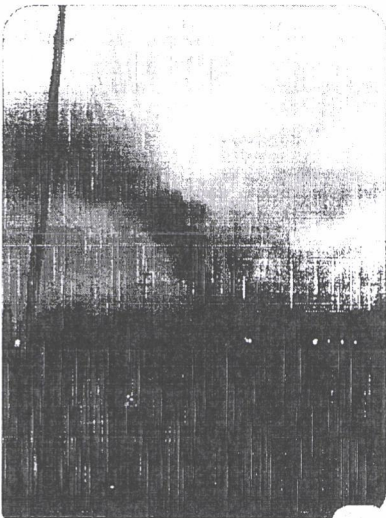
8:19 PM

48%



48

It should be West Rock's responsibility to keep that drain clear. I used to do it, but just can't anymore.

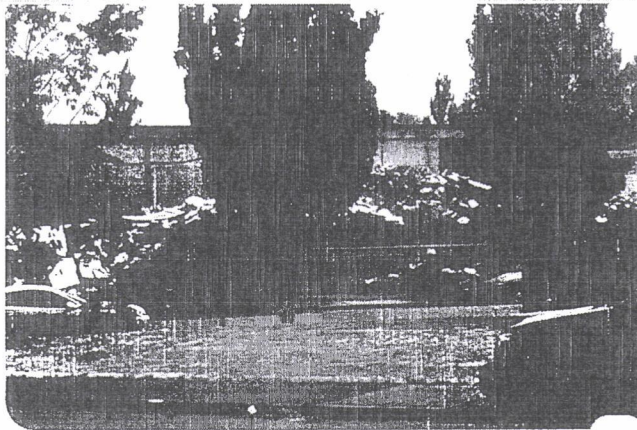


Aa



8:20 PM

47%



KG

They said over a year ago that they were going to construct a 14 foot high wall to contain some of that garbage. Just another promise that they told us to shut us up I think.

What is that black smoke coming from?



FIRE

December 17 2017

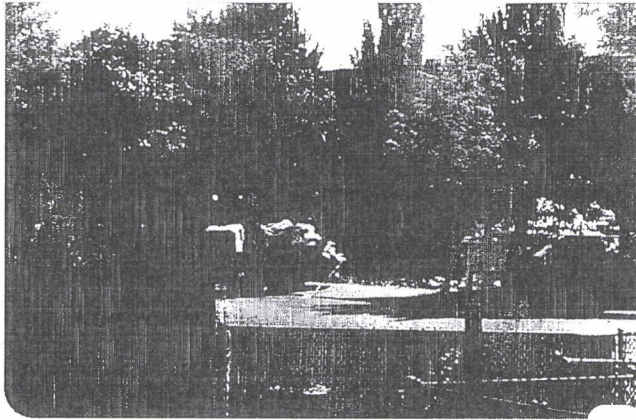


Aa



8:20 PM

47%



50

Clearly the property is NOT large enough to even accommodate the amount of paper/cardboard that is received, so are forced to use the neighborhood streets, which are in terrible shape because of this equipment and the trucks. They are not the least bit concerned even though ODOT said it is a violation for them to do this. Maybe ODOT needs these pictures as well?



Aa



Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: West Rock
Date: Saturday, September 22, 2018 8:45:40 PM
Attachments: [IMG_3294.MOV](#)

Hello Hila,

The video I sent of the dust blowing over here from the guy in the lot pushing the blower, won't play in the previous photos I sent, so I wanted to show you the shot from my security camera that is right out front, in the corner of my son's yard, next door. It started to blow just minutes after he started the blower. You might think that it looks like rain, but it did not rain then.

This is the air that we breathe.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hila Ritter](#)
Subject: Re: West Rock.
Date: Friday, September 21, 2018 11:40:11 AM

Thank you. I had to leave for a while, but will communicate with ODOT. Have a wonderful day. [REDACTED]

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

On Friday, September 21, 2018, 11:37 AM, Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov> wrote:

Hi [REDACTED],

I don't know the answer to that – sorry. Metro's role is specific to the solid waste operations, and legality of trucks parking on the street is outside of my expertise. That question would be best posed to PBOT or ODOT.

Thanks,

*Hila

Hila Ritter
Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR [97232-2736](tel:97232-2736)
[503-797-1862](tel:503-797-1862)

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, September 21, 2018 10:08 AM
To: Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: West Rock.

I have a quick question, Is it legal for trucks to park in the road, next to the cars that are by the curb, for an hour and a half restricting traffic? Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad

To Whom it may concern,

October 5, 2018

I live in the neighborhood, and have noticed a drastic increase in the amount of business that is done at West Rock Recycling, at 6328 SE 100th Ave.

The most annoying thing that should be addressed is the amount of noise that is generated from the employees banging the metal dumpsters until at least 10:00 p.m. My family and I go to bed early, since we have to get up very early to go to work, and it is very hard to sleep having to listen to that.

Then, there is the truck traffic, and congestion that is caused by the big semis that are sometimes even double parked on the neighborhood streets, and where the only light is to exit the neighborhood, (SE 101st and Foster). Sometimes we are forced to exit our neighborhood, on a street where there is no light, after being forced to back up and turn around while attempting to approach the light on SE 101st and Foster Road, since the trucks are lined up (sometimes double parked), waiting to get into the facility. It appears that this facility is not large enough to handle all of the traffic, and loads of cardboard and paper that they deliver. They should be located on a larger piece of land, somewhere other than in a neighborhood.

Another problem is the amount of rats that I have seen in my yard. There are children that play in their yards on this street, and it is a health concern with the amount of vermin running amok.

The cardboard is left out when it rains, and it stinks when it gets wet. The paper decomposes in the streets in the rain, and we have to drive through it.

West Rock opens at 7:00 in the morning, and closes their doors at 10:00 at night, but we still often hear the banging from inside the building, enough to wake us up. They should not be allowed to operate so late in the evening, and especially in a neighborhood where people are trying to sleep.

Please take these things into consideration while determining West Rock's application for a permit to continue to operate here.

Thank you,

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED]

Date 10-10-2018

Address [REDACTED] SE woodstock CT 06086

Phone number [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 11 YEARS

[REDACTED]

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Date 10.11.2018

Address [REDACTED] SE 100th Ave Portland OR 97266

Phone number [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 1

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

Date 10/11/2018

Address [REDACTED] SE 100th Ave. Portland OR 97266

Phone number ([REDACTED]) [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 5

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED]

Date 10-11-2018

Address [REDACTED] SE Woodstock Ct. Portland, OR 97266

Phone number [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 13

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED]

Date 10-11-18

Address [REDACTED] SE Woodstock Blv.

Phone number [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 2

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name

[REDACTED]

Date

10-11-18

Address

[REDACTED]

SE Wood Stock

Phone number

[REDACTED]

Number of years lived here

5

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED]

Date 10 - 11 - 18

Address [REDACTED] SE WOODSTOCK CT Pen

Phone number [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 46

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name 

Date 10/11/18

Address  SE Woodstock Ct

Phone number 

Number of years lived here 3

Hila Ritter

From: Hila Ritter
Sent: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 8:28 AM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: RE: Signatures.

Hi [REDACTED]

Thanks for this message – I'm sorry we didn't get a chance to speak individually at the meeting, but I'm glad we were there to hear from you and others.

If it's not too much trouble, please do mail me the original copies of this letter with the additional signatures from [REDACTED]. Thank you for emailing them to me in advance to ensure that I received them before the deadline.

Thanks again,
*Hila

Hila Ritter
Solid Waste Authorization Coordinator
Property and Environmental Services

My gender pronouns: she, her, hers.

Metro | oregonmetro.gov
600 NE Grand Ave.
Portland, OR 97232-2736
503-797-1862

From: Renee [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, October 15, 2018 9:38 AM
To: Hila Ritter <Hila.Ritter@oregonmetro.gov>
Subject: Signatures.

Hello Hila. First, I would like to thank you and your team, again, for coming to the neighborhood meeting. We really appreciated the time that you folks took to attend. It was a very informative meeting, and we are encouraged that our livability may eventually be improved. I gathered a couple more signatures that would accompany the letter that [REDACTED] turned in to you at the LNLA meeting. I have taken pictures of those, because I wanted to get them submitted by the deadline, Oct. 17th, and wasn't sure if they would get to you in time in the mail, but can still send the original copies to you for your files if you would like. Thanks again.
[REDACTED]

October 5, 2018

To Whom it may concern,

I live in the neighborhood, and have noticed a drastic increase in the amount of business that is done at West Rock Recycling, at 6328 SE 100th Ave.

The most annoying thing that should be addressed is the amount of noise that is generated from the employees banging the metal dumpsters until at least 10:00 p.m. My family and I go to bed early, since we have to get up very early to go to work, and it is very hard to sleep having to listen to that.

Then, there is the truck traffic, and congestion that is caused by the big semis that are sometimes even double parked on the neighborhood streets, and where the only light is to exit the neighborhood, (SE 101st and Foster). Sometimes we are forced to exit our neighborhood, on a street where there is no light, after being forced to back up and turn around while attempting to approach the light on SE 101st and Foster Road, since the trucks are lined up (sometimes double parked), waiting to get into the facility. It appears that this facility is not large enough to handle all of the traffic, and loads of cardboard and paper that they deliver. They should be located on a larger piece of land, somewhere other than in a neighborhood.

Another problem is the amount of rats that I have seen in my yard. There are children that play in their yards on this street, and it is a health concern with the amount of vermin running amok.

The cardboard is left out when it rains, and it stinks when it gets wet. The paper decomposes in the streets in the rain, and we have to drive through it.

West Rock opens at 7:00 in the morning, and closes their doors at 10:00 at night, but we still often hear the banging from inside the building, enough to wake us up. They should not be allowed to operate so late in the evening, and especially in a neighborhood where people are trying to sleep.

Please take these things into consideration while determining West Rock's application for a permit to continue to operate here.

Thank you,

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name [REDACTED]

Date 10-13-18

Address [REDACTED] SE Henry

Phone number [REDACTED]

Number of years lived here 37

We share the same concerns that are mentioned in this letter.

Name

Date Oct. 14-18

Address SE Woodstock Blvd.

Phone number

Number of years lived here 16 years

EPIC AUTO BODY
10004 SE FOSTER ROAD
PORTLAND, OREGON 97266
503.775.6585

OCT 15 '18 RCVD

To Whom It May Concern,

Epic Auto Body is located directly across the street from the WestRock Recycling Center located at 6328 SE 100th Ave. Portland, OR. 97266. We have co-existed with this facility as well as the previous owner of this facility for a number of years. We believe that we have been more than forgiving and have tried our best to work in close proximity with WestRock.

Unfortunately, during the course of the last few years we have been forced to accept a number of very difficult realities and challenges as a direct result of WestRock and its operational procedures. Please note some of the most prevalent and perhaps dangerous and difficult of these issues listed below:

- 1.) Fire & Safety concerns (fires at the facility have occurred with causes not definitively known).
- 2.) Intense truck traffic causing heavy congestion and blocking public roads on both sides of the building.
- 3.) Enormous amounts of debris escaping the facility on an ongoing basis.
- 4.) Blocked sidewalks along public roads caused by large piles of debris breaching temporary barriers around the facility.
- 5.) Nauseating clouds of odor emanating from the facility.
- 6.) Trucks blocking access to both this business and the line-up shop next door making it practically impossible for customers to access or egress.
- 7.) Frustrated truck drivers honking their horns and verbally attacking customers attempting to park and gain access to local businesses.
- 8.) A large number of rodents exiting and returning to the facility daily.

Additionally, I would note that there does not seem to be a clear plan in place that addresses the above-listed complaints. There is no clear entrance or exit for these large trucks. Personally, I do not believe there is a consistent traffic plan for the facility. If there is a well thought out traffic plan, it has not been communicated to the truck drivers. The entire facility seems to be enveloped in chaos, with little concern from the facility on how their actions impact surrounding business and home owners.

Respectfully,

Larry Goldsmith