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Trainsong Families Concerned Over Planned Fuel Site Near Homes

Beyond Toxics and Active Bethel Community will host a meeting on Oct. 7 for Trainsong and West Eugene residents to learn about a proposed biofuel transfer station.

Eugene, OR. – Residents in the west Eugene neighborhood of Trainsong received notice in late August of a fuel transfer facility coming to their neighborhood in late 2025. Highly flammable ethanol, renewable diesel, biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuel will be delivered to the Eugene railyard by train, then transloaded to tanker trucks for distribution. The truck route will be on Bethel Drive, alongside school bus stops and families’ front yards.

The private, Houston-based company, USD Clean Fuels, has stated that the transfer station will result in 40 one-way tanker truck trips daily, primarily during the hours of 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. Neighbors are concerned about environmental health and safety impacts.

“There are a lot of noise concerns,” said community member Dharmika Henschel. “Extra trains, braking and train cars banging into each other... We’d like to sleep. But it’s not just the noise. We have the potential for air, land, and water pollution, and explosions.”

Henschel, Beyond Toxics and other community members testified at city council on [Monday, Sept. 23](#), asking councilors to commit to implementing Public Health Development Standards to prevent further heavy industrial facilities, like J.H. Baxter, that lead to pollution burdens in these neighborhoods. Trainsong has a long history of industrial pollution, including contaminated groundwater, noxious fumes and diesel particulate matter from nearby facilities and idling trains, and dioxin-contaminated soil at Trainsong Park.

Active Bethel Community and Beyond Toxics will host a community forum on **Monday, Oct. 7 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Lions of Judah Christian Center** (2600 Wood Ave., Eugene) to address the issue. **Mayor Lucy Vinis** and **City Councilor Lyndsie Leech** will be on hand to hear concerns and answer questions. More information is at beyondtoxics.org.

Beyond Toxics provides leadership to build a community-driven environmental justice movement for a thriving and just Oregon. We envision a society where everyone has equitable access to healthy food and clean air and water, and underserved communities are included in decision making processes that affect them. Together, we move beyond the damaging environmental practices of the past and collectively work to support and maintain ecological resilience and balance.

Trainsong is a residential neighborhood that has been impacted time and again by industrial pollution. Currently, Trainsong Park, which serves children in the neighborhood, is being rebuilt after the Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality found very high levels of dioxin contamination. The neighborhood is also exposed to diesel particulate from idling trains, a history of noxious fumes from nearby industries (including the former J.H. Baxter plant), contaminated groundwater, leaking rail cars, and other historic pollution sources.

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