



Port Inks Lease With Dirt Hugger

Bingen, Washington – The Port of Klickitat has leased nine acres at its Dallesport Industrial Park to regional composting company Dirt Hugger, LLC. Located along the east side of U.S. Hwy. 197 near Tidyman Road, the site is currently being leveled and graded. In addition, berms are being constructed to reduce the visual impact of the operation and other improvements will be made in the coming months.

Klickitat County, USDA Rural Development, and the Port have worked together to support Dirt Hugger's move and expansion. Together they will invest over \$100,000 to provide power, water, and pollution control infrastructure to the site. “Though we are sad to be leaving Oregon, Klickitat County has given us a warm welcome and we are thrilled about the new site and our new location,” said Dirt Hugger co-owner Pierce Louis. “We are excited by the opportunity to build a new, state-of-the art facility from the ground up and want to thank Klickitat County, the USDA, the Port, and our Kickstarter backers for all their support.”

At A Glance...

Who:.....Port of Klickitat
What:....Lease with Dirt Hugger
When:.....September 30, 2014
Where:.....Dallesport Ind. Park
Quick Facts:....Port leases nine acres at Dallesport to regional composter, Dirt Hugger. Klickitat County, USDA Rural Develop., and Port invest over \$100,000 in site improvements.

The location is part of the undeveloped north end of the Port's properties and a good fit for the type of use. “Folks aren't always thrilled with the prospect of a commercial composting operation starting up in an area,” said Port Executive Director Marc Thornsby. “That makes proper siting essential to avoiding conflicts. We looked at a number of factors including the quantity and type of nearby development. This location stood out because the immediate area surrounding it is largely undeveloped except for a smokehouse, an asphalt plant, and a garbage transfer station.”

New development isn't likely to occur any time soon. According to Thornsby, the cost to extend water and sanitary sewer mains to the area will likely exceed \$4 million, delaying development of the surrounding property by at least 10 to 15 years. Even if the area does build out, Thornsby remains unconcerned. “Dirt Hugger has worked hard to be a good neighbor in The Dalles and will be implementing best odor management practices at its new Dallesport location as required under the terms of its lease with the Port,” said Thornsby. “That doesn't mean it will never be detectable on an adjacent property, but the frequency and duration when it is detectable should be very limited.”

The Dirt Hugger expansion is a unique departure from more recent projects on Port properties. “A composting operation may not be a typical Port tenant, but it will deliver a variety of benefits to our community and region,” said Port Commissioner Jim Herman. “I'm glad the Port is putting otherwise vacant land to productive use, supporting local agriculture, and encouraging environmentally-friendly waste management. I'm also pleased that, in so doing, we are also able

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to bring additional employment opportunities to the Dallesport area, generate added income for the Port, and assist a local start-up company trying to meet the growing demand for its services and products.”

Started nearly four years ago in The Dalles, Oregon, Dirt Hugger collects and processes organic materials that would otherwise go to regional landfills, get burned in open air piles, or be trucked to distant processing centers. Applying the concept of local sourcing to the management of organic waste, it has given residents and businesses in the Columbia River Gorge an environmentally responsible alternative to other disposal methods. Since its launch, it has collected over 10 million pounds of food scraps, spoiled fruit, brewery residuals, yard debris, and other matter and produced over 10,000 cubic yards of compost used by growers, farmers, and gardeners throughout the region.

For more information on the Port or Dirt Hugger's operation, visit www.portofklickitat.com or www.dirthugger.com.

About the Port of Klickitat

Economic development, transportation, and marine-based recreation are key functions of the Port of Klickitat. These are achieved through leasing industrial-zoned property, developing and renting industrial and commercial facilities, developing and maintaining rail spurs and dock facilities, assisting companies with an interest in locating in Klickitat County, creating and managing marine-based recreational facilities, and working closely with various partner organizations and agencies.

The Port of Klickitat is located in Klickitat County, Washington and was created in 1944. It is one of several port authorities located in the mid-Columbia region. It owns two industrial parks and several buildings, leases industrial property and space, operates a barge dock, and holds property set aside for a park and marina. Transportation access is provided via rail, river barge, highways 14, 35, and 197, and Interstate 84. More information can be found on the Port's web site at www.portofklickitat.com.

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