

# Drilling Foes Block Seattle Port Entry

BY PHUONG LE  
Associated Press

SEATTLE — Foes of Royal Dutch Shell's use of a Seattle seaport terminal to prepare for exploratory oil drilling in the Arctic Ocean attacked on two fronts Monday as a few hundred protesters blocked port entrances and the City of Seattle declared that Shell and its maritime host lacked a proper permit.

The city issued a violation notice, saying use of Terminal 5 by a massive floating drill rig was in violation of the site's permitted use as a cargo terminal. The 400-foot Polar Pioneer and its support tug Aiviq must be removed from the terminal or Shell's host, Foss Maritime, must obtain an appropriate permit, the Seattle Department of Planning and Development said.

The companies can appeal. Possible fines start at \$150 per day and can rise to \$500 per day. The notice said the violation must be corrected by June 4.

"It remains our view that the terms agreed upon by Shell, Foss and the Port of Seattle for use of Terminal 5 are valid, and it's our intention to continue loading-out our drilling rigs in preparation for exploratory drilling offshore Alaska," Shell spokesman Curtis Smith said.

"Terminal 5 is permitted to tie up ships while they are being loaded and unloaded," Foss Maritime spokesman Paul Queary said. "That is exactly what Foss is doing there."

Queary noted that both Foss and the Port of Seattle are appealing an earlier determination by the city that the use of Terminal 5 was not permitted. Monday's violation notice followed that determination.

Earlier Monday, protesters spent several hours blocking entrances to the terminal where the



Several hundred demonstrators block the entrances to Terminal 5, where Shell's Polar Pioneer drilling rig is moored, where they are protesting the Polar Pioneer Oil Rig and the Shell Oil Company Monday in Seattle.

rig will be loaded before heading to waters off Alaska this summer.

Holding banners and flags, demonstrators marched across a bridge to Terminal 5, temporarily closing the road during Monday morning's commute. Once at the

terminal, they spread out across the entrances and rallied, danced and spoke for several hours before leaving the site in the early afternoon.

Organizers had prepared to engage in civil disobedience to stop

work on the drill rig, but Seattle police said Monday afternoon that no one had been arrested and the demonstration remained peaceful. A few dozen officers followed the march on foot and bicycle and kept watch at the terminal.

The mass demonstration was the latest protest of the Polar Pioneer's arrival in Seattle. Protesters greeted the rig Thursday, and then hundreds of activists in kayaks and other vessels turned out Saturday for a protest dubbed the "Paddle in Seattle."

Smith said in an email that the "activities of the day were anticipated and did not stop crews from accomplishing meaningful work in preparation for exploration offshore Alaska this summer."

There were minimal operations at Terminal 5, "so there's not much to block," Port of Seattle spokesman Peter McGraw said. The operator of Terminal 18, a major hub of port activity where the march began, closed those gates in anticipation of the demonstration, he said.

Officials have been urging people to exercise their First Amendment rights safely, and "that's what we've been seeing so far," McGraw said.

The activists say they are concerned about the risk of an oil spill in the remote Arctic waters and the effects that tapping new frontiers of oil and gas reserves will have on global warming. Officials in Alaska have touted the economic benefits that drilling could bring there and to the Pacific Northwest.

On Monday, protesters of all ages sang, rapped and danced at the vehicle gate of Terminal 5. They chanted and held signs saying "Climate Justice For All" and "You Shell Not Pass."

Lisa Marcus, 58, a musician who participated in Saturday's protest, turned up with her "Love the planet" sign for another day of activism Monday.

"We've got to wake up" to the dangers of human-caused climate change, she said, ticking off a list of environmental problems that the world is facing. "Shell is trying to make it worse, and that's not acceptable."

## Flu

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bird losses as of last Monday.

"If the virus affects more farms, as we have seen since May 11, the impact levels will rise," Tuck said.

In Iowa, the estimated economic loss from egg production is estimated at just over \$600 million based on figures from Iowa State University economists using current estimates of dead chickens. Egg producers generate more

than \$2 billion a year in economic activity and the estimate is based on a loss of a third of the flock. Additional losses were reported Monday.

Other agriculture economists believe the economic losses for those two states could be even higher.

The economists said that the estimates are based on annual figures and the exact economic impact won't be known until it's determined how long it takes to declare barns virus-free and safe for restocking after birds are cleared out and facilities are disinfected.

"They are not going to come back all at once. It's going to take one to two years for these layer facilities to be back into full production, it's a gradual process," said Maro Ibarburu, a business analyst at the Egg Industry Center at Iowa State University.

While agriculture economists compute financial losses for states hardest hit, the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a monthly report Monday that said national exports of turkey meat will fall 10 percent, eggs about 1.5 percent and even chicken meat exports will fall 6.8 percent this year.

The broiler chicken industry, which provides chickens for meat, has not been directly hit by the of the bird flu virus that has mainly infected turkeys and egg-laying hens, but the export impact is due to national bans of all U.S. poultry products imposed by China, Russia and South Korea.

The USDA said turkey farmers were having a very good year before the bird flu struck the Midwest in March. First quarter production was 1.4 billion pounds, 7 percent higher than last year's comparable quarter. Second and third quarter production is expected to fall by

50 million pounds due to bird flu, however the strength of the first quarter is expected to help boost turkey production for the year by 3.9 percent above last year to 5.98 billion pounds.

Egg production for March was nearly 1 percent higher than a year ago. The bird flu virus first surfaced in Iowa egg barns in early April. The government's new forecast is for table egg production to fall to 7.2 billion dozen, a decline of 0.7 percent from last year.



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