

D. Wallace
December 26, 1973DURHAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION TAKES STAND ON REFINERY

COPY

At its December meeting, the Durham Conservation Commission adopted the following position regarding the Olympic Refineries Inc. proposal to construct an oil refinery on Durham Point and Great Bay:

We support the open-space recommendations of the 1969 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Durham. This Plan was prepared for the town and for the N.H. Department of Resources and Economic Development by the Planning Services Group of Cambridge. The Plan states:

"We recommend that first priority be given to conservation, because once the prized environment is lost, it can never be replaced. The variety of land and water habitats for plants and wild life is an uncommon and priceless resource for the town's inhabitants and offers natural laboratories for students. The most valuable of these habitats is the tidal estuary, along which there should be a minimum of disturbance by developers and road builders."

The report also states, "The chief elements in the plan are the Crommet Creek-Horsehide Brook Conservation Corridor leading from the Oyster River to Adams Point (on Great Bay) and the regional wild or natural park centered on Dame Road (on Durham Point.)"

These two large areas earmarked for conservation in the Comprehensive Plan lie largely within the thousands of acres now under option to Olympic.

The Durham Conservation Commission is very concerned that there be prepared, in accordance with existing Federal and State statutes, appropriate and complete studies of the environmental impact of an oil refinery on these two large areas earmarked for conservation.

The Durham Conservation Commission has requested assistance from the New Hampshire Association of Conservation Commissions, in Concord, in obtaining and publicizing information about the public hearings which will be required by the various Federal and State regulatory agencies having jurisdiction over environmental impacts.

The Durham Conservation Commission will try to assist town officials in gathering information about a refinery's environmental impact and will try to help them publicize such information for the voters.

Karen Mower
Karen Mower

Secretary, Durham Conservation
Commission