

# William Kupinse

Dear Washington State Department of Ecology:

I write as a longtime resident of Tacoma to express my opposition to WestRock's plans to increase capacity and pollution at its Tacoma mill.

The Port of Tacoma is already out of compliance with clean air standard and is designated a "non-attainment area." Given this status, the idea that any corporation should be allowed to increase its air pollution at the Port is alarming. From DOE's own webpage, I learned that WestRock has indicated that pollution will increase as follows:

- Total suspended particulates by 0.33 tons/year
- Particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM10) by 0.3 tons/year
- PM2.5 by 0.23 tons/year
- Volatile organic compounds by 3.9 tons/year
- Toxic air pollutants by 15.59 tons/year

Since most of these pollutants aren't being measured, the residents of Tacoma will have to take WestRock's word that this is actual increase in pollutants we'll all be breathing. If WestRock were to release an increase of, say, 39 tons of VOCs instead of 3.9 tons, we'd never know, since there's no independent monitoring.

Given the number of polluting industries at the Port of Tacoma, it's essential that the DOE begin monitoring all relevant pollutants. Yes, such monitoring is expensive, but so is the inability of an individual to work because of COPD or another disease caused by environmental factors. It would seem relevant for the DOE to do an epidemiological study predicting the increases in various pulmonary diseases to be expected from this increase in pollutants.

Washington State residents depend upon the DOE to protect the public from the harm that corporations would otherwise inflict upon our health and upon the health of the environment. I ask that you exercise whatever authority you possess to prevent this increase in pollution in an area that has no margin for error.

Upgrading equipment should never be allowed to be an excuse for increasing overall pollution.

Thank you.

~William Kupinse  
Tacoma, WA