

Claudia Reidner

My name is Claudia Riedner. I first would like to acknowledge that we all are on Puyallup Tribal land, and I want to make sure that everybody understands that places like Westrock are built upon Puyallup treaty land and that's the boundaries around the reservation that are water bound, and those water—those water dependent areas, the Tideflats to this day are actually protected by the Medicine Creek Treaty from 1854 and those treaties are as powerful as the Constitution. So the actual siting of the facility is already in question. Then quickly I would like to address procedures from Ecology. The announcement for this, for this hearing, or for the SEPA all together, was sent out late on a Friday afternoon with that day already counting as comment period. We are used to always getting Friday afternoon emails for such situations and I wish you would start earlier in the week for us to have a little bit more time. Also, the deadline for the comment period is between Christmas and New Year and many other—many other SEPAs have done the same thing and—and it's uncomfortable for us because we believe that's the time when nobody's paying attention, people are not here they're, have their, you know, their dinners with family and it's unfortunate that those deadlines are not made so that regular people actually have attention and time. And then thirdly, I want to address some of the pollutants. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency is listing benzene and formaldehyde as one of their very top cancer-causing agents. So for another agency like Ecology to allow any of these toxic chemicals into our air is really difficult for me to understand. This has direct health impacts in numbers of people that we can count that would get cancer over a time period from these particular emissions. And so I have a big problem with that, considering that for example restaurants cannot serve food that makes people ill, so industries should not be able to serve air that makes people ill because we don't even have a choice whether or not we go to the industry while with the restaurant at least we have a choice to say yay or nay. And then, fourth, I also want to address greenhouse gases. And I believe the science is extremely clear and everybody in this room is very aware of it and I know Ecology and Clean Air Agency, they're aware of it, the city, the port, everybody is aware of greenhouse gases have to be stopped now completely. And so why we would allow anybody in an expansion to add 60,000 tons of greenhouse gases into our air on an annual basis from now on into the future, when we know it has a direct, harmful impact on so many communities around the globe, I think if we know better we have to do better and we have to finally act as responsible adults. And I want to address that to the institutions and the agencies as well as to industry itself. If industry acts not responsible, the pressures from the population against such industry is only going to increase. And we're not—we're going to be here and we're not going to give up to fight for it. Even though we already know that this is most likely going to pass and Ecology never turns such things down, so it's a bit of a bit of going through the motions for really no reason. But I'm hoping these things will change soon, and I'm hoping that the population soon will actually have a word in the air we breathe and the greenhouse gases we pump out. Thank you.