

Barbara Church

I'm sharing my concerns and opposition to the WestRock expansion to increase use of its natural gas boiler to have the ability to generate electricity for sale.

1. It will be a direct increase in emissions in Tacoma by increasing greenhouse gasses by about 60,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalents per year (like approximately 12,000 passenger cars. Even if mitigated in half, that's 30,000 tons of CO2's an 6,000 more passenger cars). Other air pollutants include particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, lead, formaldehyde, benzene and toluene.

2. What is the cumulative impact of adding more pollution from the WestRock expansion to the Port?

3. The natural gas will come from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) which means it will be mostly fracked gas from fracking wells.

4. Just like the LNG plant, they failed to show the upstream impact of methane leakage at the fracking wells, which could be even more damaging than the CO2 emissions at the plant site.

5. The incremental electricity produced by WestRock is not needed in our state and will be sold to outside sources. Consequently, our city residents will get all the extra pollution while to supply another state with electricity.

7. Scientists have shown that electricity generated by fracked gas has more global warming potential than coal. Since natural gas is just replacing coal to create electricity, why are we substituting one dirty fuel with another?

8. WestRock doesn't need additional electricity to run and neither do Tacoma residents.