

Twylia Westling

Hi, my name is Twylia Westling. I am Anishinabeg. I am Ojibway woman. I am a resident of Northeast Tacoma for 11 years. I am a guest on the traditional lands of the Puyallup nation. I have, my comments are kind of in question form, and I know you can't answer me directly. I will be submitting them in written form as well. My first question is, why is the information about emissions, as reported by industry, so difficult to find? Why is it so difficult for us to interpret? Thank goodness we have some smart people in our community who can help us walk through that, but it shouldn't be that difficult for us to understand what the impacts are of these emissions, for us to be able to understand that. Number two, regarding benzene, toluene, and lead. These are toxins that we should not be cavalier about when we're talking about increasing their volumes. Especially without true reporting in real time and regularly. Number three, and this is a really big one for me. There are no health initiatives that I am aware of that are tracking the health impacts in our communities. I was sick for 12 weeks after the lithium ion battery fire. No one is talking to me about that. Does anyone care? I know I'm not the only one who suffered repercussions from that fire. Number four, no one is measuring these emissions of lead, benzene, toluene, CO₂, in a cumulative way. Why is this not a priority for our agencies? The cumulative impact on our bodies and on our environment cannot be ignored any longer. So I need to understand why our agencies aren't taking that up as an initiative. Number five, my last ask is of the human beings who work at Ecology, who I believe care about our health and environment. Understanding that your jobs are sensitive to the politics and to the demands of industry, I'm asking you to please consider advocating for us and with us to have meaningful conversations about these impacts, as they're going to last for generations. We have less than 12 years to stop climate change, and if we approve these permits, the impacts are gonna last beyond the 12 years. Please don't let this project go through without a thorough and meaningful analysis with the most recent science being used, and an accompanying health evaluation. Thank you.