

Nikie Walters

This message is for the Department of Ecology. This message as is stated is from the mind of Steve Storms, a well respected retired chemical engineer that lives in the Tacoma Community. We the people of this community and beyond deserve a response to each and every issue listed below along with all your scientific facts and data backing up your decision IF the Department of Ecology decides to allow and grant this permit.

Thank you
Nikie Walters

The Westrock paper mill in Tacoma has applied for a permit to allow it to burn more natural gas to produce electricity for sale. This is only a project to increase profits. There are several things that are terrible with this ideas.

1. This is not actually required to keep the mill open, it is only done for profit.
2. It will be a direct increase in emissions in Tacoma. They have published all the particulates and gases that will be released into our city.
3. The natural gas will come from 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 the methane leakage at the fracking wells, which could be even more damaging than the CO2 emissions at the plant site.
5. How PSE can support the increased natural gas demand is unclear. They have publicly stated in the LNG Environmental Impact Statement, that they need the LNG plant for peak shaving due a shortage of gas for the public on cold days. The incremental usage by Westrock would only make the shortage worse.
6. If they are going to increase the demand for peak shaving, they should also be required to pay for a portion of the LNG plant. The public is required to pay for 43% of the plant (\$133 million). Let them pay their proportion of the increased peak shaving demand.
7. The need for the incremental electricity produced is not needed in our state and will be sold to outside sources. In effect, we get all the extra pollution to supply some other state with electricity.
8. Many scientific papers have shown that electricity generated by fracked gas has more global warming potential than even coal. I assume that the electricity being sold to another state will replace coal and be a net contributor to global warming.
9. While the plant emissions appear to be under the single source limits, we do not know what it will do to the cumulative emissions in the city. Until we measure the actual air quality from all the emissions, how can we allow increased emissions of any source?

Only in a worst case scenario, could it possibly make a little sense to approve the project. If we needed the electricity or if Westrock needed the electricity to continue operation. This project does not help the public or save jobs at Westrock. It is only for incremental profit and will adversely affect the environment both here in Tacoma and globally. Why would anyone locally consider approving this project? I will try to be polite when I say that Westrock is trying to "foul our own nest".

Steven Storms