10-21-18

Hello,

As a citizen of Washington, I have serious concerns about the proposed HiTest Sands silicon smelter sited for Newport, WA.

According to HiTest's own data, the smelter would emit 320,000 tons of greenhouse gases, 760 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 700 tons of nitrogen oxides each year. The smelter would become the state's 15th largest emitter of greenhouse gases and produce roughly the same amount of sulfur dioxide as 165,000 wood stoves burning continuously at the project site.

While the above numbers are scary, they may not completely show the potential dangers because the data used by HiTest was not properly obtained. The Department of Ecology must require HiTest to set up a meteorological station on the property to collect at least one year’s worth of site-specific data. The current data is inaccurate, leaving too many unknowns. Additionally, Ecology should not proceed with the SEPA scoping process until the project is more clearly defined. Many critical questions are unanswered and need to be addressed before an effective scoping process can begin.

The Pend Oreille County commissioners have a role to play as well. They must not change the zoning designation of HiTest’s property until the smelter’s environmental impacts are fully understood. It would be irresponsible to make this change on behalf of the community they represent without fully understanding the impact to the people and natural resources.

I am asking you to do what is right for the people on our community. Our families cannot accept the health problems, decrease in property values and disruption to our quality of life this smelter will bring to our community. Don't give HiTest special privileges for the sake of bringing dirty jobs to our area.

Please do not allow this project to proceed any further.

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 Sandra Henderson

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