

Dear Friends,

Thank you for asking for our feedback for the scoping process you are undertaking. We, the residents who live in Pend Oreille County and especially those of us who live near Newport, are counting on you to keep us safe and healthy and to not allow the smelter to ruin the pristine environment here and the health of the residents.

Here are some questions for you to consider:

1. What will the environmental impact on air, water, earth, wildlife, and human life of processing 150,000 tons of coal and 170,000 tons of quartz rock a year? How and where will the waste be disposed and how will that affect the air quality, etc.?
2. The noise level and pollution caused by an average of 10 rail cars and 250 vehicle trips a day concern me. We live near the proposed site and our peaceful ambience will be permanently disturbed.
3. Who is paying for building the rail loops and extra roads necessary to transport people and materials to the site? Who will pay for the maintenance of the rails and roads? In other words, how will those of us who pay taxes in POC be affected by these expenses when our county budget is already stretched?
4. How much the increase in traffic increase carbon emissions? This year we had six weeks of smoke-filled skies due to forest fires, and many days the air quality was deemed hazardous and we were encouraged not to go outdoors. This seems to be the new normal with the lengthening of the fire season in the Northwest. It seems to me the carbon emissions and the fumes and toxins released by the smelter will make our air quality even more hazardous, especially during the months when forest fires are raging.
5. Considering that POC is at high risk for forest fires, what would be the effect on the environment of a fire at the smelter?
6. The smelter is very tall and will be lit up day and night. How will this affect wildlife? The clear night sky where you can see the stars draws people to Newport and that will be destroyed.
7. Where will the water the smelter needs come from. 10,000 gallons a day from wells does not come close to what it needs. The mayor of Newport said water will not come from the town. Where will the water come from and how will it affect the aquifers that we residents depend on for our water. Also, how and where will waste water be disposed?
8. Where will the electricity come from? Will the PUD buy coal-fueled electricity from other places or burn coal to create more electricity here? More environmental pollution....
9. PacWest has not been clear about where the water and electricity they need will come from. This does not create trust in the community.
10. How much money do the County Commissioners think the smelter will bring into POC considering that the owners and shareholders of PacWest do not live in POC and will take their profits and spend them in their own communities?

11. What are other areas—for example in Canada--where this Canadian company can build a smelter? What is the justification for POC residents and wildlife to suffer the results of the pollution, noise, traffic, and congestion, when the smelter will benefit POC residents very little? The number of new jobs created is small, and they are all lower paid jobs. The engineers and professionals won't live in POC, and their wages will not enhance local businesses. The smelter will change the ambience of Newport such that some businesses will leave the area.

Thank you very much for your help and your diligent work to keep us safe and healthy.

Cheryl Greene