

Judith Butler

I live in Hope, Idaho about 50 miles downwind from the proposed Silicon Metal Smelter on the Idaho/Washington border. This is about the same distance as the Washington population center in Spokane. Many in Bonner County live much closer. As a chronic asthmatic since childhood, I am very concerned about the air pollution. We are already suffering from the increased smoke from wildfires which cost us almost the entire month of August this year. We need to be included in the scoping area and to know what pollutants will be emitted, what will be the effect on our air ?

And what will be the impact on the water? How much water will be used in the process and what impact will it have on the water temperature which affects the health of the fish.

This is an area of pristine fresh water lakes (Priest, Pend Oreille, and Coeur d'Alene) which provide recreation to not only Idahoans, many people from Washington, and elsewhere. The Tourism industry supports our communities. How can this be an appropriate site for a smelter?

I am also concerned about effects of the transport of goods to and from the smelter. We are already burdened with the main east west rail line across the northern high line. What will be the effect of the increased rail and highway traffic on Bonner County?

North Idaho is still recovering from the damage from the silver industry and other mining. We are still cleaning up superfund sites. There are lots of questions to be answered by the EIS before a permit request can even be considered.

Thank you.