Scott Dunn MD

I am a family physician in Sandpoint, Idaho in practice for the last 25 years. I am deeply concerned about the impact the proposed smelter will have on the health of our environment which will directly impact the health of my patients. I have several specific questions that need answers before a smelter of this impact can be considered safe for the people that live in this area.

1. What will be the heavy metal contamination in Lake Pend Oreille and the Pend Oreille river? What is the expect absorption of heavy metals into the native fish? Will this cause restrictions to human consumption of fish from these historic and important fisheries?
2. What will be the level of air pollution in the surrounding area, especially the PM2.5 particulates? Given the predominate winds, what will be the average effect of the smelter on PM2.5 measured 5 miles downwind? or 10 miles downwind? or 25 miles downwind? How about the effect of a shift in the wind toward local cities? Given the historic pattern of air stagnation and poor air quality compared to the rest of the nation, will this improve our air quality? or will it degrade air quality? I saw a patient today that has symptoms that develop above 50 AQI. How many days a year will my patient be expected to breath air above 50 AQI because of this proposed smelter?
3. What is the financial guarantee that this company will be required to remediate ecological damage when the smelter closes? or if the company goes bankrupt? Will there be a required Superfund cleanup bond required? The smelter experience in the Silver valley was permanent alteration of the environment that the taxpayers ended up paying for remediation longer after the profits were extracted. The heavy metals continue to contaminate the area.
4. What is the anticipated increase in rates of cancer in the local population from the heavy metals produced by the proposed smelter. Looking at comparable smelters in the US and Canada, what childhood and adult cancers have been identified at higher incidence? In particular, have there been any increase in blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma?
5. What effect on lung disease is anticipated? What smelter by products released into the air are known lung carcinogenics? What PM2.5 particulates from such smelters are known to trigger asthma or COPD exacerbations? What is the expected cost for the health care and lost work as a result of these health events triggered by this proposed smelter? What is the expected increase in mortality in the employees? or in the surrounding communities?

Thank you for considering these questions as you formulate the EIS review of this project.

Sincerely,

Scott Dunn MD

Sandpoint, Idaho