

Constance Albrecht

I am a resident of Sandpoint, Idaho. One of the major reasons that I retired here was because I was seeking clean air. I have moderately severe asthma and allergic and chronic sinusitis. I also have very sensitive and reactive lungs prone to inflammation, since I was exposed to chemicals from the stacks of phosphate mills in Pocatello, Idaho. So I sought an area without industrial agriculture, power plants, heavy industry, etc. and found Sandpoint. My health subsequently improved a great deal.

Then I discovered the plans by HiTest to site a silica smelter nearby--conveniently at the State line so much of the air pollution will come into Idaho, including Sandpoint, where there is little regulatory authority. The smelter's transportation impacts from increased truck, rail and commuter traffic, will also add to the air pollution problems in Sandpoint and Bonner County.

To say I am concerned or unhappy is an understatement. I am nearly 65 and do not want to sell my home and move again. I am totally opposed to the smelter at the proposed Newport, WA location. It's a dirty technology that should be modified with better pollution controls, and at the very least, be sited in an existing industrial area, which I believe was originally the plan.