

Ronnie Bowlan

I would like to express my deep concern about the proposed silicon smelter. As a senior citizen with breathing problems (asthma), any added pollution in the air is a grave concern. We frequently have air stagnation in the area which would cause any pollution in the air to hover over our area

I also worry about the pollution to our aquifer and groundwater in the county. I realize that the current plan is to implement bag houses and other means to "filter" the emissions of the smelter before releasing polluted air or water to the environment. I have worked for environmental remediation corporations (3) and am familiar with the proposed preventative measures that will be put in place in this case. I have NO CONFIDENCE in this process. The damage to the environment will not be confined to Newport, but will extend to Idaho, Montana, and Spokane! As we are aware, Spokane has a very poor air quality rating, being the worst in eastern Washington. The pollution from this smelter would add to that problem, since at certain times of the year, prevailing winds would carry pollutants to Spokane and settle in the geographic bowl were the city exists.

There will be a HUGE problem with traffic considering the number of trucks and trains added to the current load of vehicles. And there is the question of what happens to the truck traffic during the spring thaw? Will the smelter shut down to protect our roadways?

I believe there are just too many obstacles to allow this smelter to be built in Newport, or Pend Oreille County. Please protect our clean air and pure water.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ronnie Bowlan