

Gabrielle Duebendorfer

As a practicing naturopathic physician and resident in Sandpoint, Idaho, I am greatly concerned about the potential impacts of the proposed smelter with regards to the health of N-Idaho citizens. There has been increase of smoke related health issues already in this area, which is projected to only get worse with climate change progressing. Considering additional particulate matter from smelter emissions is unfeasible both for our direct health and indirectly for worsening climate change. I propose in depth studies of the potential impact of the smelter on air quality in N-Idaho as well as Washington, together with impact on CO2 contribution to the atmosphere.

I also would like to suggest exploration of alternatives to silicon production in form of recycling of old solar cells and other silicon containing items. This should include a feasibility study with regards to finances as well as pollution. "Given the design life of solar panels, we can expect a surge in solar panel disposal in the early 2030s" and the infrastructure for recycling these enormous amount of waste is not existing. "...the European Union's waste of electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive dictates solar panel disposal guidelines" which could be adapted in the US. (<https://earth911.com/eco-tech/recycle-solar-panels/>)

Here is an incredible opportunity for an industry to develop that could have global economic and environmental impact instead of producing more pollution causing silicon from scratch. With regards,

Dr Gabrielle Duebendorfer