

Susan waters

My comments contain concern about the handling of coal ash - It is estimated that the smelter operation would burn 150,000 tons of coal per year, not to mention the particles created during the burning of the coal. We all know the elements contained in coal ash (mercury, arsenic, cadmium) and the danger these elements pose to the water supply, especially along the Pend Orielle River. If these byproducts that are contained in ash not properly handled (covered and lined waste pits) they can pose an immense problem.

So when one adds the water used by the smelter (where will it go? That seems to be an unanswered question?) the fact that this area of Pend Orielle County depends on revenue from tourists (fishermen, campers, etc) during summer months, and already has air quality problems from forest fires that are forecast to become more prevalent rather than less, makes this a loss that cannot be offset by the jobs the smelter would offer. Nor would the jobs the smelter proposes to offer offset the health problems that are potential hazards from this type of operation.

I am asking that this operation (the silicon smelter) not be approved for construction in Pend Orielle County.

Thank You,
Susan K. Waters
swaters00@hotmail.com