

Heather Melton

Hi there. I have lived in Spokane for almost my whole life. My family and friends love the fact that we can all just drive an hour or so out of town to have a great time in Newport and the surrounding areas. Hiking, fishing, camping and swimming. I am very worried about how the new smelter will effect the air and water quality. I have so many questions.

-Where about will it be affected, as in the projected radius of impact?

-What about drifting pollution? I know that the Spokane aquifer isn't just under Spokane, its so huge that I think that pollution from the smelter will end up in the aquifer.

-What will be done about that?

-What about Idaho, don't they get a voice in things since they are not even 10 miles away from the smelter itself. In fact, Priest River Junior High School is 9.5 miles away from where the smelter is supposed to break ground.

-Who is paying for the road to be fixed to be able to support the amounts of trucks and traffic coming in and out of the area?

-How many schools are within a 5 miles area, 10 miles, or 20 miles? What about day cares, hospitals and retirement homes, the young, sick and elderly will be more vulnerable to and environmental impact as big as a silicon smelter.

-What about the fish and nature that is going to be killed off from the pollution? There are only three caribou left in the area, will they be affected be the loss of plant life caused by the pollution?

-I have read there were going to be 170 jobs, and then read again later there will be 150 jobs, will that decrease again?

-What qualifications are they going to need to be able to apply for the job?

-What would the hours and pay be for these people?

-Who is building this plant? Will it be locally sourced to add to our economy or is it being done be another company out of state?

-If the smelter is suppose to be helping bring in jobs and money to the area, why is there a tax break for them?

-Shouldn't they be taxed as much or more then any other business, especially since is will be impacting the environment?

-Is Newport going to be getting any money from the smelter for environmental clean up that will be caused from the plant?

-What happens when one of the trucks gets in a wreck with one of the many dangerous chemicals? There is no way that will never happen.

-What about tourism, do you think that a smelter is going to increase tourism in the area or decrease it? I don't think that a city with a smelter would ever be in my top 100 places to visit.

