

Lynn GEbetsberger

Dear Grant,

Thank you and your team for being such compassionate listeners in teh recent public forums. It must be quite challenging to hear such desperation day after day from people feeling helpless and run over by the system.

I am most concerned about the potential air quality hazard that the silicon smelter project [PacWest] represents. When I read about the most advanced silicon smelter in Iceland, I'm horrified that this is what's coming to sleepy little Newport, unless your agency can put a stop to this.

From the Reykjavic Grapevine newspaper, Sept 2017: "Last November, nurse María Magnúsdóttir sought medical attention after pollutants coming from the United Silicon plant had caused chemical burns to the mucous membranes of her mouth and throat. More residents subsequently visited local health clinics with similar complaints. United Silicon responded by saying this was a one-time "beginner's mistake." But then things got worse.

Videos taken within the plant itself were leaked to the media. These videos showed that the plant regularly unleashes unidentified emissions into the surrounding air. The plant says these emissions are composed of relatively harmless silica dust, but respiratory complaints from area residents still continued.

A follow-up conducted by the municipality of Reykjanesbær, where the plant is located, showed that arsenic levels in the air around the plant were approximately 20 times the acceptable limits set by the Environment Agency of Iceland. Calls for shutting the plant down began to get louder."

Please help us to find a way around this project for the health of area citizens, as well as the health of the planet at large!

Sincerely,
Lynn Gebetsberger