

Ryan Egan

The severe immediate impacts on the health and well-being of all humans cannot be overstated. As a health and wellness professional the cardiorespiratory system is vital to the long term health of a human. The short term impacts can absolutely result in reduced lung function and oxygen delivery resulting from respiratory contaminants resulting in higher cancer rates and disease. This is corroborated in every single epidemiological study done on these exact issues surrounding the smelting process of metals and minerals. Sandpoint has an area that has a warning sign to not allow kids to play in the dirt because of high traces of lead from a smelter that existed over 100 years ago. Cadmium, Mercury, arsenic, and lead are linked to high rates of cancer across the board. We have already seen this exact scenario play out in the Asarco smelter in Tacoma. How can we ignore proven facts surrounding the history of such a highly pollutant industry and its overwhelming health impacts on communities, ESPECIALLY CHILDREN?? This can and will have disastrous long term health consequences for generations. I would also say there are much more appropriate sites for a smelter to be built, the beautiful Inland Northwest is not one of them. Simply taking advantage of the high amount of natural resources to avoid higher production costs, and forcing our communities and children to pay with their health is statistically verified, morally bent, and evil to the highest ethical value. Furthermore, what does that mean for the land and area surrounding the proposed site? The disastrous environmental impacts will forever ruin the site and surrounding areas for hundreds and hundreds of years. These companies have a reputation of not observing adequate and sound business practices when operating, and once the damage has been done, do nothing to help rectify the situation and imply it's the cost of doing business. Finally, the moral implications of manipulating an area that has weaker financial means is simply corporate manipulation. But I digress. This should not be allowed to continue. If it does it's clearly stated that money is more important than life.