

## David & Paula Wilson

Dear Mr. Pfeifer,

We are absolutely against the proposed silicon smelter for Newport, WA believing it will have a huge negative environmental impact for Northeastern Washington, North Idaho, and Western Montana on so many levels!

First, greater Spokane already has very unhealthy air quality many days of the year that flow into our areas, and adding to that the large forest fires in the Northwest each year all currently impacting our air quality. Our valleys and mountainous terrain traps air pollution throughout these states and allows it to settle in -- we are breathing it and it is impacting our soil and waterways. This area already has its air quality challenges with the historic patterns of air stagnation and poor air quality compared to the rest of the nation. The smelter will only add to the damage of our people and our area.

Next, most of the rural population in this area are on well water. Right now that water is pristine and very drinkable but add even a minimal bit of ground pollution from manufacturing silicon and it's waste and thousands of us would be unable to drink our well water. Or, if we drank it anyway we would get cancer, etc.

Also, there are probably 5 schools within a few miles of the proposed site (some right next door!) and another 10 or so along the historical and expected air flow path (predominate winds) from the smelter site. The children attending those schools will be exposed every day to toxic chemicals which, even at "safe levels" will cause them health issues because of the continuous exposure. Add the teachers and administrators to this list along with the multiple homeowners.

Beautiful pristine lakes, rivers, streams would also be negatively impacted. Do we know exactly what the heavy metal contamination will be for these waters? They WILL be impacted and probably not for the good...Will we be able to consume the fish out of these waters? Fishing is a huge industry in this area...have studies been done?

The additional traffic, especially heavy trucks constantly hauling material to and from the facility will cause congestion, increased traffic accidents, road damage (increasing taxes for citizens), noise pollution, with much of it in the state of Idaho!

There are far more risks for the public than we have included here but it all leads to asking the Washington Department of Ecology to do thorough studies and investigations related to the environmental impact of the proposed smelter on each and every citizen residing in the areas that will be affected. Pull in the State of Idaho and Montana to the considerations as well.

Please, especially and fully examine the state of Idaho property East of the smelter site and the waterways/lakes that currently provide much income to the state of Idaho and the people of Idaho through recreation activities. If you must refer it to Idaho to have that happen, please put the entire project on hold until Idaho does it's own impact studies.

Sir, you have a big job; let the focus be protecting the people and the environment from big corporate pollution. So far it appears that PacWest is steamrolling over the citizens here. You can also protect the process.

Thank you for your kind attention,

David & Paula Wilson