

# Annie Bell

In drafting the EIS the Department of Ecology should look at the following factors that could have environmental impacts on the community of Newport and beyond:

1. Chemical pollution in the water from the smelter is a very concerning issue because the potential smelter site sits on top of an aquifer that supplies the community with water and that aquifer also contributes to the Spokane River potentially magnifying the spread of pollution. Effects and the spread of the pollution coming from the smelter and affecting Newport and other communities should be addressed.
2. The location of the proposed smelter is concerning because it is within a few miles of several schools where children could potentially be affected by air pollution from the smelter while in class. Considering the short distance the EIS should consider the negative health effects the children could suffer from constant exposure both in the short term and long term, plus how children who are not already healthy might be more seriously affected.
3. Finally the potentially negative impacts on the community should be evaluated as well in the EIS. Newport Washington is a very small, rural town that likely could not deal with an influx of new residents. There are not a lot of housing options, especially short term housing, and their services in general are limited. Additionally, building a large industrial factory so close to their downtown and many neighborhoods will irrevocably change the culture of the town. Potential impacts from these cultural changes should be closely evaluated by the Department of Ecology.

Thank you.