

Sandra Henderson

Sandra Henderson MSW (retired)

Dear Mr. Grant Pfeifer and the DOE,

Thank you for the opportunity to add my voice to the many who oppose the proposed smelter in Pend Oreille County.

I was employed for over 25 years working as a social worker in Pend Oreille County. I know this county and the people in it very well as I worked in the field over all that time first serving families and children and for the last four years serving the adult disabled population. I am well informed on the subject of poverty in Pend Oreille County and the Tri-County area. After all these years I am quite sure that most everyone in Pend Oreille County is employed who wants to be and is able to work. In my educated experience there will be few qualified local people who can fill any jobs any smelter would provide and the smelter would have to hire from outside our county.

Many of the people in Pend Oreille County are retired and/or disabled. Please see the 2017 Census facts which states the poverty rate was 16.2%.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/pendoreillecountywashington> I assure you that the 16.2% of people living below poverty are on some type of public assistance because they are unable to work for a plethora of legitimate reasons. The rest of us found a way to earn a living so we could live in such an abundance of clean air, water, and natural country living or moved here after retirement. People who worked their whole lives to be able to move to such a uniquely pure natural environment. Over 25% are retired and over 17% are Veterans. It is horrendous that the whole area should suffer because maybe a few people would want to work at a smelter. I say those people need to go where that kind of industry is thriving rather than destroy our home. The people behind this fiasco are selling the county cheap to make a buck. Shame on them.

I have traveled all over this great country of ours and I am sickened by the damage industry is doing to our planet. I have lived here for 42 years, worked hard and dedicated my life to this community, and now the smelter wants to take my life's work and dreams destroying this place, our sanctuary, for what?

If built the smelter would surely be visible from my "dream" home. I already smell the fumes from the paper mill at times. In colder weather I can hear the train whistles from Newport and I can see the lights from Newport at night. I am horrified to even imagine seeing and smelling a smelter, smoke stacks, and lights glaring all night long ruining the night sky and stargazing forever. Not to mention pollute the birds, fish, wildlife, and forest I love.

I attended the scoping meeting in Newport on September 19, 2018 and listened to every statement made by my well-educated, intelligent fellow community members. I am a member of "Citizens Against Newport Silicon Smelter" (CANNS) whose Facebook page alone has a membership of 2814 members (by the way which is more than 20% of the population of Pend Oreille County). I cannot express how proud I am of the people in our community who are standing up against this atrocity. The community has used their expertise and experience to educate those who think this might be a good idea. I also have the same questions they asked of you at the meeting and continue to ask. The community continues to conduct research and has investigated PacWest apparently more than those who proposed the smelter and who are blinded by dollar signs in their eyes. Dollars I promise you few from this area will ever see. (All one has to do is just read some of the posts on the CANNS Facebook page to see for yourself.) Which is why I will not reinvent the wheel and tell you in my words the facts regarding this proposed smelter, instead I have received permission to

attach some of their research here in my letter. No matter how the proponents of this proposed rape of our natural resources skew the statistics to fit the DOE's accepted limits of toxins and pollution, the PacWest Smelter will destroy our way of life for the people, wild life and future of any hope of increasing tourism and other possibilities for sustainable growth.

Please tell me how a smelter will improve our way of life here in the Pend Oreille County area?

How will you make sure it does not change the environment for the worse? How will the many retirees in this area be reimbursed for our loss after the smelter destroys our way of life? Who will pay our moving and relocation costs?

Sincerely,
Sandra Henderson

Posted on the CANNIS Face Book page by Jerry Person on 12-03-17, used with permission.

“This is a document I have come up with to make people aware of the HiTest Sand Newport Smelter and some of the negative effects it will have on the area. The facts, and described effects come directly from HiTest documents and government sources and are linked: Please be aware of the Proposed HiTest Sands Newport Smelter, which would be built on the Idaho border next to Oldtown.

The HiTest Sand Newport PSD Modeling Protocol lists Emission Data levels of 320,000 Tons of greenhouse gas, 700 Tons of Nitrogen Oxide, 760 Tons of Sulfur Dioxide per year. That is 8,000 Lbs. of acid rain causing pollutants released every day. Acid rain causes deforestation and is harmful to fish and other wildlife.

At pH 5, most fish eggs cannot hatch. Trout thrive at pH 6.5-8 according to The US Fish and Wildlife Services Report on Habitat and sustainability for Cutthroat Trout. Pure water is pH 7.

The areas that will be directly affected include: Priest Lake, the Priest Lake watershed, the Priest River, the Pend Oreille River, Pend Oreille Lake, Bonner county, (Idaho) and Pend Oreille county (Washington).

A Population of more than 55,000 may have their health compromised. SO₂ and NO_X react in the atmosphere to form fine sulfate and nitrate particles that people can inhale into their lungs. Many scientific studies have shown a relationship between these particles and effects on heart function, such as heart attacks resulting in death for people with increased heart disease risk, and effects on lung function, such as breathing difficulties for people with asthma. In addition, NO_X emissions also contribute to ground level ozone, which is also harmful to human health. Breathing ozone can trigger a variety of health problems including chest pain, coughing, throat irritation, and airway inflammation. It also can reduce lung function and harm lung tissue. Ozone can worsen bronchitis, emphysema, and asthma, leading to increased medical care.

Dead or dying trees are a common sight in areas effected by acid rain. Acid rain leaches aluminum from the soil. That aluminum may be harmful to plants as well as animals. Acid rain also removes minerals and nutrients from the soil that trees need to grow.

At high elevations, acidic fog and clouds might strip nutrients from trees' foliage, leaving them with brown or dead leaves and needles. The trees are then less able to absorb sunlight, which makes them weak and less able to withstand freezing temperatures, insects and beetles.

It stands to reason that Acid Rain and Smog will have a negative effect on the existing Timber and Tourist industries and the jobs lost can potentially be many times greater than the jobs gained.

Carbon Credits will not reduce the pollutants emitted or the harm they will cause to the local population, fish and game, habitat and forests, and our rivers and lakes.

Sources

<https://9b37abdd1c3135d9659b-298f012ea728efea7c302ad9a6f7bb...>

From <<https://www.epa.gov/acidrain/effects-acid-rain>

From <[https://www.epa.gov/ozone-p.../basics-information-about-ozone...](https://www.epa.gov/ozone-p.../basics-information-about-ozone...>)>

From <<https://www.epa.gov/acidrain/effects-acid-rain#health>>

From <<https://www.epa.gov/acidrain/effects-acid-rain>
https://factfinder.census.gov/.../pages/community_facts.xhtml...#
<https://www.idaho-demographics.com/bonner-county-demographi...>
<https://fortress.wa.gov/.../count.../pend-oreille-county-profile>
<https://www.nwrc.usgs.gov/wdb/pub/hsi/hsi-005.pdf> ”

10-21-18

Hello,

As a citizen of Washington, I have serious concerns about the proposed HiTest Sands silicon smelter sited for Newport, WA.

According to HiTest's own data, the smelter would emit 320,000 tons of greenhouse gases, 760 tons of sulfur dioxide, and 700 tons of nitrogen oxides each year. The smelter would become the state's 15th largest emitter of greenhouse gases and produce roughly the same amount of sulfur dioxide as 165,000 wood stoves burning continuously at the project site.

While the above numbers are scary, they may not completely show the potential dangers because the data used by HiTest was not properly obtained. The Department of Ecology must require HiTest to set up a meteorological station on the property to collect at least one year's worth of site-specific data. The current data is inaccurate, leaving too many unknowns. Additionally, Ecology should not proceed with the SEPA scoping process until the project is more clearly defined. Many critical questions are unanswered and need to be addressed before an effective scoping process can begin.

The Pend Oreille County commissioners have a role to play as well. They must not change the zoning designation of HiTest's property until the smelter's environmental impacts are fully understood. It would be irresponsible to make this change on behalf of the community they represent without fully understanding the impact to the people and natural resources.

I am asking you to do what is right for the people on our community. Our families cannot accept the health problems, decrease in property values and disruption to our quality of life this smelter will bring to our community. Don't give HiTest special privileges for the sake of bringing dirty jobs to our area.

Please do not allow this project to proceed any further.

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Sandra Henderson

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