

Stevan Bennett, MS

I would like to know the following about the proposed smelter:

What will be the noise level in decibels in full operating mode from on site to distances up to one mile? This includes not only the furnaces but the machinery and vehicles involved. This is proposed to be a 24/7 operation. The noise of heavy industry may well have a deleterious effect on the surrounding areas, especially schools in the close proximity to the site. Will this be part of the EIS? If, as PacWest proposes, another set of furnaces are built and operational has DOE factored in the additional effects that have been addressed by other individuals including the noise level, emissions, inversion issues and other concerns?

Will there be any buffering to alleviate noise? If so, what?

Will the proposed smelter be dark sky compliant?

A local newspaper (The Beacon, Vol. 3, Issue 39) article recently has the president of PacWest Silicon, Jayson Tymko, stating that for every negative comment he receives about the proposed smelter he receives 10 to 20 times more positive comments, and that he feels there is a loud vocal minority opposing the project. Based on the review of all comments currently posted on your site I found one comment in favor of the project due to potential employment. Where is the support for this project in your public process? Is it part of your scoping process to verify such a statement of support? Is there any way to access these alleged positive comments? This is the same person who, at the first informational meeting in Newport, stated that the only thing coming out of the stack of the proposed smelter would be water vapor and traces of some chemicals from the smelting process. One of the big problems I have with this project from the beginning is the lack of verifiable information. That and the fact that there is virtually no way to predict the true impact of this smelter until it is actually in operation. By then it is too late.

One of the reasons PacWest wants to use this area for their project is that the clean air will allow them to mitigate current pollution monitoring standards. As the climate changes we are currently experiencing one to two months of extremely poor air quality due to fires from Canada, Montana and Oregon and Idaho as well as within the state of Washington. Many climate scientists are predicting more of the same or worse in the years to come. As I write these comments the Newport area is under a five day stagnant air warning. I propose that nothing less than a five year study be done to assess the impacts of what may be the new normal for the air quality of this area before such a project be considered. Always err on the side of caution concerning long term issues.

As currently proposed I do not support the smelter project. The negative consequences far outweigh the addition of a few jobs. I feel the proposed smelter is a travesty that this county can ill afford both short and long term. We accrue all the consequences while PacWest reaps the profits. The proposed project should be terminated as a result of this scoping process. Your choice, our lives. Thank you.