

Dear Department of Ecology:

The consideration of a silicon smelter in such a rural area is one with substantial considerations - many of which we are unable to decipher due to the lack of information that has been provided. Regardless, during this scoping period, the DOE needs to at least consider the following:

1. The impact of a substantial industrial facility on such a small and rural community will completely change the outlook for this town. There will not be enough housing to hold the construction workers who will temporarily be working to build such a grand facility and will turn it into an industrial and rental town. There is very little short-term housing and apartment options available. Those who have chosen to retire in this healthy, small community may be forced to leave due to the significant changes.
2. Consideration needs to be given about whether a NEPA analysis will need to be contemporaneously considered because of federal action, such as with Bonneville Power. If so, what agency will be in charge of such analysis.
3. The SEPA process is starting too early. In order for SEPA to begin there needs to be either an application by the entity or an agency goal. Unless the DOE is the one with the goal of building the smelter, it is not time to begin SEPA and should be held off until we actually have an understanding of what to scope on. This would gear our questions to what is actually at hand such as the permits for air, water, or land use. Then we can gear some alternatives to the use of the permits. Without the applications and since this is not an agency goal, we the people are unable to gear realistic alternatives to this because what is it? A smelter? Green jobs? An industrial facility? Possible applications for permits? We have nothing to base alternatives off. Since we have nothing to base it from, here are some alternatives to the smelter generally as a job source, energy source, air permit, water permit, and land permit:
  - a. Green Jobs:
    - i. Solar energy facility
    - ii. Amusement park
    - iii. Ski resort
    - iv. Summer Camp and Education Facility
    - v. School or University
    - vi. Museum
    - vii. Recreation facility with trails
    - viii. Mall or shopping center
    - ix. Agricultural use
  - b. Energy Facility:
    - i. Wind turbines
    - ii. Solar energy facility
    - iii. Algae plants
    - iv. Hydroelectric energy facility
  - c. Water Use Alternatives:
    - i. City Pool
    - ii. Water park

- iii. Aquarium
    - iv. Hydroelectric energy facility
  - d. Land Use Alternatives:
    - i. State Park
    - ii. Trails
    - iii. Community Park
    - iv. Nature Reserve
    - v. Community Garden
    - vi. RV and Campground
  - e. Air Alternatives:
    - i. Steam Plant
    - ii. Wind Turbines
    - iii. Paper Mill
- 4. The property values in this entire town will diminish. There is a group of homes recently built nearby the smelter which will substantially diminish in value if they are even able to sell after a smelter is built.

Overall, there is a lot more work and a substantial amount of information that needs to be provided on this project before the public can adequately provide information on this matter. Although the Department of Ecology has effectively tied the public's hands behind their back during the comment process, I ask that you please consider these major concerns.