

Responsible Growth * NEW www.rgnew.org

Hi, a little background from me.

Many people will give you questions about the impacts to their homes, pollution, air quality, etc. I am going to focus my questions on the practical industry side, as I worked in the railroad industry for 36 years, managed coal trains for 11 years within that time frame, and have a fairly good understanding of the size and scope of what this project would entail. I have been to many coal fired electricity generating plants in the US, as well as the big coal mines and other large factories that require coal for their production. I have never seen a proposal like this for an area like this in the modern, environmentally aware, current times. This is a travesty. Our infrastructure is totally inadequate for a project like this.

I retired and moved to Oldtown from Ft. Worth, TX in 2014 (although I have owned my property since 2003 as a vacation home) precisely to live retired life in the pristine northwest. I live just over the hill from where this plant is proposed and I own about 1.25 acres of land right there on Meadowdale Ave. (just down the street from Lonnie and Bev Orr). I have made extensive, expensive improvements to my property, not caring about resale value, as I planned to live here until I die. So I have all the same concerns as families, etc, but believe I can be of best help to focus my questions on the practical side.

General Questions

- 1 - is any entity, either in government of Washington or Idaho or the Hi Test Corp. considering buying out residential properties at fair market value in the immediate affected area (within 1 to 1-1/2 miles of the site) to mitigate the anticipated negative impacts to peoples' health, quality of life and to the immediate environment that will be caused by construction and operation of this plant?
- 2- if my property values go down due to this plant, do I have any recourse to recover any of my home value by law?

Water supply questions -

- 1) where will the water come from that will power this plant?
- 2) how many gallons per day will this plant use?
- 3) Oldtown water supply comes from Springs very near the proposed plant.. Oldtown water also supplies Newport their water. Will this plant affect the water from these springs.
- 4) will the price of my water go up due to water consumption needs of this plant?
- 5) what are the possibilities of our water supply being contaminated from this plant leaching production waste and by- products into this water supply?
- 6) will the water table of the little Spokane River be affected by this smelter?
- 7) will this water consumption lower the water table for wells in houses with wells within a mile of the proposed plant, or affect the Levels of the springs supplying Oldtown city water customers?

Road Construction congestion questions -

- 1) how long is construction of the plant expected to last?
- 2) how many truckloads of materials will be coming down the roads and what are the routes they will take?
- 3) will they be building 24-7 hours ?
- 4) what is the impact of all this heavy traffic likely be to our road conditions?
- 5) a- Have there been traffic engineering studies done to address the congestion impact on the

roads of this additional traffic and

b - will Hi Test be paying for any improvements to the state highway and county roads in both Washington and Idaho required due to the additional traffic on these roads?

c- if Hi Test is not paying for any improvements to roads and/or no improvements are anticipated, who will pay and how much traffic delay will residents of both Idaho and Washington experience during construction?

6) How is all this additional construction traffic going to affect noise and pollution levels on these small narrow two lane roads for the residents living along them, both in Washington and Idaho - Highways 2 and 41?

7) How much actual construction noise will I be able to hear, day and night, if I live less than a mile from the proposed plant site almost next to Highway 41?

8) where will all these construction workers come from and where will they live? Housing in our community is inadequate to house them.

Electricity Questions -

1) if PUD is supplying the power to this plant, where will PUD get the additional power necessary to supply the plant?

2) will PUD need to add more substation capacity, and will local residential customers have to pay for the expansion?

3) will the plant's power needs take priority over PUD residents, and will this raise prices for PUD residential customers?

4) will this affect Idaho customers being supplied by Avista? Will they be getting power from the same power grid and will Avista customers' electricity prices go up when this plant begins operations?

5) Will the plant lighting be visible at night if I live less than a mile away from it?

Railroad questions -

1) is the plant anticipating using railroads to move construction materials and/or raw materials for the plant and finished product from the plant after construction?

2) where will the materials be offloaded and loaded to the rail cars?

3) a- will a spur need to be built to/from the plant and

b - what will be the route of the spur

4) if there will be rail movement to and through Newport and Bonner County, what impact of noise, congestion will this be for residents along the rail route?

5) what crossing improvements, overpasses for traffic, and safety measures would be put into place for the residents along the rail line?

6) what would be the increase in daily train traffic through Newport / Bonner County due to additional train traffic?

7) if rail is used, Where would the interchange point(s) be for local rail to accept these shipment of rail? Will the existing interchange tracks and street traffic access across rails be adequate to handle increased rail traffic being left there for pick up and for delays to vehicles during switching operations of rail car drop off and pick up?

8)if rail is used, will additional sidings be built for meeting and passing trains along the route? Who will pay for that? Where would these additional tracks be built?

9) if rail is to be used, has the railroad/Newport commission done an environmental impact statement for any proposed rail traffic increase to the surrounding land along the rail route? I believe the rail line from Sandpoint is directly along a Wetlands protected area on the way to the Cove (dam over the Pend O'reille River area in Oldtown). What other environmentally protected areas would be affected?

Fuel questions for smelter operation -

- 1) I understand the plan is to use low polluting coal from the east for the smelting. This would probably come by rail. Questions regarding rail access to the plant were asked above, but what would be the volume of coal required?
- 2) will there be scrubbers installed in the plant to clean the emissions?
- 3) will the plant be meeting current emissions standards for burning coal, or would they be buying credits to avoid these stricter standards?
- 4) if this low polluting coal is not available, can the furnace be modified to start burning higher BTU (but with more impurities) coal from Wyoming?
- 5) Is there a permit process required for them to access different fuel sources? Which local agency would be involved, and how would they be accountable to residents?
- 6) will they also be using wood chips to burn? If so, what steps would the plant take to mitigate environmental/pollution from this?
- 7) what percentage of coal vs. wood chips would they be burning?
- 8) what process will be used to dissipate the heat from the burning process?
- 9) will they use settling ponds for cooling the water?
- 10) what will happen to the residues from the production process?
- 11) how much of the raw sand, finished product and unwanted residues is anticipated to be put into the environment? What is the pollution impact of other plants to the immediate environment (within 1 mile) that exist that use this technology? I.e. What is the particulate rate of emissions from the smokestacks, the composition of the emissions ?

Thanks.. use some or all of these questions, or modify as you see fit.

I would like to volunteer to help with any administrative tasks you have. I am retired, can type, and am reasonably well educated. My only issue is that I travel a lot, so I am not available every day at set times. However, if I can help, please contact me.

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