

Sandra Grecu

I am a homeowner of residential land in Newport, WA. Currently my husband and I reside in Pennsylvania, but purchased land in Washington in order to retire and build a home in the near future. We decided on this area as it is a pristine area of our country. We love the closeness of clean lakes and rivers, the clear night sky, and the fresh, clean air. Last year when we traveled to Newport, we experienced the dangerous levels of smoke in the air from wildfires in Idaho, Montana and Washington. These were not local fires, but rather fires from a distance away, however the smoke hangs in the valley and makes it difficult for people to be outside, let alone breathe. As these fires are a natural disaster and are difficult to control, and as we have seen, are more prevalent due to climate change, will the environmental study take into consideration quality of air from pollutants of the smelter during times of wildfire smoke. Will the smelter be required to shut down during these times when a natural disaster may create a hazardous air quality situation? The pollutants from the smelter, although during normal air quality situations, may be within the government's levels of allowable pollutants, but added to the natural pollutants from wildfires, would be more than hazardous...possibly downright deadly. Please consider this aspect when doing the environmental study. Thank you.