

Kathryn Galbreath

The DOE seems to be fast-tracking the proposed Newport, WA silicon smelter - of course a SEPA needs to be complete and impartial but the DOE already skipped requiring the PacWest checklist. A one-year air monitoring study needs to be done and it needs to be done in Newport, not another location in WA. We have severe inversions. Bonner County ID is directly downwind from Newport and the impact there should also be studied. A very large area will be affected by this project without any benefit whatsoever. A realistic study of the impact on our roads and bridges also needs to be examined - PacWest isn't going to pay for the upkeep or damage to the infrastructure either in Pend Oreille County, WA and Boundary or Bonner County, ID. Concerns about future water quality and disposal of waste products from the smelter need to be addressed. The impacts of the proposed smelter are far too serious for this project to be rushed through. The smelter is incompatible with the growth plan of Pend Oreille County.