

Nancy Gerth

I am a 68 year old married woman with a farm. I moved here in 1993 and would like to end my days in the place I chose for its beautiful and healthy environment. I own my house, receive Social Security, but have no savings. I am still working and longing to retire.

I am attaching a view of our lake from our property on Bottle Bay Peninsula. For the last few years it has been invisible in August and September due to the fires. It is in danger of being polluted by shipments of coal and oil from Montana, which will not benefit me or other Idahoans in any way I can see. I am heartsick. These trains will also have an effect on Washington's ecology.

I ask you to take the time to consider the smelter with care, and to answer at least these questions before allowing it to proceed.

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Does any of the manufacturing process release pollution into the environment? (air, water, soil) If so, how and how much?

The proposed smelter will be in a neighboring state, but it's possible effects on my home near Lake Pend Oreille in Idaho are scary. Will Washington DOE work with Idaho Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) for a combined EIS process? Please?

Are the data PacWest/HiTest presented for the manufacturing process accurate? Why or why not?

Do allowable rates of pollution consider the damage to air quality from increasing fires?

How will the region's air inversions due to the mountainous terrain be considered in the allowable pollution threshold?

How will the raw material reach the proposed facility; by rail, by truck? Where are these roads and rail lines located? Will taxpayers be responsible for any of the infrastructure?

Can all access roads sustain the additional traffic?

Are there any more environmentally friendly, silica metals extraction methods?

Can anyone predict what the effects on the economy of North Idaho will be? If not, how can we take the risk of harming that as well?

It has been documented that factory workers of silica metal manufacturing plants show accelerated lung decline due to work environments. How will the 'at risk' population; the young, elderly, asthmatic and those with existing lung problems be affected by the additional air pollution? If these effects are found due to the smelter in the future, what will PacWest/HiTest do? Will they be held responsible for the health of their employees and the surrounding populations? How?

What are the by-products of the manufacturing process and what is done with them?

Will citizen tax dollars be used in any way for this proposed facility?

Will any part of this process be put to a vote by citizens of both states?

