

From: Deanna Shanen

Scoping Questions to the WA State Department of Ecology regarding the PacWest Silicon Smelter Project.

1. Where will they be getting their water from? Seems this is still an unanswered question. Since the City of Newport can't provide the amount of water requested, will they be getting it from various wells that draw from the Pend Oreille aquifer? I have a well and we get our water from the aquifer. With the amount of water, they state they need we will lose pressure and possibly have to drill deeper. Who would cover these costs?
2. What about the run off, the acid rain going into the ground polluting the water. We live approximately 4 miles as the crow flies from the site and our soil is sandy loam. It can rain for days and the water sinks in, it does not puddle. Our drinking water will be polluted. How can this possibly be avoided? How will they water quality be tracked? Will PacWest pay for our water to be tested for the pollutants they are going to cause?
3. What is there is a hazmat emergency? It's my understanding that the closest hazmat team is in Spokane.
4. Who will pay for the decline of property values? Who in their right mind would want to buy a home and property anywhere near a smelter?
5. What about the air pollution this will bring? We are in a valley where we often get inversions of air stagnation. How will this be monitored? When PacWest breaks emission levels will they just get fined, pay it and keep going? What happens when they have multiple violations? It makes no sense to put this devil in our small rural area. Too many schools, churches and senior homes within 10 miles of this unsuitable location.
6. What about our infrastructure? We are often backed up behind big rigs or tourist from out of state that don't know how to drive and we have nowhere to pass. We already dodge potholes, who is going to pay for the roads and highways to be repaired and maintained due to the increase of truck traffic, the taxpayers or PacWest? What about Spring break-up when there are weight restrictions for trucks on our roads, what does PacWest have in mind for that?
7. We are a logging community, what will the effects of the pollution due to acid rain from the stinky smelter do to our timber industry? Oh, we already know...kill the trees, put people out of work and hurt the mills.
8. What will happen to my garden, as well as many others who have organic vegetable gardens and fruit trees? Taint the produce we harvest?
9. What will become of the thousands of tourists who flock to our area each year to enjoy the pristine beauty, bring their money and stay for awhile because of the clean air and beauty that surrounds us? They will stop coming and we will eventually become another superfund site.

I hope you will really do your research and then check it again. This is not the place for a smelter. Thank you!