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According to professional articles on the silicon metal smelting process, the electric arc furnace smelts quartz sand into liquid silicon with a purity of 99 percent. A chemical process using hydrochloric acid, and trichlorosilane then further purifies the raw silicon. Trichlorosilane is extremely corrosive and harmful to the respiratory system. The required safety technology also makes it very expensive.

PacWest says that it does not bring chemicals into the process of smelting silica. This statement has been repeated time and time again. All silicon smelter use hydrochloric acid and trichlorosilane to purify and clean up the raw silicon. Will PacWest be using these two toxic and corrosive chemicals and how will workers be protected? How will the two chemicals be disposed as waste? Where will they be disposed? What are all the risks and hazards to using these two chemicals? What are the odds that these two chemicals will not get into the aquifer or the groundwater or the drinking water of the City of Newport? How will it be prevented from contaminating our waters and water sources?