

Ariel McGlothin

I am saddened that the WA state EPA is illegally allowing this scoping process to even be going on for the potential smelter since Hi Test/Pac West has not fulfilled their obligation to provide adequate details on their plans necessary to start the scoping process. I would also like to request that the scoping period deadline be extended since Hi Test/Pac West has recently changed many of their stated figures on things with no notice to us.

I am very concerned about the health impacts to everyone and everything that is already living in this area if something that produces as much pollution as a smelter is built near all the homes, schools, businesses, gardens, lakes, rivers, and wildlife. Specifically before any kind of permitting is allowed to be pursued, I would like to know:

What kind of monitoring and recording is going to be done of the current historical rates of cancer, heart attacks, asthma, respiratory infections, birth defects, mortality rate, and overall illnesses in the human population in the surrounding hundred miles so that changes to those rates post smelter beginning operations are easy to track?

If the rates of any of those illnesses changes after the smelter starts operations, how does Hi Test/Pac West plan to compensate people for those illnesses and deaths? Will they have to shut down immediately or have a fund set aside for paying all the costs of those sickened or the families of those who die before being allowed to begin operations?

What kind of monitoring of the current and historical soil conditions for the surrounding areas within a hundred miles is going to be done? For nutrients, mineral levels, bacterial colonies, and toxin levels?

If the composition of the soil deteriorates in any way after the smelter starts operations, how does Hi Test/Pac West plan to compensate those who have gardens, fruit trees, berry bushes, or any other edible crop? Will they have to shut down immediately or have a fund set aside for paying all the costs of buying organic produce indefinitely or relocating those affected and their families to a new location before being allowed to begin operations?

What kind of monitoring of the current and historical illness and mortality rates of both domestic and wild animals for the surrounding areas within a hundred miles is going to be done?

If there is any change in the rate of illness or mortality of any of the domestic or wild animals in any way after the smelter starts operations, how does Hi Test/Pac West plan to compensate those animal owners or repair the loss of endangered species such as the last caribou herd in the country? Will they have to shut down immediately or have a fund set aside for paying all the costs of replacing livestock/pets or repairing the lost wildlife before being allowed to begin operations?

What kind of monitoring of the year round current and historical air quality for the surrounding areas within a hundred miles is going to be done?

If there is any change in the air quality after the smelter starts operations, how does Hi Test/Pac West plan to compensate every breathing person or animal? Will they have to shut down immediately or have a fund set aside for paying all the costs related to issues that arise from polluted air before being allowed to begin operations?

What kind of monitoring of the year round current and historical water quality in the creeks, rivers, and lakes for the surrounding areas within a hundred miles is going to be done?

If there is any change in the water quality after the smelter starts operations, how does Hi Test/Pac West plan to compensate every person, animal, and plant that relies on water for life? Will they have to shut down immediately or have a fund set aside for paying all the costs related to issues that arise from polluted water before being allowed to begin operations?