

Jennifer Calvert

I attended the scoping hearing in Spokane on Sept 18, but didn't speak. However, the folks who did speak most definitely spoke for me as well. It is difficult for me to imagine the circumstances under which this project would be approved, considering the many ways that the impact would be felt. There should be no doubt that air and water quality will be affected, with many tons of emissions pumped into the air, harming humans and wildlife and even the plants and trees. A business like this requires many trucks to move the product, and Newport area is certainly not in a good spot to accommodate such a huge increase in truck traffic. Some folks at the hearing were there to speak about jobs... that is irrelevant to the topic at hand, but even if it were relevant, the number of jobs created locally after the facility is built is certainly no argument for building the facility. It feels to me like another grab by some business folks who want to make a profit, and they think they have the right to disrupt localities in order for them to make those profits. I have to argue that they most certainly do NOT have that right. So, in truth, I don't want a study of possible alternatives, because I really can't believe that any alternative will not come with the very same issues and reasons for denying the permit to build. Also, I do not trust a company that does not tell the truth, and hopes that we will overlook that action on their part. We cannot allow another company to use the water; water is a valuable resource that is getting more scarce all the time. It makes no sense to build a facility whose very nature is one that will use the water, and will probably do it in an irresponsible way (given past performances). Simply put, we cannot afford the luxury of having this facility in our pristine northwest corner.