

Journey Pediatric Therapy

Dear Department of Ecology,

We, at Journey Pediatric Therapy, are deeply concerned about the negative health impacts a smelter will have on the developing lungs and brains of infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents who live near the smelter and those who live throughout northern Idaho and northeastern Washington.

Research indicates that poor air quality negatively affects the health of children, contributing to more cases of asthma, chronic lung disease, obesity, and lower cognitive function. Our children deserve to have the best chance of developing properly so they may live productive lives as adults.

The following questions must be addressed to identify if the Newport Smelter would negatively affect the daily lives of our children and youth, from a scientific and medically-based perspective.

We implore the Department of Ecology to conduct a thorough ecological study that investigates these matters in order to protect the children of this region.

Questions To Be Addressed:

1. How will the smelter affect the air quality of Washington and Idaho?
2. How will the air particulates be tracked?
3. How will the smelter affect the water supply in northeastern Washington and northern Idaho?
4. How will the water quality be tracked and studied?
5. How will children and families be compensated if the smelter does negatively affect their health?
6. What is the process to invite the State of Idaho's Department of Ecology to conduct an ecological study on these matters for those living in Idaho?
7. What is the current/baseline health of infants, toddlers, children, and adolescents living in this region? How will this baseline be obtained?
8. How will the health of children be tracked if the smelter is implemented?
9. How will Washington and Idaho prepare for negative health affects? Will the states set up programs to bring more medical providers to the region to address any negative health affects?
10. How will the children and elderly populations be affected by the exposure to SO₂, NO_x, and PM pollutants?

Thank you for your time. Our children are worth protecting.

Sincerely,
Maresa Black MOTR/L

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