

Gonzaga Students

As students attending Gonzaga University, we care about this issue because of its proximity to Spokane as well as its impacts on Washington as a whole. We are concerned about the effects the Newport Smelter will have on the air quality directly surrounding it, as well as the effects of wind carrying pollutants to other areas of the state or other regions surrounding Newport.

We think that the scope of the Department of Ecology study should be broadened in order to account for the potential pollution of the surrounding areas such as the Kalispel Tribe, Glacier National Park, other State National parks.

The study should look at the effects of the following pollutants: carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, carbonic acid, sulfuric acid and nitric acid, as all of these will be produced in mass by the smelter.

Studies show that the Newport smelter will become the 5th largest polluter of sulfur dioxide in Washington state, which would cause many respiratory problems in the people of the surrounding area, as well as increase the frequency of acid rain which can drastically harm ecosystems.

We think the study should determine how far the pollutants can travel and then create an appropriate radius of pollution from there.

We think these things should be considered in the Department of Ecology study on the Newport Smelter.