

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed PacWest Silicon smelter. My concerns about the human health, ecological, and socio-economical impacts this facility will have on the town and surrounding areas are summarized below:

Human health should be considered when analyzing this project:

- 1) What will be the effects to the most vulnerable in our society – children, those who are chronically ill, pregnant women, and those who are chronically ill?
- 2) How will atmospheric inversions increase the concentrations of pollutants emitted from this facility? How long will it take to disperse pollution from this area during inversions and “normal” weather patterns? We must have enough information to consider whether or not we are at risk for health issues because the air surrounding us is dense with noxious chemicals.
- 3) What will be the projected increase in health care costs? How will an increase in pollution in this area change seasonal illness patterns and duration?
- 4) What is the long-term monitoring plan for changes in health of residents in the surrounding areas? Has a baseline condition been established to fully understand how illness and chronic conditions will change over time in severity and abundance?
- 5) Who will pay the cost for increased need in health care? The citizens themselves? Is there any mechanism to require a company to pay for problems they create in relation to health care needs?
- 6) The zones of pollution need to be made explicitly clear. What are the expected levels of concentrations within 0.25 miles, 1 mile, 5 miles, 10 miles, 25 miles, 50 miles, 100 miles. The analysis should consider this within all directions. There should be a detailed map to accompany this information with tables and summaries.

The ecological impacts from this project could be immense and should be carefully considered.

- 1) All effects to sensitive, threatened, and endangered species must be analyzed. This includes federal and state listed amphibians, fish, birds, and terrestrial wildlife.
- 2) Effects to migratory birds and their habitat must be disclosed.
- 3) What will be the effects to water quality and quantity? Vegetation? Will there be an increase in vegetation mortality? Reduced growth rates? Lichens are particularly sensitive and the effects should be disclosed.
- 4) Will this facility exacerbate the effects of climate change at the local level? Pollution coupled with increasing temperatures and changing precipitation patterns may affect the ecological processes in this area more so than if the facility never goes in. This should be analyzed. The company claims that its product will help prevent climate change, but what are the immediate effects? How are we to know that this company will in fact produce solar cells or provide for any clean energy?

- 5) There has been no established baseline for pollution concentrations in this area. Weather stations complete with accurate instruments that calculate all the potential pollutants emitted from this facility should be set up. This should be monitored for a sufficient number of years before a solid baseline can be established. If this is not required for the EIS, then disclose the reasons why.

The economic analysis within the analysis, at a minimum, should show:

- 1) Total energy used by this facility on daily, monthly, and yearly terms,
- 2) The cost per kWh that the company will pay relative to residents and small businesses. This should be feasible with examples from other high-energy industries in the state.
- 3) How electrical rates will change for local residents and businesses,
- 4) Percentage of silicon smelted at this facility that will be used for solar panels, and how the figure of saving nine times the greenhouse emissions was calculated,
- 5) How much air pollution will be emitted in the local area (define the area where emissions from this facility will be affected, also define the area that would be affected if the facility were to expand in the future) and how much revenue will be lost due to forest damage, water quality damage, public health incidents related to the pollution caused by the smelter, the amount of revenue lost by potential reduction in tourism,
- 6) How much air pollution will be caused by truck and rail traffic and its associated costs to human health,
- 7) How much money will state and local governments need to spend on transportation maintenance due to increased truck and rail traffic, and on increased health care needs,
- 8) The company executives and proponents of this facility claim increased tax money will benefit the community. What is the offset from how much tax money will be needed to support transportation, infrastructure, fire department and police costs, etc compared to what the company would end up paying (taking into account that most large companies take advantage of tax loopholes),
- 9) Estimate of the future cost of clean-up – soils, water, site rehabilitation, any spills from truck or rail traffic
- 10) The economic analysis should show alternative locations for the proposed smelter and how revenue and costs would differ. This facility would be a viable, profitable industry anywhere – it does not require the cheap electrical rates that Pend Oreille County has to offer. This cheap electricity would increase the profits of this corporation and higher returns for investors. It should be disclosed just how much more investors would make here versus locating the smelter closer to the mine in Golden, B.C. or in a place already set up for industrial zoning and a proper, existing transportation network suitable to haul for heavy trucks or rail traffic.

11) How this facility will affect other business in the future, particularly recreation and tourism-based business and small businesses.

Thank you for considering the comments I've provided.

Jesse Janz

Newport Resident