

cynthia mason

September 24, 2018

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been following the PacWest silicon smelter proposal. I would like to see more research done as to the impacts a smelter would have for our area. I work in Sandpoint and spend most of my day there. The prevailing winds from Newport blow right towards Sandpoint.

Silica mines and smelters create silica dust which is a known carcinogen. Residents near mines and quarries are exposed to respirable crystalline silica. Fugitive dust emissions blow off of these sites and is likely to enter the lungs of those that live near them. That includes not just people, but all residents, wildlife included. Water quality being impaired is also of concern.

Breathing silica causes silicosis which is a serious and incurable lung condition. Symptoms of silicosis may not manifest for 15 to 20 years after dust exposure. Even if dust is not visible to the eye there is a risk of silicosis. If dust is visible the risk of silicosis is almost definite.

Since any potential environmental impact isn't going to stop at the Washington/Idaho border, I would like to see the National Environmental Policy Act review the project. Idahoans need to have a say in this project as well as Washingtonians.

Please provide us with more information as to the potential impacts to people, wildlife, and water. Let the National Environmental Policy Act review the project.

Thanks for your consideration,

Cynthia Mason