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PacWest has stated it will bring in 170,000 tons of crystalline silica in to the proposed Newport silicon metal smelter in one year. That is with two furnaces and one stack. Double it in the 2nd phase of operations when there will be two additional furnaces and 1 more stack.

Crystalline silica is a know carcinogen and will cause silicosis in those workers who are exposed to the silica dust. There are autoimmune diseases associated with the silica dust - scleroderma being one of them.

How will the silica dust be measured and how much exposure is the maximum allow? What mediation will PacWest take to lessen the workers exposure to silica dust? Who will be responsible for the health issue associated with silica dust and who will be financially responsible. In what areas of the entire process of creating silicone will the workers be exposed to silica dust from the PacWest silica mine in Canada, to the loading and unloading and the transfer from the piles into the furnaces?

What are the estimated health cost to those affected by the silica dust? What are the non-occupational risk?