

Kaitlin Loomis

As a resident of Spokane, I'm concerned about the effects of this project on the aquifer it will be placed on. Detrimental effects to the aquifer will force Newport residents to become reliant on other sources of water, such as the Spokane River, which is already over-used and will then be responsible for supporting the water-needs of a population of another city. Please consider the contaminants that could leech into the sources of water surrounding the smelter. It seems like the environmental costs of this project outweigh the economic benefits. Along with Newport, this project will negatively impact the whole of Eastern Washington. I orally testified at one of your scoping comment meetings in Spokane about the effects this project will have on climate change. This should also be considered in the making of the Environmental Impact Statement ("EIS"). Climate change is increasingly becoming a nationwide concern and while commonly overlooked the increase in greenhouse gases that this smelter will bring will have an effect on forest health as drier winters and springs lead to forest fires in the summer. The EIS should also consider the impact increased railroad usage will have on the surrounding area, including environmental and economic effects.