

Harry Tefft

Hello,

My family lives within 1.5 miles of the proposed site for the smelter, in Idaho. We have a number of concerns regarding the project. The concerns include the obvious output of the plant, but also the additional output of all the trucks and trains, the toll it will take on the ground water, as well as wildlife, gardens, and farm animals. Also, concern about the noise and light that will be produced in this normally peaceful part of the world which many of us cherish.

The prevailing wind in the area is generally northeast. The proposed location of the site is on the eastern state line. This means that the bulk of the air pollution created by the plant will be emitted directly into Idaho. Pollution will come from not only the plant itself, but also much of the materials used will be moving through Idaho, either by train or truck. If there is no wind, there will be times where an air inversion will cause it to just sit in the area. Consider that there are a large number of people in the area that burn wood for heat, many who are very low income. Will the additional output from this plant cause it to be bad enough that people will not be able to use their wood stoves, so that the plant can continue to operate?

The plant is reportedly planning to use ground water, and a lot of water. Most people in the area have wells in which depend on the ground water to be plentiful and clean. The ground water does not see state lines. Will the plant use so much water that wells in the area will be affected, possibly dried up, or contaminated by the plant? What recourse would a resident of the area (who has a long time well) have if thier well were to be affected? Likely, the plant would deny that it is to blame, and it would be hard to prove, but it would hurt local residents.

The area is home to residents, many of whom live in the area because of the beauty and clean living. What effect will there be on personal gardens, area crops, or farm animals. These are common in the area. The area, especially the Idaho panhandle, is a recreation destination. What effect will the pollution produced by the plant have on the fish and wildlife in the area? On the clean mountain air? Mountain views, and view properties? All of this can affect the tourism, property prices, as well as personal health.

Nobody is denying that the plant will put out a great deal of pollution. The idea that the product produced will be used in making solar panels, therefore is "green" which offsets the pollution, does nothing for the effect it will have on the area. As residents, we are the ones who will be affected. The company is here, from Canada, mostly because of cheap electricity, and close proximity to Canada. The motivation is clearly financial, which does nothing to ease the concerns about what effect they will have on the environment, maybe to find out how bad it is years later.

While there is plenty of concern for the plant as proposed with two furnaces, there is also the expected expansion of the plant for two more furnaces. It seems that getting the plant to pass with two furnaces might be easier than with four furnaces, only to add the other two in short order.

We live in one of the most beautiful places in the world, by choice. We don't want to see this destroyed, especially so that a company from another country can make some money.

Harry & Sasha Tefft