

Dallas Becker

Dept of Ecology Posts for Comment Period

I am writing to express my deep concern about the smelter being proposed for Newport WA.

You are well aware of the fact that the proposed smelter will produce a significant amount of greenhouse gas in addition to SO₂, NO_x, and PM affecting everyone from the elderly to children.

Add to this smoke from wild fires which is now a part of our experience in Pend Oreille county.

As we have experienced in Pend Oreille County over the past four summers, the amount of smoke that is blown here from fires in British Columbia, Canada and the surrounding states have had a significant negative impact on the air quality for weeks.

Last Sept 2017, the air quality in the Newport WA area reached the Hazardous level. The air quality reached the same state this past August 2018.

I have had two dramatic reactions to the wildfire smoke; last year and this past August. Over the Labor Day weekend in 2017, I had to visit the urgent care center in Spokane due to incessant coughing, I thought I was developing bronchial pneumonia. The clinic had already seen hundreds of people that week due to the air quality which in our area close to Newport was in the most negative range, HAZARDOUS! The diagnosis was a severe reaction to the wildfire smoke.

This past August 17, 2018 I experienced coughing and sudden onset of chest pain. I was directed to go to the emergency dept in Newport. Again, the conclusion was a reaction to the wildfire smoke. I am not an asthmatic and aside from these situations I have excellent health, there is nothing wrong with my lungs. However, repeated exposure to wildfire smoke is described below by one of your people

Matt Kadlec - WA Ecology August 15, 2018 at 11:36 AM Senior Toxicologist, Washington Dept. of Ecology

Olympia, Washington

Government Administration

Respiratory symptoms and illness events among people with asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are commonly associated with wildland fire smoke. A few studies have also found associations with cardiovascular health impacts. Wildfire smoke also affects otherwise healthy people, especially very young and old people. For example, smoke alters immunity, predisposing children to acute lower respiratory tract infections. Smoke probably causes lung inflammation in everyone regardless of their age and health status. There's not much research on long-term effects of wildfire smoke, but repeated smoke exposures in firefighters can cause chronic lung and systemic inflammation, which may contribute to development of respiratory diseases.

In addition, even though I have health insurance I received a bill from the Newport hospital for my visit to the emergency dept for \$518.95. Yes, five hundred and eighteen dollars and ninety-five cents. Fortunately I have the resources to pay this, what about the significant numbers of people in Pend Oreille county who simply could not come up with that amount of money? This is not an economic issue, this is a human rights issue.

Do not permit PacWest to build a silicon smelter in Newport, WA. This kind of facility will pump toxins into our environment and will create a health crisis for all who have to breathe in the polluted

air. Please consider our children, the elderly, the medically fragile, those who will develop illnesses due to the pollution from the silicon smelter, from the increase in transport vehicles that will bring material to the proposed smelter and the occurrence of wildfire smoke which is a feature of our summer and fall seasons.

Please look at these maps that project the increasing incidence of wildfire for our county and surrounding counties and across the United States

<https://www.seas.harvard.edu/news/2016/08/smoke-waves-will-affect-millions-in-coming-decades>

<https://khanotations.github.io/smoke-map/>

Use your wisdom, common sense and compassion for all living beings. A silicon smelter will only bring suffering to the living beings here and prevent any opportunities for developing a thriving community/county. People are not going to move here, nor will they travel here for recreation/vacation. People have already decided not to buy in the area until they know the fate of the smelter. People will leave. Thank you for refusing to permit PacWest to build a silicon smelter in Pend Oreille County

Sincerely,

Dallas Becker

Resident of Pond Oreille County