

Steven Okelberry

Your environmental report is very important to the well being of the people, animals, forest, and water of the Newport area and Bonner Co., Idaho.

I feel the following issues are important.

- * Please study other similar silica smelters. What environmental issues have they created? How have they impacted local communities?

- * It takes six tons of raw materials to make one ton of silica metal. That's a lot of waste material creating dangerous pollutants. What would be the short and long term effects of its exposure to people, animals, forests, and water?

- * Please evaluate the impact of more trains and trucks continually delivering raw materials and then hauling away the finished product. Please factor in the increased air and noise pollution.

- * How much water will the smelter use for production? What happens to the waste water?

Please give your report the time and attention it deserves. I feel we don't need this kind of disruptive and polluting industry. Many people in the area are dead set against this affront to our health and way of life.