

To Whom It May Concern:

My concerns with the Newport Smelter is with the water that is used and discarded with this project. When reading about the proposed smelter, I failed to find information about the waste treatment that will need to occur to avoid any damages to the environment. Water that is used within this smelter cannot be directly placed back into the environment as it will have chemicals and other pollutants that will kill and disrupt the species surrounding the proposed plant. If not treated correctly, this dirty grey water could go into the aquifer and cause further damage to it. The aquifer is where we obtain a lot of our water for the US and if it becomes even dirtier, we will be unable to use it as a resource. If any water is returned to the environment from this plant that is untreated, it will irreversibly damage and alter the water that is currently within the aquifer.

More investigation and information needs to be produced about how and where this water treatment will occur. As of now, Newport is not able to sustain the amount of proposed water treatment that would be required by a smelter such as the one that is proposed. The grey water leaving the plant needs to be cleaned and treated before it can be recycled back into the environment. You need to make sure that more environmental damage does not occur as a consequence of the building of this smelter. Please do not let us down.

Best,  
Niall Kelleher