

# Leslie Sinclair

Scoping Comments regarding Air Emissions, Lost Mental Capacity, Truck Congestion, Limited Jobs, Dirty Coal, My Health, Environmentally Supporting Jobs, Cooperation:

PacWest Silicon Smelter states: "The facility is expected to release air pollutants to the atmosphere, which will be regulated by federal and state standards. The pollutants fit into four categories, including:  
criteria pollutants,  
hazardous air pollutants,  
toxic air pollutants, and  
greenhouse gases (GHGs)."

They proudly state that they will violate the population's needs for clean healthy air: "Annual emissions of at least one criteria pollutant is expected to exceed the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) major source threshold, which makes the project subject to review under the PSD program implemented by Ecology."

Our current Administration plays games with a sham of clean air protection, no matter the good intentions of DOE staff, creating serious doubt that this smelter's discharges will maintain a safe level of adequately filtered emissions.

PacWest Silicon Smelter states that: "Key among the PSD review is to employ Best Available Control Technology (BACT) to reduce emissions from all new sources, and to demonstrate that ambient air quality standards will not be exceeded as a result of the project." This statement is an oxymoron betrayed by PacWest Silicon Smelter's initial assurance above that emissions will exceed the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) major source threshold - a guarantee that our rights to clean air will be consistently violated.

Current studies show that persons lose the equivalent of years' or more intellectual learning and cognitive function through exposure to polluted air. The very existence (proposed) of this silicon smelter guarantees that local and distant populations will suffer loss of cognitive function. This applies in an exaggerated manner to the very young and the elderly, still affecting all ages.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2018/aug/27/air-pollution-causes-huge-reduction-in-intelligence-study-reveals>

Air quality is a prime reason as to my choice of home properties to buy. I researched the statistics and the weather and found a location very close to the northward flowing Pend Oreille River south of Ione, WA. I eliminated many attractive properties because of the directions of prevailing winds from sources of pollution. No polluting industries are located near my home. But, the air has been seriously compromised for up-to and over a month's time during at least the past three Summers, from wildfires due to Climate Change. That was not a consideration on the year of my purchase. The remedial factor that allows me to remain on my property is the fact that rains do come and put out fires.

However, if you decide that I must tolerate the guaranteed toxic pollution dispensed into the air, earth and water of our pristine environment, all that changes. At 74 years of age I fit into the category of the elderly who are seriously affected by hazardous and compromised air quality, not to mention water quality, since our water comes from the Pend Oreille River across the road from my house. My health is of prime importance. No polluting smelter is worth illness and death to me. As a twice cancer survivor I moved to a clean forest partially for health reasons. You will take that away from me if you decide that sacrifice of my life is a worthy consequence of a deal connived under darkness of silence by county agencies and county employees, that benefits same, and some corporation in a distant county or city --- that we rural dwellers are appropriate sacrificial lambs for Big Money.

There is no such thing as clean coal; it pollutes everyone from the miners to the low income persons barely managing to maintain their humble rural homes, to those whose properties abut train tracks upon which coal trains will travel and occasionally spill their loads, and the children playing on our schoolyards breathing in those guaranteed pollutants gifted to us by the proposed silicon smelter.

Rural highway maintenance is costly as it is, and necessary for us to shop, seek education and entertainment, and obtain sophisticated health treatments. New truck traffic will greatly affect our beautiful drives to our small cities, causing us to breathe in even more pollution from the pipes of huge trucks granted exceptions to exhaust emissions controls such as those that regular our automobiles. One of the great pleasures of living in North Pend Oreille County is the semi-monthly drives to the city, the opportunity to drive the small highways seeing beautiful landscapes, the changing light-scapes of the mountain scenery, and the great sense of expansive peace and joy at seeing wild animals interspersed

on the land. Most often I am the only vehicle traveling in my direction, and sometimes meet only one or no oncoming vehicles for the last hour of my drive. You would steal all that from me by permitting batches of heavy trucks carrying loads of coal and chips and other materials for this harmful smelter.

I will not be a sacrifice to benefit the final users of solar technology, a sacrifice of person and place, without reminding you that there are suitable sites for industrial plants that are not in my county, but are on already desecrated lands that have previously been vetted and used for industrial purposes. Wherever the smelter is sited its existence demands the institution of even stronger air pollution controls that will not be sold off by fees in exchange for the "right" to pollute, thereby harming people's lives.

No quantity of jobs, and in the smelter case it's a small number, is a fair trade-off for my health and that of the regional population. Pend Oreille County needs more jobs, yes, and that fact is the failure of residents, County officials, and innovators who should be looking only at truly environmentally supportive job-providing investments that include educational opportunities specific to clean innovations and investments. But the public cannot get involved when the workings are undercover.

We need to capitalize on the wonders of the land, the air, and the many waters of extreme beauty that bless our region in collaboration with Native American Tribes who can teach us much about preservation of what we hold dear. We need to say NO to any outfit that courts our County Commissioners to violate their oaths. We need Washington and Idaho businesses specially suited to celebrating and maintaining our resources. We need to say NO to this polluting smelter.