

Katy Scaheffer

I am writing to support the Department of Ecology proposal for changes to the operating permit for COSMO Specialty Fibers. I support continuous monitoring and documentation of emissions as a means of insuring compliance. I am also requesting that area-wide emissions testing should be done for these compounds and that all sources of emissions, not just those from the big stacks, be monitored and stringent limits be applied.

This mill emits the criteria pollutants NO_x and SO₂. Both of these air pollutants have known health impacts, including increased prematurity of mortality, heart disease of and cancers.

I am dismayed to read the list of chemicals emitted in 2017: mercury, chromium, sulfuric acid, lead, chlorine, manganese, formaldehyde, chlorine dioxide, methyl ethyl ketone, acetaldehyde, acetone, methanol, volatile organic compounds, SO₂, NO_x, carbon dioxide.

The citizens of Cosmopolis live in close proximity to the mill. Cosmopolis Elementary School which is a 0.4 mile walk from the mill. Citizens report that some days the air in the streets has a yellow haze, and some days blue.

Those who spend time in Cosmopolis, or even drive through, report that their eyes and skin burn, and their respiratory airways and sinuses become irritated and inflamed with negative effects on respiration lasting over a week.

Are any studies planned on the health impacts of the chemicals emitted on those who breathe them daily? Can you share information on what is currently known about the short and long-term consequences on cardiac and respiratory health, and how they contribute to the development of cancers and an increased incidence of premature births, birth defects, and developmental disabilities and learning difficulties?

When violations are found who determines fines for violations and are they increased with repeated infractions?