

Eric Jensen

I'm concerned that the review of the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility Second Supplemental EIS will be based upon murky understanding of the pollutants involved. For starters, the process of delivering "natural gas" from the fields of the Great Plains of North America to the Asian plastics manufacturers would be unacceptably polluting and damaging. I've lived in Oklahoma and the fracking there has contaminated scarce ground water and is widely believed to cause an unprecedented sudden spike in earthquakes since fracking began in Oklahoma. Fracking requires a great deal of water and destroys usable water tables by injecting chemical-infused water into the subsoil. Also, natural gas wells are notoriously leaky when they operate. Afterwards, abandoned natural gas wells fume (leak) natural gas leaks forever. And the pipes carrying natural gas can leak. News stories regularly describe how our decrepit railroads and human error can cause fires and explosions such as happened in the town of Las-Megantic in Canada and Mosher, Oregon, recently). Also, the process of refining that gas into methanol creates more pollution. And for what? So the world can be burdened with more plastic products that are most often single use (for example, packing materials, styrofoam and plastic bags). The US is far worse than giant polluters such as China in lax regulations of fossil fuel refining and use. Our decisions should be made with realistic understanding of the relationship between climate change and pollution. The review process for the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility should rely on evidence-based information, not the gas industry's short term incentives such as temporary construction jobs. The false choice between jobs and plastics production should not be considered a valid choice. The evaluation of the proposed Kalama methanol facility should result in principled decisions about what the natural gas industry should be allowed - and not be allowed - to do with our precious and delicate environment. Thank you, Eric Jensen