

## Jean M. Avery

As we've seen in 2020, our lives can be drastically changed in a matter of a few months. Accordingly, it is unrealistic to predict what may happen within the coming forty years. As the Dept. of Ecology considers the proposed NWIW project, I strongly urge consideration of the following what-if scenarios:

1. What if the renewable energy sector continues to grow, and Kalama, WA is left with a stranded asset that perpetuates the outmoded fossil fuel legacy?
2. What if a cleaner project is proposed for Kalama's port, but it has already committed to NWIW's methanol plant?
3. What if China moves forward with low-carbon goals (as Pres. Xi recently pledged to do) and China no longer meets its energy needs with fossil fuels, as now assumed?
4. What if financial trends favor investments in low-carbon technologies, as some ESG funds project?
5. What if political tensions increase between the U.S. and China and a hostile adversary controls a key port on Washington's coastline?
6. What if water becomes increasingly scarce, but we continue to give it away for NWIW's project and profit?
7. What if NWIW's jobs are filled with specialized workers from outside the area, instead of workers in Cowlitz County?
8. What if new workers moving to the Kalama area add to the demand for housing, thus raising housing costs for current residents?
9. What if recovery of SW Washington to its pre-NWIW status takes decades? (Think: we're just now 40 years after the Mount St. Helens eruption.)
10. What if Washington's natural resources are depleted, at a high environmental cost with questionable gain?
11. What if we really have a chance to reduce global warming and we miss our opportunity? ("Drawdown" researchers present data-driven strategies that could lead the transition to a renewable, clean-energy future. See <https://drawdown.org>.)

Please consider these possible ramifications before deciding on this project and its consequences. Please deny the permits for the NWIW refinery.