

## Dela Zitkus

2020 brought us the hottest January on record, the hottest May, and the hottest September. Ever. April and June came extremely close to breaking their records.

The whole argument for or against the methanol refinery comes down to whether you believe it will increase or decrease greenhouse emissions. Let's use logic here. We'd be adding capacity to pull more fossil fuels out of the ground and either burn them for fuel or make plastics. The only way that adding capacity could lower greenhouse gases is if this methanol displaces another more-greenhouse emitting one.

Since we can't force the Chinese to produce less coal-derived methanol, we should assume that this new methanol would simply be added to their current supply. NWIW's numbers are all based on the argument that this new refinery would displace current production of some coal-based methanol production. There is no basis for this argument. Since China is a sovereign government and not a U.S. territory, we can't tell them what to do. Once the methanol leaves for China on a tanker ship, it's gone. What they do with it is their business. NWIW may be singing a sweet tune now, but once the refinery is built, all bets are off. The only control we have is now. The only power we have is to not build this refinery. I urge the Department of Ecology to deny the permit.