

# Columbia Riverkeeper

My name is Kate Murphy, and I'm a Community Organizer with Columbia Riverkeeper. The irony of meeting virtually to protect public health while discussing this potential disaster should not escape anyone. There are many reasons Ecology should deny the permit for the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol refinery. This morning, I want to focus on the fact that Northwest Innovation Works has provided little meaningful detail about how it will actually mitigate the impacts of this project.

The SEIS states that the impacts can be mitigated, but offers few details on how they will accomplish its stated goal of fully mitigating all of the in-state pollution from the project. Northwest Innovation Works identifies no specific projects or measures that will address the enormous greenhouse gas pollution impacts of the proposed refinery. You are about to make a critical decision about the future, and to accept such vague promises without evidence from a company that has proven itself to be untrustworthy is a massive disservice to the region and a favor to the fossil fuel industry.

In the face of overwhelming opposition to this project, Ecology must require real, detailed information and enforceable plans before assessing that impacts on this scale could be mitigated. Northwest Innovation Works plan for a plan falls far short of the standard. We can all easily envision a scenario in which Northwest Innovation Works builds the plant with a vague, unsure, and voluntary mitigation framework fails to produce the hope for mitigation, or a scenario in which commitments made by Northwest Innovation Works are not honored by future owners of the facility.

These are just a few examples of why Ecology cannot base its decision on a framework that fails to identify any real projects, and that proposes to set up a Northwest Innovation Work-friendly team for oversight. This is a recipe for failed mitigation. You've been tasked with making this decision about our future. We're calling on you to fulfill your role in assessing this project with an objective eye, one that examines the actual evidence before you, and we're counting on you to make a decision based on what we know and not what we can speculate about.

Someday, you'll have to answer to your grandchildren when they asked you what you did to protect the air, the water in their lives. What will you tell them?