Anonymous Anonymous

I am the mayor of Kalama, but speaking here as an individual.

This refinery, I believe, is a regional energy security risk.

Having this methanol consuming more than � of all available gas capacity or 320 Dth/d out of 500 Dth/d from the only pipeline that supplies natural gas on the I-5 corridor from Sumas WA to Washougal WA is too much to give one company. They also want 100 MW of clean hydropower, which is like gold when it comes to GHG reductions. What type of energy is going to gap the distance between fossil fuels and renewables? There is no way that you can close all of the coal-fired power plants without a backup for renewable energy. For every watt of renewable energy, you need a watt of firm backup because sometimes the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow.

We will be at the mercy of the Chinese if we want to move out of coal and oil. The refinery owners will be able to sell gas capacity and hydro to trade for carbon credits or to lower GHG emissions requirements.

How vital natural gas is to Governor Inslee's legislation.

According to the 2018 Pacific Northwest Gas Market Outlook information brochure:
The forecast step increase in gas for generation (2021-2022) coincides with the retirement of several coal-fired generation units that currently serve the region, including Boardman in Oregon (end of 2020), Centralia Boiler 1 in Washington (end of 2020), and Colstrip Units 1 & 2 in Montana (mid-2022). This forecast demonstrates the expectation that natural gas will play an increasingly important role in maintaining system reliability and affordability as policymakers drive the region toward a cleaner energy future.
"Companies often choose both in parallel. Investments in gas dilutes the shift to renewables", stated Galina Alova of the Smith School of Enterprise and the Environment at the University of Oxford.
If you look at every utility company's IRP future energy requirements, they include large amounts of natural gas capacity to achieve the goals set by Governor Inslee's legislation. It requires power companies to reduce emissions by at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2035.
That's why NWIWs biggest partner Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners are heavily involved in this refinery. Stonepeak Infrastructure Partners focuses on investment in the energy, power and renewables, transportation, utilities, water, and communications sectors. Nothing in its portfolio about plastics and olefins.

Cowlitz County PUD E3 reliability study states:

Resource Adequacy in the Pacific Northwest-Serving Load Reliably under a Changing Resource Mix
Significant greenhouse gas emission reductions leading to a deeply decarbonized grid can be achieved as long as sufficient firm capacity is available during periods of low wind, solar and hydro production to maintain adequate Resource Adequacy

Also, what are the key findings of the E3 reliability study?

The key findings are:

1. It is possible to maintain Resource Adequacy for a deeply decarbonized Northwest electricity grid, as long as sufficient firm capacity is available during periods of low wind, solar and hydro production;

2. It would be extremely costly and impractical to replace all carbon-emitting firm generation capacity with solar, wind, and storage, due to the very large quantities of these resources and the associated transmission construction that would be required;

3. The Northwest is anticipated to need new capacity in the near-term in order to maintain an acceptable level of Resource Adequacy after planned coal retirements; and

4. Current planning practices risk underinvestment in new capacity required to ensure Resource Adequacy at acceptable levels.

We need to electrify all energy requirements and to move out of any long term fossil fuel infrastructure. We also require all available resources to move into a carbon-free future. It is not right for us to use all of the non-renewable resources now. The 100 years of the gas ability myth, even if it is true, is a short time for humankind. Just because we can-doesn't mean we should.