

Kevin Tempest

Thank you for the opportunity to speak today on this important and complex topic. My name is Kevin Tempest and I work as the R&D scientist for the Low Carbon Prosperity Institute.

The rapidly dwindling greenhouse gas budget demands resource allocation only with high confidence that long-term benefits outweigh costs. Other Pacific Northwest export proposals have merited rejection on GHG grounds. This one looks different. According to analysis I completed in late 2018, global GHG emissions are likely to be 2 million to 7 million tons per year lower with this facility than in its absence. The draft analysis arrived at similar conclusions through its own separate methods providing an increased competence.

Across a wide range of assumptions such as methane leakage, global warming potentials, and methanol end uses, 47 different scenarios forecast a very likely range of 2 million to 9 million net emissions avoided per year and an extremely likely range of 0.25 million to 12 million net avoided emissions per year. That is before consideration of in-state emissions mitigation that is much more ambitious than Ecology's own clean air rule. While Kalama Methanol is likely to remain lower-emitting than prevailing alternatives, confidence diminishes further out in time.

In a sector that Governor Inslee's ambitious evergreen plan found is the costliest to decarbonize, demand for methanol and plastics is forecast to continue to grow through at least mid-century, even under low carbon scenarios that maximize recycling in the circular economy, such as those from the energy transitions commission, and the International Energy Agency. Longer-term prioritization of carbon capture and finite biogas resources are the clear leading candidates to drive emissions towards zero. Combined, these technologies are actually carbon negative. This facility can and should be ready to adapt to these technologies and trends in order to minimize the risk of becoming a net-emission source and increasing the odds of compatibility with the net-zero emissions future.

Thank you for your time.