

Sally Jo Gilbert de Vargas

Dear WA Department of Ecology,

As a person of faith, I believe we are called to care for both the well-being of communities and the environment.

Inherent in this moral imperative is investing in a livable future that is safe for all to thrive. The world's largest fracked-gas-to-methanol refinery has been proposed for construction in Kalama, WA, along the Columbia River. When operational, this plant would turn fracked gas into the raw materials for cheap plastic which would then be shipped to Asia to be made into myriad myriads of plastic products. While operating, if it is built, it will contribute by itself fully 5% of Washington State's total carbon emissions, at a time when we are trying to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Haven't we seen enough evidence of climate change to take this situation seriously? Haven't we destroyed enough of Mother Earth's gifts to us? Haven't we done enough damage to our home in the service of "the Almighty Dollar?"

Building the world's largest fracked gas-to-methanol plant in Washington does not align with my personal values of stewardship and justice, nor does it support our state's commitment to reducing climate pollution. Please reject Northwest Innovation Work's proposed methanol refinery in Kalama and deny its Shorelines Permit.

The second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Kalama methanol refinery clearly shows that this project is dirty, dangerous, and unwise. If built, our state will be locked into decades of additional climate pollution, even though we know it is past time to pursue a truly low-carbon future. Speculating that this project may displace other fossil fuels is not adequate justification for the known pollution that will harm our communities and climate.

Northwest Innovation Works has demonstrated that they are deceptive and will seek profit over people's wellbeing. They cannot be trusted to mitigate the impacts of this fracked gas refinery. The fact that the project has needed three reviews, with outspoken community opposition during each, shows that there is something wrong with it at its core. As Governor Inslee stated, we cannot support such fracked gas projects in good conscience.

You have a moral responsibility to protect public health and reduce our region's climate pollution. Please do what is right and deny this project. Thank you.

Sincerely,
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