

Columbia River Keeper

My name's Kate Murphy, and I'm an organizer with Columbia Riverkeeper. This analysis spends far too much ink attempting to paper over the pollution impacts by speculating on even worse pollution ideas, such as making methanol from coal and then giving Northwest Innovation Works credit for being better than the worst, without any consideration of more sustainable, healthier alternatives.

The analysis assumes a business as usual approach, barreling headlong into climate disaster when we need bold action to address the climate crisis by rejecting this potential polluter in Kalama. Let's be clear, neither this project nor making methanol from coal are consistent with a low carbon future. Not only can we do better than this, we must do better.

The SCIS is no place for fantasies, and we will not accept magical thinking as a justification for locking us into decades of harmful fossil fuels when better alternatives are already available. There is no evidence that coal-fired methanol producers would shut down in the midst of an increased demand for their product.

What we do have evidence of is that this refinery would be a massive polluter, would require the majority of the gas supply for the Pacific Northwest region and puts our communities and our environment at risk for the profits of international corporate interests.

We have a better vision than this. If building this disastrous project is the best you can imagine for our future for our shared ecology, if you cannot envision the innovation, the drive the dedication to something better, if people in your position are not forward-thinking enough, bold enough, brave enough to move toward a better vision for what we are all capable of, then you will be failing your mission.

May I remind you Ecology is Washington's Environmental Protection Agency. Your mission is to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's land, air, and water for current and future generations. We are counting on you to do the right thing. Join us in envisioning a healthier, cleaner future. This starts with denying the world's largest fracked gas to methanol refinery from being built and Kalama Washington. Thank you for your time.