

Columbia River Keeper

My name is Dan Serez and I'm the conservation director with Columbia Riverkeeper. Over the 40 year lifespan of the proposal, the project will cause the emission of roughly 184 million tons of CO2. That's on the low end. If the methane leakage rate is 3%, the number of tons of carbon pollution is higher. If all of the methanol is burned as fuel, the number is higher.

Burning all or most of the methanol for fuel is a likely scenario clearly expressed in NWIW's investment overview for potential investors in the project in 2018 and 2019 NWIW spent five years attempting to mislead the public and regulators about the purpose and impact of this project. Only when a potential investor leaked NWIW's real plans, did we learn that the company fully intended to promote methanol as a fuel.

Unbelievably, despite having told this story to potential investors and NWIW still denies it's fuel burning plants. The company even denies these plans despite having announced a partnership with a company that develops methanol burning ships. NWIW asked us to believe the following, it will build the world's largest methanol refinery, promote the use of methanol for fuel to investors, partner with a company that makes methanol burning ships, use these ships at the NWIW refinery, and never see any of the methanol from the NWIW refinery used for fuel. This is absurd on its face.

Ecology should not reward this ham-handed duplicity with a permit. Northwest Innovation Works invites Washington to knowingly and significantly increased greenhouse gas emissions based on the assumption that others will do the same. Yet Washington has stated its intention to work towards reducing emissions and meeting a goal of limiting warming to two degrees Celsius or less.

>> Daniel, I'm going to have to ask you to provide the rest of your comments in writing. You've reached your two minutes mark.