

## Donald Watt

The Kalama Methanol Plant proposal is a horrible idea for Washington, for the Columbia River, and for our planet. But even more than that, the Kalama proposal represents a Pandora's Box of destructive precedents that it would set for our region and for the world.

We would be horribly naive to think that the Kalama Methanol proposal would be the last request to expand exports of fossil fuel energy to supply markets in Asia, or that it would be the last request to build new petrochemical facilities along the shores of our beautiful lower Columbia River, or that it would be the last time the fossil fuel industry would pressure the Department of Ecology to allow a massive increase in greenhouse gas emissions.

No! If approved, in each of these cases the Kalama Methanol Plant proposal would prove to be just the first in a long list of proposals for projects that would further degrade our river, our region and the climate of our planet.

Left unchecked, the fossil fuel and petrochemical industries could easily turn the Columbia River, between Portland and Astoria, into a new "Cancer Alley" rivaling what we see along the Mississippi River between Baton Rouge and New Orleans. Producers of petroleum from the Alberta tar sands and Bakken oil shales and of fracked gas from British Columbia are desperately seeking shipping routes to bring their products to markets in Asia. The Columbia River would provide that route along with abundant fresh water to feed their industrial processes.

Sadly, all of that development would come at a horrible price through the loss of the unique ecosystems of the lower Columbia and by sacrificing the livability of this beautiful region. As residents of this state and of this uniquely beautiful part of the world it is our duty to do all that we can to protect these natural treasures from the predatory forces of the fossil fuel industry. If we do not act to preserve these treasures that we have inherited, no one else will. There may be no second chances.

If the Department of Ecology is serious about protecting the environment in this region and serious about limiting greenhouse gas emissions then it must deny approval of this Kalama Methanol Plant proposal. Approval of this proposal would set a horrible precedent for future, increasingly destructive proposals.

The proposed site at Kalama is a prime industrial location. However it does not have to be used as a welcome mat announcing that the Columbia River is open for business for the destructive fossil fuel and petrochemical industries.

Please live up to your calling as protectors of the natural environment of the State of Washington please reject this Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Northwest Innovation Works Kalama Methanol proposal.