

# Mike Reuter

I am speaking here as an individual and not as the Mayor of Kalama.

The sheer volume of gas required. This methanol refineries demand for natural gas is unfeasible without a massive expansion of gas pipelines and wells, including hundreds, if not thousands of new gas wells.

The remaining gas provided to the NW is just enough to get us by until renewable energy can cover all of our needs. The natural gas needed by residential and business customers lowers every year due to conservation and energy efficiency measures.

The gas companies know this. They know if there is not a large investment now that consumes substantial amounts of gas, then within a couple of years, there will be no need for expanding the pipeline, even with a large natural gas consumer. That's why the gas companies are trying to build a fertilizer plant in Longview, an LNG export facility in Tacoma, a gas to methanol terminal in Kalama, and the Jordon Cove LNG.

It's a lose-lose project. If this refinery somehow makes money for the next 30 years, it will lock the NW into decades of natural gas dependency. If it doesn't last the decades promised, the ratepayers and taxpayers have to pay back the billions of dollars in increased infrastructure costs to supply the refinery. The company would be long gone and leave us paying the bill.

It is very concerning that a project that takes more than 2/3 of all the available capacity available to the entire NW has not had a thorough investigation for present and future energy needs.

EFSEC or the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission should have reviewed this project. Methanol was never thought of as a large energy transport carrier. The loophole that these facilities are using needs to be closed or this will be one of many that will use this blueprint to export large amounts of Canadian gas without outside oversight.