

RoseMary Siipola

My name is Rosemary Siipola, and I live in Kalama, Washington. For the past six years. I've been supportive of the Northwest Innovation project, and I have submitted comments to the Department of Ecology. I have a few today. For every year the plant isn't operating, we lose a chance to reduce millions of tons of greenhouse gases from our atmosphere. This project cannot wait. If, as Washingtonians, we truly care about the environment and believe in science, then the three independent environmental impact studies conducted over the past six years lead to two conclusions.

Number one; the State of Washington's robust environmental permitting regulations support this project, upholding its high standards and opening the way for additional modern, environmentally-sound projects to be permitted and built in Washington; revitalizing and transitioning our economy, while promoting our state standards for environmentally safe and sound industry. Taking all of this into account, it's time to put people to work in Cowlitz County in the new modern green economy.

As a proud Cowlitz County citizen over the past 37 years, and a member of the Lower Columbia College Foundation Board of Directors, where we assist students who are changing their lives and want to live and work in their communities, I can honestly say that Cowlitz County is ready, willing, and able to meet the opportunities and challenges this new economy will bring to our region. I really ask that the Department of Ecology approve the permit for this project. Thank you very much.