

# John Wood

Comments on the Polluting Kalama Methanol Refinery  
9-16-2020

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I stand with all the speakers whose goal is to convince you to deny the Shorelines Permit for the Kalama Methanol Refinery. In addition to their tribal, economic, environmental, legal, spiritual, resource, and endangered species reasoning is plain old common sense. Taken as a single incident, this methanol plant presents a profound affront to the welfare of all people. When considered in the context of the history of hydrocarbon combustion pollution and the resulting calamity of the accelerating climate crisis, it would be shake-my-head stupid to approve it.

So nowadays we all know that the scientific community is united in its understanding that fracking, the combustion of fracked gas itself, the combustion of the methanol, and other products made from it are contributing to global climate change, rapid rising of sea level, melting of the polar ice caps and mountain glaciers, huge firestorms, super-sized weather events, plastics pollution, and so on. Taken together, these may constitute the largest existential threat ever faced by humanity worldwide.

And we all know that adopting renewable power sources like solar, wind, hydro, and conservation, and increasing our efforts to increase their scale globally might help avert some of the intensity of the worst things that are knocking at our doors right now.

We also understand that all the newly revised arguments for building the plant (as opposed to the disproven falsifications used in the first application for the permit) are based on economic projections and scenarios that do not place the enormous costs listed above on the balance sheet! Who actually has a line item saying "dollar cost of global pollution and climate change"? Anyone can make a "cogent" and "convincing" case for anything they like as long as they do not have to account for the costs, and in this case the costs are too great, too many, to bear, and they ought to be convincing in their own right, but here are all these volunteers fighting off an aggressive investment consortium when it means to make another penny.

To do our jobs as good citizens who desire a better future we must implore you to resist the seduction of whatever the other side promises and simply follow common sense (and science) and deny the permit to build another fracked gas to methanol plant. Especially here where 48 states are downwind of the plume of pollution. Other speakers will give you the legal rationale you will need to deny the permit.

Thanks for your time. Please be well and do no harm.

John Wood  
Hood River