

James Bruckner

Dear Decision-Makers at the Washington State Department of Ecology and other responsible Decision-Makers;

Regarding the proposed permitting of the methanol plant in Kalama, WA:

Your commission is to protect the air quality in Washington State. Will permitting this plant and its addition of "almost one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year" execute that commission?

Your charter is to protect the air quality in Washington State. If "the Kalama facility would be one of the 10 largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the state", will you fulfill your charter?

Your ethical responsibility is to preserve the good air that we have in Washington State so that it does not become more like the air in China (where my son lived for three years and still suffers lung distress). Will trading carbon emission chips with China fulfill your responsibility to the citizens of Washington State?

Do you trust China to reduce their methanol production emissions in exchange for our increase in CO2 in a world that demands more methanol? Is this a good bet for reducing world carbon numbers, or is it a deal with the devil? Isn't it your job to protect our air, in Washington and world-wide? Where is your political logic?

Do you trust the onsite Chinese managers and chemical engineers to have Washington State air quality in mind, when compared to their own, it will still seem pristine to them after the "almost 1,000,000 metric tons" per year (= 2,204,640,000 pounds) have been added to our air. Chinese companies are ultimately managed by the Chinese government and its billionaires. Do your job please. Stop this backward thinking.

Has Homeland Security weighed in on this proposed methanol site? Will it be a good policy to allow a Chinese managed plant to sit on the only narrow piece of land where the three corridors of commerce come very close together? Interstate 5, the Columbia River, and all the North-South rail-lines converge exactly on this site. Will you let the Chinese build this bomb on this regional corridor? Have you heard of Beirut in the news lately?

This failure in leadership and foresight does not need to be your legacy. The banal corruption of leadership for profit is a never-ending story. Your job is to protect the clean air of Washington State, not to add 2 trillion pounds of CO2 per year to it. Please fulfill your charter, commission, and ethical responsibility.

Sincerely,

James K. Bruckner, Ph.D.
149 Date Street
Kalama, WA 98625