

Cathryn Chudy

An opinion editorial in the SW WA Columbian Newspaper on 9/9/20 pointed out that: "97% of peer-reviewed climate studies have concluded that human activity has contributed to global warming." ("Reminder of Climate Change Blows Into County" 9/9/20).

The hazardous air we are currently breathing from out of control wildfires sweeping through our state and the West Coast puts all of us at severe risk. The editorial offers this prescription: "a drastic reduction in the burning of fossil fuels" that is the key to keeping us safe and healthy, our community habitable. This editorial speaks to the "broad effects of climate change" which I see as relevant to whether or not this proposal gets permitted, and can be found at:

<https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/sep/09/in-our-view-reminder-of-climate-change-blows-into-county/>

The toxic air we have been pulling into our lungs this week is one of the reasons why so many of us resist when we are asked to follow the smoky yellow brick road north, to the mythical land of OZ (Kalama, WA) where a proposed methanol refinery and export facility will turn fracked gas to methanol for export to China. Allegedly, (promises the Chinese company behind the curtain, NWIW) their operation will "save" the world from rising greenhouse gas emissions.

We cannot afford to believe everything we hear from the company that lies repeatedly to regulators and the public, inducing the Port of Kalama and Cowlitz County to put an international company's profits over the health, safety and long term viability of the river corridor that we all love. The company lied to the public and regulators about end use being only for plastic production in China, for example. This turned out not to be true, and now fuel is included in end use scenarios for China.

The Department of Ecology required this second SEIS and it is worth noting that as the state regulator you do not have to be influenced by the conflicts of interest reflected in the Port of Kalama and Cowlitz County's blatant push for this proposed fracked gas to methanol refinery and export terminal (both the County and the Port receive money from this company.)

The only way we are going to protect our region from the increased intensity and frequency of these destructive wildfires (and the toxic air/pollution that comes with them) is to keep fossil fuels in the ground. We are NOT going to do this by saying "yes" to increasing levels of greenhouse gases and pretending that a dishonest company long on promises and short on anything else but pursuit of profits will somehow magically "mitigate" these away. The SEIS shows a "voluntary" mitigation framework that has little to no detail on how mitigation, if pursued, will be accomplished. As a state agency representing the public which will experience the pollution impacts for decades to come, that is simply not good enough.

Your Dept. Of Ecology mission to "we the people" who live here in our state is "to protect, preserve, and enhance Washington's environment for current and future generations." Permitting a proposal that does the opposite is not acceptable, and constitutes an unconscionable betrayal of that mission.

This is a bad bargain for Washington and our children's future. Please listen to us and say "NO" to permitting this project.