

Linda Leonard

Make no mistake about it, Kalama, the state of Washington and the world does not need the proposed methanol refinery to be built.

Northwest Innovation Works' have used the rationale the facility would cause a net reduction in current greenhouse gas emission levels by forcing Chinese-to-coal methanol facilities off line.

Ecology's analysis state that current global greenhouse gas emissions would increase substantially if this project were built, but perhaps not as substantially as if, China's methanol demands were met by other sources.

The gas impact analysis summary reads: What would happen in the markets if KMMEF were not to go into operation? The analysis of methanol supply in China shows that there is existing capacity in China to increase methanol production and meet growing demand. This is expected to be supplied from coal-based methanol, the lowest-cost producer in China. Additional demand will be met with natural gas based imports which are also low cost. NWIW's facility is expected to be one of the lowest cost of these exporting producers.

But absent Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility, other low cost natural gas based exporters would also supply the growing market in China.

The summary concludes, there are always uncertainty in future markets with respect to prices, policies, the global pandemic recession and relationships between input suppliers and producers.

Rather than engage in this speculation, Ecology should focus on the real world, known pollution that will come from the facility rather than NWIW's dubious displacement argument.

The misguided conclusion that the world's largest fracked gas to methanol refinery would somehow benefit our climate and have no significant adverse impacts on the Columbia River estuary or the public is appalling.

I am calling on the Department of Ecology to reject this project and to deny the Shorelines permit from proceeding.