

350PDX

Thank you to the Department of Ecology for holding these hearings. My name is Dineen O'Rourke and I'm the campaign manager for 350PDX, a grassroots organization working for climate justice in Portland, Oregon, and beyond. On behalf of over 8,000 supporters and volunteers in our organization, I'm calling on Ecology to reject this methanol refinery and deny the shorelines permit. The impact of building this project would extend far beyond Kalama, far beyond our community just 40 miles from Kalama, but throughout our entire region and our entire atmosphere.

The SCIS is full of flawed arguments, false choices, low-balled estimates of emissions, and industry talking points. It's disappointing. The core argument that methanol could displace dirtier energy presents a false choice among all bad options, and fails to consider whether cleaner energy technologies may dramatically displace the need to use methanol for transportation fuels. NWIW will also use up to 320 million cubic feet of gas per day, and it will drive additional fracking and methane leakage across the continent.

Given these uncertainties, Ecology should base its decision making on the assured dramatic pollution from fracking gas, producing and refining methanol, and burning or using methanol to make plastics. The rest is largely speculation. It is downright embarrassing that while this region is on fire, about thousands of people have entirely lost their homes and while millions of us breathed in the worst air quality in the world for over a week, Ecology is even considering these speculative claims to build new fossil fuel infrastructure. The climate crisis is here.

Building this refinery would be breaking Washington's own climate goals and moving us in the exact opposite direction. Ecology, do the right thing and deny the shorelines permit.