

Gordon Wheat

Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility Second Supplemental EIS

As a longtime resident of Washington, as a physician with a public health background and as a citizen of the world, I need to add my comments on the proposed Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility.

As a member of the Washington Academy of Family Physicians Public Health Committee, I am very concerned about the air and water discharges that would result from this refinery. The Columbia River Aquifer is very sensitive and could be irreparably damaged.

The proposed methanol refinery would lead to millions of tons of greenhouse gas pollution each year, and once built it could not be shut down for the life of the refinery, some 30-40 years.

Ecology's own analysis shows that the project would produce 4.6 million tons of carbon pollution each year, or more. This level of pollution is profoundly inconsistent with achieving Washington's climate goals, protecting Washington's Shorelines, and charting a path to keep global temperature rise below 2 degrees C.

In 2018 and 2019, NWIW informed potential investors that methanol from the planned refinery could be burned as fuel overseas, in sharp contrast to claims NWIW made to local and state regulators that the methanol would only be used to manufacture plastic. Now, Ecology's analysis contemplates 40 percent of the methanol being burned, yielding 2 million tons of carbon pollution each year.

Washington State needs to take a stand and not make a commitment to the fossil fuel industry to allow the industry to use our land and our shoreline to ship methanol overseas under long term contracts.

The risk to our environment in Washington from potential leaks and discharge from the plant damaging our fragile Columbia River Shoreline is not acceptable. Ecology should deny the Shorelines permit for the refinery.

Why should Washington State take the risks to our environment and the health of our population for a small number of jobs, only to provide fuel for pollution in China and elsewhere. The voters of the state of Washington should say that we are not going to sacrifice our health and our environment to further the destruction of our planet. We are seeing the early effects of climate change now, and the effects will be exponentially worse in 10-20 years, but the plant once built will be irreversible.

Please let the voices of reason from the citizens of this state be heard before finalizing the Second Supplemental EIS.

Sincerely,

Gordon Wheat MD

WAFP Public Health Committee

Washington State Department of Health One Health Taskforce and Workgroup