

Janet Thompson

See attached letter.

Rich Doenges re: NWIW SSEIS  
Washington Department of Ecology  
Southwest Regional Office  
P.O. Box 47775

October 2, 2020

RE: Second Supplemental EIS for the Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility

Dear Mr. Doenges,

Thank you for undertaking the Second Supplemental Environment Impact Statement to provide additional information about Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) for the Northwest Innovation Works: Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility. Based upon this information, I am opposed to the Shoreline Conditional Use Permit for this project and recommend that the conditional use permit be denied. It is the wrong project at the wrong time.

The proposed Methanol Refinery entails the use millions of gallons of water from the Columbia River daily, pollutes the air with cancer-causing toxins, has the potential to explode during an earthquake and necessitates the expansion of the pipeline infrastructure in the State to feed the NWIW refinery. The environmental impacts of this proposed project are not limited to just Washington State and the Columbia River. The 4.6 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent released annually adds significantly to the greenhouse gasses world-wide. Instead, we should seek to reduce those emissions and not add another manufacturing plant to the methanol industry. Worldwide, there are 90 plants with a combined production of 110 million metric tons (36.6 billion gallons or 138 billion liters of Methanol). To combat global climate change, the demand for methanol needs to decrease. This refinery, which Northwest Innovation Works claims will be the world's largest, would consume a stunning amount of fracked gas just to operate--320 million cubic feet per day, to be exact. The annualized amount of fracked gas consumed is 116,800,000,000 billion cubic ft. Along the I-5 corridor, the refinery requires a massive new pipeline down the entire length of our state. Over the decades, the citizens of Washington have strongly opposed the building of new pipelines. All of the above issues pose significant dangers to nearby communities, especially in this part of the country, which is known for earthquakes. The level of fracked gas used and the corresponding GHGs' released are profoundly inconsistent with Washington State's climate goals.

I am also quite concerned about the affects on the Columbia River resulting from the extraordinary amount of water to be removed from the Columbia. We have spent millions and millions of dollars over the last 3 decades to restore salmon populations in the River, which remains a work in progress. The citizens of Washington have clearly made a long term investment to salmon recovery. This recovery would be put at great risk, and the investment we have made would be thrown away with the added impacts of this refinery. The money invested in salmon recovery is jeopardized by the increasingly rapid climate changes. We cannot have this investment go for naught. The health of the orca whales and the Salish Sea are dependent upon the Columbia River. The world's largest methanol refinery would profoundly diminish the entire ecosystem. Additionally, the shipping traffic in this area of the Columbia would increase and further degrade the riverine ecosystem. Instead, the State of Washington needs to maintain

and enhance, if possible, the biodiversity of this ecosystem and reduce the environmental stressors current usages cause. It is my belief; we have maxed out the resilience of the Columbia River ecosystem.

The predicted demand, which underpins why this export facility is needed, assumes the continuation of current conditions. We know, however, that climate change is happening, and we know that we need coordinated action to reduce GHG in order to slow down the rate of climate change. Moreover, this project removes incentives for transitioning markets away from plastics, other fossil fuel based products and clean energy generation. Perhaps most importantly the project is inconsistent with Washington State's climate goals.

We are at a tipping point with Climate Change. The increased length of droughts, larger more intense fires, and increased number and severity of weather systems cannot be ignored. Over the last 5 years, we have experience poorer air quality as a result of large forest fires in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California. These fires are not one offs; they are happening annually and maybe the new normal, which is a terrifying thought. Just this last month, for example, we experienced the worst air quality along the corridor from Olympia to Seattle, with the air quality index ranging from 220 to 276. Portland had an air quality index of 500 at one point. This summer the Chelan fire further degraded the biodiversity of the East Cascades. The Oregon and California fires are the worst ever, and Seattle is expecting additional smoke to decrease air quality further. The economic impacts of climate change are immeasurable.

Northwest Innovation Works - Kalama Manufacturing and Marine Export Facility needs to be categorically denied. The environmental damage cannot be mitigated and certainly not with the vague wording currently in the environmental documents developed for this project. Washington citizens should not be bearing these risks. We are not protecting Washington's Shorelines by allowing this project to be built. In this case, "No Action" will better protect the river shoreline and is the correct choice for this project.

Thus, I urge Department of Ecology to deny the Shoreline Conditional Use permit.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the SSEIS.

Best Regards

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