

Ellen Mickle

Dear Washington Department of Ecology,

I strongly urge you to deny the Kalama methanol refinery project since, based on your own draft analysis, it would be a major polluter. It would use more fracked gas than all of Washington's gas plants combined. In May 2019 Washington became the fifth state to commit to 100% clean energy by 2045. Since the passage of this legislation signals a desire by Washingtonians to curb climate-chaos driving pollution, rather than a preference for how the electrons running into their homes are produced, I urge you to deny this project. In 2019 it was also revealed that Northwest Innovation Works had been misleading the public and regulators by claiming the methanol would be a cleaner source for plastics, when in reality, as OPB reported, they lured investors for "an opportunity to buy into a new methanol supply chain to fill China's insatiable appetite for fuel." I'm not apprised of what ethics fossil fuel project firms operate by, but in the field of planning, which I just started grad school for, one of the ethics by which we operate is to "not misrepresent facts or distort information for the purpose of achieving a desired outcome." After this came to light, Port of Kalama commissioners unanimously passed a lease amendment that prohibited the firm from exporting its product for fuel. The very community is against the intent of this project, and we simply don't have the environmental budget to support this opportunity for private industry to generate massive amounts of wealth, so please deny.