

## Mark Uhart

The Washington Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) decision on the KMMEF shoreline permit is personal to our family. We were both born and raised in California but a military career took me away from the areas we love. My wife is a school teacher of 31 years and never stops learning and sharing information. In 2006, well before the proposed project was made public, we purchased land Southeast of Kalama with a beautiful unobstructed view of the Columbia River. We built a home on our lot and moved in during May 2015. Every day we are blessed with the view, relatively clean air, and neighbors who share our respect for the environment. We enjoy biking, hiking, walking and kayaking along this area of the Columbia River. My undergraduate degree is in Wildlife Biology for the Univ. of Nevada, Reno, and I maintain my knowledge base on environmental and local issues. I also enjoy wildlife and landscape photography and frequent the Port of Kalama Marine Park to photograph ospreys, eagles, and migrating waterfowl. I am an avid researcher and operations/business process analyst, preferring to analyze, synthesize and evaluate information in order to achieve a stated or implied objective. I also have a talent for identifying inconsistencies between different sources of information, such as the EIS, FSEIS and SSEIS for the Kalama methanol project.

My primary concern for getting involved in the review of the KMMEF project is its potential short and long term effects to our environment and climate change. Local construction jobs will come and go but the GHGs from this facility will be with us for over 100 years, and we have less than 20 years to bring global GHGs under control. The fires we are experiencing now will impact our state and local economy far more than the temporary construction jobs and any full-time jobs once the plant is operational. The GHGs emitted due to this plant will only increase ocean acidification and impact our fisheries, shellfish and salmon. (I didn't see any data-based analysis of the effects of ocean acidification and increased ocean and river temperatures in any of the EISs.) We must bring these GHGs, primarily carbon dioxide and methane, under control. This means that every country, to include ours, must reach zero net GHG emissions by 2040, nearly an impossible task considering the increasing human population. The KMMEF will accelerate global GHG emissions and climate change under any scenario.

According to the newly released United in Science climate change report, "The world is set to see its warmest five years on record – in a trend which is likely to continue - and (the world) is not on track to meet agreed targets to keep global temperature increase well below 2 °C or at 1.5 °C above preindustrial levels." The world is on track to increase global temperatures by at least 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit by 2050. The world weekly average of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere was 411.59 ppm on 9/5/20, an increase of 2.77 ppm over last year's weekly average for the same week. Ten years ago it was 387.59 ppm and the pre-industrial base was 280 ppm. The safe level for earth is considered to be 350 ppm, so we are already almost 62 ppm above the global safe level. We can expect average global temperatures to increase 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit over the next 20 years at our current rate of fossil fuel consumption.

The loss of state resources, private property and deaths due to wildfires must be considered in Ecology's decision. Poor air quality due to these extreme conditions, and the economic impact to our healthcare system, must also be taken into consideration. Climate change is partially responsible for extreme weather events and the longer and drier weather conditions. Now our wildfire season

can extend from May to October. For the last five years Western states have experienced increases in very large wildfires, resulting in loss of valuable state timber resources, loss of state and private property, and loss of life. As of this comment there are 15 active wildfires in Washington and over 600,000 acres have burned. What are the economic impacts of these events, locally and statewide? Will Ecology include them in a decision matrix and risk assessment for this project?

Lastly, Ecology's analysis showed that the KMMEF would produce 4.6 million metric tons (MMT) of carbon pollution every year, or 184 MMT over the 40 year life span of the plant. Our earth is at a tipping point and the only responsible course of action is for Ecology to deny the shoreline permit.

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