

## Jean M. Avery

When I originally wrote this on September 15, I was sitting indoors for another day, because of hazardous air quality from the wildfires. I wondered if and when we would be able to enjoy the outdoors again in beautiful Washington state. I kept checking the air quality alerts on the Dept. of Ecology's website, with maps colored in red and purple.

While on the same website, I also saw an article about a past "Clean Air Month." This article had nostalgic overtones: reminders to reduce our vehicle emissions, ride a bike, not let our cars idle, take the bus, buy a ZEV. Then the article restated Ecology's mission "to protect and enhance the environment today and for future generations."

Under consideration now is a proposal from an international company to build a huge methanol refinery in Kalama and operate it for 40 years. According to an independent study by Sierra Club, the refinery would emit millions of tons of greenhouse gases per year, "equivalent to 2.4 million cars." The refinery would also consume "more fracked gas than the region's biggest cities combined," making it "Washington's largest climate polluter by 2025."

If one project can undermine Washington's efforts to keep our air clean, why should such a project even be considered? I fear that any approval of this project would also undermine Ecology's credibility to represent Washington as "a leader in responding to climate issues" (from "Clean Air Month" blog, May 26, 2018).

I urge the Dept. of Ecology to deny the permits for this project.