Thomas Gordon

Thank you. The proposed Kalama Methanol Refinery is a bad idea; from being an explosive danger to Kalama, to creating a potentially huge amount of greenhouse gases released. If an earthquake destroyed a filled storage tank or tanks at the completed Kalama Methanol Refinery, the released methanol would create a gas and a spark from downed-power lines or even a malfunctioning cell phone could ignite the gas. The exact amount of greenhouse gases would depend on how much methanol is released and the number of ruptured tanks. The blast and the resulting destruction could include Kalama and I-5.

Kalama, Washington and the surrounding area has a huge earthquake risk, with a total of 598 earthquake since 1931 alone. Another USGS database shows that there is a 33% chance of a major earthquake, 5.0 magnitude or above, within 31 miles of Kalama, Washington within the next 50 years. The largest known earthquake within 30 miles of Kalama, Washington was a 4.4 magnitude in 1980. No one knows where all the faults are in the area. In fact, one reason among others, the Trojan Nuclear Reactor, six-tenths of a mile from Kalama, was closed down due to a fault being discovered beneath the reactor.

The refinery would have an incoming feeder gas line, which would provide methane used to create the methanol. An earthquake could rapture this gas line or the main supply line or any of the other gas lines in the area. Together, these gas lines would be another source of greenhouse gases and explosions. The Kalama Methanol Refinery should not be built. My wife would like to comment, too.