

Marcella Chandler

My name is Marcella Chandler, and I'm a retired nurse and mother of two sons. I live in downtown Vancouver, Washington just blocks from the Columbia River. The Pacific Northwest and the river have been an important part of my life since I can remember. The Pacific Northwest has always been a part of who I am and the Columbia River, its heart. I've been a part of this movement to stop the building of the world's largest methanol refinery for the last five years. In that time, we've talked about impacts on the climate, six million metric tons of greenhouse gas produced each year, and the likelihood of a pipeline expansion because of the enormous demand for gas. The refinery would consume more fracked gas than the region's biggest cities combined.

We have talked about safety. The refinery would be storing explosive methanol on dredged up sand that has a moderate to high risk of liquifying in an earthquake or exploding in a wildfire, leak, or other accident with the knowledge that there are three schools within the blast zone. We have talked about the impact on our water.

This refinery will use five million gallons of water from the Columbia and Kalama aquifers daily with potentially six tankers per month transporting methanol to China. Spills that will happen deplete water off oxygen potentially creating dead zones beneath them. The refinery will not just affect Kalama, but most of the Columbia River, all the towns, cities, farms, wetlands, forests, and wildlife.

It will also have an effect on the waters and marine life off the Washington and Oregon coast. I can tell you this, if this refinery is built, I will be extremely concerned for the health and safety of my children, our grandchildren, friends, community, and our beautiful region. Northwest Innovation Works has not been honest with us. I ask the Department of Ecology to reject the methanol refinery and deny any shoreline permits for this project. Thank you.