

# Emily Polanshek

My name is Emily Polanshek, resident of Portland, OR. I am a retired elementary school teacher, not a scientist, but I read science articles related to climate on a regular basis. I write out of deep concern for the livability of our NW region as well as our planet Earth.

From what I have read about selective data provided in the Second SEIS, I recommend that those who weigh our testimony take a step back to consider the big picture.

Although I am pleased to hear that some of those advocating in favor of the Kalama Methanol Project do care about the growing climate crisis, I strongly disagree with their reasoning. Recent science articles are sounding ever-louder alarms about the dangers of continued reliance on fossil fuels. We simply cannot afford to further extraction of fossil fuels if we want a livable planet for ourselves, our children, grandchildren and beyond.

We needed to leave most fossil fuels in the ground and start a national transition to non-carbon-emitting renewables years if not decades ago to avoid the severe storms, droughts, floods and wildfires that we're experiencing more and more frequently now.

Have any of you ever gone on a fad diet? While on the Grapefruit Diet in the ballet phase of my youth, I remember cheating by eating just one Oreo cookie. Then I slid down the slippery slope by erroneously thinking, "I already wrecked my diet so I might as well eat the whole package."

Similarly, just because we have not yet weaned ourselves from fossil fuels, we must NOT continue to invest in new facilities! We must close down existing projects as soon as possible and find alternatives to fossil fuel-based plastics or recycle the plastics already in our environment. We must invest in new energy sources for homes, businesses, transportation and agriculture.

Of course, the Pacific NW can't phase out climate pollution anywhere but in our small corner of North America. However, equally obviously, the more every region does to lower emissions – especially in countries with the highest energy production and consumption - the sooner we'll see a downward trend of the parts per million (ppm) of CO<sub>2</sub>e in our atmosphere.

As you may know, in May 2020 our world hit a record high of 417 ppm of carbon dioxide as measured at the Mauna Loa Observatory, which has measured CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere continually since 1958. Geologists have used ice cores to measure ppm of CO<sub>2</sub> at 280 ppm pre-industrial revolution, with only small fluctuations since humans evolved on the planet. Science is telling us to stop generating climate pollution!

Since the Kalama facility would generate around 4.6 million tons of carbon dioxide pollution each year and lock in 40 more years of consumer demand for gas rather than moving away from fossil fuels, I beg you to deny this project. You have all the data you need if you look beyond the distortions provided by the SSEIS.

Please consider the urgency of acting in order to slow the climate crisis and do the right thing. Deny the Kalama Methanol project.

Thank you, Emily Polanshek