

Carolyn Atkinson

Hi, my name is Carolyn Atkinson and I work at an elementary school in Seattle. I'm a young person who struggles with the climate related mental health effects described earlier. My students understand that they are growing up in a world in crisis. I prepared these comments under the smoke of the homes of Oregon's 500,000 American climate refugees. My students are anxious. Can you imagine the despair and powerlessness of being 10 years old and knowing that we have only 10 years left to course correct?

The most terrifying impacts of climate change are projected to hit us well within my lifetime. Before the end of the century, CO2 levels are likely to rise to the point of impairing human cognition. This concern is absent from the EIS.

The climate plan is justifying itself with the ridiculous logic that somehow over the next 40 years, this plant will emit less than hypothetical other plants. This is an absurdity. 2020 shows that the significant long foreseeable economic ecological and human system collapses are here. The next 40 years will be so unpredictable that most of my generation has agreed that we won't bother to plan for retirement because of the scale of chaos on our horizon. The EIS is ridiculously optimistic and assuming business as usual indefinitely is an absurdity.

These ecological and political instabilities that break the 40 year speculation of the environmental statement is caused by the climate crisis and this instability is caused by fossil fuel expansion. The instability is caused by projects exactly like this one, and it is exacerbated by the commitment to dishonesty of so many fossil companies, not necessarily excluding Northwest Innovations, which has wasted DOE time with data so optimistic and inaccurate that the whole environmental impact process had to be repeated.

We don't want to work with careless firms when the stakes are this high. VIS should accurately account for historical failures of this industry to clean up after themselves and prevent leaks and close Wells. It is time for those with the responsibility to do the right thing, to quit saying, "Well, just a little bit more." The planet doesn't have a little bit more to give. Protect, preserve, and enhance the environment for my generation and future generations. Thank you.