

## Jean M. Avery

As we are acutely aware, Northwest residents have been bombarded by very unhealthy smoke recently. According to Ecology's ratings, the air quality in SW Washington has been hazardous to our health. And according to the website, IQAir.com, Seattle and Portland recorded the worst air pollution in the world!

Located between these two cities is Kalama, where an international company wants to build the world's largest methanol refinery. As proposed, this plant would be operational for 40 years, producing massive greenhouse gas emissions that would adversely impact Washington's air quality, while also undercutting efforts to curb emissions globally.

So, why would we invite more pollution into our region? This year's Covid crisis, plus extreme fires, are a stark reminder of how fragile and corruptible our living space is.

If the Kalama plant is built, we can foresee a full generation of increased pollution that will hover over our heads -- literally and figuratively. Forty years from now, today's toddlers will be middle-aged, with children of their own: still breathing toxic air.

The Kalama refinery would endanger future generations and exacerbate our climate crisis. Sadly, the strong fossil fuel industry is relentless in its quest for MORE. And with climate change deniers leading our federal response, we are relying even more on State regulators to protect our climate. I urge the Dept. of Ecology to deny this project. Thank you.