

Cathryn Chudy

Ecology did the right thing when "expecting" NWIW to provide accurate and truthful answers to relevant questions on the proposed Kalama facility. The current SSEIS released on Sept. 2 became necessary when Ecology's persistence met the stone wall of a company that is long on promises and short on truthful and reliable answers when it comes to being honest and forthright with regulators and the public.

The original proposal for a facility twice the size of Kalama, to be built and operated in Tacoma, stalled in part back in 2016 over failure of this same company to answer basic health and public safety questions posed by the public and the Port Commissioners at Tacoma. A replay of this failure by this company to truthfully, factually, fully and adequately answer questions about the scope, nature and impacts of this proposed facility in Kalama once again forced Ecology to pursue substantive answers to relevant questions.

What you did establish with this second supplemental EIS is that upstream, on site and downstream emissions will result in an INCREASE (not a decrease or removal) of climate pollution in Washington.

The "Hail Mary" that proponents are grasping at in order to make their dubious case with Ecology involves a diversion from reality by taking us down the yellow brick road to the OZ of speculation and "if/then" thinking, that somehow has been converted into a case for environmental gain where there literally, factually is none.

"Voluntary mitigation" may sound reassuring to some, but add on the convenient phrase "to the extent possible" and you have an empty promise that more than likely will disappear into thin air as profits are pocketed outside of Washington and our children and grandchildren inherit the climate pollution mess that cannot be wished or "mitigated" away so easily.

There are good reasons that our Governor Inslee has said clearly that he cannot support this methanol facility in our state, and his climate agenda supported by legislation has established climate goals that protect, not endanger, our children's future and the future of the next seven generations. Ecology can and should do all it can to act in accordance with those wise climate goals. Ecology is the guardian of our air, land and water - you must not sign off on this proposal masquerading as a "climate solution" without betraying the trust we and those who come after us place in you.

I urge you to deny the Shorelines permit and reject this project once and for all.