

Mark Uhart

My name is Mark Uhart and I am a retired US Army career officer. My wife and I live near Kalama in the foothills overlooking the Columbia River. We are against this project. We purchased this property so we could enjoy the unobstructed view of the Columbia River and enjoy recreation and dining in the local area. We walk, hike, bicycle, and have kayaked the Columbia River. One of my hobbies is wildlife, landscape and astrophotography, all of which will be affected by this project.

Most importantly, I am concerned about the future of my children and grandchildren. It's hard for me to comprehend why anyone in this area would support a project that will adversely impact their health, safety, and long-term quality of life. The short-term economic gain will be offset by 40 years of dirty air and water, noise and landscape pollution, depletion of the Columbia River-Kalama River aquifer, and a definite impact on our climate. I grew up in southern California next to oil fields and refineries. I've lived in Texas and observed the stinky and noisy refineries along the coastline. Trust me, we don't want the smell, the noise, the air and water, and landscape pollution of this facility.

I served 21 years as an active duty officer in the Army from battery to Corps Artillery level, and an assignment in special weapons quality assurance. The strategic objective of our adversaries, Russia and China, were always part of our professional development. I was, and still am, very aware of the strategic implications of foreign countries' attempts to get deeply embedded into our financial system in order to influence both economic and military outcomes. One author says it best, "The signs that China is gearing up to contest America's global leadership are unmistakable, and they are ubiquitous." They are doing it with our money and our natural resources. When will the average Washington resident wake up and smell the coffee?

It really bothers us that the US citizens of Northwest Innovation Works (NWIW), the Port of Kalama and the Cowlitz County commissioners, would support a project that is owned by the Chinese government; that will be financed primarily by US Government and Washington taxpayers; that will pollute our air and water; and only add to the devastating effects of anthropogenic (human-caused) climate change. We will bear most of the financial and environmental risks associated with this project while they take in the profits and improve their position toward world financial, economic, Southeast Asia maritime and political dominance. Money talks and the Chinese government are throwing a lot of money into marketing this project in its quest to control much of the world's technology and energy natural resources by 2030.

An assumption that was not stated, but can be inferred from these EISs, is that the international community will choose not to address climate change and regulate GHGs. If every country that wants to improve their energy position and economy, like China and the US, took the same approach purported in this report, then the earth is doomed. The assumption is that if this plant is not built herein Kalama, it will be built elsewhere. The law of supply and demand shows that if there is a shortage of a commodity, and prices increase, people will use it less and seek alternate technologies. We saw this before the fracking boom when gas prices went up. That drove better fuel efficiency and new technology (all electric cars, hybrid vehicles, and now fuel-cell vehicles.) Denying these projects will constrain these fossil fuel supply channels and force countries to develop clean, non-fossil fuel, energy alternatives.

I read the SSEIS and the voluntary mitigation framework presented in Appendix D is laughable. By using the term "in-state", NWIW is not willing to mitigate GHGs outside the state of Washington. This includes the upstream fugitive methane and CO2 from the methanol burned in transport to China, and as a fuel or in olefin production. I will address this further in another comment.

This project is a climate killer and the only responsible decision is for Ecology to deny the shoreline permit.

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