

Lauren Flottorp

I oppose the plan to convert the TransAlta coal plant in Lewis County to methane gas. We should not be exchanging one fossil fuel for another, we should instead shut down the plant and rapidly build renewable energy. There are severe health effects of transporting and burning methane gas that are not being considered. Methane pipelines will inevitably have leakage. According to the American Lung Association, "When methane reacts with other pollutants in sunlight, it forms ozone, the same type of pollution that sends children and adults with asthma to emergency rooms on hot summer days. Ozone exposure acts like a sunburn on your lungs, and can cause coughing, shortness of breath, inflammation and asthma flare-ups. Long-term exposure is linked to reduced lung function, increased risk of respiratory infections and premature death." In addition, burning methane produces volatile organic compounds (VOCs), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NOx), and particulate matter (PM). According to the American Lung Association, "VOCs can cause nose, eyes and throat irritation, difficulty breathing, nausea and even organ damage. This means communities near oil and gas operations face greater risks to lung health." Please consider the health of Lewis County residents.

<https://www.lung.org/blog/methane-pollution-myths>