

Anonymous

Outrageous.. To quote transalta's Prevention of Significant Deterioration Permit Application: "Emissions of carbon monoxide (CO) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) will be controlled using good combustion practices. Particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and sulfuric acid mist (H₂SO₄) emissions will be controlled through good combustion practices and the use of clean-burning pipeline-quality natural gas."

This is ridiculous PR language. "Controlling" some toxins isn't eliminating them, and doesn't address climate-changing CO₂ (carbon dioxide) emissions and CH₄ (methane) leaks.

To add insult to injury, your (the "Ecology") documented response to that PSD permit application is, to quote:

"Ecology also reviewed the proposed project to determine how it would impact the environment. We considered environmental, historical, and cultural factors. TransAlta has proposed mitigation to reduce project impacts. The proposed PSD permit would increase emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The proposed permit will not cause or contribute to violations of any national air quality standards (NAAQS) or PSD increments requirements. An increment is the amount of increased pollution an area is allowed. It prevents air quality in clean areas from getting worse. Ecology's proposed decision: Ecology proposes to issue the PSD permit."

So you have considered some cultural factors but completely ignored ecological, existential ones (our climate!). The national air quality standards are outdated and compromised by fossil lobby.

The wildfire smoke is not even mentioned as part of the bigger picture. The Centralia area is doomed to remain polluted forever because, to quote Ecology, "It prevents air quality in clean areas from getting worse." This line of reasoning is beyond appalling to say the least.

It's a shame that the planet-warming GHG emissions aren't even mentioned anywhere in your assessment, not once! And these emissions-caused droughts impacting agriculture, and lowering hydro power outputs at the dams as our rivers lose strengths. And the increasing number of people dying in deadly heatwaves and the wildfire smoke each summer. If WA Ecology exists for a sole purpose of rubber-stamping every new deep-pocketed AI & fossil project just to collect hefty permitting fees, there is a word for that.