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Presentation to Dept. of Ecology
By Prof. Sally Keely, Kalama WA, skeely.2020@gmail.com

Port of Kalama and NWIW Dock Use Agreement Amendment

5 years after the POK and NWIW signed a dock use agreement, they amended that agreement. The June 2019 amendment⁽¹⁾ states, “No quantity of methanol produced at the Facility shall be sold for use as fuel products.” Frankly this is contradictory to logic, reason, and public statements made by company executives.

Once a tanker leaves dock, the product on board can be sold to anyone on the global market including wholesale commodity traders who could sell the methanol to other middlemen. Sale records would be impossible to track. Port has no way to enforce what the Chinese government does with the methanol or even if its destination is China.

The amendment says that NWIW will self-report any violations. But we know that NWIW is not credible, there have been so many lies. The Port and NWIW have a very cozy relationship. We rarely hear from NWIW, the Port Commissioners seem now to be NWIW’s spokespersons.

In terms of the end use of the methanol, NWIW tells one thing to potential investors and another to the public and regulatory agencies. Reporting in April 2019, Oregon Public Broadcasting, our local PBS, caught NWIW in a major lie, telling investors the methanol is to be burned as transportation fuel while telling the public that it is to be used as an olefin for plastic production⁽²⁾.

In summer 2017 NWIW sponsored an industry conference called “Sowing the Seeds of a Cleaner Future”⁽³⁾ that focused on the prospects of using methanol as a liquid fuel, even going so far as calling it ‘Liquid Sunshine’⁽⁴⁾. The conference reading materials do not even mention plastic production.

Wu Lebin, the chairman of C.A.S. Holdings, has repeatedly said the end use of the methanol is for fuel including to *Reuters* in December 2017⁽⁵⁾⁽⁶⁾ admitting a goal of the company is to “drive use of methanol as a transportation fuel for cars and ships.” More recently, for an International Capital Conference last November⁽⁷⁾, Mr. Lebin’s bio says that NWIW will use the ULE process to convert North American gas to methanol to provide China with fuel.

It is avidly clear that with this amendment the Port is trying to sidestep the shorelines process, limit the scope of the cradle-to-grave GHG emissions in the FEIS, and mislead the public and state regulators. They are building this huge fracked-gas-to-methanol refinery, they’ve marketed the methanol as a fuel source, and now they are asking us to believe the methanol will never be burned. And note if it is burned as fuel, according to their own FSEIS (Appendix B, page 50), that would add an additional 5.44 million tons of carbon pollution annually. This dock use “promise” cannot substitute for the legal requirements of a full true SEPA analysis of GHG emissions including from burning NWIW’s methanol as fuel. We are counting on Ecology for holding true to that science, not speculation.

Don’t get me wrong. I vehemently oppose this project no matter the end use of the methanol because methane gas is too environmentally damaging, and our state should and can be a model to the nation in moving to clean renewable energies immediately.

1. http://opb-imgserve-production.s3-website-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/original/proposed_dock_usage_agreement_amendment_no_1.pdf
2. <https://www.opb.org/news/article/methanol-plant-kalama-fossil-fuel-china/>
3. <https://nwinnovationworks.com/news/sowing-seeds-cleaner-future.html>
4. https://ngi.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/20170731_Liquid_Sunshine_Pre-reading_material.pdf
5. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-china-usa-gas-methanol/chinas-cas-plans-gas-to-methanol-plant-on-u-s-west-coast-idUSKBN1DZ0BH>
6. http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/business/2017-04/05/content_28793866.htm
7. <http://www.internationalcapitalconference.com/speakers/wu-lebin>

(Screenshot below retrieved 2019-08-26)

The screenshot shows the profile page for Wu Lebin on the ICC 2019 website. The header includes the event name 'ICC 2019', dates '27th and 28th November 2019', location 'Four Seasons Hotel Beijing, China', and language options 'CN / EN'. A navigation bar lists 'HOME', 'AGENDA', 'SPEAKERS', 'SPONSORS', 'SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES', 'EVENT OVERVIEW', and 'REGISTER'. The main heading is 'Wu Lebin' with a breadcrumb 'HOME / WU LEBIN'. A portrait of Wu Lebin is on the left. To the right, his name is repeated, followed by a link icon and the text 'Position: Chairman Chinese Academy of Sciences Holdings Co. Ltd (CAS Holdings)'. Below this, a paragraph states: 'Wu Lebin is the Chairman of Chinese Academy of Sciences Holdings Co. Ltd (CAS Holdings). CAS Holdings is approved by the State Council of People's Republic of China and invested by Chinese Academy of Sciences. CAS Holdings manages and runs assets of 400 billion RMB (64 billion U.S. dollars) with 160,000 employees. CASH has 37 subsidiary companies, out of which 28 are public listed companies, including Legend Holding and Lenovo. CAS Holdings is now implementing Northwest Innovation Works (NWIW) project with its strategic partner, Johnson Matthey based in UK. This is one of the largest investments led by a Chinese company in the United States and one of the most innovative clean energy projects in the nation. NWIW will adopt a pioneering Ultra-Low Emissions (ULE) reforming technology to convert abundant North American natural gas into methanol, which will be provided to China as clean feedstock for petrochemicals and fuels. This project will be a model for the entire world once it's completed. This project will not only help move China away from coal, but will also support thousands of new construction jobs and hundreds of permanent operation jobs in the US. This is the model of win-win partnership between China and the United States.' The footer features the 'ICC' logo, the event title '9th International Capital Conference: The Gateway to China-Europe Business Opportunities', and contact information for Cavendish Group International Ltd. © 2018, All rights reserved. 2nd Floor Front, 116-118 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PP, United Kingdom. A small upward arrow icon is in the bottom right corner.