

# Say NO to Methanol!

The world's largest fracked-gas to methanol refinery and export terminal proposed in Kalama WA along the Columbia River obligates us to decades of fossil fuel dependency and new pipelines. All for a Chinese government-backed company to make plastics and profits while abusing our natural resources, increasing our state's greenhouse gas emissions, and risking our health and safety.

## Climate & Fossil Fuels

- **Methane:** Fracked natural gas is mostly methane, a super-potent greenhouse gas, which traps 86 times as much heat as carbon dioxide over a 20-year period (per IPCC).
- **GHG:** This plant would be one of Washington's top greenhouse gas emitters with 1.24 million metric tons of GHG emissions annually (per FEIS).
- **Pipelines:** Obligates us to decades of fossil fuel dependency and new pipelines. The 300-mile gas pipeline that parallels I-5 now would likely need major expansion to handle the load of methane from British Columbia.

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Fact Card - Climate

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*"Leakage from natural gas pipelines and distribution systems is the biggest source of methane emissions from human activities in the United States." ~Natural Gas Initiative, Stanford University*

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## Natural Resources – This Single Refinery will use ...

- **Fracked Gas:** 320 million cubic feet of fracked gas per day - increasing what the entire state uses currently by 38% - more methane gas than all other Washington state industry combined.
- **Electricity:** 200 megawatts of electricity per day – the same amount of electricity used by all Cowlitz County residents combined. Tasking the current supply could require new infrastructure or increased use of fossil-fuels such as coal to fill the demand. Who will pick up the tab, Cowlitz PUD customers?
- **Fresh Water:** 5 million gallons of fresh water per day – about 10 times the water used by all Kalama households combined – drawn from aquifers shared by the town's limited water supply.

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Fact Card - Resources

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*A major project like a methanol refinery can open the door to additional methane-guzzling industries. "Once a new large volume customer selects its preferred infrastructure project—and signs a contract—other loads will follow and the project will be built accordingly." ~2015 report from NW Gas Association*

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## Health & Safety Risks

- **Air Pollution:** Over 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> released each year. Emissions contain 60 toxic chemicals (including benzene, arsenic, lead, mercury, ammonia) and are five times greater than Washington's acceptable level for diesel particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), a major cause of respiratory illness and cancer.
- **Flaring:** The 245' tall flare stack will operate 24/7 and "purge" methanol and other toxins 8-13 hours per month. Flaring generates noise, heat, light pollution, and may cause odors and eye irritation.
- **Explosion:** The eight 105' tall tanks each holding 9.4 million gal. of volatile methanol sit in a floodplain area on dredged sand that has a moderate to high risk of liquefying and could drop 2' in an earthquake. According to independent analysis conducted by the Northwest Citizen Science Initiative, the entire downtown and all 3 Kalama schools are within the glass-shattering "blast zone".

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Fact Card - Health

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*"This dirty and dangerous facility will pollute our air and threaten water supplies that people and endangered salmon rely on to survive." ~Jared Margolis, Senior Attorney, Center for Biological Diversity*

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## Your Money – Property, Taxes, and Jobs

- **Property Value Loss:** Vapor plumes reaching 2.5 miles long (FEIS, app. D), almost as long as Mt. Rainier is tall, along with the 245' tall flare stack, 100' taller than Kalama's famous totem pole, will disrupt views for which southwest Washington is famous. Similar plants in Texas caused view home values to drop by 11-30%.
- **Eminent Domain:** Property could be seized for corporate (not public) gain from private citizens to build 3.1-mile pipeline including through a historic cemetery.
- **Taxes:** NWIW successfully lobbied for hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks including avoiding paying \$143 million in state and local sales taxes through 2021. Also applied for \$11 million of your tax money to build a dock and are seeking the full \$1.8 billion dollars in costs from WA state employee retirement fund investments.
- **Jobs:** This refinery will not fix unemployment in Cowlitz County. NWIW considers "local" jobs to be a 90-minute commute from a 12-county area. 1000 construction jobs are touted, but the FEIS says average of 545 with 1000 for only 3 months. Only 1 permanent job per acre many requiring engineering degrees and/or methanol production experience.

NoMethanol360.com  
Fact Card - Money

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*"Our property is threatened by for-profit motive of a private corporation who will build the pipeline, a foreign corporation who will make the methanol, and the country of China who will receive it." ~Mt. Pleasant resident, Cowlitz County*

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