

JOB for Cowlitz County? NO! H-1B Visas to Chinese workers.

Northwest Innovation Works, a subsidiary of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, who plans to build the world's largest fracked-gas-to-methanol refinery along the Columbia River in Kalama WA, says their facility will provide jobs to the people of Cowlitz County. However, recent revelations show Pan-Pacific Corp, one of NWIW's parent companies, applied for four H-1B visas for the project. An H-1B visa is intended for specialty workers who are in the U.S. temporarily (3-6 years).

H-1B visa applicants are listed in the federal "H1B Visa Salary Database" <https://h1bdata.info>. Enter "Pan-Pacific Energy Corp" in the 'Employer' field. You'll get the four results below.

4 Records, Median Salary \$73663.5

Employers (1) ▾ Job Titles (4) ▾ Cities (1) ▾ Years (2) ▾

EMPLOYER	JOB TITLE	BASE SALARY	LOCATION	SUBMIT DATE	START DATE	CASE STATUS
PAN-PACIFIC ENERGY CORP	ADVERTISING & PROMOTIONS MANAGER	68,349	KALAMA, WA	03/21/2018	09/20/2018	CERTIFIED
PAN-PACIFIC ENERGY CORP	CHEMICAL ENGINEERING MANAGER	178,933	KALAMA, WASHINGTON	04/25/2019	09/01/2019	CERTIFIED
PAN-PACIFIC ENERGY CORP	FINANCIAL ANALYST	63,274	KALAMA, WA	03/13/2018	09/11/2018	CERTIFIED
PAN-PACIFIC ENERGY CORP	INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER	78,978	KALAMA, WA	03/13/2018	09/11/2018	CERTIFIED

Three were for positions to be filled in 2018, and one in 2019. It would be difficult for NWIW/Pan-Pacific Energy Corp to argue that these positions cannot be filled using U.S. citizens. By filling these positions with Chinese foreign nationals, they can be assured the information and knowledge they hold remains protected. The chemical engineering manager and industrial engineer are essential in the final planning of plant construction. The financial analyst can protect information they don't want to get out to investors and local citizens.

If this project were to be approved, we'd likely see many more H-1B visa applications. A similar situation is reported upon in the Netflix movie "American Factory" where many of the auto glass factory workers are from China on H-1B visas. The U.S. workers, who made \$29/hr in the shuttered auto plant, are making less than \$13/hr working for the Chinese company. This is an example of what could happen to Kalama. The Chinese will do what is needed to turn the highest profit, potentially at the expense of our safety (financial and environmental) and health.

(Originally reported 20190905 by Mark Uhart, resident, Kalama WA. Last rev. 20190919 SK <https://www.NoMethanol360.com>)