

Why are we **CONCERNED** about the proposed **METHANOL** refinery?

Water Consumption: The refinery would place an enormous demand on local resources: more than 3 billion gallons of water per year. During last year's drought, TPU called on residents to conserve water.

Electricity Usage: The proposed refinery is projected to use 450 megawatts of power annually, equal to 83% of Tacoma Public Utilities' entire customer demand in 2014. This is enough to power 350,000 to 400,000 homes. Tacoma public utilities stated they do not have the electricity available and would have to purchase power from outside their grid. Hydropower is limited and other sources of electricity include coal-fired plants.

Air Pollution: The proposed refinery could release cancer-causing toxins such as benzene, formaldehyde, toluene and produce alarming amounts of greenhouse gases, much more than all of Tacoma currently produces. (www.redlinetacoma.org/subreport) We don't know exactly what the refinery here would produce, because NWIW won't tell us. But an Australian refinery operating with similar technology releases lead, cadmium and arsenic into the surrounding air according to the Australian equivalent of the EPA. (Coogee Chemicals: <http://bit.ly/1TxQpgP>)

Inherent Dangers: Methanol is toxic, highly volatile and a risk for spills, leaks, fires and explosions. The Centers for Disease Control classifies methanol as pesticide. 300,000 metric tons would be stored in above-ground storage tanks. Any methanol that spilled into the Sound would cause oxygen depletion and fish kills.

Natural Disaster Risks: The proposed site is located in a hazard zone for earthquakes, floods, tsunamis and lahars from volcanic eruption. (www.redlinetacoma.org/risks) Natural disasters are usually considered "acts of god," and not covered by insurance policies. Would it be any different for NWIW, an LLC (Limited Liability Corporation) that could simply shut down if the going gets tough? Would Tacomans be left holding the bag?

Contribution to Climate Change: The fracking, transportation, production, shipping and end products show potential to release harmful, powerful greenhouse gasses that contribute to climate change. Natural gas is mostly methane (mixed with other toxic chemicals). Methane is about 84 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than CO2. Most or all of the 525 million cubic feet a day of natural gas needed by the plant would come from fracking operations. A new 11-mile pressurized gas pipeline would go through neighboring communities, tribal land and under I-5, increasing risks to residents along the way. Natural gas pipelines leak as a matter of course. (www.edf.org/energy/methaneleakage)

Perpetuation of the Fossil Fuel Industry:

Building more fossil fuel infrastructure delays energy independence, delays innovations in renewable energy, damages the environment in the extraction process, and continues to produce greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

Negative Economic Impacts: Residents are concerned about decreased home values, increased homeowner insurance rates, loss of business and businesses, and a population exodus. NWIW stands to receive a \$200 million tax credit the first year of operation, and \$15 million every following year. Research shows home values typically decrease in communities that allow these kinds of projects. (www.redlinetacoma.org/realestate)

Plastic Pollution: The end product is olefins used to make plastics. The Center for Biological Diversity states that by 2050, there will be more plastics in the ocean than fish. China is the number one plastic polluter.

Jobs: NWIW claims the refinery would create many local jobs. We have no guarantees that local people would fill the jobs, and a lot of evidence that they wouldn't. Most large construction sites hire workers from far away, due to local skilled labor shortages.

Refinery Owner's Lack of History: Northwest Innovations Works LLC has never built a methanol refinery, or anything. NWIW's president was involved in a failed Chinese facility in Pocatello, Idaho. Local workers' and business losses added up to over a billion dollars. The company, Hoku Materials, declared bankruptcy in 2013, and left without paying its bills.

Yes! RedLine Tacoma supports jobs for Tacomans and healthy, sustainable industry in the Port of Tacoma.

Mission statement

RedLine Tacoma's mission is to empower South Sound residents to move the local economy away from toxic industries of the past into an innovative, sustainable future.

Vision statement

RedLine Tacoma envisions:

- A sustainable, safe, strong, and equitable South Sound economy
- Accountable government
- A diverse, inclusive, active and engaged community
- A phase-out of fossil fuels from our local and national economies and support of renewable energy technologies
- A community free of environmental injustice in all its forms, including racism, classism and sexism

RedLineTacoma.org

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