

# Methanol: More fracking, more plastics, and more pollution.

Northwest Innovation Works LLC (“NWIW”), a new company backed by the Chinese government, wants to build a large natural gas-to-methanol refinery at the Port of Kalama, Washington. Methanol from the refinery would be shipped through the Columbia River estuary to China where it would be used to make plastic or burned as fuel. NWIW would exploit North America’s natural gas reserves, cheap power, and abundant fresh water to increase China’s fossil fuel consumption.

**Do you live in the methanol refinery blast zone?** There are three major blast scenarios:

1. Pressure Wave - 1 PSI - 6 miles – Glass Shatters
2. Uncontrolled Release – 6 miles – 60 minutes – 530 ppm AEGL
3. BLEVE – 1.9 miles – Thermal Radiation from Fireball – Skin Burns

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement inadequately analyzes the blast zone impacts of a methanol release.

**Building a methanol refinery on land currently used for dredge spoils is a terrible idea.** NWIW wants to build its refinery on sandy dredge spoils in the historic Columbia River floodplain. The Draft EIS explains that soil at the refinery site has a “moderate to high liquefaction susceptibility” in the event of an earthquake, which could result in the ground under the refinery subsiding more than two feet.

**Kalama is the guinea pig for methanol refining.** NWIW is a new start up. They’ve never built nor run a methanol refinery. The proposed technology has never been used to make methanol commercially.

**The project ignores the pipeline.** NWIW wants to build a new 3.1 mile pipeline in Kalama to supply their methanol refinery. The new pipeline threatens the historic Mt. Pleasant cemetery in Kalama. The Draft EIS should include pipeline impacts from proposed new and expanded pipelines.

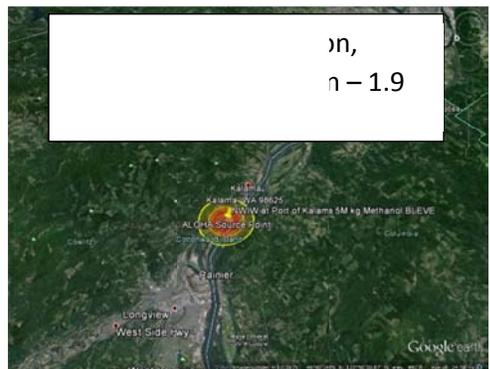
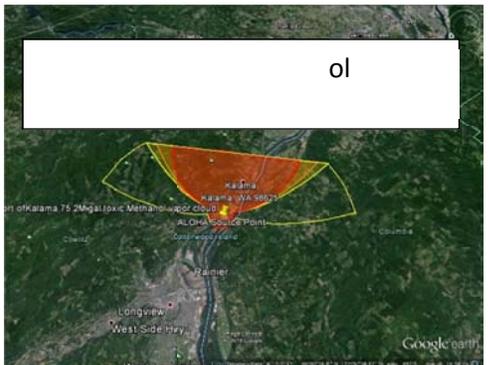
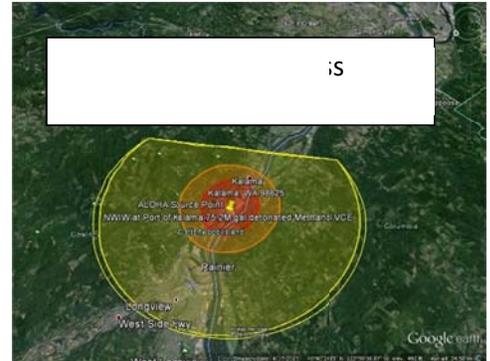
**The draft EIS uses “fuzzy” math to hide the Greenhouse gas emissions:** In an attempt to mislead decisionmakers, NWIW is considering two different processes to refine natural gas into methanol: Conventional Refining (CR) and Ultra Low Energy (ULE). All steps for the two processes from the well head to the burner tip differ on greenhouse gas emissions by just 1%! The Draft EIS should come clean about the true extraction to emission carbon impacts.

**A massive eye sore for Kalama residents and tourists.** Northwest Innovation Works would take first prize as the owner of the tallest structure in Cowlitz County: a 245’ flare operating 24/7. Kalama’s famous totem pole is 145.’ The Draft EIS should include negative economic impacts of a spoiled viewshed.

**Methanol is a risky investment.** When the Port of Kalama signed the lease with NWIW in early 2014, the price of methanol was near a record high. But by February 2016, methanol had declined to its lowest value since the financial collapse of 2009. Southwest Washington could get stuck with a messy, worthless refinery. NWIW is a start up Limited Liability Company and the Draft EIS should include financial reassurances for Cowlitz County.

## **The Kalama Methanol Refinery Would Take:**

- At least 300,000 dekatherms of fracked gas per day (270,000 as raw material, plus at least 30,000 for power generation)
- 200 megawatts of electricity daily -- equal to the amount of electricity used by ALL Cowlitz County residents.
- 4.8 million gallons of water a day – one third of the Port of Kalama’s water use.
- 36 – 72 deep-draft tanker ships per year (one way) – methanol spill risk and tanker impacts to juvenile salmon.



**Public Hearing Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 6-9PM (doors at 5:30)**  
**RALLY 5:00 (updated) outside! Please wear red and bring a sign!**  
***Sign in to give testimony on a first-come basis***

**TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL PUBLIC TESTIMONY:**

- Talking points: check the fact sheet (over) – comments on DEIS are *underlined and in italics*.
- **Keep it under 2 minutes.** Write your statement ahead of time for 1.5 minutes and practice, so you know you can say it in under 2 minutes.
- **Make it personal.** Whether you're a parent, a nurse, or you love to spend time on the river, adding that personal dimension makes for compelling testimony.
- **Stick to one point.** Two minutes isn't much time. Make one point and support it. You might choose to focus your testimony on the impacts of vessel traffic, natural gas fracking, a new pipeline in Kalama, carbon emissions or blast zone risks.
- **Remember your audience.** Your audience includes decisionmakers who will decide whether or not to approve permits for the Northwest Innovation Works methanol refinery and the general public who may be in the audience, see your testimony on the evening news or read about it in the paper. We want decisionmakers to reject the permits, but we also want the broad message to get out: we need a clean river for a healthy future.
- **Highlight one fact or statistic.** Highlight one fact that supports your point. In two minutes, using too many numbers may muddy your point.
- **Submit your testimony in written format.** You may also choose to submit your testimony and any supporting documents.
- **Repeating what someone else said is fine.** In fact, it helps to emphasize the importance of that point.

**More info:**

[www.ColumbiaRiverkeeper.org](http://www.ColumbiaRiverkeeper.org), [jasmine@columbiariverkeeper.org](mailto:jasmine@columbiariverkeeper.org) 503-929-5950

<http://kalamamfgfacilitysepa.com/>

Comment period closes April 18, 2016

Submit written or email comment to: Ann Farr, Port of Kalama, 110 W. Marine Drive, Kalama, WA 98625  
[SEPA@KalamaMfgFacilitySEPA.com](mailto:SEPA@KalamaMfgFacilitySEPA.com)

**Next Steps:**

Call Governor Inslee's Citizens Comment Hotline! Tell him that he's wrong about methanol refining "boosting our clean energy future." Tell him: *The only way to boost our clean energy future is to stop investing in massive fossil fuel infrastructure like the methanol refineries proposed by Northwest Innovation Works.*

Call Governor Inslee today! 360-902-4111

Attend and testify at the Port of Kalama Commission meeting! Ask them to think twice about putting a methanol refinery on unstable dredge spoils and highlight the risks of methanol refining to Kalama.

Next meetings: March 23<sup>rd</sup> 5:30 PM and April 13<sup>th</sup> 5:30 PM at the Port of Kalama 110 West Marine Drive, Kalama, Washington 98625

Let us know you're interested! Email or call [Jasmine@ColumbiaRiverkeeper.org](mailto:Jasmine@ColumbiaRiverkeeper.org) 503-929-5950