

Lauren Whybrew

From: Rosemary Sikes <ptrose53@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, January 13, 2024 7:30 PM
To: Lauren Whybrew
Subject: Public Hearing hosted by the Olympic Regional Clean Air Agency January 16

I oppose the construction of a new wood pellet manufacturing facility in Hoquiam. This new wood pellet manufacturing facility proposed by Pacific Northwest Renewable Energy (PNWRE) will irrevocably harm our air, climate, communities, and forests.

Manufacturing wood pellets produces harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, hazardous air pollutants, and microscopic dust particles. PNWRE claims the facility will emit only 1.3 tons of HAPs per year, while stack tests and air permit applications of similar size and controls show it will emit at least 40 tons of Hazardous Air Pollutants (HAPs). The pollutants, which include formaldehyde, acrolein, and methanol, are toxic or can cause cancer, even in small amounts. In particular, they cause health problems for children, the elderly, and people with asthma or COPD.

The project would increase logging rates in Washington's forests, both on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Willapa Hills.

Significant greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution would be emitted at every step – from cutting forests, trucking cut trees long distances in hundreds of daily trips, chipping wood and producing pellets, and shipping pellets overseas to countries in Asia and Europe that currently incentivize woody biomass energy.

The facility will run for 8,000 hours per year. This would mean an increase in heavy truck traffic and hammermill pounding nearly every day. Hammermills routinely operate at 100db levels and Hoquiam schools are less than one mile from the proposed facility.

These wood pellets would be manufactured to ship overseas to be burned in converted coal-fired power plants. This would create more ship traffic, dredging, water pollution, and harm to marine life. We need to protect the North American green sturgeon that live in these waters and are threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

Please do not permit this new wood pellet manufacturing facility proposed by Pacific Northwest Renewable Energy.

Sincerely,
Rosemary Sikes
1709 Gise St
Port Townsend, WA

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