

Focus on: Draft Second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for Kalama methanol plant



Public review, comment, and meetings

You can review and comment on Ecology's draft Second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Northwest Innovation Works Kalama methanol facility through Oct. 2.

Read the report

ecology.wa.gov/kalamamethanol

Comment online

<http://admin.ecology.commentinput.com/?id=kG9ji>

Comment by mail

Attn: Rich Doenges
NWIW SSEIS
Department of Ecology
PO Box 47775, Olympia, WA
98504-7775

Online public hearings

- 1 p.m. Sept. 17
- 10 a.m. Sept. 22
- 6 p.m. Sept. 22

Register for hearings at

ecology.wa.gov/kalamamethanol

Independent analysis offers more detailed look at proposal's greenhouse gas impacts

A preliminary analysis by the Washington Department of Ecology found that a methanol facility proposed by Northwest Innovation Works in Kalama would increase greenhouse gas emissions in state, but could substitute for dirtier sources of methanol globally.

The preliminary analysis, contained in a report called a draft Second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, gives Ecology the information needed to evaluate a permit for the facility, and whether the mitigation measures the company has offered are sufficient.

Under SEPA, permitting agencies need to understand environmental impacts

Under Washington's State Environmental Policy Act, or SEPA, permitting agencies are required to evaluate all of the environmental impacts from proposed projects, including whether they will affect global climate change. If built, the Northwest Innovation Works facility would become one of the largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington. It would also add a significant amount of new capacity to the global methanol market.

A 2018 Cowlitz County Superior Court decision found that the original environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Kalama project did not fully assess these impacts. That led to a Supplemental EIS (SEIS) conducted by Cowlitz County and the Port of Kalama. Ecology found the SEIS still did not fully analyze the project's greenhouse gas impacts and that conducting a second SEIS was necessary to get that information.

Based on this, Ecology started work on a second Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement to fully answer questions about the greenhouse gas emissions tied to the project: upstream emissions, like the greenhouse gases that escape from natural gas wells and pipelines; direct and indirect emissions produced at the facility itself; and

Greenhouse gas emissions in our state

If constructed, the proposed Northwest Innovation Works methanol facility would become one of the 10 largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington.

That is important, because the Washington Legislature has adopted aggressive limits to reduce our state's emissions in the years ahead:

- By 2020, reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels.
- By 2030, reduce total GHG emissions to 45% below 1990 levels.
- By 2040, reduce GHG to 70% below 1990 levels.
- By 2050, reduce GHG to 95% below 1990 levels and achieve net zero emissions.

Contact information

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Special accommodations

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6068, or <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

If you need this focus sheet in another language, contact:

Meg Bommarito

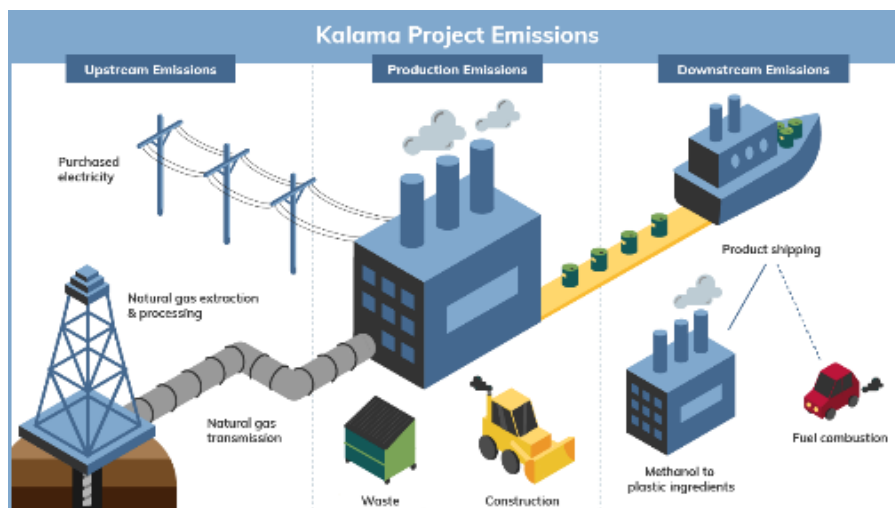
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downstream emissions from transporting the methanol to its intended destination in Asia, and how the product will be used there.

Following the public comment period, Ecology will use that feedback to finalize the report. The report will help Ecology make a decision on whether to approve a shoreline conditional use permit for the facility.



Ecology's preliminary findings

The project would increase greenhouse gas emissions within Washington State by almost one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent a year. The Kalama facility would be one of the 10 largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the state. Northwest Innovation Works has said that it will mitigate all of the facility's in-state emissions.

Worldwide demand for methanol is likely to increase in the decades ahead, leading to higher greenhouse gas emissions with or without the Kalama facility.

It would lead to methanol being burned as a fuel. Northwest Innovation Works has said all of the methanol from Kalama will be used in plastics production, but increasing methanol supply makes it likely that more methanol will be used as a fuel, regardless of the source.

Extracting and transporting natural gas used to make methanol could produce higher emissions than previous estimates.

Methanol made in Kalama could produce lower greenhouse gas emissions than many competing methanol supplies, from coal or less efficient natural gas sources. This means that global greenhouse gas emissions would increase with the addition of the Kalama facility, but likely, less than they would if that demand was met by other sources.