



PacWest Silicon Plant —Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement

Date: January 25, 2019

Purpose:

The purpose of this collaborative agreement is to establish a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities for the members of the Steering Committee for the Health Impact Assessment of the PacWest Silicon Plant project.

Project Background:

PacWest Silicon (Applicant) is proposing to construct a smelter to produce up to 73,000 tons of silicon metal each year. The manufacturing process combines quartz rock (supplied by the company HiTest Sand) wood chips, and coal and charcoal with extremely high temperatures to produce the metal. The proposed project site is approximately 188 acres, located southeast of the city of Newport. The site was previously used for logging and has one unpaved, winding road. The road traverses the site and has been used as an access road. The site is surrounded by undeveloped or previously logged/forested land, except for the two existing farms/residences south of the site.

The proposed facility would occupy approximately 70 percent of the property and consist of several sheet-metal clad buildings, the tallest would be 157 feet above grade. The area is currently hilly, with the steepest slope around 15 percent. The company expects to grade the site to reduce the steepest slope to 2-3 percent. On-site structures are not expected to impact views from neighboring properties, which are blocked by either higher ground or trees, and no lighting or glare issues are anticipated.

PacWest proposes to use two submerged arc furnaces (SAF) to produce approximately 73,000 tons of silicon per year. To make silicon, SAFs are heated to greater than 3,000 degrees Fahrenheit by three carbon electrodes.

Prior to the public scoping process for the smelter project Environmental Impact Statements, questions regarding project impacts on health and quality of life arose. In September 2018, Washington State Department of Health staff joined, Washington State Department of Ecology and the Applicant for public scoping meetings held in Newport and Spokane. The public and the agencies agreed that a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) would be a useful tool to better understand the health effects of the project.

Health Impact Assessment:

An HIA is a process that helps evaluate the potential health effects of a plan, project, or policy before it is built or implemented. An HIA can provide recommendations to increase positive health outcomes and minimize adverse health outcomes. It is not required by law and does not necessarily play a role in the decision to issue permits for a development project. An HIA is a public health tool that uses available technical and scientific information to help communities understand how plans, projects, and policies affect their health. An HIA can also make recommendations about how to maximize the likely health benefits and minimize the potential harms of a given project, plan, or policy. The HIA being prepared for the PacWest Silicon project will focus on neighborhoods near the project, as well as community facilities along the rail line in Pend Oreille County.



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Steering Committee:

The HIA Steering Committee is an advisory body made up of members of the local community who will identify what aspects of health should be addressed in the HIA. The Steering Committee will review and provide feedback to Washington State Department of Health on HIA documents before public release. The role of the Steering Committee will be to assist with the assessment, reporting, and monitoring and evaluation of the HIA as defined in this agreement.

Health Impact Assessment Process:

The HIA process consists of six steps: (1) screening, (2) scoping, (3) assessment, (4) recommendations, (5) reporting, and (6) monitoring and evaluation. For the project, these six steps will be used to look at the potential and sometimes unintended effects of the project on the health of the immediate community.

Health Impact Assessment Goals:

Goals of the HIA for the PacWest Silicon project include:

1. Providing the Applicant, participating agencies, and other decision-makers with information about the relative health and health equity impacts of the proposed silicon smelter plant so they can more effectively address the potential health effects of the proposed project and other development proposals.
2. Providing other interested stakeholders with information about the relative health and health equity impacts on the residents of Pend Oreille County.
3. Increasing understanding about the connections between major development projects and health and health equity.
4. Conducting an HIA that conforms with the “Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment” (Version 3, 2014).¹

Key Definitions:

Health Impact Assessment: The HIA is a systematic process that uses an array of data sources and analytic methods, and also considers input from stakeholders, to determine potential health effects of a proposed policy, plan, program, or project. Data and analysis will be used to assess the impact of these potential health effects on the community and the distribution of the effects within the community. HIAs provide recommendations on monitoring and managing those effects.

Health Equity: Health equity refers to the disparities between population groups in the presence of disease, health outcomes, or access to care that result from a variety of changeable social factors such as income inequality, educational quality, natural and built environment conditions, individual health behavior choices, and access to health care. Health equity is improved as these disparities are eliminated or minimized. Health inequity is exacerbated as these disparities grow.

¹ Bhatia R, Farhang L, Heller J, Lee M, Orenstein M, Richardson M and Wernham A. *Minimum Elements and Practice Standards for Health Impact Assessment*, Version 3. September 2014.

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Health: A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Health Impacts: Any change in the health of a population or any change in the physical, natural, or social environment that has a bearing on public health.

Stakeholders: Individuals or organizations who are affected by the policy, plan, or project under consideration; have an interest in the health impacts of the policy, project, or plan under consideration; and/or have direct or indirect influence on the decision-making and implementation process of the policy, project, or plan under consideration.

Decision Making Guidelines: When making decisions, the Steering Committee will strive to reach consensus by the entire group. Consensus does not require that every member of the Steering Committee fully supports a particular decision, but that everyone at least agrees that (1) the proposal meets the standard of acceptability for every Steering Committee member present, and (2) the process has been fair in that everyone has had the opportunity to express their views and the group has done its best to close any gaps. Consensus decision-making requires patience and trust on everyone's behalf. Steering Committee members must commit to express their views clearly, to listen attentively, and to search for solutions that bring people and ideas together. Steering Committee members who dissent will have the option to write a minority report for inclusion in the final report.

Roles and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee is an advisory body to the Washington State Department of Health that will oversee the assessment, reporting and dissemination, and monitoring and evaluation phases of the HIA. It will also review and provide feedback on the HIA documents before public release. Involving the public is an important part of the HIA process. Steering Committee members are expected to gather input from their friends, neighbors, and fellow professionals. The Steering Committee is strongly encouraged to identify and incorporate public comments into their decision making. This includes developing a system to engage the public and collect comments in different formats and clearly expressing how input received from the public will be used. Specific Steering Committee responsibilities for each stage of the HIA include:

Assessment:

Support the Tri-County Health and Washington State Department of Health efforts to answer research questions regarding baseline conditions and probable health impacts by:

- Helping to identify data sources.
- Helping to interpret results of local data collection.
- Reviewing and commenting on drafts of assessment findings and reports.
- Feedback on final drafts of assessment findings for inclusion in the final report.

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Recommendations:

- Review and provide feedback on draft recommendations based on assessment results and/or the SEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement results.
- Work with interested stakeholders to review and solicit input on recommendations.

Reporting and Dissemination:

- Help develop a dissemination strategy, including talking points, that identifies opportunities for communicating findings to stakeholders and identifies who will be responsible for communicating to different audiences.
- Review and provide feedback on final report and other HIA dissemination materials.
- Help implement the dissemination strategy by sharing materials, presenting HIA findings, talking to media, etc.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Review and provide feedback on a plan to evaluate the HIA process and outcomes.

Roles of Other HIA Participants:

Interested Stakeholders: Interested stakeholders are technical advisors that have been identified by the Steering Committee as having resources or advice to offer at various stages of the HIA process, or are individuals or organizations who have expressed interest in engaging with, or tracking, the HIA process. Interested stakeholders may participate in the HIA process on an ad hoc basis. They will be provided regular updates on the HIA as it progresses, and will be consulted when appropriate.

HIA Project Team: The HIA Project Team includes staff from Pend Oreille County, Tri-County Health Department, and the Washington State Department of Health, as well as Washington State Department of Ecology's contractor, ICF, and the contractor's sub-consultants. The HIA Team will lead the HIA process and completion of the HIA in consultation with the Steering Committee.