



**Meeting Summary**  
**PacWest Health Impact Assessment – Steering Committee**  
Tuesday, March 5, 2019  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Conference Call Hosted by Department of Health

**Steering Committee Attendees:**

Tri-County Health District, Alyssa Spradley  
Committee Chair, Dr. Renata Moon  
Health Practitioner/Area Medical Community Representative, Dr. Jillian Klaucke  
School District Representative, Dave Smith  
Local Union Representative, Scott Holstrom  
Community Representative, Greg Sweeny  
Tribal Representative, Ken Merrill  
Faith Community Representative, Tom Soeldner  
CANSS, Gretchen Koenig  
Responsible Growth, John Endres  
Sierra Club, John Osborn

**Others in Attendance:**

Washington State Department of Ecology, Brook Beeler  
Washington State Department of Health, Rad Cunningham  
Washington State Department of Health, Marnie Boardman  
Washington State Department of Health, Paula Reeves

**Invited:**

Panhandle Health District, Dale Peck  
Pend Oreille County, Greg Snow  
Business Community Representative, Sean Maesner  
Fire and Rescue District Representative, Mike Nokes  
Tribal Representative, Deane Osterman

## **Introduction to Health Impact Assessment (HIA)**

Paula Reeves, Washington State Department of Health staff, welcomed Steering Committee members and introduced Dr. Renata Moon, the Steering Committee Chair. Dr. Moon offered to set up an email address dedicated to the PacWest HIA for use by the Steering Committee throughout the project. Paula then gave an introduction to Health Impact Assessments. (See Attachment A: ***PacWest Steering Committee HIA Intro***)

Several key points from the introduction include:

- The purpose of an HIA: to provide health information to decision-makers to better inform decisions and identify possible solutions and recommendations.
- Department of Health, at the request of Tri-County Health District, will work together with the Steering Committee to produce the HIA and an executive summary.
- The HIA does not necessarily directly impact the Environmental Impact Statement or permits. However, permitting agencies including Pend Oreille County, Department of Ecology, and others may use the HIA as a resource and incorporate its findings.

- The HIA is a six (6) step process, and we are currently on Step #2 – Scoping. All comments and questions are invited on the First DRAFT Scoping Questions. (See Attachment B: **First Draft HIA Scoping Questions**).

Steering Committee members had the following general questions regarding the HIA process:

***Q. Will the HIA be adopted as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (the law indicates that an EIS includes Public Health)?***

Department of Ecology explained that the EIS is not required to incorporate the HIA. However, the EIS may use content and findings from the HIA. Both Department of Health and Department of Ecology will use the same data and project information.

***Q. Who will ultimately be responsible for the HIA?***

Department of Health explained that they are the authors of the HIA in partnership with the Tri-County Health District. However, the Steering Committee input will shape the document throughout the process and if specific input from the Steering Committee is omitted for some reason, DOH will discuss it with the Committee. DOH will seek consensus on all aspects of the HIA and values public input as a key element of this process. Voting will not be required and any dissenting opinions may be included. DOH will conduct a structured peer review by reaching out to experts in the field on topics covered in the HIA and may consider allowing the Steering Committee to select an independent reviewer.

***Q. If DOH proceeds with the HIA without having an actual permit application, will you revisit the findings when a permit application is submitted to Department of Ecology?***

Department of Health explained that they will wait to start the assessment and writing of the HIA until all the base data related to the project is made available by the Applicant. Department of Ecology and Department of Health will use the same data and project assumptions going forward on both the EIS and HIA.

***Q. The Intro document says “the role of the HIA is to identify possible solutions and recommendations NOT to stop the project or impact permitting processes”. Does this mean that the HIA cannot be used in the permitting process?***

Department of Health explained that this bullet point does not mean that the HIA cannot be used in the permitting process or in the EIS, and that informing those decision making processes is really the goal of the HIA. If we did not believe it would be used in decision making, we would not consider doing the HIA.

## First DRAFT Scoping Questions

The Steering Committee also received an introduction to the first DRAFT scoping questions. These questions are intended only as a starting point for developing a short list, (10-12) primary questions that will be addressed through the Health Impact Assessment. They were developed based on the comments about public health made during the public hearings held in September 2018 in Newport, Spokane and Idaho.

Chairperson Moon requested that the development of the final scoping questions be done in a second Steering Committee meeting held in-person rather than trying to discuss these important questions over the phone today.

Department of Health offered to set up an in-person meeting soon, and explained that there is not a cost sharing agreement with the Applicant in place at this time. So, there may be a delay in getting started on work to write the HIA.

Steering Committee members had the following general questions related to the DRAFT Scoping Questions:

***Q. Will Department of Health accept input, content, references that Steering Committee members have collected? (Example: Soils)***

Department of Health said that they would gladly accept any input from the Steering Committee for the HIA. Information intended for the EIS should go to Brook Beeler and her team at Department of Ecology.

***Q. Once the Scoping Questions are final is it still possible to make changes?***

Department of Health said that we hope not to add a lot of new questions, but some adjustments may be made throughout the process to ensure that the HIA addresses the community's questions.

## Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement

Department of Health also walked through the Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement that is intended to clarify roles, responsibilities, and the decision making process for the HIA. (See Attachment C: ***Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement***).

Chairperson Moon and Department of Health closed the meeting thanking everyone for their time and questions. Meeting Adjourned at 12:49pm.

Please contact **Paula Reeves, Washington State Department of Health** at [Paula.Reeves@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:Paula.Reeves@DOH.WA.GOV) or **360-236-3357** with any questions or comments related to this meeting summary of the Health Impact Assessment process.