



Coal Plant Working Group

Walla Walla, WA

Who we are: The Coal Plant Working Group is an organization of citizens in Walla Walla who are opposed to the building of a coal-fueled power plant on Port of Walla Walla land in Wallula. because we believe it will negatively impact the health and quality of life of the citizens of the county (and elsewhere), the environment, and the economic well being of the area.

Sequestration experiment: Because of Washington State Senate Bill 6001, any new coal plants pennitted after July 1,2008 must sequester some of the C02 and other greenhouse gases they generate. Battelle (or Pacific NW National Laboratory) wants to conduct an experiment in which C02 and other greenhouse gases are pumped under pressure into a basalt layer at about 3,500 or 4,000 feet. Batelle did seismic work in December 2007. The experiment is now on hold because the Port of Walla Walla wants the answers to a number of questions concerning liability and ownership of mineral rights before they will allow the experiment to proceed. The small-scale experiment would inject 1,000 to 3,000 metric tons of C02 into the basalt. This is less than a day's sequestration for the proposed coal-fueled power plant. Tim Killian, a spokesman for the Wallula Energy Resource Center (WERC-the organization trying to permit the coal fueled facility), says that if Battelle's experiment is successful they will use the results to refile with EFSEC (Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council), which is the pennitting agency. The Coal Plant Working Group opposes the test because we believe that it is inextricably tied to the coal plant.

Coal-fueled gasification plant: The proposed IGCC plant (Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle) would be a 910 gross mega watt (MW) facility with a net deliverable power rating of about 700 MW. The coal industry is presently conducting a "clean coal" campaign. We believe "clean coal" is an oxymoron. The plant would still produce, as a partial list: mercury, selenium, thorium, arsenic, particulate matter and water vapor as by products. We feel that using more coal to produce power is exactly what the world does not need at present. We believe that sequestration on a commercial scale is not predictable from necessarily limited experiments and that commercial sequestration holds a much greater inherent risk to health and safety.

What the Coal Plant Working Group is doing: We hope to educate the public through our website www.coalconcerns.org and by such activities as lobbying government officials and writing letters to the editor. Members attend public meetings and public hearings by governmental agencies. For example, the Coal Plant Working Group sent four people to give testimony at the EFSEC Dept of Ecology hearing on permitting regulations on April 10, 2008 in Spokane.

Contact us: Our email address is coalconcerns@charter.net

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