



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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**STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT  
DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE**

**Proposed action:** Notice of Construction Order No. 15449

**Description of proposal:**

Intalco is proposing to convert up to 720 of their Side Work Prebake (SWPB) reduction pots to a point feed configuration known as Centerwork Prebake (CWPB). The conversion will eliminate the manual feeding procedures associated with the current SWPB technology and allow the pot doors to remain closed during the feeding operation. The anticipated benefits of the conversion include higher current efficiency, better pot stability, and reduced emissions. The proposed project will not increase production capacity. Pots will be converted to CWPB as they exceed their life and are replaced. The conversion process is projected to take 3 years.

A 64 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is anticipated through a reduction in anode effects. Anode effects produce large amounts of perfluorocarbons (PFCs) which have large global warming potential. Reductions in PFC emissions have a significant climate change benefit. Reduction of anode effects is attributed to better pot stability because the point feed control algorithms automate alumina feeding and maintain the alumina in the cryolite solution at optimal concentrations. The SWPB pots are open during the feeding process. Increased fume capture efficiency is expected with the change to CWPB because the pot hoods will be closed while alumina is added. The reduced time that pots are open will create a safer environment for the potline employees through reduced exposure to molten metal, heat, and other potroom emissions.

The Point Feed technology provides better capture of all emissions due to the pot hood remaining closed during the alumina feeding process. Intalco anticipates significant reductions of particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub>), total fluoride, and carbon monoxide in the potlines.

The air pollutants expected to increase from the proposed project include nitrogen oxide by 38 tons/year and nitrogen dioxide by 27 tons/year. The increases will not exceed air quality standards.



**Proponent:** Intalco Aluminum LLC  
4050 Mountain View Road  
Ferndale, WA 98248

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**Location of proposal:** Intalco Aluminum LLC, 4050 Mountain View Road, Ferndale WA 98248

**Lead agency:** Department of Ecology, Waste 2 Resources Program, Industrial Section

The lead agency for this proposal has determined it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030 (2)(c).

This Determination of Nonsignificance is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal until after the comment period ends on July 13, 2018.

**Responsible official:**

James DeMay, P.E.  
Industrial Section Manager  
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(360) 407-6868

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

6/12/18