

- **Is it a viable business?**

(Has the business plan and finance plan been reviewed? Have the Executive Officers and Board of Directors been vetted? Is there a pre-existing relationship with the administration, and have our local partners, regional teammates and sector leads validated this business?)

This is a viable business with a track record for constructing and operating silicon smelter facilities. Per the company representative: the leadership of this firm has been directly involved with the launching of 19 of the last 20 silicon smelters built in the world. Financing is being provided principally by the Canadian Pension Fund – the fourth largest fund in the world. Some construction partners will also have a small equity position. See additional attachment for information on the company leadership team.

- **Are we aware of any potential negative impacts this business might have?**

(Are there negative impacts to public safety, public health, carbon emissions, labor, public opinion, environment, transportation, land use, pending legislation?)

No. The company has been in touch with the Dept. of Ecology and has informed Commerce that DOE is supportive of the project in that they have offered to expedite some permitting processes. There are many positive impacts to this project. The production of this silicon will almost entirely go toward the manufacturing of photovoltaic cells for solar panels. For the life cycle of this new plant, including the future use of its end product, the overall impact to carbon emissions is very positive. See attached chart for the company's assessment thereof. This will be a major positive impact on the labor market in this region, with the company estimating that employees will drive more than 50 miles to work there. Stevens County currently has an unemployment rate of 9.3%, and Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties have unemployment rates of 10.8% and 9.2% respectively.

HB 2977, introduced last session would have reduced tax rates for silicon smelter facilities and utilities that provide service to those facilities. It advanced out of House Finance, but did not advance out of the House.

- **Is it a business in good standing?**

(Have we vetted them with Department of Revenue for tax issues, with L&I for workplace safety, with Employment Security for unemployment insurance fraud issues and with Ecology for permitting?)

Commerce staff has conducted a search through the agencies mentioned above. As this firm has no prior business in the state, there are no negative reports from any state agencies.

- **How will the Governor's office support this effort?**

(Will the Governor be asked to play an active role, such as signing letters, making public statements, making phone calls, participating in meetings or making connections on a trade mission? If so, what are the decision points and timeline, and what will be the Governor's talking points?)

The Governor should consider supporting this firm by approving this SRF request, and may also consider making a public supporting statement this summer should the project be won by Washington. In the future, the Governor should consider visiting the site when the timing is appropriate, either for a ground breaking or ribbon cutting. The Governor should also consider contacting the firm directly by phone, or by face to face meeting should the need arise to encourage them to select Washington for this project. Commerce can assist with the timing and logistics of the above mentioned suggestions.