

## Testimony for 10/24/16 – Longview, WA – re Millennium Export Terminal

Thank you for this opportunity to respond to the EIS for this proposed project.

I recently was fortunate to take a cruise on the Columbia River from Portland to Astoria. The scenery was beautiful, serene, and other-worldly, with miles of undeveloped shoreline.

I have two main concerns about this project:

- (1) Building a coal export terminal would bring irreversible environmental damage to this beautiful region.
- (2) There is minimal assurance that any protections would be implemented or enforced.

In Chapter 10 of the EIS, titled *Irreversible and Irrecoverable Commitment of Resources*, the document states that construction of the proposed terminal would permanently destroy wetlands, wildlife habitat, vegetation, open-water areas, and freshwater aquatic habitat. These impacts would be “an irreversible commitment of biological resources.”<sup>1</sup>

And yet, mitigation measures are not included as specific, enforceable requirements. Rather, the document refers to “potential mitigation measures” – actions that the Applicant presumably could or could not take. In Chapter 8, there are fifty-seven (57) instances of the words, “the Applicant *could*” rather than the Applicant *will* or the Applicant *must*. Here is one example, from the Hazardous Materials section: “The Applicant *could* locate spill response kits near construction and operations areas.”<sup>2</sup>

I urge the Army Corps to weigh the loss of environment plus lack of mitigation enforcement -- and deny this project.

Thank you, Jean M. Avery – Vancouver, WA

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<sup>1</sup> Page 10-3

<sup>2</sup> Page 8-4

