

MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINALS - LONGVIEW
NEPA DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC MEETING - QUIET ROOM

12:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.

* * *

COWLITZ COUNTY EVENT CENTER

1900 Seventh Avenue

Longview, Washington 98632

October 24, 2016

Heather Guevarra, CCR

Court Reporter

1 LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON; MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016

2 12:00 p.m.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

10:42:47 5 SPEAKER 1: My name is Frank Patterson. I've
12:57:37 6 been a resident of Cowlitz County since 1978, and I've
12:57:42 7 seen the unemployment go up and down since.

12:57:50 8 I've been on the site for over ten years for
12:58:04 9 Millennium. Millennium Bulk offers good jobs, pay,
12:58:07 10 insurance, and 401s for employees.

12:58:23 11 You hear the good and the bad. The easiest
12:58:27 12 way to put it is we need more jobs. That's all I have
12:58:32 13 for now.

14:13:27 14 SPEAKER 2: My name is Gary Wallace. I'm a
14:13:30 15 native of Kelso. I now reside in Kalama. I've been
14:13:35 16 there 40 years.

14:13:37 17 I believe the coal terminal proposed for
14:13:40 18 Longview by Millennium is inappropriate for the
14:13:46 19 national directive considering that November 4th the
14:13:50 20 Paris Agreement relative to climate change becomes
14:13:57 21 effective in which the Chinese have indicated they
14:14:00 22 will no longer be using coal. Therefore the economic
14:14:06 23 viability of this as a long-term employment project is
14:14:11 24 probably facetious or fallacious. Either way, the

14:14:16 25 falsehood is perpetrated on the people of jobs over

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14:14:18 1 health and environmental sustainability to the point

14:14:24 2 where our climate is suffering.

14:14:26 3 Therefore, as the National Security Agency,

14:14:30 4 NSA, has indicated, climate change is our number one

14:14:35 5 national security threat, and why should we -- at this

14:14:40 6 point, why should we continuing to threaten our own

14:14:46 7 national security by promoting coal for another

14:14:47 8 country to burn? That's contrary to all hard science.

14:14:51 9 It is not an appropriate response for the future of

14:14:53 10 the world and is actually a criminal act causing mass

14:14:53 11 murder.

14:14:53 12 That's my comment.

14:19:03 13 SPEAKER 3: Stephen Jeffrey Wilson, P-H-E-N.

14:19:06 14 I do reside in Longview, Washington. I also reside

14:19:11 15 one quarter mile in distance away from the proposed

14:19:16 16 terminal. I am the closest resident in all of Cowlitz

14:19:22 17 County, I am it, I am the neighbor. I have a family

14:19:26 18 there, I have a lot. Nobody is closer than me.

14:19:29 19 I have nothing but disrespect for the

14:19:35 20 handling on the permitting process as it relates to

14:19:39 21 the amount of time it's taken. I have no skin in the

14:19:42 22 game. I live next to Millennium. I don't run a

14:19:46 23 business, I don't have a business, I don't do business
14:19:49 24 with Millennium. They're the kind of neighbor I'm
14:19:51 25 going to prefer.

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14:19:55 1 Shame on Washington State for holding the
14:19:56 2 rest of the United States hostage. Washington State
14:20:00 3 is one of three waterfront states on the West Coast,
14:20:04 4 and we have a responsibility for the other contiguous
14:20:09 5 United States to be open to trade for those other
14:20:11 6 states that do not have a waterfront trading
14:20:14 7 opportunity to trade with the Pacific or the rest of
14:20:17 8 the world. The three western states do and, for that
14:20:22 9 reason, the anti-coal sentiment, the DEIS covered the
14:20:27 10 impacts very well. There are some impacts, and the
14:20:30 11 next rounds of change have to be kept in a different
14:20:33 12 process. Legislation and other issues that need to
14:20:38 13 happen against coal can happen in the future in
14:20:42 14 another avenue.

14:20:44 15 The Environmental Impact Statement the Corps
14:20:48 16 of Engineers wrote did its job. I feel much more
14:20:50 17 informed, but I also feel no reason to change my
14:20:54 18 position and that is to build and issue permits.
14:20:56 19 We've got to have a better issue. The impacts do not
14:21:02 20 override the benefits at this point.

14:21:04 21 Thank you very much.

15:02:29 22 SPEAKER 4: Recently Congress changed a
15:02:34 23 longstanding law allowing coal exports to foreign
15:02:52 24 countries. A congress that has been wholly opposed to
15:03:01 25 our current President's policies saw fit to change

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15:03:09 1 that longstanding rule in an effort to sell a
15:03:15 2 substantial part of the actual soil, which is the coal
15:03:23 3 in question, the actual soil of our American country
15:03:30 4 to the highest bidder throughout the world. Who, of
15:03:38 5 course, would burn it thereby oxidizing the coal which
15:03:47 6 adds somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 percent to
15:03:52 7 the weight of the coal. So you take a ton of coal,
15:03:58 8 oxidize it, you're adding the weight of the oxygen.
15:04:03 9 Now it is substantially more than one ton, but now
15:04:08 10 it's a gas and it's in the atmosphere.
15:04:12 11 And it's screwing up the works for me, my
15:04:15 12 wife, my kids, and my grandkids, and I don't like it.
15:04:19 13 This probably is not the purpose of what we're doing
15:04:27 14 around here except that the duty of the people making
15:04:35 15 the decisions is to protect the public interest, and
15:04:42 16 burning this coal, selling shiploads, 40 million tons
15:04:51 17 a year or whatever it is, of actual American soil to
15:04:57 18 be burned and put in the atmosphere and ruin the world
15:05:01 19 for all of us is not in the public interest. Full

15:05:10 20 stop.

15:06:21 21 SPEAKER 5: My name is Joann Baker. I've
15:06:28 22 lived in Longview since 1964, and I've just been made
15:06:32 23 aware of how limited the scope of the Corps of
15:06:40 24 Engineers is. They're only looking at the terminal,
15:06:44 25 they're not looking at the ramifications of everything

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15:06:47 1 else which I'm hoping will change.

15:06:49 2 So I thank you for taking my testimony today
15:06:52 3 because it's a very, very important to our whole
15:06:57 4 community.

15:06:57 5 Let's leave the issue of coal aside. It
15:07:00 6 tends to be yes it is, no it isn't. So what I want to
15:07:06 7 focus on is the unit train traffic. I tried to
15:07:08 8 determine exactly how long a unit train is and there
15:07:11 9 is no standard answer. It can be up to four miles
15:07:15 10 long, 7.353 kilometers.

15:07:20 11 Although there are plans for improvement at
15:07:22 12 the intersection of Longview, they are years away.
15:07:25 13 The rail lines that cut through Weyerhaeuser's
15:07:29 14 entrances, two, interstate traffic between Oregon and
15:07:31 15 Washington, traffic coming into Longview and Kelso is
15:07:36 16 severely impacted, and it would be backed up for
15:07:38 17 miles.

15:07:40 18 Sixteen trains a day, eight coming in eight

15:07:44 19 returning. We mustn't forget these trains slow down
15:07:46 20 exponentially at road crossings. Will Millennium wait
15:07:50 21 until these road projects are complete? I don't think
15:07:54 22 so. And I'm only talking about Longview. Look at
15:07:58 23 Camas where the train line bisects the entire town
15:08:02 24 leaving the city without emergency services.
15:08:06 25 The few jobs Millennium will provide are not

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15:08:06 1 worth it. I implore the Corps of Engineers to reject
15:08:14 2 the proposal at this time.
15:08:17 3 Thank you.
15:48:55 4 SPEAKER 6: My name is Alan Smith. I'm a
15:48:58 5 resident of Portland, and I want to submit these
15:49:03 6 comments to the people evaluating this project.
15:49:11 7 The Army Corps of Engineers' review of the
15:49:15 8 Millennium project is too narrow. This project would
15:49:19 9 have an impact on the entire world. In December of
15:49:25 10 2015, world governments agreed to limit global average
15:49:30 11 temperature rise to well below two degrees centigrade
15:49:35 12 and to strive to limit it to 1.5 degrees centigrade.
15:49:40 13 In recent years, the two-degree centigrade
15:49:45 14 limit has been determined to be an upper limit that
15:49:49 15 needs to be stringently defended because feedback
15:49:55 16 loops that drive ever worsening climate change

15:49:59 17 regardless of human activities are at significant risk

15:50:03 18 even at two degrees centigrade of warming.

15:50:07 19 The potential carbon emissions from the oil,

15:50:12 20 gas, and coal in the world's current fields and mines

15:50:19 21 would take us beyond two degrees centigrade of

15:50:19 22 warming.

15:50:25 23 The reserves and currently operating oil and

15:50:28 24 gas fields alone even with no coal would take the

15:50:34 25 world beyond 1.5 degrees centigrade. To have a 66

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15:50:40 1 percent chance of achieving the two-degree centigrade

15:50:45 2 limit, 68 percent of the known below ground stocks of

15:50:54 3 extractable fossil fuels must remain in the ground.

15:51:24 4 To have a 50 percent chance of achieving the

15:51:28 5 1.5 degree centigrade limit, 85 percent of the known

15:51:35 6 below ground stock must remain in the ground. No new

15:51:42 7 fossil fuel extraction or transportation

15:51:47 8 infrastructure should be built and governments should

15:51:50 9 grant no new permits for them. Thank you.

15:52:30 10 SPEAKER 7: My name is Debra E. McGee. I

15:52:34 11 live in Eugene, Oregon, and I volunteer with 350

15:52:40 12 Eugene. I'm a parent and a public school educator of

15:52:44 13 30 years. I drove eight hours to testify here today

15:52:47 14 because I believe what 97 percent of what the world

15:52:52 15 scientists say about global climate destabilization

15:52:56 16 being caused by the extraction, transportation, and
15:52:58 17 burning of fossil fuels.
15:53:01 18 350 parts per million of carbon in the
15:53:05 19 atmosphere is a liveable planet. Currently we are at
15:53:09 20 404 parts per million.
15:53:11 21 Ice sheets and permafrost are melting
15:53:14 22 releasing methane, the ocean is acidifying, coral
15:53:18 23 reefs and fisheries are collapsing.
15:53:22 24 Scientists say we are experiencing the sixth
15:53:24 25 great extinction. 200 species are going extinct every

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15:53:29 1 day. That is an astonishing fact. There are no jobs
15:53:34 2 on a dead planet.
15:53:36 3 If you allow this terminal construction, you
15:53:39 4 are acting with deliberate indifference. Deliberate
15:53:43 5 indifference to future generations and the
15:53:46 6 environment, our habitat, our only home.
15:53:48 7 We must quickly transition to clean,
15:53:52 8 renewable energy sources. Research has shown we can
15:53:56 9 have 100 percent sustainable energy right now. The
15:54:00 10 age of fossil fuel energy is over.
15:54:03 11 The negative impacts of the Millennium
15:54:06 12 project are legion. Tribal fishing right violations,
15:54:10 13 train accidents, coal dust, and an increase of

15:54:13 14 greenhouse gases just to mention a few.

15:54:16 15 You know this project is contrary to public

15:54:20 16 interest. You know it is wrong to wreck the planet.

15:54:22 17 You know what is right to do.

15:54:25 18 You may know or not know that 21 children are

15:54:29 19 suing the United States government and the fossil fuel

15:54:32 20 industry for violating their right to a liveable

15:54:36 21 future.

15:54:37 22 Please for the sake of all humanity, deny

15:54:41 23 this project.

15:55:16 24 SPEAKER 8: Jean Avery. I live in Vancouver,

15:55:17 25 Washington.

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15:55:20 1 Thank you for this opportunity to respond to

15:55:24 2 the EIS for this proposed project. I recently was

15:55:30 3 fortunate to take a cruise on the Columbia River from

15:55:34 4 Portland to Astoria. The scenery was beautiful,

15:55:39 5 serene, and other worldly with miles of undeveloped

15:55:43 6 shoreline. I have two main concerns about this

15:55:47 7 project.

15:55:49 8 One, building this coal export terminal would

15:55:52 9 bring irreversible environmental damage to this

15:55:56 10 beautiful region.

15:55:58 11 Two, there is minimal assurance that any

15:56:01 12 protections would be implemented and enforced.

15:56:04 13 In chapter ten of the EIS titled Irreversible
15:56:11 14 and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources, the
15:56:14 15 document states that construction of the proposed
15:56:17 16 terminal would permanently destroy wetlands, wildlife
15:56:22 17 habitat, vegetation, open-water areas, and freshwater
15:56:29 18 aquatic habitat.

15:56:31 19 These impacts would be, quote, an
15:56:35 20 irreversible commitment of biological resources, end
15:56:39 21 quote. And yet, mitigation measures are not included
15:56:44 22 as specific and forcible requirements. Rather the
15:56:48 23 document refers to, quote, potential mitigation
15:56:53 24 measures, end quote. Action that the applicant
15:56:56 25 presumably could or could not take.

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15:56:59 1 In chapter eight, there are 57 instances of
15:57:04 2 the words the applicant could rather than the
15:57:08 3 applicant will or the applicant must.

15:57:10 4 Here is one example from the hazardous
15:57:14 5 material section. Quote, The applicant could locate
15:57:17 6 spill response kits near construction and operation
15:57:20 7 areas, end quote.

15:57:23 8 I urge the Army Corps to weigh the loss of
15:57:28 9 environment plus lack of mitigation enforcement and
15:57:32 10 deny this project. Thank you.

15:59:15 11 SPEAKER 9: I am totally in favor of the
15:59:17 12 project. I think -- I think our community is
15:59:22 13 developing a reputation as not being very friendly in
15:59:25 14 business. I think we need the jobs, I think we need
15:59:28 15 to be responsible environmentally, and I think these
15:59:32 16 guys have shown their willingness to do that. I think
15:59:37 17 the environmental obstacles -- I'm a builder, home
15:59:42 18 builder, and the environmental obstacles in Washington
15:59:47 19 State are very extreme. They're raising the price of
15:59:52 20 housing, reducing the viability of the industry. It's
15:59:56 21 doing fine right now, that industry is, but this
16:00:00 22 industry needs to have a chance.

16:00:02 23 They're actually hauling coal right now, they
16:00:04 24 sell coal. I have a business right beside it, I have
16:00:08 25 a storage business right beside it. I don't ever see

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16:00:12 1 coal blowing out of the trucks when they're leaving
16:00:15 2 the plant with the coal, and I'm totally in favor of
16:00:18 3 it, I think we need to have jobs here, and I'm glad to
16:00:21 4 have this chance to speak.

16:00:22 5 My name is Larry Wood. I own Wood & Wood
16:00:27 6 Storage and I'm happy to talk to somebody if somebody
16:00:30 7 ever wants to talk to me about any further concerns
16:00:33 8 because I just don't think -- I think all of the
16:00:35 9 concerns are blown out of proportion, and I think we

16:00:39 10 need to give a warm reception to people who are
16:00:45 11 willing to invest tens of millions of dollars into our
16:00:49 12 community. Thank you.

16:01:09 13 SPEAKER 10: My name is Tyese Medalia
16:01:12 14 (phonetic), and I live in Portland, Oregon.

16:01:15 15 The Army Corps' review ignores the projects
16:01:21 16 regional and global impacts. Because of the well
16:01:24 17 documented effects of coal dust and diesel particulate
16:01:29 18 matter on air and water quality, there is overwhelming
16:01:34 19 opposition to this terminal from the medical
16:01:34 20 community.

16:01:39 21 As a retired respiratory therapist with 30
16:01:40 22 years in the field, I have been made aware that it is
16:01:43 23 a lot easier and less costly to prevent cancer and
16:01:47 24 respiratory and cardiovascular disease than to treat
16:01:51 25 it once it occurs.

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16:01:52 1 When you hear about the 138 permanent jobs
16:01:56 2 that would be created, I ask you to consider the
16:01:59 3 people who live in the communities along rail lines
16:02:03 4 transporting uncovered coal trains. We are not
16:02:07 5 willing to be treated as collateral damage. There is
16:02:12 6 an unprecedented coalition of the faith community,
16:02:16 7 labor, tribal peoples, asking the Army Corps to be the

16:02:24 8 good stewards of our air and water quality as you are
16:02:29 9 tasked, and none of us are on the clock.

16:02:32 10 Ultimately you will have to answer to us when
16:02:34 11 asked how you carried out your mission to protect air
16:02:38 12 and water quality. Thank you.

16:03:26 13 SPEAKER 11: My name is Debbie Shapiro. I'm
16:03:28 14 a US citizen, an Northwest resident, a mother, and
16:03:28 15 grandmother.

16:03:33 16 I'm happy to have confirmed here that the
16:03:36 17 Corps' responsibility include a federal mandate to
16:03:39 18 address climate change as well as public health and
16:03:42 19 the natural environment.

16:03:45 20 Specifically I want to remind you that the
16:03:47 21 greenhouse gas emissions, including those from coal
16:03:51 22 extraction and eventual burning, will impact the
16:03:55 23 Northwest and the US population including that of
16:03:59 24 people working and living in the immediate area of
16:04:01 25 this plant.

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16:04:03 1 Research makes absolutely clear that air
16:04:06 2 pollution travels across the Pacific and around the
16:04:10 3 world. Coal burned in Asia will result in more air
16:04:13 4 pollution here. This air pollution will negatively
16:04:18 5 affect public health and the natural environment. You
16:04:19 6 heard a great deal of scientific testimony to this

16:04:22 7 point and more is immediately available to you.

16:04:25 8 More drastically, these emissions will speed

16:04:28 9 the impacts of climate change on US populations and

16:04:32 10 increase the severity of these impacts including the

16:04:35 11 small area that you choose to restrict your EIS to.

16:04:40 12 Please address these issues in a revised EIS.

16:04:44 13 Thank you.

16:04:44 14 SPEAKER 12: Hello, Colonel Buck and

16:06:48 15 Associates. I'm Linda Heyl, H-E-Y-L. I'm a retired

16:06:53 16 public health nurse practitioner from Eugene, Oregon.

16:06:59 17 The Millennium Bulk Coal Export Terminal is a

16:07:00 18 terrible project for many reasons but the most

16:07:03 19 fundamental reason is because fossil fuels are the

16:07:05 20 energy source of the past, not the present.

16:07:08 21 You are well aware of the fact of climate

16:07:10 22 change caused by the burning of fossil fuels. The

16:07:14 23 majority of Americans now understand that a transition

16:07:17 24 to other sources of energy must be made. The sobering

16:07:23 25 reality is how urgently and rapidly that change needs

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16:07:26 1 to be made. Fossil fuels cannot be extracted and

16:07:29 2 burned to the last atom of carbon. We must make the

16:07:34 3 decision to turn that energy source off with all

16:07:35 4 deliberate speed.

16:07:37 5 Climate activist, Bill McKibben, rightly says
16:07:40 6 that to accomplish this, we must mount the equivalent
16:07:43 7 of the war effort that the US made in World War II,
16:07:48 8 and rejecting new infrastructure investments such as
16:07:52 9 this one is part of that.

16:07:53 10 The enemy in this war is not the fossil fuel
16:07:59 11 companies. What we are fighting against is physics.
16:08:00 12 This enemy doesn't hate us, it is completely
16:08:04 13 dispassionate. It's also completely implacable. It
16:08:06 14 cannot be convinced or cajoled or asked to wait a
16:08:11 15 little longer. It can only be accommodated.

16:08:14 16 The coal terminal's environmental impact
16:08:18 17 statement states that the terminal will not be fully
16:08:21 18 operational until 2028, over a decade from now. Their
16:08:27 19 EIS emissions estimate are calculated to cover until
16:08:31 20 2038 but, long before then, the energy sector will
16:08:35 21 have moved on. The City of Longview will be left
16:08:38 22 nothing of the coal terminal project but an ugly
16:08:40 23 defunct stranded asset.

16:08:43 24 The EIS only takes into account greenhouse
16:08:47 25 gas emissions produced by construction and operation

16:08:48 1 of the plant itself. Under the section entitled
16:08:53 2 Irreversible and Irrecoverable Losses, no mention is
16:08:55 3 made of the greenhouse gas emissions from the coal

16:08:58 4 when it is burned. Whether that coal is burned in the
16:09:01 5 US or Asia, the carbon ends up in the same atmosphere,
16:09:07 6 and we suffer the consequences here in the Pacific
16:09:09 7 Northwest, and this is certainly contrary to the
16:09:11 8 public interest.

16:09:12 9 I said earlier that the energy industries are
16:09:16 10 not our enemy. We will welcome their contribution
16:09:20 11 when they accept the inevitable and decide to invest
16:09:24 12 their expertise, workforce, and financial resources in
16:09:29 13 renewable sources of energy. But, until that happens,
16:09:30 14 we are morally obligated to resist every project they
16:09:35 15 are proposing.

16:09:37 16 Colonel Buck, when you joined the Army Corps
16:09:41 17 of Engineers, fighting climate change is probably not
16:09:42 18 what you thought you were hired to do, but it is the
16:09:44 19 hand that you are dealt. It's as if an earthquake or
16:09:51 20 tsunami occurred on your watch, only a thousand times
16:09:54 21 worse. Local and state governments, like the oil,
16:09:55 22 gas, and coal companies, are faced with that reality
16:09:58 23 with every decision that they must make. We must
16:10:01 24 prioritize the impact on climate.

16:10:03 25 The job of the Army Corps of Engineers is not

16:10:06 1 to provide jobs for any one community. For the health

16:10:10 2 of the planet and all human beings, deny the permit of
16:10:15 3 the coal export terminal. Look instead to jobs and
16:10:18 4 income from projects in renewable energy economy which
16:10:21 5 will keep producing jobs and revenue for this city
16:10:25 6 long after fossil fuel energy has gone the way of the
16:10:28 7 dinosaur.

8 (The proceedings concluded at 4:30 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

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I, Heather Guevarra, a Certified Court Reporter for Washington, pursuant to RCW 5.28.010 authorized to administer oaths and affirmations in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the proceedings were personally held before me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof; that at said time and place I reported in Stenotype all testimony adduced and other oral proceedings had in the foregoing matter; that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting under my direction pursuant to Washington Administrative Code 308-14-135, the transcript preparation format guideline; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1 to 17, both inclusive, constitutes a full, true and accurate record of all such testimony adduced and oral proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.

Witness my hand and CCR stamp at Vancouver, Washington, this 7th day of November 2016.

HEATHER GUEVARRA
Certified Court Reporter
Certificate No. 3123

