November 26, 2016

Millennium Bulk Terminals NEPA EIS
C/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550
Seattle, WA 98104

To Whom It May Concern:

We are members of Montana Elders for a Livable Tomorrow (MELT) living in Missoula, Montana. For five years our members have attended public hearings in Washington State, commenting on proposed coal export terminals that would bring many coal trains across Montana and through our communities. I (Jan) spoke at the Longview hearing last month. Our concerns have not received the attention that the risks to our land, air, water and health warrant.

On reviewing the Longview National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement, it is evident that our request for a comprehensive programmatic environmental impact assessment was not given consideration by the Army Corps of Engineers. At the public hearing in Longview a large percentage of the speakers objected to the narrow scope of the DEIS. It did not consider impacts of shipping and burning of the coal on areas not immediately adjacent to the proposed terminal.

Missoula City and County are located in a bowl surrounded by hills and mountains. Our air shed

has a sensitive air quality that in the past has come near to exceeding EPA standards for 2.5μ particulate matter. The DEIS failed to examine the air quality and health impacts of shipping additional coal trains through Missoula and other Montana communities.

If, as projected, up to sixteen additional coal trains (eight loaded and eight returning empty) travel across Montana daily en route to and from Longview, our communities are at increased risk of catastrophic derailments across the entire cargo spectrum. The tracks run parallel to rivers and across many trestles, risking the water quality of those rivers and the safety of thousands of people living along the tracks. This is not considered in the DEIS.

A main purpose of MELT is "to leave to future generations a more livable world than the one we are on a path to creating." For all people the climate is changing, with major impacts on the planet. The proposed terminal would provide infrastructure for burning coal (the most significant human contribution to climate change) for another thirty years. This is harmful to our air, land, water and health and is not considered in the DEIS for regions beyond the proposed terminal and nearby areas.

The proposed coal export terminal would create significant adverse impacts to our community ~~that~~ our region and our planet that cannot be mitigated. We ask that you select the NO ACTION alternative.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Jan Hoem (Janice R. Hoem) Janice R. Hoem
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Contains two separate comments