

Dear Members of the Washington Department of Ecology:

Thank you for accepting the weighty responsibility of protecting the environment for human, plant, and other animal life on this planet, in your state specifically. We are so glad you are here to do this work. Thank you for your time.

Before you now is the issue of the safety for the environment in respect to constructing and operating a large coal terminal in Longview. This is of concern to many, and we appreciate your time in listening to and reading comments. Many knowledgeable groups have done an amazingly thorough and educated analysis of the Environmental Impact Statement, and they will be testifying. I have read some of their reports.

I am writing from the perspective of someone who loves the Earth, is a mother and grandmother who spent her life learning and teaching young people in high school to be informed citizens and to be activists. We live in Portland, in the Northwest, and with all young people in my heart and mind, especially the newest generation and those coming, I beseech you to not approve this project.

You probably have seen the history of planet Earth graphed on a 24-hour clock. Human beings appear finally and not until 1 minute and 17 seconds before midnight, in this 24-hour analogy. Our history on the planet is a slim and tiny fraction, and that may be all we get ultimately, the way things are going.

Lewis and Clark reached the Pacific Ocean after walking and traveling by boat or canoe from St Louis, Missouri. They traveled one year, six months, and one day to reach the mouth of the mighty Columbia, opening into the Pacific. They were looking for a Northwest Passage, and they never found it, but they did discover magnificent, pristine, amazing plains, mountains, rivers, clear streams, forests, habitats for a seemingly infinite number of species of plants and animals, including human beings living in ways unfamiliar to them, but very helpful to them in their survival. Today, the vast array of cities, freeways, wires, cars, malls, logged forests, and the levels of pollution in rivers and streams is a contrast. That was only a short 211 years ago. What would the Earth be like with 211 more years of this type of “development”?

Many parts of the Northwest are still pristine and beautiful and this gives us hope and also belies the state of the present moment. Forty percent of the species of plants and animals have disappeared from the Earth, just since I graduated from college in 1971. That is staggering, shocking and heartbreaking, disturbing and unsettling. The trajectory is clear.

In this context, one company, calling itself “Millennium Bulk Terminals,” wants to make a profit for itself hauling more than 44 million tons of coal each year, loaded in open coal cars on mile and a half long trains, polluting a route from Colorado, through Wyoming, Montana, Utah, Idaho, Oregon, and across Washington to Longview. This pollution includes, but is not limited to, coal dust and coal particles flying out all along the way, coating homes, yards, rivers, boats, trees, lakes, and everything, infesting lungs of living

creatures including human beings, leading to disease and poor health, contamination of water and plants and food. Pollution also will be spread in the form of noise, which contributes to stress of all kinds in all creatures and manifests in multiple negative ways. Also, pollution in various forms will be spread through accidents, spills, fires, and exhaust, and just in the operation of the terminal on site. Time will be wasted waiting for long trains at intersections, trains which come many times a day, all year. Time will be wasted in illness and disharmony with the Earth. The Environmental Impact Report reveals multiple grave problems caused by this project in Washington. The report highlights more than enough reasons to deny this project, even though the report minimizes and does not thoroughly investigate all ramifications of negative impact.

There is not and must never will be a Northwest Passage for coal, a dirty and limited source of fuel. Fossil fuels will become extinct, and we don't want them to take us with them. Please move toward clean, renewable resource support and deny this messy and disastrous project.

Time is of the essence in moving toward this new, clean path, away from fossil fuels. Please say no to any coal terminals in Washington State and to any new fossil fuel projects of this type. Our Northwest and the western United States, and all the planet will thank you.

Thank you sincerely,
Adrienne Dickinson
Portland, OR
May 24, 2016