

Gary W. Hawk



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May 10, 2016

Washington Department of Ecology
Millennium Bulk Terminals EIS
c/o ICF International
710 Second Ave.
Suite 550 Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Department of Ecology:

Thank you for giving citizens an opportunity to participate in the democratic process by commenting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Millennium coal export terminal in Longview, Washington.

The DEIS is deficient for the following reasons:

- I was shocked to learn that though the coal will be mined in the Powder River Basin of Montana and Wyoming, the statement does not account for the impacts of such a project in Montana. Building this terminal could mean up to sixteen coal trains passing through Montana each day. Transporting coal in this manner will have deleterious effects on our air quality, public health, especially for children exposed to coal dust, and increase the likelihood of accidents with potentially devastating consequences for towns along the rails and our rivers. This kind of rail traffic will increase delays at rail crossings, potentially putting people at risk as they wait for emergency vehicles.
- Looking beyond the impacts in Montana, I am well aware of the air quality impacts for people in the Columbia River Basin. In 2014, I paddled my kayak from Skamokawa, Washington to Astoria, Oregon. There is no doubt in my mind that this area can be windy and will blow coal dust into the air at both the terminal where the coal will be piled and the route along the way. Furthermore, diesel fumes from train engines add to the public health costs as they contain benzene, a known carcinogen.
- The EIS is also deficient because it fails to account for the hidden costs of more mining, and the transportation and burning of coal on global climate change. In Montana our snow is melting earlier, causing impacts to both recreation and agriculture. The fires still burning near Fort McMurray serve as a warning to any of us of the impact of climate change on forests and nearby communities. Furthermore, it does not matter whether the coal is

(MBT Comment, p. 2)

- burned in China or in the United States. The atmosphere does not recognize national boundaries. Wherever coal is burned to generate electricity it adds to the greenhouse gas effect with increasingly costly consequences for coastal and inland communities.

At a time when the market for coal is drying up, coal companies are going bankrupt, and China has pledged to eliminate imports within five years; at a time when investment analysts see the growth of renewable energy projects and are increasingly dubious about putting money into fossil fuel infrastructure; and taking into account the environmental and public health impacts along the entire rail route, there are no responsible reasons for building a coal export terminal in Longview, Washington. I urge the Department to take no action to approve the Millennium Bulk Terminal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary W. Hawk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "G".

Gary W. Hawk



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