

Millennium Bulk Terminals, Longview: DEIS on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

My name is Dr. Kelly O'Hanley. As an obstetrician gynecologist with a degree in public health, I have worked over 30 years in 40 countries to protect the lives of mothers and babies. I have helped teach the next generation of doctors at Harvard and Stanford universities.

The DEIS uses misleading and obsolete information. The DEIS (page 5.8-2) states the warming potential of methane to be 25 times that of CO₂. It cites the Environmental Protection Agency and the International Panel Climate Change as key sources (page 5.8-5). But note: the Environmental Protection Agency's actual language in 2015 is "more than 25X that of CO₂"¹. [This is like saying, "Tucson, Arizona (with a population just over 1 million) and Tokyo, Japan (with a population of about 38 million) both have populations of more than 1 million".] As for the International Panel Climate Change, in 2015, it states that methane is 34 times stronger a heat-trapping gas than CO₂ over a 100-year time scale.²

The DEIS's 100-year timeframe for impacts of climate change is too long. The International Panel Climate Change states that "The choice of time horizon is a value judgment." Applying the more relevant 20-year time frame, the International Panel Climate Change states that greenhouse gas impact of methane is 86 times that of CO₂. This is a far cry from the 25 times figure used in the DEIS.

For the reasons cited, the DEIS should be deemed as inadequate. Therefore, the "No Action" alternative should be chosen.

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¹ <https://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/E5F2425E2E668A2B85257EA5005176FA>

² http://www.climatechange2013.org/images/uploads/WGIAR5_WGI-12Doc2b_FinalDraft_All.pdf

Millennium Bulk Terminals, Longview DEIS: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change – Impact on Human Health

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The DEIS devotes pages to calculating increases in metric tons of CO2 but it is silent on the resultant impact of climate change on human health. This is quite an omission. It's equivalent to calculating the tonnage of nuclear bombs dropped during WWII but failing to comment on the loss of life in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

What could be the impact on Cowlitz County and Washington residents from forest fires, smoke, injury, death and dislocation?

What are the impacts from increased heat, higher ozone levels and degraded air quality? How will this impact pediatric populations and adults over 65? Those with pre-existing diseases like asthma, bronchitis, COPD?

What will be the health impacts of severe weather, including heavy rain, flooding, wind storms and landslides?

What will be the impacts from increasing rates of vector-borne diseases like West Nile Virus, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, plague, dengue fever, tularemia and Lyme disease? Or from diarrheal infections such as Salmonella and Campylobacter?

Where is information about food security? Will there be disproportionate adverse effects on low income communities and communities of color? If so, what will they be?

Due to the lack of a Human Impact Assessment, the DEIS should be deemed inadequate and the "No Action Alternative" should be adopted. Subsequently, for the sake of human survival, all future proposals to transport, store, and burn coal should be rejected as many times and in as many places as is necessary to halt the mad dash toward climate chaos.

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