

May 24th, 2016

State of Washington
Department of Ecology
Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview LLC
Environmental Impact Statement, Public Hearing, 5/ 24/ 2016
Cowlitz County Fairgrounds
Kelso, WA. 98626

Sir:

The lower Columbia River region, especially around Longview Washington, Clatskanie and Westport Oregon, is already over burdened with air pollution. Coal dust and hydrocarbon off gassing would be considered cruel and unusual punishment for inmates of a prison yet coal export promoters and their accomplices in govt desire to subject our local populations to what would not be allowed for prisoners. A coal worker can move and choose another line of work and can wear respiratory equipment. Our choices, in order to avoid toxification from coal and unknown compounds formed by coal components mixing with other pollutants, is to move or to stop coal. We were here first. Coal promoters can shove it up their backside.

If the coal industry wanted to transport its product without causing harm to crops, rail infrastructure, and life of any type, especially humans, it could easily do so. It would just cost them a bit more to seal the coal in containers or make it into blocks and seal in a wrapper. However, they prefer to shift THEIR costs of doing things properly onto the public by doing things in a cheapo negative manner in order to steal quality of life from everyone and everything else in terms of more money in their pocket. That is unacceptable. I refuse to pay coals way in terms of reduced healthy air, water, fish, and food from coal soaked storm water runoff or dust blowing into the rivers, streams, and onto crops all along the rail line and from the massive coal storage terminal.

The large material handling port at Portland Oregon is the only port in the area that can handle the quantity of rail traffic properly without disturbing truck commerce, emergency vehicles, and traffic flow. If coal cannot meet the requirements of the Port of Portland, the Port of Longview or any other port along the Columbia River, should NOT be allowing coal for the very same reasons.

The coal industry is so lazy minded, anti USA, and pro greed it would rather deplete our energy supplies by sending it overseas rather than figuring out a way to convert it into a value added product like electricity, in a clean non polluting manner. If that cannot be done then it should be left in the ground since the foreign coal burners will just pollute the air we breathe. Any monies received from coal sales by this company should be divided amongst the populace for reduced air quality before company officials receive a cent.