

My name is Kenji Ushimaru from Infra Innovations of Seattle, and a member of Clean Tech Alliance of Washington. My professional area of expertise is in analysis of national energy policies, and their impact on global energy supply and demand.

I'd like to present some critical facts gleaned from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and from my current research into Post-Tsunami national energy policies in Japan and the United States.

The basic tenet of the coal usage in the DEIS is that low-sulfur coal from Powder River Basin will be exported to Japan and South Korea.

The demand for energy in these countries is growing. After the tsunami event in 2011, Japan shut down all nuclear reactors, thereby losing 30% of electric base load. Japan plans to build 46 new coal plants, and Korea will be building 10 new plants in the 10 years. But more importantly they also intend to take responsibility for carbon reduction as both are signatories of the Paris Climate Accord.

Coal-fired plants in these countries have the highest efficiency and are cleanest in Asia, which is 24% better than plants in the US and 33% better than plants in China. Furthermore, Japan is already meeting the IEA Roadmap for carbon reduction, and is going beyond the roadmap by building Carbon Capture and Storage facilities.

Therefore, this project can clearly meet Washington's regulatory framework and should be permitted so that Washington's important trading partners can benefit from a stable supply of American coal, while furthering their commitment to carbon reduction technologies.

All the while the project will create jobs in Cowlitz County, resulting in a true win-win scenario for regional economic development and expanded partnership with two countries committed to serious carbon reductions.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my comments to this process.