

Fuse Comment Language:

Dear Army Corps of Engineers, Cowlitz County, and Dept of Ecology,

RE: Revise Coal Export DEIS to Protect Health, Safety, & Environment

I support the “no action” alternative in the Millennium Bulk Terminals Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Millennium’s proposed coal export terminal would harm communities throughout the Northwest, with the most intense impacts felt in Longview, Washington, near the proposed terminal site. The project harms our health and safety, air and water quality, and natural resources. I urge your agencies to protect public health and natural resources. Reject coal export.

Climate Change: Washington state is a national leader in the fight to combat climate change. Considering rail and vessel emissions alone, this project would be one of the biggest greenhouse gas emitters in Washington state. Coal export undermines the state’s hard work to combat climate change and protect future generations.

Health & the Environment: The Draft EIS reveals many serious impacts to human health and the environment. It dismisses other impacts without a valid basis. The Final EIS should incorporate the best available science, real world examples, and a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment. The agencies undercut public, tribal, and agency input by failing to complete a Health Impact Assessment before releasing the Draft EIS.

Rail Traffic: The Draft EIS demonstrates Millennium would have a severe impact on rail and road congestion. Because Millennium cannot fix this significant harm—from mine to terminal—the agencies should deny permits.

Weak & Unenforceable Mitigation: In some instances, the Draft EIS claims mitigation can reduce coal dust, rail traffic, and other project impacts. For example, to mitigate coal dust from the terminal, the Draft EIS proposes a reporting process for coal dust complaints. This borders on offensive. A phone call or email to complain about coal dust fouling a person’s lungs, home, and river is not “mitigation.” The agencies should revise the Draft EIS and remove inadequate, unsupported, and unenforceable mitigation.

Thank you,
