

OPSR Comments re: Millennium Bulk Terminals (MBT) Coal Export Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

Thank you for accepting comments on the DEIS for the largest coal export terminal proposal in the nation, the Millennium Bulk Terminals project. Many threats to public health and safety have been identified in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The project would harm public health and our climate. For these and other reasons, I request that you reject the proposal.

This dirty project would undermine local, state and federal efforts to combat climate change. The project would dramatically increase greenhouse gas emissions at a time when our region and our nation must move rapidly toward more sustainable energy sources.

Coal trains and ships emit dangerous and deadly diesel particle pollution. Coal dust would blow off trains, ships, and uncovered piles of coal at the terminal, threatening clean air and water.

Coal trains derail, threatening homes, businesses, and the environment. Coal ships have accidents that threaten the health of our rivers and drinking water supplies. Emergency responders along the rail lines and at the export terminal in Longview, WA would face considerable delays at at-grade crossings and the terminal itself. These threats are well documented in the DEIS.

The DEIS fails to adequately address the cumulative impacts of other fossil fuel export projects proposed to be built in communities along the Columbia River in Washington and Oregon. This must be remedied in the Final EIS.

The project will have disproportionate negative impacts on low-income, minority, and tribal communities along the rail route and near the terminal. I request that a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment with a public review process be included in the Final EIS.

Based on substantial threats to human health and safety that cannot be avoided or mitigated, please deny permits for the Millennium coal export project and select the “No Action Alternative.”

Thank you for consideration of my comments.
Sincerely,