

# Chapter 11

## Public Involvement and Agency Coordination

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Public and agency outreach efforts for the Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) began in summer 2013, and have continued throughout this environmental review process.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the lead agency for the NEPA review, identified the following objectives to guide the public involvement process.

- Conduct a thorough, impartial, and transparent public review process that informs the development of the Draft and Final EISs.
- Provide clear milestones for public participation.
- Effectively and efficiently share with, and obtain information from, the public and stakeholders during the EIS development processes.
- Meet or exceed federal requirements for public involvement as defined by the NEPA process.

This chapter summarizes the public and agency outreach activities to date and outlines next steps following the close of the Draft EIS public comment period.

### 11.1 Scoping

The purpose of scoping is to determine the "scope" or content of an EIS. The scope identifies the potential environmental impacts and alternatives that need to be evaluated. The scoping process provides an opportunity for the public, communities, Native American tribes, and agencies to recommend methods for analysis and alternatives to evaluate in the EIS and to identify issues and concerns. Public comments on the scope of the EIS help the Corps determine what should be addressed in the EIS.

The Corps, together with Cowlitz County and the Washington State Department of Ecology (SEPA co-lead agencies), used an expanded scoping process that provided a 95-day comment period from August 16, 2013 to November 18, 2013. During this time, the public, agencies, communities, and Native American tribes were able to learn about the proposed export terminal alternatives and the EIS process and provide scoping comments. Two NEPA/SEPA combined public scoping meetings were held. Agencies, local governments, Native American tribes, and the public were invited to participate in the scoping process by providing comments and attending public scoping meetings. In addition to the NEPA/SEPA scoping meetings, the SEPA co-lead agencies held three additional SEPA-only scoping meetings, the comments from which were also considered by the Corps as part of the NEPA scoping process. Appendix K, *Scoping Summary Report*, includes scoping meeting materials, notices, and summaries of public scoping comments.

## 11.1.1 Public Notices and Media Activities

The Corps and SEPA co-lead agencies used a broad-based, multimedia (i.e., website, media releases, and public notices) approach to notify the public about the proposed export terminal and of the purpose, time, and location of the scoping meetings.

### 11.1.1.1 Website

The Corps and SEPA co-lead agencies used the EIS website ([www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov](http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov)) throughout public scoping for announcements and as a repository for scoping materials and information. The Corps and SEPA co-lead agencies emphasized the availability of the EIS website. All news releases and informational materials included the EIS website address, which was identified as the project information hub and portal for submitting comments during the scoping period. The website address was also provided to each scoping meeting venue for incorporation into venue websites.

The scoping meeting dates and locations were included on the EIS website and the SEPA co-lead agencies' websites.

### 11.1.1.2 Media Releases

The Corps used standard press releases, as well as social media, to inform the public of the scoping process, scoping meetings, and comment opportunities. Media releases were distributed before each meeting, with designated contacts listed for reporter follow-ups. Social media such as Twitter were used, as appropriate.

Display ads were placed in local newspapers where scoping meetings were held. Publications included *The Spokane Spokesman-Review*, *The Tri-City Herald* (Pasco), *The Columbian* (Vancouver/Clark County), *The Longview Daily News*, and *The Tacoma News-Tribune*.

### 11.1.1.3 Public Notices

People interested in updates on the proposed export terminal were added to the project LISTSERV before and during the scoping period. Announcements were sent to the LISTSERV group throughout the scoping period. The LISTSERV was hosted by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Care was taken to ensure that notices of meetings reached minority and low-income populations. Approximately 6,000 flyers (in English and Spanish) were mailed to minority and low-income neighborhoods identified near the project areas, including the Highlands neighborhood in Longview. Flyers were also placed at public locations near targeted neighborhoods and posted to the project website. An example of this flyer is included in Appendix K, *Scoping Summary Report*.

## 11.1.2 Prescoping Meetings and Interviews

Meetings were held with stakeholders and local agency staff prior to public scoping. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss expectations, meeting ground rules, and general communication. Prior to the scoping meetings, various stakeholders and local agency representatives were identified and interviewed to guide planning for the scoping process.

The interviews identified the following characteristics and opportunities for each stakeholder.

- Understanding and expectations about the scoping process and the proposed export terminal.
- Experience with similar processes and lessons learned.
- Suggestions on scoping meeting design and ground rules.
- Effective communication channels and outreach methods, particularly for low-income and minority populations.

The Corps and the SEPA co-lead agencies identified 40 individuals (or groups of individuals) to be contacted for interviews. Thirty interviews were conducted with stakeholders representing the following diverse range of interests and demographics.

- Environmental and conservation groups
- Landowner organizations
- Labor organizations
- Economic development and business organizations
- Port authorities
- River navigation pilots
- Local community groups

In addition to these interviews, a local agency meeting was held on August 6, 2013, in Kelso, Washington. The purpose of the meeting was to provide an overview of the proposed export terminal, discuss the environmental process and preliminary schedule, and solicit input regarding scoping. Representatives from the following 11 jurisdictions were invited to participate in this meeting. Staff members from the Association of Washington Cities were also invited to participate in this meeting.

- Camas
- Kalama
- Kelso
- Longview
- Pasco
- Rainier, Oregon
- Spokane
- Tacoma
- Vancouver
- Washougal
- Woodland

### 11.1.3 Agency and Tribal Notifications and Scoping

On August 6, 2013, a letter informing potentially affected Native American tribes of the scoping process and requesting input was sent to six federally recognized Native American tribes in the states of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC). Appendix K, *Scoping Summary Report*, contains a copy of the letter sent to Native American tribes.

### 11.1.4 Comment Period and Open Houses

During the 95-day scoping comment period, the Corps and the SEPA co-lead agencies provided multiple opportunities for interested members of the public to learn about the proposed export terminal and the EIS process and to provide scoping comments. The co-lead agencies invited members of the public, government agencies, Native American tribes, and other organizations to provide scoping comments through the following methods.

- Sending a comment by mail to the co-lead agencies in care of ICF International, 710 Second Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104.
- Obtaining a comment form at a scoping meeting and submitting written comments at the meeting or through U.S. mail.
- Using the online comment form on the EIS website.
- Submitting a comment by email to a dedicated project email address.
- Making a public verbal comment at a scoping meeting.
- Providing an individual verbal comment to a court reporter at a scoping meeting in a quiet room.

All comments received were posted on the EIS website so interested parties could review all comments received. For mass mailings or email petitions, the comments were reviewed individually, but only one representative document was uploaded on the EIS website. Similarly, some organizations collected a large number of comments from individuals and then submitted them in one package; a representative document was uploaded to the EIS website in the same format in which they were submitted. All comments were retained as part of the administrative record.

Two combined NEPA and SEPA scoping meetings were held (Table 11-1). The SEPA co-lead agencies also held three additional scoping meetings. The comments at these meetings were also considered by the Corps.

**Table 11-1. EIS Open House Scoping Meetings**

City	Meeting Date and Time	Venue
Longview (NEPA/SEPA)	Tuesday, September 17, 2013, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center
Spokane (SEPA only)	Wednesday, September 25, 2013, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Spokane Convention Center
Pasco (SEPA only)	Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	TRAC Center
Clark County (NEPA/SEPA)	Wednesday, October 9, 2013, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Clark County Fairgrounds
Tacoma (SEPA only)	Thursday, October 17, 2013, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.	Tacoma Convention Center

## 11.2 Scoping Comments

Scoping comments were collected through a variety of methods and organized by comments received from individuals, agencies, Native American tribes, and organizations. Scoping comments were considered in the development of this Draft EIS.

### 11.2.1 Total Comments Submitted

In total, 217,566 comments were received during the 95-day scoping comment period. Of the 217,566 submissions received, approximately 214,640 were from mass mailing form letter or email campaigns. Of the roughly 3,000 unique submissions, approximately 2,000 were found to contain substantive text. Scoping comments were received in a variety of ways, including electronic, written, and verbal comments. Electronic comments were submitted online through the EIS website or via email to a designated email address or to the co-lead agencies. Written comments included unique letters, form letters, or comment cards that were received through U.S. mail or at the public scoping meetings. Written comments also included preprinted cards and form letters or postcards from nongovernmental organizations. Verbal comments were received at the public scoping meetings, either as presented to the audience or to a court reporter in a semiprivate setting.

### 11.2.2 Agency and Tribal Comments

Of the 217,566 comment letters received during the 95-day scoping comment period, 127 letters were received from federal and state agencies, state and local elected officials, local agencies or organizations, and Native American tribes. Table 11-2 lists the agencies and Native American tribes that provided scoping comments.

## 11.3 NEPA Cooperating Agencies

NEPA implementing regulations allow the lead agency to invite other federal agencies to participate in the NEPA process as cooperating agencies. A federal agency may also request to be designated as a cooperating agency. Cooperating agencies, as defined in 40 CFR Part 1501.6, are federal agencies having jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to a proposal. Cooperating agencies have the responsibility to assist the lead agency by participating in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time, assist in developing information and preparing environmental analyses, and make staff available to enhance interdisciplinary capabilities.

The NEPA cooperating agencies for this EIS are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG). The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Surface Transportation Board (STB) were invited to serve as NEPA cooperating agencies but each declined the invitation. In December 2014, the Corps, EPA, and USCG signed a Memorandum of Understanding that identifies the terms of cooperation between the Corps as the NEPA lead agency and EPA and USCG as cooperating agencies.

**Table 11-2. Agency and Tribal Scoping Commenters**

Federal Agencies	State Agencies	Local and Regional Agencies	Elected Officials	Tribes and Tribal Representation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bonneville Power Administration</li> <li>• Columbia River Gorge Commission (submitted two letters)</li> <li>• National Marine Fisheries Service</li> <li>• National Park Service</li> <li>• U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service</li> <li>• U.S. Environmental Protection Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation</li> <li>• Washington State Department of Health</li> <li>• Washington Department of Natural Resources</li> <li>• Washington State Department of Transportation</li> <li>• Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Camas, Washington</li> <li>• City of Cheney, Washington</li> <li>• City of Eugene, Oregon</li> <li>• City of Everett, Washington</li> <li>• City of Hood River, Oregon</li> <li>• City of Kennewick, Washington</li> <li>• City of Lacey, Washington</li> <li>• City of Livingston, Montana</li> <li>• City of Longview, Washington</li> <li>• City of Milwaukie, Oregon</li> <li>• City of Missoula, Montana</li> <li>• City of Mosier, Oregon</li> <li>• City of Olympia, Washington</li> <li>• City of Sandpoint, Idaho</li> <li>• City of Spokane, Washington</li> <li>• City of Sumner, Washington</li> <li>• City of Tacoma, Washington</li> <li>• City of The Dalles, Oregon</li> <li>• City of Vancouver, Washington</li> <li>• City of Washougal, Washington</li> <li>• Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments</li> <li>• Cowlitz 2 Fire &amp; Rescue</li> <li>• Gallatin City-County Board of Health</li> <li>• Olympic Region Clean Air Agency</li> <li>• Port of Longview</li> <li>• San Juan County Council</li> <li>• Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Washington State Legislature, Representatives and Senators from Districts 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 17, 18, 20, 23, 24, 27, 28, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 46</li> <li>• Metropolitan King County Council</li> <li>• King County Executive</li> <li>• Thurston County Commissioner</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coeur d'Alene Tribe of Indians</li> <li>• Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission</li> <li>• Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation</li> <li>• Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation</li> <li>• Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (submitted two letters)</li> <li>• Cowlitz Indian Tribe</li> <li>• Nez Perce Tribe</li> <li>• Nisqually Indian Tribe</li> <li>• Upper Columbia United Tribes</li> </ul>

## 11.4 Tribal Consultation

The Corps initiated consultation with Native American tribes during the NEPA scoping process by notifying them in a letter dated August 6, 2013, of the scoping process and requesting tribal involvement.

## 11.5 Draft EIS Public Comment Period

Publication of this Draft EIS triggers another round of public outreach and involvement, including notification to interested parties about the document's availability and public hearings to solicit input on this Draft EIS.

During the 60-day Draft EIS public comment period September 30 through November 29, 2016, the Corps will provide multiple opportunities to comment on this Draft EIS. The Corps invites members of the public, government agencies, Native American tribes, and organizations to provide comments through the following methods.

- Sending a comment by mail to Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview NEPA EIS in care of ICF International, 710 Second Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104.
- Obtaining a comment form at a public hearing and submitting written comments at a hearing or through U.S. mail.
- Using the online comment form on the EIS website ([www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov](http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov)).
- Making a public oral comment at a Draft EIS public hearing.
- Providing an individual oral comment to a court reporter at a Draft EIS public hearing in a quiet room.

### 11.5.1 Notification of Public Hearings and Comment Period

The Corps uses a broad-based, multimedia approach to notify the public of the purpose, time, and location of the public hearings.

- **EIS project website.** Public hearing information is posted on the EIS website. The EIS project website address is displayed prominently in all news releases and informational materials and identified as the project information hub and portal for submitting comments during the review period. The venue where the public hearings take place will incorporate the EIS website into the venue website.
- **Media releases.** Media releases from the Corps are distributed no later than 7 days before a public hearing, with designated contacts listed for reporter follow-ups.
- **Elected official alerts.** The Corps sends notices to designated elected officials on the local, state, and national levels. Notices follow existing agency protocols for communication with elected officials.

- **Public hearing notification.** Notification of the public hearings is published in the local newspaper where the public hearing will be held (e.g., *The Longview Daily News* and *The Columbian*).
- **Local project mailing.** An informational flyer is mailed to as many as 6,000 residents in neighborhoods near the project areas including the Highlands neighborhood, 2 weeks prior to the Longview public hearing on October 24, 2016.

## 11.5.2 Public Hearings and Open Houses

The Corps will hold two public hearings and open houses at the following locations.

### **Monday, October 24, 2016**

1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center

1900 7th Avenue

Longview, WA 98632

### **Tuesday, October 25, 2016**

1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Clark County Event Center

17402 NE Delfel Road

Ridgefield, WA 98642

The public hearings will provide a forum to present and receive comments on this Draft EIS. Attendees will be able to provide comments in person, either in a semiprivate setting or before an audience. Attendees will also be provided with comment forms for written comments.

Commenters will be encouraged to focus their comments on three topics.

- Methods used for the analyses.
- Findings in this Draft EIS related to potential resource impacts.
- Measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts of the proposed export terminal.

The public hearings will include an open house, which will allow the public to interact with agency representatives and to access information about the NEPA EIS process, as well as details about the proposed export terminal. Exhibit boards will show the proposed export terminal, the steps for developing the Draft and Final EIS document, findings contained in this Draft EIS, and a general timeline. Exhibit boards will also include guidance on providing comments during the Draft EIS comment period and information about how the comments will be used.

## 11.6 Next Steps

Comments received on this Draft EIS will be considered by the Corps and addressed in the Final EIS.

Cowlitz County and Ecology issued a SEPA Draft EIS, *Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview State Environmental Policy Act Draft Environmental Impact Statement*, for the proposed export terminal on April 29, 2016. The public comment period for this EIS was held from April 29, 2016 through June 13, 2016. Comments received during the SEPA Draft EIS public comment period will also be considered by the Corps.

The NEPA Final EIS will be used by the Corps in its Department of the Army permit decision on the proposed export terminal.