

September 17, 2013

TO: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
WA Department of Ecology
Cowlitz County Commission

FROM: Jean MacGregor
533 Olmstead Lane SW
Olympia, WA 98512

SUBJECT: Docket number 2013-19738: Comment on scope of EIS for
Millennium Bulk Terminals Longview LLC Coal Export Terminal

I strongly oppose the construction of a coal export terminal at Longview, Washington which would transport coal on trains and ships throughout the Northwest.

I am especially worried about the probable long-term damage to the Columbia River ecosystem and associated riparian areas. Once a commitment is made to coal exports, the transport of coal through the Pacific Northwest in general and the Columbia River gorge in particular will happen for a very long time. This is because, in Asia, coal-fired plants and electricity generation facilities are very long-term capital investments. If coal export is approved, it will likely continue decades into the future. Can you predict with integrity and certainty what the long-term effect of coal dust will be on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, decades ahead? **Please quantify the risks to ecosystem integrity of moving coal through our region over tens of years.**

A much larger concern is the role of the burning of carbon in global warming, climate change, and climate disruption. Unfortunately our government and many governments around the world are aiming our collective boat straight for Niagara Falls and there is hardly a discussion of even slowing the boat motors. **Approving the shipment of large amounts of coal through our region signals our tacit approval that it's not a problem to burn this much carbon.** Please do the numbers. Calculate the amount of carbon burned in mining, transporting, shipping, and burning this amount of carbon for the next 5-8 decades and calculate its contribution to global warming. **If you deem that the climate change impact of coal transport and burning is just a trivial thing, please present a cogent argument for why you believe this to be the case.**

I urge you to consider these impacts in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you.