



September 9, 2013

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department of Ecology
Cowlitz County

RE: Scope of Review for EIS – Millennium Bulk Terminals Longview proposal

MBTL Environmental Reviewing Agencies:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scope of impacts to be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview proposal. The Columbia River Gorge Commission is the bi-state land use planning agency for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area upriver from the proposed terminal site.

The Gorge Commission understands that the Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview project recently removed coal handling from its application but that other commodities will be transported to the terminal by rail and river vessel through the heart of Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. We also understand the Department of Ecology and Whatcom County are evaluating another proposal – the Gateway Pacific Terminal – for a broad range of impacts including the impacts from rail and vessel transportation and greenhouse gas emissions from end-use coal combustion. The Gorge Commission supports your agencies' rigorous, thorough, objective review of impacts generated by the Millennium Terminal Project similar to the review of the Gateway Pacific Terminal.

In the National Scenic Area the Gorge Commission evaluates impacts for consistency with standards in the *Management Plan for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area* and suggests the *Management Plan* would be helpful in identifying potential impacts to consider in the EIS. The National Scenic Area Act, the Gorge Compact, and the *Management Plan* are specifically written to protect some of the Northwest's most iconic scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources, and to support the regional economy. Those documents are available on the Commission's website at www.gorgecommission.org.

The Commission would be pleased to assist your agencies with any technical questions about the National Scenic Area and its legal authorities. Please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Darren J. Nichols
Executive Director