

**Coal hearing in Longview
Lead and asthma**

My name is Marilee Dea PNP- I am a Public Health Nurse Practitioner- in that role coordinated the Lead and Asthma Prevention Program for Multnomah County.

That is why I am here today. I am very concerned about the health of your terminal workers and want you to be aware of the risk of Asthma and Lead poisoning you are putting on them and the young people that live near the Terminal or along the tracks.

Coal, a fossil fuel, and contains toxic heavy metals - including Lead, Mercury and Arsenic. It is released when it is dug up and transported in open train cars, again when it is unloaded and loaded at the terminals, and released again when it is burned. In Lead's case it can cause death but more commonly it is a neurotoxin that causes workers and to be mentally and physically compromised ie unable to think or remember well and clumsy. It can more profound effects on their young children who contaminated by their work clothes or those children that live near the tracks or terminal and breath it in. Lead is sneaky, you will not know you are accumulating it in your blood and bones unless you get tested frequently.

Speaking of breathing let us not forget Asthma. The coal you are getting from the Powder River Basin is fine and dusty. It is not like the coal you got that looks like rocks. That dust when blown off from the uncovered trains and from moving it at the terminal is a bronchial allergen and irritant. It is like a allergic bees sting to the pulmonary system. It causes swelling and inflammation and prevention of normal air to flow in and out of the lungs. This can lead to death if not treated by bronchial dilators promptly and even with them some will need emergency treatment. Which brings me to my last point. The long trains, taking 30 minutes to pass will prevent emergency vehicles from reaching patients by 20 or 30 minutes if they live on the opposite side of the tracks from the hospital or fire station like the city of Skamania does.

Before you decide on Coal for your terminal, please investigate the impact of your emergency vehicle response time, speak to the mayor of Skamania about their delay from coal trains already. Consider Lead poisoning in your workers and young families and study your asthma rate now and what it could become once you become a major coal terminal. I urge to please say no to dirty coal, consider being a wind capital of the US instead a the coal export capital.



marileedea@comcast.net
503 771 6088