

Sept. 17, 2013 Coal Hearing Longview WA

1. It seems the attitude with energy corporations and corporate owned govt is that if you don't care enough about your health, the air you breath, the water you and your fish swim in, and your livelihoods, to find a way to protect yourself from these projects, why should they care either? If you have any doubt go visit a coal terminal.
2. It seems that as long as they are going to put money in their pockets, it doesn't matter how many lies they tell. Their govt agency minions will accept it as fact. This can be seen in any recent energy project Environmental Impact Statement done for this area. They will claim this time it will be different. There is absolutely no reason to believe them, every reason not to.
3. You may have heard a commercial over the past month or two regarding a farmer who thinks its a great idea to expand the ports for coal because it will help other commodity exports too. This may sound good but You should know this is utter nonsense. Nothing but coal will be shipped out of a coal terminal. Port expansion for any other commodity is based on its demand, same as without coal. If there was a demand for more farm products to be exported they would be exported. If they need to expand the ports to do so, they would. Exporting coal will NOT improve exporting for anything else. Quite the contrary, if anything, coal will squeeze out room for other exports. The mile ~~long~~ ^{PLUS} long trains will block access to the ports for existing and any new export product.
4. It would be wise to support the groups fighting to keep the coal dust out of your lungs, off your food crops, and out of the gills of the salmon. If you have any doubt go visit a coal port. These groups need your moral and monetary support to fight on your behalf. I and many others have personally benefitted from the efforts of LCSC and Columbia Riverkeeper protecting us from a supposed LNG "import" proposal.
5. Although it is necessary to be on record with these govt agencies, I wouldn't spend much time at it. They don't really care what you have to say. They only care when they are sued. I know this from personal experience. This is just a check off item on their list of things they are required to do. Mainly it is a diversion to keep you occupied when you should be spending most of your time hounding your representatives at all levels of govt to insist all agencies do their job and follow the laws in place and not to accept lies as fact. To enact legislation to ban energy exports until we are energy independent at historic supply based prices. Exports are all about keeping energy prices high even when we are flooded with supply, as we are now and have been for a number of years. If you want to see the overall economy rise, falling energy prices every industry and family uses, can't hurt.
6. Challenge the method the Corps of Engineers uses to consider Energy Exports a benefit to the nation. It is in direct opposition to the Dept of Energy original mission, "to make the Nation self-sufficient in energy".
All of a sudden that doesn't matter if the energy lobby has their men in the energy and export agencies.
7. Coal could easily be shipped from the mines, dust free, in closed containers. But this costs more money. So then the corporate weasels want to skip such costs they should bear, costing you and your health in order to put more money in their pockets. They will claim it isn't practical and so forth. Yet they manage to put it into a container called a railcar without a lid. Yet the ships have lids. They could make closed rail car containers detach from the railcar undercarriage ready for shipping out of Portland.
8. Even though the Port of Portland has the infrastructure to handle it properly, even though they are in the business of exporting in a major way, ...yet they declined this export product. So why then would coal be so fanatastic for this location without the proper rail infrastructure? Because you are deemed not to matter when money is to be made.
9. Why should anyone listen to any outfit and those that support them, who will gain at our loss? I for one will find another place to shop besides the black dust bowl of Longview. Figure that, and the many more who will do the same, into your Impact Statement.

Sincerely,
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