

Comment: 9/17/13; Longview WA

I am opposed to any permits for coal exports. Some say that we need the jobs so go ahead: issue the permit, mine, load and ship the coal. No to that! Generating a few temporary jobs is a terrible and tragic trade off for an increase of the spewing forth of arsenic, sulfur, cadmium, mercury, lead as well as the resultant lowering of property values of communities through which coal would shipped. In fact there would eventually be jobs lost in the shellfish, fishing and wildlife industry with the habitat and dwellers of that habitat adversely affected, not to mention the health of humans and the disruption of emergency transportation routes that could cost lives. Would you intentionally hire people to endanger the environment and be harmful to people's health? The coal that would be shipped to China would burn in coal burners, further pollute China, and a significant amount would blow back to the West Coast. The representatives from the coal companies say that the chemicals mentioned above are already found the earth, naturally, as if to say that therefore there is no problem. I say why would you want to artificially add to it? Just leave them in the ground!

The scope should not be narrow. That is, we are requesting you, in making your ruling, consider all of the area land and water that the coal would have to be transported over not just what goes on at the loading and unloading terminals. The entire environment needs to be considered, just like you did at Cherry Point in Bellingham. Not to do so would be like a cancer patient seeing the doctor and wanting only is mouth to be examined. The problem is systemic. Like disease the damage from coal does not stop at the city limits of the port!!! The coal dust effects CANNOT BE TOTALLY MITIGATED.

Respectfully submitted by



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