

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

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I retired and moved to Oregon two years ago to join my daughter who has lived in the Pacific Northwest for two decades. I was very glad to come to such a stunningly beautiful region and one with a such well-deserved reputation for renewable energy development and innovative environmental policy. I was very disheartened to learn, even before I moved here, of plans to export millions of tons a year of coal through Oregon and Washington for export to Asia. This would be a step backwards.

In developing the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the Millennium Bulk Terminals Longview LLC Coal Export Terminal I strongly urge you to take into consideration the full range of impacts that would result from this project:

- Danger to public health and quality of life from toxic coal dust spilling off trains and blowing off coal piled up waiting to be loaded onto ships;
- Coal dust contamination of the Columbia River with its valuable fisheries and recreation opportunities;
- Traffic delays, including delays to police, fire and ambulance runs, in communities along the rail transport line from increased train traffic;
- Risks to other shipping from increased Panamax ships in the Lower Columbia River
- Worsening of climate change, sea level rise and ocean acidification from increased greenhouse gas emissions when the coal is burned in Asia. These impacts pose a danger to all of us no matter where we live and will have specific effects on Pacific Northwest weather patterns, coastal communities, biodiversity, agriculture, fisheries, marine life and recreation opportunities.

I applaud the decision of the Washington State Department of Ecology to develop a comprehensive scope for Environmental Impact Statement in regard to the Gateway Pacific coal export project proposed for Cherry Point in Bellingham, WA. The proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals in Longview deserve an equally thorough EIS.