

Submitted by : Jayme King, resident of Longveiw, WA

I am very concerned about our rivers. Included in the Millennium application they state that The Columbia, The Willamette and the Snake Rivers will all be affected. Endangered and threatened habitat will be extremely disturbed during construction. Millennium also states in their plan, they will be dredging the Columbia every year and a half. How will any habitat ever recover.

I am concerned about coal particles in our rivers. There is the wind near the river, loading, unloading and mixing coal. There is the water that will be used to control coal dust on the dock. Even if Millennium is able to control coal dust from the facility and clean the water at their port they will not be able to control any water quality every where else.

It rains a lot in the Northwest. What will happen when rain runs through all of those coal cars? Coal particles and the chemical they use to control dust will contaminate the water running out of the coal cars. That water will have coal particles in it. Rain water typically runs all over our communities in the gutters, through the streets. This water will eventually end up in the rivers. Coal contains – mercury, arsenic, uranium and other heavy metals. When the rain water dries up will these contaminants will be blowing all over the community?

Millennium admits that this project will have negative effects on several types of fish and their habitat. One of the fish they name is the salmon. Here in the Northwest we have spent a lot of time, effort and money protecting the salmon and their habitat. Dams have even been removed. How can a huge coal export port on the Columbia River not have an adverse effect on the salmon and their habitat?

I am concerned about accidents on our river, or in the ocean. Just recently we saw a coal ship, the MV Smart, crumble into pieces, leaving massive quantities of coal in the ocean. The safety policies and procedures must protect the waterways from any amount of coal. How will spilled coal around the port or anywhere else get cleaned up?

I would like the Environmental Impact Statement to review the effects of coal dust, coal sludge and the chemicals they use on our rivers, waterways, wetlands & oceans. There needs to be a specific plan for clean up if there is an accident. What is Millennium's plan to remove coal in all forms from our rivers if they become contaminated? I want you to guarantee that our waterways will remain safe, clean and healthily.