

Comments on Scoping and Environmental Impact Statement

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The Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County should consider the total impacts of coal exports in their review process, including the effects on climate of burning coal.

The stated purpose of the Army Corps of Engineers is "to provide vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen the nation's security, energize the economy, and reduce risks from disasters."

Emissions from burning coal increase climate change, which raises risks to our national security. It is a recognized threat multiplier. A Department of Defense review points out that, "climate change, energy security, and economic stability are inextricably linked."

The US Supreme Court in *Mass v EPA* (2007) stated that "The harms associated with climate change are serious and well recognized. The Government's own objective assessment of the relevant science and a strong consensus among qualified experts indicate that global warming threatens, *inter alia*, a precipitate rise in sea levels, severe and irreversible changes to natural ecosystems, a significant reduction in winter snowpack with direct and important economic consequences, and increases in the spread of disease and the ferocity of weather events."

The argument that the coal will be burned anyway, even if the terminals are not built in Washington is purely speculative. Clean energy is rapidly becoming more competitive and decreasing the demand for coal. Shipment from terminals in Canada, is also speculative, and increasingly unlikely as opposition to fossil fuel shipments is strong there also.

The review process should the potential jobs from construction and operation of the coal export terminals only in comparison to potential jobs that would be created by equal financial investment in clean energy technology and energy efficiency. Studies show that development of green technology creates far more jobs than expansion of fossil fuels.

Comment area:

EIS Process

Human Environment: National Security