

The Oregon Conservancy Foundation

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Before the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County

Public Comment of the Oregon Conservancy Foundation

The most significant oversight in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Millennium Bulk coal export shipping terminal would be the failure to consider:

- Increased worldwide combustion of coal,
- Increased emissions of carbon dioxide, and
- Catastrophic Climate Change!

The sole purpose for transporting coal and exporting it to Asia is to connect coal mining with coal combustion, producing toxic blowback affecting not only the Pacific Northwest but all of planet Earth.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is now in the process of issuing their fifth assessment report on climate change. The first published report is entitled "Climate Change 2013, The Physical Science Basis." The IPCC's "Headline Statements from the Summary for Policymakers" contains a list of its significant findings of which the following are some major excerpts:

- *The atmospheric concentrations of carbon dioxide (CO²), methane, and nitrous oxide have increased to levels unprecedented in at least the last 800,000 years. CO² concentrations have increased by 40% since pre-industrial times, primarily from fossil fuel emissions and secondarily from net land use change emissions. The ocean has absorbed about 30% of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification.*
- *Human influence has been detected in warming of the atmosphere and the ocean, in changes in the global water cycle, in reductions in snow and ice, in global mean sea level rise, and in changes in some climate extremes. This evidence for human influence has grown since AR4. It is extremely likely that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20th century.*
- *Continued emissions of greenhouse gases will cause further warming and changes in all components of the climate system. Limiting climate change will require substantial and sustained reductions of greenhouse gas emissions.*

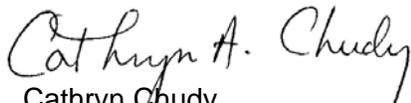
Any EIS must include all of the environmental, health and economic impacts of coal mining in the Powder River basin, coal transport through the Columbia River Gorge and Pacific Northwest communities, and coal combustion in Asia. It is also imperative to consider the collective global impacts of multiple coal export terminal projects on ocean acidification, acid rain, mercury emissions, and climate change.

We do not exist in a vacuum. What we do here links inexorably with what happens beyond the confines of our location. You have it within your authority and you owe it to concerned citizens to expand this study to encompass the wider impacts that will be felt not only regionally but outwardly in the world for centuries to come.

Climate change is upon us. We are its driving force, and we no longer can ignore the role we play in the survival of our planet. The price of business as usual is too great. It can no longer be supported by growth for the sake of growth, planned obsolescence, and the mindless consumption of resources and goods. The burden for change falls on us all and demands a greater consciousness in the way we live and protect life on Earth.

We thank you for taking these comments under consideration.

Respectfully,



Cathryn Chudy
Board of Directors



Lloyd K. Marbet
Executive Director
Oregon Conservancy Foundation