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November 18, 2013

US Army Corps of Engineers
Washington Department of Ecology
Cowlitz County Commission

Address:

comments@millenniumbulkeiswa.gov

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We thank you for this opportunity to make comments on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals.

The Mazamas

Mazamas is a 3,400 member non-profit mountaineering organization based in Portland, Oregon and founded on July 19th, 1894 on the summit of Mt. Hood. Our mission is *to promote mountaineering through education, climbing, hiking, fellowship, safety, and to protect mountain environments.*

To support this mission, we organize and operate the largest and highest quality climbing and hiking programs in the Northwest, helping to bring over 13,000 people a year outside to experience the pristine beauty of the Pacific Northwest. Overall, we organize close to 25,000 people days of activity in the outdoors.

Mazama programs create shared growth experiences for hundreds of new outdoor enthusiasts each year. We strongly believe that these deep personal experiences in the outdoors are the roots of our motivation for conservation and stewardship.

We additionally sponsor conservation and research work through grants and related programs to protect and better understand the mountain environment, and are committed to educating the public about caring for and supporting our public lands.

Comments

In September of 2012, Mazamas went on record against new coal export facilities in the Pacific Northwest. Today we write you *to specifically oppose the construction of a coal export terminal at Longview, Washington.*

This proposal would greatly increase coal traffic and pollution in the Columbia Gorge, through the Portland-Vancouver Metro area and on the lower Columbia River.



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Both through our programs, classes and activities and also simply as members, Mazamas hike in the Columbia Gorge year-round. We already witness the constant roar of train traffic on the Oregon and Washington sides. We witness clouds of diesel exhaust filling the gorge. It is hard to imagine those rails carrying more trains than they do now.

We also express our concern with pushing cheap coal toward Asia for burning in coal-fired electric power plants. Coal burning is one of the biggest contributors of greenhouse gases. As citizens and protectors of the pristine Pacific Northwest, we should be taking actions to burn less, not more coal. We should be leaders in moving our societies away from coal as a primary energy source.

This proposal would negatively affect our communities and our region by increasing congestion and noise with more coal train traffic, polluting our air and local waterways, harming existing businesses, and delaying emergency responders. It would also damage mountain glaciers, aquatic ecosystems and fishing areas on the Columbia River, harm human health, increase tanker traffic and the potential for shipping accidents and spills, expand strip-mining in Wyoming and Montana, and escalate climate change.

We urge you to consider the impacts listed above in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We also request that you include in the EIS a Health Impact Assessment with a public scoping process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lee Davis
Executive Director

cc: Governor John Kitzhaber
Senator Ron Wyden
Senator Jeff Merkley
Representative Earl Blumenauer
Representative Suzanne Bonamici
Representative Peter DeFazio
Representative Kurt Schrader
Representative Greg Walden