

CITY OF MOSIER

s m a l l e n o u g h t o m a k e a d i f f e r e n c e

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US Army Corps of Engineers
Washington State Department of Ecology
Cowlitz County Department of Building and Planning

RE: Scoping Comments for Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Dear Army Corps of Engineers, Washington Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide "scoping comments" for the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Millenium Bulk Terminals Longview proposal. The Mosier City Council opposes the proposed new coal export terminals which could result in an increase in train traffic through our community and/or through the Columbia River Gorge. The Mosier City Council is concerned that fugitive coal dust, a significant increase of diesel emissions, and an unprecedented barrage of train noise could negatively impact the health of our community and substantially reduce the viability of the Mosier economy.

The Union Pacific Railroad runs through the City of Mosier's downtown area, through our Waterfront park system, and through our residential areas. The Mosier Community School is located less than 200 yards from the train tracks. Our restaurants and our market are located less than 200 yards from the train tracks. The Historic Mosier Fruitgrowers building, where our cherries are packed every summer for export, is located less than 75 ft. from the tracks. One of our new developments, the Mosier Creek Condos, is located less than 100 ft. from the tracks. Our two new subdivisions are located above the tracks in such a way that train noise is amplified as it rises. Some of the Mosier Valleys most prolific orchards border, are bisected by, or are located within one mile of the train tracks.

Millennium Bulk Terminals, Ambre Energy and Arch Coal propose to locate a 44 million ton per year coal export facility in Cowlitz County, Washington. This proposal would require that sixteen coal trains travel through the region on a daily basis (eight full and eight empty).

The City of Mosier is located on the Columbia River in the heart of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Tourists visit Mosier because we offer excellent cycling roads through the

natural scenic beauty of the Gorge and because the City of Mosier has invested heavily in a waterfront park that includes a windsurfing beach on the Columbia River. Like most Gorge communities, Mosier relies on recreational tourism to support its downtown businesses.

Cherry orchards have historically formed the economic base of the Mosier Valley and are still the Mosier area's strongest industry, although many orchards have expanded to include peaches, nectarines, and apricots. Vineyards have contributed recently to this strong agricultural presence, and the wine tasting rooms built in the Valley support more business development downtown.

The proposals to traffic 16 coal trains per day through the Columbia River Gorge could heavily impact every sector of the Mosier community, yet neither the relevant Oregon or Washington public agencies have performed health impact studies or economic impact studies that would allow these important decisions to be made using solid scientific data. It is equally concerning that the relevant Oregon and Washington public agencies have failed to invite any of the negatively affected communities to participate in a meaningful way in the decision making process.

The Mosier City Council requests that the Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County respond to our concerns with the following:

1. Perform a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment (HIA) that studies direct, indirect and cumulative impacts to the communities in the Columbia River Gorge.
2. Hold public scoping meetings for the HIA in affected communities and in the Columbia River Gorge in order to share information and hear concerns from citizens.
3. Require an analysis of the economic impact of coal train traffic on Oregon communities (health care, businesses, property values, downtown development, agriculture, etc.).
4. Require an analysis of the environmental impacts of coal train traffic on air quality, surface and/or ground water, and agriculture within 7 miles of the railroad tracks.
5. Ensure that all information is public.
6. Carefully scrutinize a broad scope of potential impacts prior to any approvals for permits associated with coal export.
7. Require an analysis of the cost of the environmental devastation a coal train derailment would have on the communities in the Columbia River Gorge.
8. Require coal companies to avoid adversely affecting communities like Mosier or compensate these communities for the negative health, environmental, and economic impacts resulting from coal exports and the associated traffic by rail.

Thank you for your attention to this issue which could have such a negative impact on our community. We request that you inform the City of Mosier in a timely manner of any updates regarding the proposed new coal export terminals.

Sincerely,



Mayor Andrea Rogers and the Mosier City Council