

The following are our scoping comments on the proposed coal terminal near Longview, WA.

In addition to environmental impacts that would be expected to occur in the immediate geographic vicinity of the proposed facility, the proposal would have direct, indirect and cumulative effects well beyond that location.

The proposed project would result in a significant increase in the amount of coal being transported to the proposed facility. At a minimum the analysis area should include lands and waterways adjacent to, and potentially affected by, all likely land routes that would be used to transport coal to the terminal. Such areas must be large enough to include all areas adjacent to those routes that may be potentially affected by coal dust, as well as the increased noise and vibration from the increased rail or truck traffic. Some preliminary studies have already been conducted that might provide guidance for where to begin the additional studies that would be needed to assess these impacts.

A significant increase in the quantity of coal being shipped would also result in an increase in the amount and rate at which coal would be mined. Impacts of those mining operations should also be addressed.

As I understand it the coal from the proposed terminal would be primarily bound for China. China has recently experienced disastrous increases in air pollution and its associated health problems and deaths. These air pollution increases are certain to accelerate in the coming years if China continues to depend on coal. The United States should consider its potential contribution to the Chinese pollution problem and the EIS for this project should consider the indirect and cumulative effects that the increase in coal shipments resulting from this project would have on that pollution.

Given the increases in pollution and its effects, accompanied by public concern in China and the changing political climate, it's likely that the Chinese will take steps at some point in the near future to reduce their dependence on coal. The EIS should consider that likelihood and that the need for this terminal may simply dry up in the near future, resulting in wasted resources for the project and unnecessary impacts.

While an ability to accurately predict the future course of climate change is lacking, that it *is* occurring is settled science. The transport of coal to and from the proposed terminal, as well as its intended use at its destination, would clearly contribute to global climate change as well as local change in the most directly affected areas. These impacts should be addressed in as measurable a manner as possible. This should not only include contributions from the burning of coal at its destination, but also from the combustion of other fuels involved in its transport to and from the proposed facility.

Thank you very much for considering our comments. Please include us on your mailing list. We look forward to seeing all future documents if it goes forward.

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