

MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINALS - LONGVIEW
NEPA DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

PUBLIC COMMENTS - MAIN STAGE

5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.

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CLARK COUNTY EVENT CENTER

17402 N.E. Delfel Road

Vancouver, Washington 98642

October 25, 2016

Cheryl L. Vorhees, CSR, CCR, RPR

Court Reporter

1 VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016

2 5:00 p.m.

3 * * *

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5 EVENT HOST: Welcome. On behalf of the US

6 Corps of Engineers, we welcome you to this public

7 comment forum, designed to ensure a safe and

8 welcoming environment for you to provide input on

9 the National Environmental Policy Act Draft

10 Environmental Impact Statement for the Millennium

11 Bulk Terminal Longview Project proposed in Cowlitz

12 County, near Longview, Washington.

13 My name is Scott Keillor, and I will be

14 the facilitator and hearings officer tonight. We'll

15 begin with a bit of housekeeping. We'll give you

16 the ground rules, and we'll also hear some

17 background on the project.

18 We'll begin the formal portion of the

19 hearing where you'll be able to provide your

20 comments for the public record, and discuss other

21 options such as written online, mail-in comments,

22 and comments that we take tonight in the open house.

23 The comment period will extend through November 29,

24 2016.

25 The agency and consultant team are here to

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1 assist you, and you can identify us through the name
2 tags and tan vests. So please do not hesitate to
3 ask and we'll provide answers to your questions.

4 Exits are located to your left, to my
5 right. Restrooms to my left.

6 The materials that you've received to
7 learn about the project include those that were
8 offered at the welcome station, as well as the open
9 house.

10 If you'd like to speak at the podium, be
11 sure that you do have a lottery ticket. And we're
12 using these based on the number of folks that want
13 to speak. Please keep that with you. If we do have
14 lower numbers, by a show of hands we may suspend the
15 lottery.

16 So when you are called up to speak, please
17 check in with Kim, come to the speaker line-up, and
18 we'll take speakers in the order of the lottery
19 number selections.

20 We'll have up to five public and tribal
21 elected officials offered an opportunity to address
22 the Corps at the top of each hour, starting at the

23 conclusion of this presentation.

24 I'd like to introduce the panel. To my

25 far right we have Amy Reese, Chief Operations

4

1 Division, and to her right Muffy Walker, Regulatory

2 Branch Chief of the US Army Corps of Engineers.

3 Further to their right, at the lower

4 table, Sally Toteff with the Washington Department

5 of Ecology.

6 Now for the ground rules. We've been busy

7 with hearings for the last two days and have had

8 very little trouble with the ground rules. It's

9 fairly straight forward. These rules are to ensure

10 an orderly and safe process for the proceedings this

11 evening. Two minutes per speaker. We will use or

12 suspend the lottery system depending on the number

13 of speakers anticipated. I mentioned the public

14 officials at the top of the hour.

15 Avoid any intimidating behavior or

16 disruption of the person who is speaking. No

17 clapping, jeering, or cheering. And please no

18 audible interruptions and identify by the

19 10-by-10-inch sign if you identify with the speaker,

20 you can raise that.

21 The Corps is interested in hearing your

22 comments, and we want to ensure that everybody has
23 an opportunity to speak. So unless there's an issue
24 with the ground rules, we'll move exceedingly
25 through this evening's hearings. If we need to we

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1 can suspend the hearings or cancel the hearing as
2 need be.

3 I'd now like to turn it over to Amy Reese
4 with the Army Corps of Engineers for opening
5 remarks. Amy?

6 MS. REESE: All right. Good evening.
7 Thanks everyone for coming. My name is Amy Reese.
8 As Scott said, I'm the Chief of Operations Division
9 in the Seattle District.

10 I will be presiding over tonight's hearing
11 on behalf of Colonel John Buck, who is unable to be
12 here today. As Seattle District's District
13 Engineer, Colonel Buck will ultimately make the
14 decision on this permit. At about 6:30 p.m.,
15 unfortunately I will have to step out and at that
16 point Muffy Walker will preside over the hearing.

17 So I'd like to welcome you and thank you
18 for taking time out to come out today and prepare
19 your remarks. This meeting serves as an opportunity

20 to comment on the Draft EIS and provide comments on
21 the permit action itself.

22 For my part I'd like to give context for
23 this hearing. I'm going to describe the Corps of
24 Engineer's regulatory authority, how we evaluate the
25 permit, and how we make the permit decision. And

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1 then after I speak, in a few minutes Connor
2 Lacefield will discuss the NEPA Draft EIS in more
3 detail.

4 So, again, the purpose of tonight's
5 hearing is for the Corps to gather information
6 specific to the NEPA Draft EIS and the permit
7 application. It's not to debate the pros and cons
8 of the project. It's not for cross-examination of
9 speakers. That will not be allowed. We will not
10 answer questions asked by the speakers regarding the
11 project.

12 Written and oral presentations will be
13 given equal weight when Colonel Buck makes his
14 decision. He will carefully consider all of your
15 comments in making the decision on the permit.

16 So why is the Corps of Engineers involved?
17 One of the federal laws which the US Army Corps of
18 Engineers implements is Section 404 of the Clean

19 Water Act. This law requires that a federal permit
20 be obtained from the Corps for discharging the
21 dredged or fill material into the waters of the
22 United States, including wetlands.

23 Another law we implement is Section 10 of
24 the Rivers and Harbors Act, which regulates work in
25 navigable water of the U.S. This proposal requires

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1 both Section 404 permit and Section 10
2 authorization.

3 So how will the permits be evaluated? For
4 all standard permits, a public notice is issued for
5 public review and comment. The public notice is
6 widely distributed to federal, state, and local
7 agencies, Indian tribes, adjacent property owners,
8 and interested citizens and groups.

9 Generally the public notice comment period
10 is 30 days. For this one it will be 60 days. For
11 this proposal, we began the public comment period on
12 September 30th of this year. Following the public
13 hearing, the Corps will accept additional public
14 comments until the close of business on November
15 29th.

16 Comments received both in response to

17 public notices and at public hearings like these
18 become a part of the record and are considered in
19 the evaluation of the final decision on the permit
20 application.

21 Colonel Buck will consider all comments of
22 citizens, Indian tribes, organizations, and local,
23 state, and other federal agencies in making his
24 decision to issue or deny a permit.

25 The reason we hold public hearings is to

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1 elicit new, significant information relative to the
2 Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview proposal and its
3 impacts that will help Colonel Buck make a balanced
4 decision.

5 So how do we make that decision? The
6 decision to issue or deny a permit is also based on
7 the probable impact of the proposed work within the
8 US Army Corps of Engineers' jurisdiction, its
9 intended use, the benefits which may be expected to
10 accrue from the proposal, Colonel Buck's evaluation
11 under Section 404(B)(1) guidelines of the Clean
12 Water Act, and the public interest.

13 The guidelines include a review of
14 alternatives to determine if the proposal is the
15 least environmentally damaging practical

16 alternative.

17 Public interest review includes the
18 analysis of impacts on wetlands, fish and wildlife,
19 threatened and endangered species, the aquatic food
20 web and ecosystem, water quality, safety, esthetics,
21 environmental justice, and, in general, the needs
22 and welfare of the people.

23 In order to make his evaluation, Colonel
24 Buck must look at the benefits expected from the
25 proposal and weigh them against the foreseeable

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1 detriments when making his decision.

2 If a determination is made that the
3 project meets the Section 404(B)(1) guidelines and
4 evaluation and is not contrary to the public
5 interest, the federal permit would be issued.

6 I want to stress that while we give all
7 comments full consideration, the comments of
8 federal, state, and local agencies and Indian
9 tribes, as experts in their respective fields,
10 receive careful attention.

11 In September, a Draft Environmental Impact
12 Statement on the Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview
13 Project was completed according to the procedures of

14 the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA. The
15 Army Corps of Engineers was the lead federal agency
16 for the NEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement
17 with the Environmental Protection Agency, EPA, and
18 US Coast Guard as participating cooperative
19 agencies.

20 So now I'd like to introduce Connor
21 Lacefield to provide a brief presentation of the
22 NEPA process for the Draft Environmental Impact
23 Statement.

24 MR. LACEFIELD: Thank you, Amy. My name
25 is Connor Lacefield, and I'm a Deputy Project

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1 Manager for the consultant team that prepared the
2 NEPA Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

3 Over the next few slides I'll describe the
4 project and provide a brief overview of the NEPA
5 environmental review process.

6 Millennium proposed to construct and
7 operate an export terminal. The terminal would
8 receive coal by rail from the Powder River Basin in
9 Wyoming and Montana and the Uinta Basin in Colorado
10 and Utah.

11 The coal would be stored on site in
12 stockpiles, then loaded and transported by vessels

13 via the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean to
14 overseas markets in Asia. At full operation, the
15 proposed project would transport up to 44 million
16 metric tons of coal per year.

17 The proposal project would include a rail
18 loop to move trains on the site. The rail loop
19 would have one operating track to move trains and
20 eight loop tracks where trains could be parked. The
21 railway is shown here in this slide.

22 The coal stockpiles inside the rail loop
23 area, the coal stockpiles would cover about 75 acres
24 of the 190-acre site. The coal stockpiles are
25 located in this area. There would be a network of

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1 conveyors, transfer stations, and buffer bins to
2 move coal around the site from trains to the
3 stockpiles and then onto vessels.

4 There would be two new docks in the
5 Columbia River. Each dock would include equipment
6 called ship loaders to load coal onto vessels.
7 There would be a water treatment facility to treat
8 surface runoff and process water.

9 The dock will be serviced by new rail
10 traffic, 16 trains per day, eight loaded and eight

11 empty. And new vessel traffic of 840 vessels per
12 year, which equals 1681 one-way vessel transits.

13 The third-party consultant, ICF, was hired
14 to prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
15 ICF and a team of consultants analyzed the project's
16 potential impacts and documented their findings in
17 technical reports. Then core staff, along with
18 other federal agencies with expertise, reviewed the
19 analysis developed by the consultant team.

20 Under NEPA, the Environmental Impact
21 Statement is supposed identify potential impacts and
22 possible ways to mitigate those impacts. The
23 Environmental Impact Statement is a prerequisite to
24 the permit process, and local, state, and federal
25 agencies will later use the Final Environmental

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1 Impact Statements when they make permits decisions
2 about the proposed project.

3 The Environmental Impact Statement itself
4 does not recommend whether a project should be built
5 or not.

6 Like NEPA on the federal level, there's a
7 parallel requirement on the state level. This
8 requirement is called State Environmental Policy
9 Act, or SEPA. Cowlitz County and the Washington

10 State Department of Ecology released a Draft
11 Environmental Impact Statement under SEPA earlier
12 this year.

13 This slide shows the general time line for
14 the NEPA process. The NEPA process began in
15 August 2013, with the release of a Notice of Intent.
16 This was followed by a 90-day comment period with
17 the Draft EIS scope.

18 After that, the Draft EIS technical
19 studies were prepared, and the Draft EIS was
20 released for comment on September 30th. We are now
21 in the comment period. Right there.

22 So what's next? We're now in the 60-day
23 comment period that runs through November 29, 2016.
24 From now through November 29th, anyone can submit
25 comments online, by mail, or any in person at one of

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1 the hearings. All of the comments will be evaluated
2 equally regardless of how they are submitted.

3 Once the comment period ends, the Corps
4 will review all the comments and decide whether
5 additional studies are needed for the Final
6 Environmental Impact Statement.

7 Then the Corps will work with the

8 consultants to respond to the public comments and
9 develop the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

10 They expect to issue the Final
11 Environmental Impact Statement in mid 2017. If you
12 would like to read comments submissions or find out
13 more about the project, please visit the project
14 website, which is shown on the slide and is
15 available on any of the handouts in the open house
16 next door.

17 Now I'll turn it back over to Scott
18 Keillor to facilitate the formal hearing for the
19 Draft EIS.

20 EVENT HOST: Thank you, Connor.

21 So, it's time to begin the formal public
22 hearing. And we will be looking for a lottery
23 process, given that it's giving us sufficiencies and
24 providing an opportunity for everyone to speak. I
25 had a discussion with the Corps, we were a little

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1 bit light on participants this morning, so we can
2 suspend the lottery in favor of allowing everyone to
3 speak. So my question as we begin this process is,
4 how many folks have that lottery ticket, and having
5 not had a chance to speak this afternoon would like
6 to address the Corps this evening? If you could

7 raise and hold your hands high, I'm going to ask for

8 a count.

9 Okay. We established that number at under
10 25. So we'll suspend the lottery process. And as I
11 ask you to come forward to the speaker queue, if you
12 would like to speak, check in with Kim. And if we
13 have any public elected official or tribal
14 officials, they'll be allowed to start off.

15 So let me just check. If we have an
16 elected official, please raise your hand. Seeing
17 none, I'll invite those to visit with Kim who would
18 like to speak, and first come, first served. We'll
19 suspend the lottery system.

20 As you're preparing your remarks, please
21 keep in mind that we'd like to have you address the
22 NEPA Draft EIS. For example, you can discuss the
23 accuracy of the information, appropriateness of the
24 methodology, or the reasonableness of alternatives.

25 We have copies of the EIS in the open

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1 house, and available online. You'll be given two
2 minutes to speak. So when you do approach the
3 podium, you'll get your first minute and a half with
4 the green light from minutes 60 to 90, you'll get

5 the orange light and 90 seconds, and that will give
6 you 30 seconds to wrap up. So at the end of two
7 minutes, you'll get the red light, and if you'll
8 just conclude your comments and yield the podium to
9 the next speaker, we would appreciate it.

10 If you feel that you'd like to leave
11 written comments, you're welcome to leave those here
12 at the table adjacent to the podium, or on the
13 approach at the end of the speaker line-up, there's
14 an additional table where you can leave those
15 comments.

16 You can see a court reporter in the open
17 house room, if you'd prefer not to give your
18 comments here at the main venue. And you can also
19 mail or email those comments through the comment
20 period, November 29.

21 Again, I appreciate your cooperation in
22 adhering to the ground rules. And I have a couple
23 of statements required on the public hearing.

24 I'm Scott Keillor, the hearings officer
25 for the hearing this evening. We're conducting a

1 hearing on the NEPA Draft EIS for the Millennium
2 Bulk Terminal Longview. Let the record show that
3 the time is proximately 5:20 on October 25, 2016,

4 and the hearing is being held at the Clark County
5 Event Center, Vancouver, Washington.

6 Legal notice is required for the hearing,
7 including published in the Federal Register on
8 October 7, 2016, Volume 81, Number 195, and
9 additional notice was provided via mail to 5,870
10 interested people near the proposed site. Notices
11 were also published in the following papers: The
12 Daily News, Longview, Washington on September 30th
13 and October 16, and in the Vancouver Columbian
14 September 30th and October 18, 2016.

15 We'll go ahead and begin calling folks to
16 speak. When you address the podium, if could you
17 please face the court reporter and the Corps, the
18 actual recording of your comments on the record,
19 there is also some lip reading. It would be helpful
20 for you to provide your name and county of
21 residence, and to speak clearly into the mic so that
22 we can record your testimony.

23 We'll take our first speaker.

24 SPEAKER 1: Hello, I'm (inaudible). I'm
25 an officer of the Sierra Club in Vancouver. The

1 main reason the Sierra Club is not supporting the

2 carbon tax is because we want something that the
3 building trades can support. They don't support
4 that. We want something that the building trades
5 can support, something that will put money into the
6 renewable and conservation sector.

7 But the only way you can support this
8 terminal is if you don't understand climate science.
9 Co2 works like water in the microwave. Co2 absorbs
10 invisible rays.

11 Three months ago, the Spokane City Council
12 voted six to zero to place a measure on the ballot
13 to ban uncovered coal trains. At a minimum it was a
14 symbolic statement to the Army Corps and to
15 Mr. Chapman and to Mr. Kelly and the employees of
16 Millennium expressing opposition to the Millennium
17 Coal Terminal.

18 One week ago, the Vancouver City Council
19 passed a resolution about the (inaudible) coal
20 terminal in Longview. I have a copy of page two of
21 the newspaper story.

22 One week -- two years ago, a rancher in
23 North Dakota told me that the tribe had done better
24 of protecting his ranch than our own government in
25 D.C.

1 Last summer I was invited to a press
2 conference hosted by the Yakima Nation. At the
3 press conference, the Tribal Council Chair
4 (inaudible) said, oil trains in the Gorge? We say
5 no. Coal trains in the Gorge? We say no.

6 The Federal Columbia Gorge Commission is
7 officially opposed to coal and oil trains in the
8 Gorge. The federally established Columbia River
9 Tribal Fish Commission is officially opposed to oil
10 trains in the Gorge.

11 Regarding the blue shirts, you don't have
12 a right to destroy our planet that our children will
13 inherit for a six-month job. We can't transition to
14 a clean energy economy if we spend all our money on
15 fossil fuel infrastructure.

16 You're being sold on the idea that the
17 only way to create jobs is with large fossil fuel
18 jobs. That's not true. Hillary Clinton has
19 promised 500 million solar windmills will be
20 installed in her first term.

21 To the Army Corps, I say that more fossil
22 fuel infrastructure is contrary to the public
23 interest. Choose the no action alternative. Thank
24 you.

25 EVENT HOST: Thank you. State Senator,

1 Ann Rivers.

2 MS. RIVERS: Good evening, and thank you
3 so much for having these hearings. I appreciate it.

4 In reviewing this EIS, it is very clear
5 that it is thorough, adequate, and complete. It
6 confirms that coal dust will not be an air quality
7 issue and that water supply will not be threatened
8 because of the transport of coal.

9 Now is the time to put this good use to
10 work -- or this good work to use, and finalize the
11 EIS, make decisions on permits, and put people to
12 work.

13 Over a thousand jobs will be created
14 during construction, over a hundred permanent jobs
15 will be created on site at the facility. That's new
16 jobs for Longview, but, significantly, as a
17 bordering legislative district, those are new jobs
18 for my people to apply for.

19 Hundreds of people already from my
20 district commute to get to work in Longview. I urge
21 you to move quickly to complete your work here and
22 get Washington working again. Thank you.

23 EVENT HOST: Next speaker, please.

24 SPEAKER 2: Good evening. My name is Dina
25 Grossman. I'm a public school music teacher in

1 Portland, Oregon. And I would like to thank
2 everyone who has made this hearing possible, and
3 thank our democracy for giving us a chance as a
4 public to give input into those crucial processes.

5 For the salmon and for the great blue
6 heron, we must speak. For the seal and for the sea
7 lions, we must speak. For the river otters and the
8 frogs, we must speak. For the forests and the air,
9 we must speak. For the great Columbia River, we
10 must speak.

11 For our children and their future, we must
12 speak. For our planet and our climate, we must
13 speak. We say no to 44 million metric tons of coal
14 a year transported through the heart of the Pacific
15 Northwest and down the life blood of the Columbia,
16 we say no to more train derailments and vessels
17 collisions.

18 We say no to fuel spills from trains and
19 ships. We say no to coal dust choking our lungs,
20 our wildlife, and our land.

21 We say yes to protecting our earth,
22 rivers, animals, plants, and people. We say yes to
23 caring for our earth. Please say no to the
24 Millennium Bulk Terminal. Thank you for listening.

1 to speak again today. My name is (inaudible), I
2 live in Portland, Oregon. I'm here to urge you to
3 take the no action alternative.

4 The Army Corps of Engineers needs to
5 revise the DEIS to reflect the broad true impacts of
6 the Millennium export terminal. You hold a lot of
7 power here. Please see how your decision on this
8 will have far reaching effects, not just through
9 space but through time.

10 This project would not only negatively
11 affect the region with pollution, noise, and
12 increased rail traffic, but it will affect ability
13 and humans and plants throughout the entire world
14 through countless generations.

15 I'm quite reminded of the words of
16 Scientist Dr. James Sampson. If (inaudible), and to
17 which (inaudible) evidence of ongoing climate change
18 suggests that Co2 will need to be reduced from
19 current levels to at most 350 parts per million.

20 We have already reached 400 parts and
21 rising, and the planet is already changing at an
22 alarming rate. Nothing else will (inaudible.)

23 According to the Washington State EIS, the
24 life cycle of greenhouse (inaudible) from the
25 Millennium project would be equivalent to 27 million

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1 tons in the Co2 per year.

2 By allowing this coal terminal, we would
3 be fueling (inaudible) ourselves, the world, and all
4 other generations (inaudible) the health and future
5 of everyone. Nothing really (inaudible) and welfare
6 and people and public interest more than this.

7 We have a wonderful opportunity here but
8 the Pacific Northwest leads the way for a better
9 future by saying no to this coal terminal.

10 New sustainable clean energy
11 infrastructure can and needs to be created, and now.
12 For these local people who are concerned about jobs,
13 let's put our resources into creating a (inaudible)
14 that will respect our beautiful resources and
15 protect the future of our children. Thank you.

16 SPEAKER 4: My name is Ron (inaudible) and
17 like the lady before me worked for the public
18 schools, I work for Vancouver School Direct, and I
19 also work for the SEIU Union at the same time. And
20 that's probably our biggest problem. Our school
21 systems and our unions are -- I was embedded in

22 that, and these schools and unions are fighting for
23 destroying the United States. They want to take our
24 jobs away from the U.S. citizens to give them to
25 foreign countries. That's why we have such a big

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1 problem right now is because all of our jobs are
2 going to foreign countries and it's destroying the
3 United States completely because of the fact that
4 we're becoming a welfare system, all the people are
5 going on welfare because we don't have jobs anymore.
6 And it's expensive. It's really expensive to
7 provide for these people when we could be bringing
8 all those jobs back to the United States.

9 And what's -- and another problem is that
10 left wing media is propagating this problem by
11 saying that we have -- well, it used to be called
12 global warming. Now, because science has proven
13 that there is no such thing as global warming, they
14 call it climate change. Because right now we have
15 four seasons. We have summer, winter, fall, and
16 spring. That definitely is climate change. And so
17 that can't be proven wrong.

18 So climate change, of course we have
19 climate change. We've had climate change for the

20 last 6,000 years. But they're blaming that on
21 fossil fuels. It has nothing to do with fossil
22 fuels. It's the way nature is -- what's that for?

23 EVENT HOST: Your time is up.

24 SPEAKER 4: Okay.

25 EVENT HOST: Okay, folks, I know we've

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1 suspended the lottery system. There will be no
2 clapping. If you want to identify with the speaker,
3 please just use your signs. Thank you.

4 SPEAKER 5: Hi there. Thank you for
5 having this forum today. My name is Kurt Shultz. I
6 am a registered engineer in Oregon. I live in
7 Gresham. I think the Corps has done their homework
8 here as far as analyzing the risks involved for the
9 trains and storage in this area.

10 To me this is an issue that we as
11 Americans need to have an energy policy that is all
12 inclusive, not just one or two types. Solar energy
13 by itself or wind energy by itself is not sufficient
14 to power this country. Fossil fuels are necessary
15 to make us a prosperous nation.

16 I would say that the feeling that we are
17 ruining the environment in the Gorge and in the
18 state is not realistic or reasonable. Precautions

19 have been made, trains travel through the Gorge all
20 the time. Yes, there are accidents, but they are
21 controlled and taken care of. I would recommend
22 that this project go forward. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER 6: Hello. My name is Harlan
24 Shover (phonetic), and I notice this evening I'm a
25 little bit outnumbered by my neighbors in blue

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1 shirts. Sometimes there's more red shirts. I don't
2 like being squared off against them on jobs. I
3 don't want them to do without jobs. I don't want
4 any of us to do without jobs. But I'm arguing that
5 this is a bad idea.

6 If you guys are presuming to be decision
7 makers, you have to take the biggest view possible,
8 the biggest frame.

9 And what I read about this DEIS is that
10 it's artificially narrow. You look at the
11 consequences near Longview, you ignore the concerns
12 of Spokane and other cities along the rail lines.

13 I think you're even kind of setting it up
14 so you don't have to acknowledge climate change.
15 You've heard people say it's a joke, it's not
16 happening. If you really think that is not a

17 problem, I wish you would go educate yourselves,
18 because as decision makers with this bigger role to
19 play, we need you to act like adults.

20 If you don't give yourself a big enough
21 view, you can't make a good decision. It's garbage
22 in, garbage out if you don't take a big enough view.
23 Thank you.

24 SPEAKER 7: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Thomas Gordon, and I'm from Washougal, Washington.

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1 I've seen estimates range from 20 to 50 percent for
2 a large earthquake in the Pacific Northwest in the
3 next 30 years. Also, the DEIS says, quote, Shallow
4 faults at southwestern Washington and northwestern
5 Oregon have the potential to generate magnitude 6.0
6 and greater earthquakes.

7 The DEIS also states, The project area has
8 potential for liquefaction during ground shaking.
9 The Liquefaction Susceptibility Map of Cowlitz
10 County, Washington, shows the area as having high
11 liquefaction potential.

12 The 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan, was a
13 shallow earthquake and the industrial area there is
14 built on fill material, just as the proposed
15 terminal in Longview. Pictures of the area on a

16 NOVA PBS program showed some buildings destroyed and
17 some unharmed. The primary and secondary waves of
18 the earthquake intersected, canceling out in places
19 and amplifying in others, just like the ripples in a
20 small body of water. Damage at the Millennium
21 terminal would be the same. Docks and piles of coal
22 would come down, some utterly destroyed.

23 Also, I urge the EIS to include 3
24 evaluation of the shoreline to find the angle of
25 slope of the underlying bedrock. The DEIS also

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1 states, The project area is near the active
2 deep-seated landslide on the south side of Mount
3 Solo, but it is approximately 250 feet from the edge
4 of the estimated greatest extent of the landslide.

5 With the water in the fill, the whole
6 shoreline could slough off into the river, depending
7 on the angle of repose of the fill. This angle is
8 much lower in water-filled soil than dry soil.

9 If the findings of these evaluations show
10 the terminal site to be unstable, I urge the No
11 Action Alternative.

12 EVENT HOST: Thank you, sir. Next
13 speaker?

14 SPEAKER 8: My name is Diana Gordon. I
15 live in Washougal, which is one of the dozens of
16 small communities along the rail route that would
17 bring the coal to this proposed terminal. This
18 facility concerns us because the railroad goes right
19 through the middle of our downtown. Just across the
20 road from the tracks there are two schools with two
21 others a couple of blocks away. Several parks are
22 scattered around as well, including a brand new bike
23 skills course and future pump track that represents
24 thousands of volunteer hours from the community.
25 Sixteen trains, eight with coal, is a lot

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1 of trains every day, and I fear that this terminal,
2 especially if the huge oil terminal proposed for the
3 Port of Vancouver goes through, will convert the
4 Columbia River Gorge into a fossil fuel corridor.
5 This will affect recreation, tourism, traffic,
6 health, business opportunities, safety. In short,
7 the vitality of this area and the quality of life of
8 thousands of people. And, especially important to
9 homeowners, it will affect our property values.
10 I looked at two interesting studies about
11 the effects of increased coal train traffic on
12 property values in the Puget Sound area for the

13 Gateway Pacific Terminal in Cherry Point. One was
14 by the Puget Sound Regional Council and one by a
15 real estate appraisal firm in Seattle, the Eastman
16 Company. Both acknowledged a negative effect on
17 property values easily up to five percent. But even
18 a two to three percent loss of value here in
19 Southwest Washington will erode the value of our
20 homes as well as revenue for state and local
21 governments.

22 I think that this terminal will affect
23 homeowners in Longview as well. Clearly, it is not
24 a good fit for such a populated area. I think you
25 should choose the no action alternative. Thank you.

29

1 SPEAKER 9: My name is Deacon Ludrich
2 (phonetic). I am a life-long Southwest Washington
3 resident, and a proud member of the Laborer's Union.
4 On behalf of the Laborer's Union, I would like to
5 speak out in support of the Millennium terminal and
6 any terminal or any project that brings jobs to
7 Southwest Washington.

8 When the time comes when we can build
9 solar panels, let us build that safely for you as
10 well. When you want to put up wind turbines, let

11 the building trades build those for you as well.
12 But if we can bridge the gap, please allow us to
13 safely build the Millennium Bulk Terminal and other
14 energy project in Southwest Washington. Thank you.
15 Go Ducks.

16 SPEAKER 10: My name is James Buchal
17 (phonetic). I'm an Oregon resident. We're hoping
18 that the United States Army Corps of Engineers does
19 act like adults and acts like the Army and acts to
20 defend this nation.

21 We are the brokest nation in the history
22 of the world. We have a half a trillion dollar a
23 year trade deficit. We are flooding the world with
24 IOUs. And this project offers us a chance to pay
25 our bills. If we don't pay our bills, things will

30

1 happen that are a lot more important than climate
2 change.

3 The temperature in Washington has been
4 going down for 20 straight years. It's the biggest
5 no brainer in the history of the world that if you
6 substitute crappy low energy Asian coal with high
7 energy American coal, you'll have less emissions.
8 And that's what the EIS says in half the cases, even
9 when you put your thumb on the scales.

10 If you think about reality and what's
11 happening here, we have allies like South Korea and
12 Japan who use coal. We want a world where people
13 pay their bills and not a world where people just
14 float IOUs and piss everybody off and start World
15 War III, which is a lot bigger problem than climate
16 change. So we are hoping that you will let private
17 industry build this terminal.

18 It only took the Army four years to win
19 World War II. We've been spending four years
20 analyzing this one little industrial site. We need
21 to grow up and start letting private business
22 advance the national interest. And I hope you get
23 these guys their permits soon. Thank you.

24 EVENT HOST: Folks, I do need to remind
25 you, this is the second time in a very few minutes

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1 that the ground rules have not been followed. There
2 will be no clapping or cheering. And I don't want
3 to have to suspend the rest of the evening. I thank
4 you for your cooperation. Sir?

5 SPEAKER 11: Thank you very much for the
6 opportunity to speak here tonight, and thank you
7 very much for your time here tonight. I know you

8 all have listened to a lot of testimony, as did you
9 yesterday.

10 I'll try not to duplicate too much. My
11 name is Bob Carroll, I'm a resident of Vancouver.
12 My feeling is that this project needs to be
13 approved, but also it needs to go through the
14 process -- the legal process that it's going through
15 now. And whatever the process says is what should
16 happen. If it says no, we won't have the terminal.
17 If it says yes, we should build the terminal.

18 As building trades, I'm an electrician by
19 trade in the building trades. We'll build this
20 terminal safely, we'll build any surrounding
21 infrastructure safely to make sure this coal moves
22 and is delivered in a good way.

23 So, once again, I encourage that you
24 approve this project. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER 12: Good evening again. For the

32

1 record, my name is Mike Bridges, and I represent
2 about 4,000 building construction trades members of
3 the Cowlitz and Whatcom Counties. I gave a
4 statement last night so I won't try to repeat too
5 much in the interest of time.

6 But one thing I want to remind the panel

7 is that, you know, we have very strong community
8 support of this project. All of our electeds for
9 the city and county are for this project. You've
10 seen the support, the local important that has come
11 down tonight as well.

12 The only thing that I can say that's
13 positive maybe about having the EIS the last five
14 years is the fact that Millennium has proven
15 everything that they've promised from day one. And
16 we stand here today with our relationship with the
17 building trades and the community that Millennium is
18 stronger than it was, you know, ever, now. So
19 that's one positive I can see -- about the only
20 positive I can see (inaudible) I can't see dragging
21 this out any longer.

22 We've been ready to build this thing for
23 about the last three years, we've got a project
24 labor agreement in place. Again, we're going to use
25 local work force to build the project, all union

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1 labor.

2 And, you know, when people talk about
3 temporary jobs, all building trade jobs are
4 temporary. In a sense all of our jobs are

5 temporary, right? So that gets a little old hearing
6 that.

7 So most of us building things together are
8 on six-month to one-year projects. I couldn't even
9 tell you how many contractors I've worked for during
10 my 22 years in the IBW.

11 So, anyway, I just wanted to make that
12 point. This is about our future, this is about us
13 turning things around in the community. That's been
14 decimated by the decline in the pulp and paper
15 industries and other businesses that have shut down,
16 and we're ready to move forward. And thank you for
17 what you do.

18 SPEAKER 13: Good evening. My name is Les
19 Poole. I'm from Clackamas County, across the river.
20 I own property in the Gorge, I have family in Hood
21 River and in Washougal. I was at the original
22 scoping hearing I believe about three years ago.

23 And at the time I was very concerned about
24 the dust issue. And I believe that that is being
25 addressed adequately in this process. Certainly

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1 coal dust is a concern, we've heard it expressed
2 already on a couple of occasions. It's so easy to
3 come up here and start talking about your opinion on

4 global warming, oil trains, and God knows what. But
5 this is a hearing about a specific project.

6 And in the homework that I've done, I
7 believe that the Corps of Engineers has done a much
8 better job, frankly, than what I used to see years
9 ago. I think public awareness is way up and
10 participation is way up. And that means that when
11 you propose something like this you do more homework
12 up front. And I think that's being done here.

13 So provided that the dust issue is
14 addressed through the Gorge, and in the areas like
15 Spokane where frankly I think any other concerns are
16 more political. But that is a big issue I think
17 they're addressing. And with that only reservation
18 I certainly support this project, and I believe that
19 it's time to move forward. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER 14: Good evening. My name is
21 Nolan Johnson. I'm a member of the IBEW. I'm
22 currently on a project, the casino project. It's
23 right up the road. It's the first Washington job
24 that I've been on for probably five years. Just --
25 it hardly ever happens. Most of the people I work

1 with who live in Vancouver like I do, we commute to

2 Portland or further. It's not uncommon to drive a
3 total of three hours a day for work.

4 So this is really a big deal for me and
5 the people who I work with. There's a lot of people
6 who live in Vancouver who drive to Portland,
7 clogging up the freeways. It's just a steady stream
8 of traffic.

9 I think the due diligence has been done.
10 I think it would be a huge boost to the area.
11 Economically it's suffered. I've grown up in this
12 area, the lower Columbia up to Astoria. I know the
13 struggle of growing up here and not having an
14 opportunity. And that's what's needed is
15 opportunity. So I support this project and I hope
16 it goes through, and many more to come. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER 15: Hi. My name is (inaudible),
18 and I'm an attorney out of Portland. As an attorney
19 I deal with facts. Now, we've heard a lot of
20 compelling images today, whether it's grandmothers
21 with oxygen tanks or rivers running black with coal
22 dust. But I want to remind you that those are
23 images, as compelling as they are.

24 And images that, you know, attorneys use,
25 those too can be compelling to a jury or a fact

1 finder, but those images need to be based on fact.

2 And the facts that we have right now that
3 we're working with are in the Environmental Impact
4 Statement. That statement says that there's -- that
5 this project meets or exceeds the expectations, and
6 that that is the important focus that you should
7 consider when you decide whether or not you're going
8 to move forward or not.

9 The fact that rejecting this project when
10 it does meet or exceed the environmental standards
11 sends a message that Washington state is not open
12 for business, even when you play by the rules.

13 And the fact that Millennium has already
14 demonstrated its commitment to the community by the
15 cleanup that it's done at the site, those are the
16 facts that you should focus on.

17 So in staying with those facts, let me
18 leave you with these ideas, these images. You know,
19 a construction worker who instead of having to work
20 out of town, you know, three states away gets to
21 come home every night to see his children. A
22 minimum wage worker who gets to leave behind having
23 to work multiple jobs to support his or her family
24 because they have finally a family wage job working
25 at the mill. A small business owner is able to hire

1 on more employees and increase the hours of
2 employees because he's got more business flowing
3 into this community because of this project, because
4 of the economic impact.

5 And the terminal that has demonstrated
6 these high standards by jumping through all the
7 hoops that has been necessary to get this far in the
8 permitting process, that creates a high standard for
9 any project that comes after. But all those images
10 don't become their own facts if this project does
11 not move forward. Thank you for your time.

12 SPEAKER 16: Hello. My name is Roxanne
13 Ross. I live in Gresham, 97080. Since they brought
14 up climate change, I just want to go there for just
15 a moment.

16 The scientists that count climate change
17 are making money out of counting climate change.
18 They're getting grants, they owe their livelihood to
19 it, they're teaching it.

20 When you look at the large number of
21 scientists who are not getting money for it, many of
22 them are saying that it is not an issue. So just to
23 take one more thought along that, the greenhouse gas
24 has sent centimeters into the ocean. Even up to
25 that surface water to make water vapor, as opposed

1 to clouds and the sunlight, the cloud block extends
2 and leaks into the ocean. Changing the water
3 temperature for leaks, which has a much bigger
4 influence on the climate.

5 So when we waste lot of money squelching
6 jobs to try and change something that's centimeters
7 instead -- because, I mean, if you think about it, a
8 cloud comes over head, you're chillier, you notice
9 it right away. When a coal train goes by, do you
10 get chillier? I don't think so. So this is the --
11 this is the (inaudible.)

12 Okay. So I have relatives who live in
13 Longview and in Columbia County. Columbia County is
14 right across the Lewis and Clark Bridge from
15 Longview. They need these jobs. Columbia County is
16 very poor. My relatives in Longview made their way
17 in mills that were dependent on logging. I can
18 remember the family discussions, thinking, what is
19 going to happen to the old Reynolds smelter site?
20 We thought it would be there forever. It would
21 always be a horrible mess. And look what Bulk
22 Millennium has done for that. It has been a
23 positive for the environment.

24 And look at what prosperous countries do

25 for the environment. If you look at all the

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1 countries of the world, the prosperous ones have the
2 best environmental record.

3 So bring prosperity to Longview so they
4 can develop greenways and wetlands and take care of
5 the environment there. Thank you.

6 EVENT HOST: Thank you. Next speaker.

7 SPEAKER 17: Hello. My name is Dr. Sharon
8 (inaudible), and I'm a pediatrician, formerly in
9 Vancouver. I live in Battle Ground, Washington.

10 I just want to say, since I've Googled it,
11 global warming is still an entity.

12 And, in fact, I don't think NOAA, N-O-A-A,
13 the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency in the
14 U.S., or national, who jointly released their global
15 temperature data, making it official, 2015 was the
16 hottest year on record since 1880.

17 The previous hottest year, 2014. And the
18 last time back-to-back hottest years occurred were
19 2006 and 2007. In fact, the top ten hottest years
20 have all happened since 1998. That happens to be a
21 fact. And I don't think those scientists are
22 gaining anything from releasing that information.

23 Starting from day one, coal mining is
24 toxic to human health. Coal mining leads U.S.
25 industries in fatal injuries and is associated with

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1 chronic health problems, including miners' black
2 lung disease. Communities near mines suffer from
3 the leakage of the slurries which contain heavy
4 metals, which can contaminate and have contaminated
5 drinking water with arsenic, lead, and manganese.

6 Abandoned mines have the risk of collapse,
7 and the disfigurement of mountaintop removal, if you
8 haven't seen it, is completely horrifying.

9 The burning of coal generates coal ash,
10 which by blowing, spilling, and leaking causes acute
11 risk of cancer, heart, kidney, and neurologic system
12 disease.

13 Coal ash contains mercury, particulate
14 matter, nitrous oxide, sulfur oxide, and contributed
15 to four of the leading five causes of death in the
16 U.S.

17 Coal burning via Co₂ production does
18 contribute to global warming. Global warming is on
19 target to cause water scarcity, declining food
20 production, social conflict and starvation. Talk
21 about world wars.

22 Whether the coal is burned here or in
23 China, it causes toxicity to humans and also --
24 EVENT HOST: Thank you.
25 SPEAKER 17: Thank you.

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1 EVENT HOST: I'd like to take a moment to
2 remind folks that we've suspended the lottery system
3 so that everyone has a chance to speak. You'll have
4 two minutes.

5 And it's just about four minutes before
6 the hour. So if we have any elected officials or
7 tribal officials, please come forward. And our next
8 speaker, please.

9 SPEAKER 18: Good evening. I spoke to you
10 folks last night and it was more from a personal
11 perspective. My name is Don Orange. I'm a small
12 business owner here in Vancouver. I am also a
13 withdrawn member of Teamsters 162.

14 I very deeply sympathize with all people
15 who are concerned about jobs. People pay for the
16 services that we provide with jobs. I love work and
17 I think most of us love and believe in work.

18 This is dirty work. This is exporting
19 coal to Asia that we wouldn't burn here because it

20 will kill us. Well it will kill us if we ship it
21 there, too.
22 And I want to point out that the emerging
23 industries of winds, of solar, are providing jobs
24 and increasing jobs. The number of jobs that's
25 coming from coal mining, and as we find out here, it

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1 was better than a hundred jobs in Longview that
2 we're talking about, and permanent jobs.

3 The number of jobs coming from
4 alternatives is greater. There's over a hundred
5 people working in single stories at some of our
6 office buildings.

7 Yes, we need jobs; yes, we are very
8 concerned that our children have air to breathe and
9 that they have jobs. I thank you, I urge you to not
10 approve this terminal. Thank you.

11 SPEAKER 19: Hi. My name is Christian
12 Barringer (phonetic) and I happen to be the State
13 Committee Manager of the County (inaudible) but I am
14 speaking here only on my own behalf.

15 I'd like to ask you please not to succumb
16 to the false preaching of populous on this issue.
17 Opponents claim that we'll destroy the world if we
18 live in it and we do have the right to do that.

19 Well I submit to you that it is they who
20 do not have the right to destroy the economy that
21 our children need to thrive in in their future.

22 Instead, they use false but emotional
23 arguments to prey upon the fear and the ignorance of
24 good people.

25 And I'm quite sure that maybe the red

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1 shirts here today are very good people. And I'm
2 wondering if it's a very kind thing to do to make
3 them fearful of things that aren't true.

4 So you must ask, why do they do this if
5 their dire convictions are based on falses. Well I
6 submit to you that it is no different than PETA
7 trying to destroy KFC by claiming fried chicken is
8 murder.

9 It's part of a broad and highly organized
10 assault on capitalism and free enterprise. And it's
11 part of a long-standing effort to de-industrialize
12 our state.

13 Why? Because the biggest threat to
14 authoritarianistic socialism is the success of
15 capitalism. I'm here to tell you that a change is a
16 comin'. And millions of freedom-loving Americans

17 are dedicated to the proposition of making America
18 great again.

19 I'm asking you not to be on the opposing
20 side of the wave of people. We are not going to
21 tolerate any longer a rigged system which uses our
22 bureaucracy to keep us in economic shackles any
23 longer. I urge you to approve the project. Five
24 years is enough. Thank you.

25 SPEAKER 20: Hello. My name is Kirk Sytes

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1 (phonetic), I live in Tacoma, Washington. I work
2 for the railroad, and one out of every four jobs is
3 given to us by coal. One out of 35 revenue dollars
4 is from coal.

5 You guys have done the study. You're
6 going to turn the study in. You're going to read
7 the results of what's handed in, what's emailed in.

8 You only get one chance to build a
9 facility such as this. It's not going to export
10 this coal. When the coal runs out in 50, 60 years
11 and new technology is here, it will export other
12 commodities. And coal is a non issue in this.

13 People believe coal is dirty. Coal is
14 dirty. I'm not saying that I'm against the
15 environment. I'm an environmentalist. I like to go

16 hunting, boating, fishing. But we need this
17 terminal and we need the jobs. If you're not going
18 to build it here, jobs are already going out from
19 Montana to Canada and out to Prince Rupert Island.

20 Let's build this terminal here, let's
21 build it right, make sure it's safe, and have the
22 jobs here in the United States. Thank you.

23 SPEAKER 21: Good evening. My name is
24 Tracy Cowsill (phonetic). I'm also a railroad
25 employee, and I reside in Puyallup, Washington. I

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1 represent railroad union workers up in the Seattle
2 area, and I'm here to speak in support of this
3 project.

4 Mainly that it will also increase the job
5 opportunities within my profession. We take pride
6 in how we safely operate our trains regardless if
7 it's oil trains, coal trains, manifest trains,
8 whatever. I can -- I would want the public to be
9 assured that we're going to do our part in this as
10 far as safely operating these particular types of
11 trains. There are major safety precautions that we
12 take daily whenever we operate such trains.

13 And, like I said, as far as the job

14 opportunities, this would vastly increase the need
15 for conductors and engineers to safely operate these
16 trains. Thank you.

17 SPEAKER 22: My name is Scott McCann. I
18 work for Longview Switching, which is a short line
19 rail company that provides rails to and from
20 Millennium, and currently is taking coal cars there
21 at this time with no incident.

22 I can't only tell you how important this
23 is to the company I work for, but we all know it's
24 going to provide jobs for us, for the community, for
25 Seattle, for Vancouver, Portland. And I can tell

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1 you that I've worked for Longview Switching now for
2 five years. And five years ago at the Old Reynolds
3 site, it was pretty rough. You know, it was showing
4 its age, it hadn't been used in years. And
5 Millennium has come in and they have turned that
6 place around. That place looks amazing compared to
7 what it did five years ago.

8 I think they're serious, I think we need
9 to bring this coal terminal here. That's all I've
10 got to say.

11 SPEAKER 23: Hello. My name is
12 (inaudible) Caldwell. I live here in Clark County.

13 And I would like to address the hypocrisy this
14 evening. Because I didn't see anybody in the
15 audience wearing raw animal skin. It took some
16 energy, oftentimes in foreign lands, to build the
17 clothes that we wear.

18 Also, I didn't see anyone arrive on foot.
19 Most people came here in a car. And those cars
20 require plastic, steel, aluminum. Even hydro cars,
21 you can't have those items without coal to melt the
22 raw materials. And you can't have those items
23 without coal (inaudible.)

24 Let me make a postulation here.
25 Civilization is peaceful enterprise. Peaceful

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1 enterprise is civilization. Using government to
2 stop peaceful trade is the antithesis of
3 civilization.

4 So the questions that we need to ask
5 ourselves, are we going to act like civilized people
6 and allow others the freedom to engage in peaceful
7 mutually beneficial trade? Or are we going to use
8 government coercion and force to stop people from
9 voluntary interaction?

10 As a human being, I want to live in a

11 peaceful world that recognizes the rights of other
12 people to live, trade, and prosper in peace. This
13 bulk terminal is one step in that direction. Thank
14 you.

15 SPEAKER 24: Good afternoon. My name is
16 Joel Medala (phonetic). I live here in Clark
17 County. I want to thank you for the opportunity to
18 be here today.

19 I understand this project has been studied
20 for five years and there's been no significant
21 environmental impact. I don't directly have a dog
22 in this fight, but I'm here to just weigh in.

23 There's a popular country song that begins
24 like this: There are people in this country who
25 work hard every day. Not for fame and fortune do

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1 they strive, but the fruits of their labor are worth
2 more than their pay, and it's time a few of them are
3 recognized. Hello Southwest Washington coal
4 terminal worker, let me thank you for your time.
5 You work a 40-hour week for a living just to send it
6 on down the line.

7 My friends, it's all about the jobs
8 provided here. Previous speakers have referred to
9 the folks wearing these blue shirts negatively. You

10 know what I see? I see tired eyes from waking up
11 when their alarm clocks go off before the sun comes
12 up; I see callused hands; I see strong muscles and
13 grit in their teeth. These men and women are the
14 backbone of our society. They're honest, hard
15 working men and women trying to provide for their
16 families. They are America.

17 I urge you to -- I strongly urge you to
18 approve this terminal. It's all about jobs, jobs,
19 jobs. Thank you.

20 SPEAKER 25: Good afternoon. Thank you
21 for all your work on this in terms of the Corps. I
22 know it's been a long process.

23 I'm Herb Crohn, I'm the state legislative
24 representative representing over 2,000 rail workers
25 in Washington state for Smart Transportation

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1 Division. Over 10,000 of our members were laid off
2 earlier this year across the country due to the
3 climb in energy products. And no other project in
4 our history has waited this long for approval.

5 Our choice is simple. We believe in
6 export, absolutely legal energy commodity where we
7 will export middle class American jobs along with

8 the commodity.

9 Twelve days ago the (inaudible) in Montana
10 announced that they were going to start exporting
11 via the Vancouver terminals. The exportation of
12 middle class railroad jobs has already started in the
13 western United States.

14 We're all responsible for global warming.
15 Many here today are using laptops, cell phones, and
16 electronic devices all made in Asia. In fact, using
17 electricity generated from coal. We came here today
18 in vehicles burning fossil fuels. All of our
19 possessions are transported from ships, trains,
20 trucks, and planes using fossil fuels.

21 It's outright hypocrisy where opponents
22 claim a false moral high ground that benefiting from
23 coal energy and fossil fuel consumption. No one is
24 without guilt.

25 Opposition to these projects is simply a

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1 form of radical economic imperialism, denying
2 people from emerging nations to improve their lives
3 while we enjoy modern conveniences.

4 We cannot solve this global problem at a
5 local level. Instead of vilifying commodities and
6 each other, let's find world-wide solutions to

7 global warming like freon and ozone damage in the
8 1980s.

9 The use of Powder River coal is a
10 temporary reduction to lower sulfur dioxide
11 emissions and reduce acid rain. This terminal will
12 help reduce global environment damage now. Let's
13 get it built. Thank you.

14 SPEAKER 26: Hi. My name is Phil White.
15 I'm a resident of Portland, Oregon, and I'm an
16 energy historian.

17 The problem that I see with this
18 environmental impact assessment so far is that it's
19 significantly too narrow. The EIS wants to give us
20 a full range of consequences from this project.
21 What are the consequences of combusting this coal in
22 China? What are the global consequences? How would
23 building this terminal increase the production and
24 consumption of coal abroad?

25 To what extent will burning this coal

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1 increase the acidification of the ocean? How might
2 this harm the salmon and tribal fishing rights? Ad
3 that is the acidification of the ocean.

4 I oppose this project because when we

5 build a fossil fuel infrastructure we are locking
6 ourselves in to a dirty energy future. We need
7 jobs, but we can do far better than building a
8 terminal to export the dirtiest fossil fuel. Thank
9 you for your time.

10 EVENT HOST: Thank you all for your
11 comments. We do have an opportunity for more
12 speakers. We're here until nine. Anybody who has
13 not had an opportunity to speak?

14 We'll be taking a 20-minute recess in this
15 public hearing. We'll resume at 6:35. Thank you.

16 (Break taken from 6:15 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.)

17 EVENT HOST: We have one. Please come
18 forward, sir. Good evening.

19 SPEAKER 27: I'm Steve Dragich from
20 Cowlitz County. I'm speaking tonight as a former
21 firefighter that protects -- or used to protect the
22 area that Millennium proposes for its coal facility.

23 On my watch, proximately 20, 25 years,
24 I've witnessed one major rail disaster in the
25 transportation corridor to the Millennium site. Two

1 major gas line explosions and numerous fires in an
2 industrial waste site just to the west of the
3 Millennium site on the Columbia River.

4 Speaking specifically with the DEIS to the
5 transportation corridor, and responding to various
6 industrial disasters on that corridor, I'd like to
7 point out, it is a very narrow corridor, there's a
8 choke point over the Cowlitz River. There's one way
9 in, one way out.

10 On both sides of the corridor from
11 Vancouver to Longview, it is mostly protected by
12 rural fire districts with minimal industrial
13 firefighting capability. And almost no marine
14 firefighting capability except for the Coast Guard
15 station at Astoria, which also has minimal marine
16 firefighting capability, including the tugs on the
17 Columbia that may or may not have one or two
18 monitors for marine firefighter capability.

19 Petrol chemical firefighting is hazmat
20 firefighting capability. It is highly specialized.
21 There is no room for error. If there is a
22 derailment and coal goes into the Columbia, you also
23 have the possibility of interaction with the oil
24 trains and grain cars that deposit at the Kalama
25 drain facility.

1 EVENT HOST: Thank you, sir. Other folks

2 that would like to provide comments today?

3 We'll go ahead and suspend the public

4 hearing until 7:20 p.m.

5 (Break taken from 7:00 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.)

6 EVENT HOST: Good evening again, and thank

7 you all for attending. We'll reopen the public

8 hearing for testimony on the Millennium Bulk

9 Terminals Longview Project, DEIS NEPA comments.

10 Do I have folks that would like to address

11 the Corps of Engineers? You'll have two minutes.

12 Thank you, sir.

13 And anybody else that has not yet had a

14 chance to speak this afternoon or this evening,

15 please join me in the front row seats. Sir?

16 SPEAKER 28: All right. Well, thank you

17 for giving me the opportunity to speak today. I

18 appreciate the COE's long history in protecting our

19 communities from floods and helping to manage our

20 waterways for multiple uses. As an evidence-based

21 engineering organization steeped in flood

22 protection, I am heartened that COE takes the threat

23 of climate change seriously.

24 I am discouraged that COE has decided to

25 take a very narrow view of greenhouse gas emissions

1 and climate change impacts with regard to the
2 Millennium Coal Terminal Project. As noted in
3 Section 5.2 of the DEIS, the proposed site as well
4 as the City of Longview lie within the Columbia
5 River 500 year flood plains. My main concern is
6 that calculations for both the 100 and 500 year
7 flood plains for this area have not taken account
8 anticipated sea level rise due to climate change.
9 COE uses a figure of 8 inches to 6.6 feet sea level
10 rise by 2099. This is from the website.

11 The Columbia River at Longview will
12 definitely be impacted by sea level rise. I was
13 unable to determine the consensus impact of a 6.6
14 rise, but a quick literature review found that a
15 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement for the
16 Portland-Milwaukie Light Rail Project estimated
17 conservative rise in the Willamette River of 3.9
18 feet in Portland by 2099.

19 It appears that estimating river level
20 rise due to sea level rises due to sea level rise
21 and the ramifications for flooding is difficult and
22 there is great uncertainty. But when residents'
23 lives are at stake or a major coal storage facility
24 is at risk of washing away into the Columbia River
25 estuary, then any impacts to river levels and

1 corresponding food plains cannot be ignored.

2 As noted in section 5.2 of the DEIS, the
3 terminal site and the city of Longview are protected
4 by a levee with an average height of 36.4 feet.
5 This was high enough to protect Longview during the
6 1948 floods, but just barely. According to NOAA,
7 the Columbia River crested at 18.4 feet during the
8 1996 floods. That is only two feet below the 1948
9 flood, and it seems likely that another 1996 flood
10 could easily be turned into a 500 year flood event
11 with three to six feet of sea level and
12 corresponding river level rise.

13 EVENT HOST: You can go ahead and wrap up.

14 SPEAKER 28: So basically I feel that COE
15 owes it to the residents of Longview and the
16 surrounding region an honest assessment of the real
17 risk that sea level rise poses. Longview is
18 currently being strong armed by a foreign owned
19 private equity firm with no concern for the
20 community other than short term greed to site a coal
21 terminal which most likely will contribute to
22 Longview having to be abandoned. Thank you.

23 EVENT HOST: Thank you for your comments.

24 Additional folks that would like to place their
25 comments on the record? Please come forward.

1 This public hearing will run until -- its
2 closing at 9:00 p.m. this evening. We'll now
3 suspend the hearing and reopen at 7:30. Thank you.

4 (Break taken from 7:03 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.)

5 EVENT HOST: Folks, we are officially
6 reopening the public hearing. It's 7:30 p.m. here
7 in Vancouver, Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview NEPA
8 Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

9 Do we have any members that have come to
10 testify and have not yet had an opportunity to speak
11 this afternoon or this evening? If we do, please go
12 ahead and line up.

13 And this gentleman will be first. You
14 will have two minutes. And go ahead and face the
15 podium and speak to the Corps. thank you.

16 SPEAKER 29: Thank you for the
17 opportunity. My name is Jim Johnson. I'm a
18 resident of Woodland, Washington. I came up to the
19 front to speak too soon. I was going write some
20 notes.

21 The thing that -- so this might be a
22 little ad lib, you know, without humor maybe. I
23 see, you know, we in the state of Washington I think
24 have probably the most stringent, toughest laws and

25 regulations. And so when I hear -- there's one

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1 thing that I want to address first.

2 When I hear, you know, large firms moved
3 to a location where (phone ringing) --

4 He got that from them in 11 days and it
5 makes a difference what this thing has turned into
6 in comparison. Now that's some years back, I
7 recognize. But my understanding is that Washington
8 is the toughest. And I think for what Millennium is
9 going through, it demonstrates that point.

10 My other thing that I -- so with that, we
11 have the toughest standards for someone to be
12 evaluated on. And I hear things about all the
13 different parameters that need to be studied. And I
14 think we'd have to leave that to the decision
15 makers. I think we have them in place, so this is a
16 good job opportunity for our area in the state of
17 Washington. Thank you.

18 SPEAKER 30: Darlene Johnson, also from
19 Woodland, Washington. And both Jim and I testified
20 yesterday, but when you go home you think of things
21 that you wish you would have said before. So I'm
22 not going to repeat what I said before, so it's just

23 the things that I thought about last night.
24 And one thing, I mean, I don't think there
25 is a person in the audience regardless of which side

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1 of the argument you're on that doesn't want to leave
2 this America or this area as in good condition as
3 when we arrived or better. Because we all want
4 things better for our grandkids, and -- well, it's
5 my grandkids and my kids.

6 And I think it sounded like if you happen
7 to support it maybe you didn't feel that way. And I
8 want to say we support the project and we want it to
9 be good for everybody.

10 And one of the things that I brought up
11 last time was that, you know, when we have good
12 paying family wage jobs, people are happy, they do
13 things, they can contribute things, like to
14 charities, and we take care of everybody.

15 You know, when the economy is good,
16 everything is good. And one of the other things
17 that I thought of when I got home last night,
18 because we're of the age when we're collecting
19 Social Security, and Social Security is a huge
20 concern to a lot of people.

21 And I'm a CPA and I do a lot in

22 accounting, and my feeling is the only way Social
23 Security will ever survive is if we bring back
24 family wage jobs and where we have a highly employed
25 population. And so the more people we can get

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1 employed with high paying jobs the more that gets
2 paid into Social Security; the more that gets paid
3 into Social Security, the more the better. Thank
4 you.

5 SPEAKER 31: Good afternoon. My name is
6 Felicia Harder, I live in La Center, Washington.
7 Tonight I am reading this testimony for Ms. Sharon
8 Miller.

9 I truly appreciate your making time to
10 hear the comments of all of us here today who are
11 interested in your role in permitting the proposed
12 Millennium Coal Export Terminal.

13 Although corporate (inaudible) can be
14 great, you're seeing today the face of those who are
15 affected by the pollution. The danger to the fish
16 and the wildlife and the violation of climate
17 justice.

18 As a child, I witnessed the effects of
19 pollution from the pulp mills in the community. Our

20 vehicles had large areas rusted out by the
21 (inaudible) salt that rained down on us 24/7. While
22 the aroma is still familiar to many, the health and
23 financial costs were not addressed until strong
24 opposition from the industry. The mills were forced
25 to (inaudible) their emissions, make a better place

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1 to live, and a healthier place for these hundreds of
2 families. Not an easy action to take, but by
3 today's standards a just action.

4 Today we face another tough decision. To
5 oppose Millennium. They are offering a few limited
6 time jobs with an unjust effect on communities in
7 Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Not to
8 mention the effects to our earth from mining and
9 burning 44 million tons of coal every year.

10 While I understand that Millennium is
11 asking you to support their coal export proposal,
12 coal is a failing industry due in part to our
13 declining market and bankruptcy of backers, and
14 renewable energy and green jobs are on the rise.

15 What is in this proposal for Longview?
16 Please make a just recommendation for this community
17 for Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the
18 earth. Thank you.

19 SPEAKER 32: Thank you. My name is Donna
20 Norton. I'm an environmental educator from
21 Vancouver. I'm very concerned about ground water
22 and surface water runoff contamination.
23 None of the communities trans pass through
24 have a means of mitigating coal dust, which will
25 affect ground water. That's our domestic water, the

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1 stuff we drink. And water sliding over impervious
2 surface is coal dust, and that water runs into our
3 creeks and our rivers. And that provides an acid
4 water in places where our salmon breathe.

5 Salmon could not survive that kind of the
6 water. This limits a livelihood for rivers and
7 tribes. It's not just in income, it's their food.

8 This study area is too narrow to consider
9 the health ramifications of the people who live
10 there. We must use that water for (inaudible).

11 You have required that Millennium have a
12 storm water permit and the correct procedures, but
13 you have no way of taking care of those communities
14 from the coal fields to Longview. And we already
15 know that coal dust has been found subsurface a mile
16 away from the tracks in places in the Gorge. The

17 wind blows it and then drives it into the ground.

18 This is just a consideration of particulate

19 pollution.

20 It's my understanding that air pollution

21 is an equal issue not addressed by the narrow

22 parameters of the study, and I urge you to

23 reconsider the Millennium Bulk Terminal Project.

24 Thank you.

25 SPEAKER 33: My name is Christine Turner.

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1 I live in Longview. I mentioned the load-bearing

2 capacity of the project site at Millennium before.

3 The coal stockpile area cannot support the weight of

4 the coal. I would like to address it further.

5 Specifically, a detailed earthquake

6 geotechnical assessment should be required before

7 the issuance of the Final EIS.

8 Three elements involved in the coal

9 stockpile areas are discussed in the DEIS, but are

10 not linked together as they should be: High

11 potential of liquefaction; two aquifers; preloading

12 of stockpile area.

13 A professional earthquake engineer needs

14 to determine the best method to address the soil

15 stabilization considering the final extreme weight

16 of the preloading and the coal. At the same time,
17 considering the aquifers and the liquefaction issues
18 relating to later spread, et cetera.

19 My main concern is the insufficiency of
20 the soil stabilization mitigation proposal and lack
21 of adequate professional oversight in the process.
22 Particularly, the final stabilization effort and its
23 ability to protect the underlying aquifers from
24 contamination, and possible damage or even collapse
25 under the excessive weight of the coal, et cetera.

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1 This earthquake geotechnical assessment
2 should be done before the Final EIS because of its
3 profound effects on the entire project. Besides,
4 it's possible that currently available soil
5 stabilization mitigations will not overcome the
6 project site's deficiencies or protect our aquifers.
7 Thank you.

8 EVENT HOST: Thank you all for your
9 comments and your time tonight. The Corps is still
10 available to take comments for the record on this
11 matter.

12 Do we have any folks that have not had
13 their opportunity today, this afternoon or this

14 evening?

15 I'd like to suspend the hearing for
16 proximately 30 minutes, until 8:15. Thank you.

17 (Break taken from 7:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.)

18 EVENT HOST: Good evening again. We will
19 reopen the public hearing with regards to the
20 Millennium Bulk Terminal Longview Project.

21 Do we have folks in the audience that
22 would like to address the Corps of Engineers and
23 speak to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement?

24 Sir? Thank you.

25 SPEAKER 34: Hello. My name is Cager

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1 Clabaugh, C-A-G-E-R, C-L-A-B-A-U-G-H.

2 So, I'm a longshoreman with the Port of
3 Vancouver. I've got three boys. I live in Kalama.
4 And I just wanted to come out and speak against the
5 coal terminal. I don't believe that it is a
6 sustainable commodity. I do not want to see us
7 invest in a dying industry. I'd rather that the
8 river was used for better purposes.

9 I know the coal terminals don't employ a
10 lot of people. I work on the docks. I see that
11 there are a lot of other cargoes out there that
12 employ a lot of workers. Wind being one of them

13 winds, keeps us busy in our port bringing in wind
14 turbines and the pieces that go along with.

15 So that's the kind of work I'd like to see
16 on the river. I do worry about the environment. I
17 don't consider myself an environmentalist, but, you
18 know, I would like to take my kids to the glaciers
19 some day and actually show them glaciers.

20 So I know that I'm saying stuff you guys
21 have already heard, and I wish I could think of
22 something new to say. But I just wanted to come and
23 voice my opposition to the project. So thank you
24 for your time.

25 EVENT HOST: Thank you for your comments.

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1 Do we have others that would like to speak?

2 At this time we'll suspend the public
3 hearing until 8:55, where we'll take any final
4 speakers and close the public record. Thank you.

5 (Break taken 8:17 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.)

6 EVENT HOST: We'll go ahead and reopen the
7 hearing. Are there any members of the public that
8 would like to go on the record for the Millennium
9 Bulk Terminals Longview Project, if you would come
10 to the podium?

11 I'll go through the formal hearing closing
12 statements.

13 All testimony received at this hearing, as
14 well as the hearing held in Longview October 24,
15 2016, along with all written comments received at
16 this hearing by mail or submitted online, will be
17 part of the official hearing record order to this
18 Draft Environmental Review.

19 The comment period closes on November 29,
20 2016. If you would like to send written comments,
21 please remember they must be post marked by November
22 29, 2016.

23 Send them to Millennium Bulk
24 Terminals-EIS, care of ICF International, 710 Second
25 Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, Washington 98104.

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1 Written comments may also be submitted
2 online at www.millenniumbulkeiawa.gov.

3 The next step is for the Corps to consider
4 the comments and prepare the Final EIS. Comments
5 received on the Draft EIS will be included in the
6 Final EIS, along with responses. If necessary,
7 additional studies will be prepared for the Final
8 EIS. The Final EIS is expected to be released in
9 2017.

10 The Final EIS will inform the decision by
11 the agencies on the permit applications for the
12 project.

13 On behalf of the US Army Corps of
14 Engineers, thank you for coming. We very much
15 appreciate your cooperation and your courtesies.

16 Let the record show that this hearing is adjourned
17 at 9:00 p.m. on October 25, 2016. Thank you.

18 (Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE

2 I, Cheryl L. Vorhees, Certified Shorthand
3 Reporter for Oregon and Washington, certify that, at
4 the time and place set forth in the caption hereof,
5 I reported in stenotype all testimony adduced and
6 other oral proceedings had in the foregoing matter,
7 that thereafter my notes were reduced to typewriting

8 under my direction; and the foregoing transcript,
9 Page 1 to 66, both inclusive, constitutes a full,
10 true and correct record of such testimony adduced
11 and oral proceedings had and of the whole thereof.

12 Witness my hand and seal at Portland, Oregon,
13 this 7th day of November, 2016.

14

15

16

17 Cheryl L. Vorhees

18 Certified Shorthand Reporter

19 CSR No. 08-0409

20 Exp. 09-30-2018

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