

June 1, 2016

Dear US Army Corps of Engineers, WA Dept. of Ecology and Cowlitz County:

I support the “no action” alternative in the Millennium Bulk Terminals Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The health and safety of communities along the rail would be in jeopardy and we must transition to a clean economy and renewable power system for the sake of future generations and the planet.

Regarding health threats, the DEIS shows violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for particulate matter, estimated maximum monthly coal dust in Cowlitz County would exceed the trigger levels for health safety, coal dust would cover areas along the rail line, and contaminants would jeopardize water resources. It is a threat to aquatic life, fishing and salmon runs.

Regarding safety threats, the DEIS shows emergency vehicle delay at rail crossings from over 130 minutes to 20 minutes a day a along the various BNSF lines, a rail system greatly over capacity, a significant increase in train accidents, and unacceptable levels of rail service from cumulative projects.

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to mitigate many of the affects from construction and operation of the project, if approved. Any benefits to local jobs and the community are exponentially outweighed by the negative impacts of exporting dirty coal for markets on opposite sides of the globe. We can and must have the foresight to do better than adding the equivalent of five coal-powered plants on the Colombia River.

The Final EIS should incorporate the most recent science, real world examples, and a Health Impact Assessment.

Thank you.
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