

**MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINALS—LONGVIEW
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOCUS GROUP
NOVEMBER 23, 2015, LONGVIEW, WA**

Focus Group No. 4 Summary

The Cowlitz County Department of Building and Planning, in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is undertaking an environmental review of the Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview project. As part of this overall process, the County and Ecology, with assistance from the Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Department and the Washington State Department of Health, are also preparing a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Local stakeholders were invited to participate in focus groups designed to develop recommendations for the HIA public scoping process and general approach.

Eleven stakeholders participated in a focus group held Monday, November 23, 2015, at the Highlands Neighborhood Community Center. Mr. Michael O'Neill, healthy communities lead with Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, welcomed participants and introduced the team. He then presented an overview of the Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview project followed by Mr. Rad Cunningham, an epidemiologist with the Healthy Community Design Division of Environmental Public Health, Washington State Department of Health, who discussed HIAs. Mr. O'Neill then facilitated a group discussion on project benefits and concerns, which are listed below.

Asthma

- Track asthma rates
- Will the coal be protected from the wind? Is it really stored in buildings?
- Coal will blow off piles into town
- Coal location, transportation – anticipate coal exposure from proposed processes. Compare to existing coal projects (Australia, Weyerhaeuser, and Bellingham); can it be safer?

Noise

- Disturbance at night (whistles, coupling)

Vibration

- Homes shake as trains pass going 10 to 15 mph
- Do not increase speed at intersections as that will increase the vibration of the homes (homes on blocks or posts)

Economy

- How will Millennium jobs impact the unemployment rate?
- More jobs means more trains, we have to get used to it
- Secondary jobs will increase – China and Midwest
- Equitable share of benefits across the region – economy/taxes. Will it be realized in our neighborhood?
- Infusion in the economy brings improvements in education, community center, drug rate goes down, moves people out of poverty

Traffic

- Increase in time to cross roads with long trains. If trains speed up, they will vibrate homes.
- Need to consider rail upgrades from new State Route 432 overpass when looking at noise and traffic impacts

Odor

- Can smell diesel exhaust in the evening in our home

Water Quality

- Coal runoff
- Impacts to fish
- City water filtration

Accountability/Trust

- Will Millennium do what they say they will?
- How does Millennium's priorities differ from the communities?

PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE

Participants prioritized topics by importance. They were given four dots and allowed to spend them all on one concern/opportunity or spread them across several of the items listed by the group. Here is the ranking/vote tally.

1. Economy (17 votes)
2. Asthma (10)
3. Traffic (3)
4. Accountability/Trust (2)
5. Vibration (2)
6. Water Quality (2)
7. Noise (1)
8. Odor (0)

HIA APPROACH

- Look at other coal terminals and their history

PARTICIPANTS

- Vi Benedict, Citizen*
- Linda Brigham, Citizen *
- John Brickey, City of Longview
- Nick Buhler, Citizen *
- Felicia Conley, Citizen *
- Michelle Fischer, Adopt a Block
- Nelson Hooper, Citizen
- Terri Landers, Citizen
- Bob Little, Citizen *
- David Smith, Citizen

*Volunteers willing to be members of the proposed MBTL HIA Steering Committee