

Cowlitz County Shoreline Permit Public Hearing

Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview

Ground Rules

The Hearing Examiner asks all participants to honor the ground rules to help maintain an open, secure, and respectful tone for the hearing and allow everyone's voice to be heard equally. Use of these ground rules will support a productive and civil hearing. Individuals who do not follow the ground rules and create an unsafe or intimidating environment will be asked to leave the hearing.

- 1. Intimidating behavior will not be tolerated because it creates a disrespectful and threatening environment. Examples of intimidation that are prohibited include:**
 - Confronting, blocking, or interfering with attendees when they approach, enter, or engage in the hearing venue.
 - Conducting rallies or demonstrations at the entrance to or within the hearing venue.
 - Demonstrative sign waving inside the hearing venue.
 - Loud outbursts inside the hearing venue.
 - Signage and displays will be restricted to the designated free speech area, including small signs or banners. Any signs placed elsewhere on the grounds of the Events Center will be removed.
- 2. County staff will monitor the number of people entering the hearing room and, based on the safe capacities of these areas, may close the space to additional attendance if facility capacity is reached. When people depart and space becomes available, additional people will be allowed to enter.**
- 3. In anticipation that many people want to provide oral comments in front of the Hearing Examiner, a time limit of 10 minutes per speaker is established for this hearing and will be enforced.**
 - Those wishing to speak must sign up on the speaker's sign-up sheet located in the hearing room. Speakers will be called up to give comment on a first come, first served basis according to the sign-up sheets.
 - Clapping, cheering, or jeering disrupts speakers. Such noise contributes to an intimidating atmosphere and is prohibited within the public hearing.
 - Speakers may be stopped if disruptive behavior, such as sign waving or a mass activity like standing up as a group, occurs. Please refrain from participating in these types of actions as they may prolong the hearing.
- 4. Anyone wishing to present documents needs to provide five copies.**
- 5. All witnesses must first be sworn in. All testimony must occur at the podium where a microphone is located as all testimony must be recorded.**
- 6. The presentations by County staff and the Applicant are expected to last through the morning and afternoon on the first day of the hearing (November 2). Public testimony may commence as early as the afternoon of the first day or the morning of the second day (November 3).**
- 7. The Hearing Examiner reserves the right to stop, postpone, or close the hearing at any time if disruptions interfere with the hearing procession or if there is a safety risk.**