

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee Meeting Summary December 12, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview (MBTL) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Steering Committee (Committee) met on Monday, December 12, 2016, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Cowlitz County Training Center (The Boat House).

The following members of the Committee were in attendance. Eight members of the public also attended.

- Neil Agren, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue
- Stella Anderson, RN, Resident
- Octavio Camba, Lower Columbia College
- Dian Cooper, Family Health Center
- Sandra Davis, Resident
- Bryce Divine, Longview Commercial Fishing
- Gary Fredricks, Washington State University Extension Longview, Co-Chair
- Steve Kutz, RN, MPH, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Bob Little, Highlands Neighborhood, Co-Chair
- Kathleen Patton, Faith Community
- Ted Sprague, Cowlitz Economic Development Council
- Mike Wallin, Councilmember, City of Longview

The following Committee members were unable to attend this meeting.

- Mary Jane Melink, Councilmember, City of Longview, and Co-Chair, The Health Care Foundation
- Jason Lundquist, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 21

The following participants from Cowlitz County and the Washington State Department of Health (HIA co-lead agencies) also attended.

- Rad Cunningham, Epidemiologist, Washington State Department of Health, Healthy Community Design
- Nick Fazio, Assistant Long Range Planner, Cowlitz County Department of Building & Planning
- Michael O'Neill, Healthy Communities Lead, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services
- Jennifer Vines, MD, Cowlitz County Health Officer, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services



The following persons also attended to support the HIA co-lead agencies.

- Ed Carr, ICF Senior Technical Specialist
- Colleen Lingappaiah, ICF Senior NEPA/SEPA/CEQA Project Manager
- Darren Muldoon, ICF Senior Planner/Project Manager
- Laura Zanetto, ICF Associate
- Jen Colbert, BergerABAM Public Involvement Specialist

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Fazio welcomed everyone and reviewed the ground rules for the meeting, reminding attendees it was a Committee work session. He noted that members of the public could observe and provide comments during the 15-minute comment period at the end of the meeting or submit written comments on the comment forms provided.

The Committee reviewed and accepted the agenda. Mr. Fazio reviewed the guidance for accessing the Committee's SharePoint site. The Committee discussed and approved an additional meeting to be held on Monday, December 19, 2016.

The Committee tabled the review and approval of the November 28, 2016 meeting summary until the December 19 meeting to allow additional review time.

DISCUSSION REGARDING EPA COMMENT LETTER ON THE NEPA DEIS

Mr. Fazio discussed the letter recently sent by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) concerning the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview project. The Corps' environmental review under NEPA is required by federal law. Mr. Fazio shared the following information with the Committee.

- The Corps is currently reviewing public comments on its NEPA DEIS. The NEPA Final EIS is expected to be released in mid-2017.
- The DEIS that the Committee has been using as a reference for the HIA process is the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) DEIS. The SEPA DEIS was published based on the requirements of SEPA and at the direction of the SEPA co-lead agencies, while the NEPA environmental review process is based on the distinct requirements of NEPA and under the direction of the Corps. In EPA's letter to the Corps, they advise that "The State DEIS is therefore instructive for evaluating the Corps' effects analysis." This is a reflection of the thorough analysis represented in the SEPA DEIS.
- The HIA will continue on its current timeline.

The following questions were posed after the discussion.

- Ms. Davis shared that she had read the SEPA DEIS is flawed and incomplete. Mr. Fazio responded that EPA provided a comment addressing this claim, which can be viewed on the MBTL website: <http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/sepa-comment-archive.html>.
- Mr. Kutz shared his concern about air quality near the MBTL terminal and the substantial increase of pollution. He said there is a need for further analysis for areas around the terminal and suggests a NEPA review be completed. Mr. Fazio responded that review of the NEPA DEIS has already been completed. EPA had commented on the lack of rigor in the NEPA analysis.
- Mr. Divine said he understood the scope of analysis for the NEPA document was focused primarily on the MBTL site. Mr. Fazio concurred and added the NEPA DEIS also focused on Cowlitz County.
- Ms. Patton commented she believes EPA said the NEPA DEIS was inadequate and gave it the lowest possible rating. Mr. Fazio concurred and explained the Corps will be responding to comments received on the NEPA DEIS and will be preparing the Final EIS. The Corps may or may not be compelled to complete new analyses during the NEPA review.

ICF'S ROLE IN RESEARCH AND DOCUMENT PREPARATION

In an effort to be transparent, Mr. Fazio discussed the process for preparing the HIA document. The HIA process is led by the Committee. Mr. Cunningham will advise a team of consultants identified by ICF in performing research, analysis, and writing of the HIA.

- Ms. Cooper asked if there was a conflict of interest. Mr. Fazio responded there are no conflicts of interest. ICF is a third-party reviewer as presented at the November 28 meeting. ICF is directly under contract with Cowlitz County and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology). During scoping, the co-lead agencies completed a rigorous Request for Proposal (RFP) process, assuring there would be no conflict of interest with the consultant team selected.
- Mr. Kutz said he is concerned with cumulative effects and wants to understand how the City or County analyzes data to account for cumulative effects. Mr. Fazio suggested discussing this topic later in the meeting during the discussion on research topics. Mr. O'Neill advised that this topic was covered during Ms. Fox's Air Quality presentation at the November 28 meeting.
- Ms. Davis asked what toxins are in the air now and who is emitting them in Cowlitz County? Mr. Fazio responded there are air quality monitoring sites within Cowlitz County; the website link to view this data is included in the summary for the November 28 meeting.
- Mr. Divine shared that KapStone Longview's paper mill and box plant monitors its emissions and reports these emissions to Ecology. He thinks Ecology has a pretty good handle on emissions from the mills and other local sources of pollution.

PRESENTATION ON COAL DUST: SANDRA DAVIS, STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Ms. Davis shared an overview of an abstract taken from a presentation to the PRB Coal Users Group at its annual meeting in 2005, *PRB Coal Degradation – Causes And Cures* <http://www.coalcombustion.com/pdf/PresentationsPDFs/PRBCoalDegradation.pdf>. She highlighted images on page 6 of the report, illustrating the degradation of coal particles over 6 days. She shared her concerns about the lack of containing coal dust during the transportation of coal (train transport, unloading, conveyor movement, pilling, and shipping) and the practicality of the sprinkler system to contain the fine powdery coal dust. She said with our now extreme weather patterns and windstorms, as was predicted here in October, her opinion is that Longview's probability of being exposed to coal dust is high since the sprinkler systems will not be able to keep the dust down. She passed around a photo of the Westshore Coal Terminal in Roberts Bank, B.C. during such a windstorm.

PRESENTATION OF THE MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINALS—LONGVIEW SEPA DEIS: DARREN MULDOON AND ED CARR, ICF

Mr. Muldoon and Mr. Carr provided an overview of the MBTL SEPA DEIS (Attachment A). The Applicant's (Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview) only involvement was a review of the description of the proposed terminal operations to ensure accuracy. The following questions and discussion followed the presentation.

- Ms. Patton commented that people don't experience noise at average noise levels, rather at peak noise levels. It's not just locomotive horn noises that are of concern. There are many other noises involved with increased rail traffic.
- Mr. Cunningham asked what standards were used when studying noise. Mr. Muldoon responded that Federal Railroad Administration methods were used.
- Ms. Anderson asked if trains would run during nighttime hours. Mr. Muldoon confirmed the terminal would operate 24 hours per day; therefore, trains would operate during nighttime hours.
- Dr. Vines asked how mitigation actions were determined. Mr. Muldoon replied that ICF and the SEPA co-lead agencies (Cowlitz County and Ecology) collaborated on the mitigation measures. ICF provided options for mitigation and the co-lead agencies identified potential measures to mitigate adverse impacts in the DEIS. The mitigation measures in the DEIS could be refined based on comments received on the DEIS.
- Ms. Cooper asked if the noise impact totals presented in the DEIS included impacts on nearby businesses and employees. Mr. Muldoon responded that they did not, as commercial properties are not considered sensitive to noise per the methods used for the analysis. Only noise-sensitive land uses, including residences, based on the Federal Railroad

Administration guidelines, were analyzed. Mr. O'Neill suggested the Committee review maps presented in the DEIS indicating the different study areas.

- Ms. Davis shared a concern about the Cowlitz Rail Bridge becoming inadequate and asked who would pay for building another rail bridge. Mr. Muldoon replied that the rail bridge is privately owned and any improvements would be completed at the owner's discretion.
- Ms. Davis shared concern that the DEIS mentioned recreational fishermen would not be affected. Her husband fishes every year on a very popular hog line in front of the MBTL site. Mr. Muldoon responded that the analysis was not site-specific, but looked at the Columbia River in the study area.
- Mr. Kutz asked what the current background concentrations for air pollution are and how impacts from the MBTL project was assessed. Mr. Carr responded that combined operations from the terminal, vessels, and locomotives are not expected to exceed national air quality standards. An air quality model was used that considered all trains, material handling, and conveyance to ships. The model calculates the amount of coal dust that travels through the atmosphere and when, where, and how much deposits to the ground or water. The model uses hourly meteorological data as input and simulates the impacts over 3 years to determine maximum impact. Background particulate matter (PM) 2.5 air quality monitoring data is available for Kelso, which was used in the analysis.
- Mr. Kutz asked what are the health impacts of small particles that accumulate when falling during coal transport and handling? Mr. Carr responded that those impacts were not looked at in the DEIS. Mr. Wallin asked why they were not looked at. Mr. Carr replied that analysis considered the amount emitted and rate of particle deposition but did not assess if the particles accumulate.
- Mr. Kutz asked if the plume of coal dust emissions from the MBTL project had been mapped. Mr. Carr responded the coal dust deposition was illustrated in the DEIS showing deposition amounts within an approximate 5-mile radius from the project area.
- Mr. Divine asked if coal dust is considered a pollutant. Mr. Carr responded that coal dust itself is not a pollutant, but the particles contained within the dust may be, depending on their size.

REVIEW AND FINALIZATION OF HIA RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Mr. Cunningham and Mr. O'Neill have been refining the HIA research questions. The questions will be sent to the Committee prior to the December 19 meeting for review and sharing with peers for feedback.

QUESTIONS ON RESEARCH PROCESS

- Ms. Davis asked if the Committee would hear from experts after the assessment period. Mr. Fazio responded that it is up to the Committee to decide and whether they feel it would help with the HIA process. Ms. Davis asked if Ms. Alice Sutter had been contacted. Mr. Fazio replied that she had not; it will be up to the Committee to determine if additional experts should be added to the agenda.
- Mr. Fredricks stated that he would like the Committee to focus on the research questions.
- Mr. Little commented that many of the questions the Committee has been asking have not changed in the past 2 months. He suggested the Committee focus on finalizing the research questions. He then asked how the increased rail noise would affect people with hearing aids.
- Ms. Anderson asked how increased rail noise would affect patients in the hospital. Ms. Cooper said she could attest there is already plenty of noise within the hospital setting. Mr. Kutz commented the hospital is not located near the railroad tracks.
- Mr. Fredricks stated the HIA and the Committee should not get distracted by various groups that could be affected, but rather, focus on the community as a whole.
- Mr. Fazio asked the Committee to review the distributed research questions and provide him with any feedback to meet the goal of finalizing the questions at the December 19 Committee meeting.
- Mr. Cunningham asked the Committee to begin thinking about how they would like information presented in the HIA document. Ms. Davis stated her preference would be to have an outline form. Ms. Patton stated her preference would be for the HIA to be modeled after the Oakland HIA. Mr. Camba requested a limited number of acronyms and that the language be approachable.
- Mr. O'Neill asked the Committee to review the list of questions and converse with peers to gather additional feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Meeting attendees gave five oral comments at the end of the meeting during the public comment period; Attachment B includes a transcript of each comment.

ACTION ITEMS

At the close of the meeting, the County and State representatives agreed to do the following.

- Provide an updated list of HIA research questions to the Committee by Wednesday, December 14.

Committee members were asked to complete the following before the December 19 Committee meeting.

- Review the list of HIA research questions and gather feedback from the community.
- Begin thinking about their preference for the organization of the HIA document.
- Review the draft summary of the November 28 Committee meeting.
- Review the draft summary of today's (December 12) Committee meeting.

In addition, the Committee co-chairs will coordinate with Mr. Fazio to create the agenda for the December 19 meeting.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Monday, December 19, 2016, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Cowlitz County Training Center
(The Boat House)

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Overview of the MBTL SEPA DEIS Presentation
Attachment B: Public Comments