

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee Meeting Summary October 31, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview (MBTL) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Steering Committee met on Monday, 31 October 2016, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Cowlitz County Training Center (The Boat House). Meeting materials are available at <http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/hia-documentation.html>.

The following members of the Steering Committee attended the October 31 meeting:

- Neil Agren, Cowlitz 2 Fire
- 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
- Jason Lundquist, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 21
- Mary Jane Melink, Councilmember, City of Longview, and The Health Care Foundation, Co-Chair
- Kathleen Patton, Faith Community
- Ted Sprague, Cowlitz Economic Development Council
- Mike Wallin, Councilmember, City of Longview

Seven members of the public also attended.

Participants from the Cowlitz County and Washington State Department of Health co-lead agencies included Nick Fazio (Assistant Long Range Planner, Cowlitz County Department of Building & Planning); Jennifer Vines, M.D. (Cowlitz County Health Officer, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services); Michael O'Neill (Healthy Communities Lead, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services); and Rad Cunningham (Epidemiologist, Washington State Department of Health [DOH], Healthy Community Design).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Fazio, who serves as staff to the Steering Committee, welcomed everyone and reviewed the ground rules, reminding attendees this is a committee work session. Members of the public could observe and provide comments on comment forms that were provided.

The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the 17 October 2016 meeting summary, which is available on the HIA website: <http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/hia-documentation.html>.

STEERING COMMITTEE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Regarding the Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement, Ms. Davis requested the deletion of the word “local” from page 2, item 1. She also requested modifying the wording on page 2, paragraph 1, to clarify that the scope is flexible and not limited to Cowlitz County. To address her request, Mr. O’Neill suggested adding the following to the last sentence of that paragraph: “...and other areas deemed necessary by the Steering Committee.” Committee members concurred with these updates and approved the Collaboration Agreement as a final document to be posted to the website.

MBTL SITE VISIT

Millennium Bulk Terminals--Longview, LLC (Millennium) provided two opportunities for Steering Committee members to visit the MBTL project site: Thursday, 27 October 2016, from 1 p.m.–3 p.m., and Friday, 28 October 2016, from 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Steering Committee members shared their thoughts on the tour.

Steve Kutz – The tour made Mr. Kutz think about broader questions, for example: What happens when operations are put into place, such as smelters, pollutants, and holding ponds? He felt that things are not cleaned up when industries leave, and asked if everyone just waits for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to say “We’ve got a Superfund site.” Mr. Kutz wants to understand how we ensure this does not happen again and asked if it is a county, state or federal responsibility to monitor the site. He gave kudos to Millennium for cleaning up past contamination on the site. He shared concern that the streambeds are still contaminated underground, as they are influenced by the tides. The tour helped Mr. Kutz understand the magnitude of the cleanup that Millennium is currently addressing on the MBTL site.

Sandra Davis – Ms. Davis shared her concern that the MBTL site is prime waterfront property. It seems like a waste of space, with so few jobs provided to the community.

Stella Anderson – A friend of Ms. Anderson’s was hired in the past to hide “the mess” underground on the MBTL site. She is concerned that when there is an earthquake, the contaminants will end up in the Columbia River. The site tour made her think about what would happen to the Highlands Neighborhood and how the train tracks would go through the neighborhood. The Steering Committee explained the tracks would not be passing through the Highlands Neighborhood. Instead, the existing rail line would be used. Ms. Anderson mentioned that there is an overpass project—the State Route 432-433 intersection—that is separate from the MBTL project. Information on the State Route 432-433 Industrial Way/Oregon Way intersection project can be found online at <http://industrialoregonway.org>.

Kathleen Patton – The tour made Ms. Patton wonder what would happen with the MBTL project in this volatile coal market. She is concerned about who is responsible for site cleanup

if/when Millennium goes bankrupt. She suggested this question be included in the HIA analysis. She also asked about the track record for cleaning up coal sites. Ms. Patton enjoyed the site tour and hospitality shown by Millennium. She thought it was fun to see the behind-the-scenes activity. She would also like to hear a balanced testimony from folks that have expertise with the health and environmental impacts associated with coal.

Bryce Divine – Mr. Divine enjoyed the tour. He said it answered his questions on rail traffic and felt the 25 miles per hour track speed will alleviate traffic backups. He thought it was interesting Millennium would continue to use the existing dock for another bulk export facility, and two new docks would be built for the MBTL project.

PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

The Steering Committee was asked to define the public input process for the HIA. Members discussed their preferences, which included the following:

- Hold a 15-minute public comment period at the end of each Steering Committee meeting (2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Ask those who provide oral comments to also provide their comments in writing for an accurate record.
- Encourage research be performed in response to public comments on Steering Committee HIA topics.
- Ask the public to contribute comments that are fact-based and can be added to the HIA research.
- Encourage Steering Committee members to reach out and obtain comments from their own networks.
- Provide comment forms for Steering Committee members to gather feedback within their own networks.
- Invite experts to future meetings to discuss topics of interest with the Steering Committee.
- Ensure only comments with science-based facts (not anecdotal information) about the health impacts of coal be considered by the Steering Committee.
- Leverage the HIA website to post materials and obtain feedback.
- Hold a meeting for the public to provide comments on the draft HIA.
- Decide how to examine resources.
- Determine what should be done with the comments.
- Encourage a flexible process.
- Provide comment sheets at each Steering Committee meeting.
- Do not accept anonymous comments.
- Do not accept comments provided by phone.

Using this list as a guide, Mr. Fazio will outline the public input process in writing and bring it to the next meeting (14 November) for the Steering Committee to review. The 14 November meeting will include 15 minutes for public comment at the end of the meeting.

FOCUS GROUP MEETING RANKED THEMES

The Steering Committee began the process of identifying topics and questions to address in the HIA. Mr. O’Neill reviewed the ranked themes shown in the table below. Using themes ranked during the Focus Group meetings as a reference, the Steering Committee will identify what aspects of health should be addressed in the HIA.

Focus Group Meetings: Ranked Themes

Rank	Focus Group Themes	Number of People Expressing Interest in Theme
1	Jobs/Economy	49
2	Existing Respiratory Problems Among the Population	22
3	Quality of Life/Community & External Perception	19
4	Coal Dust & Diesel Particulates	17
5	Natural Resources (fisheries, groundwater, farming land)	17
6	Trains (emergency medical services response, local traffic delays, noise, vibrations, rail safety)	11
7	Climate Change and Impacts Outside Cowlitz County	9
8	Usage/Development of Industrial Space	4
9	Project Applicant Accountability	4

The following questions and topics were discussed among Steering Committee members as potential themes for the HIA.

- How does rail traffic impede emergency service response time?
- What are the respiratory impacts on the community?
 - Establish a baseline by reviewing preexisting conditions and identifying the sources of any existing respiratory problems.
 - What are the health consequences of the MBTL project?
 - What would be the exponential effects?
 - How often is air quality monitored in the Longview community? (The EPA monitors air quality; this is already covered extensively in the EIS.)
 - How are “allowable limits” tied to health?
 - Millennium currently operates three air quality monitors surrounding the MBTL site, to collect baseline data.
 - The Southwest Clean Air Agency is responsible for enforcing federal, state, and local outdoor air quality standards and regulations in Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties in Southwest Washington (www.swcleanair.org); the agency could be invited to discuss local air quality monitoring.
 - Possible HIA mitigation could include air quality monitoring in the Highlands Neighborhood.

- What are the cumulative impacts of heavy metals?
 - Would heavy metals from coal dust be ingested from soil/gardens?
 - How much coal dust would be deposited over what area?
 - What is the measurable amount of coal dust that has accumulated over 10 years along existing local rail lines?

- How does the economy provide improvements for everyone in the community?
 - The MBTL project would result in an increased tax revenue and an increased number of taxpayers.
 - Once the facility is built, the property would be assessed for what it will pay in taxes.
 - Would Millennium taxes increase because of the coal export terminal project?
 - If taxes increase, what type of taxes will Millennium pay?
 - One indicator of health is poverty. How many jobs and add-on jobs would the MBTL project bring and how would the jobs affect local health indicators?
 - Jobs bring money and healthcare into households.
 - What are the job classifications for new jobs offered by the MBTL project?
 - Would the MBTL project create higher household incomes and more money in the community?
 - Would Millennium hire local workers??
 - Would Millennium provide new hires with skills and training?

- What are the social justice impacts?
 - What community would feel the most advantages and disadvantages of the MBTL project? How would the Highlands Neighborhood be affected?

- What are the impacts of climate change on Cowlitz County? What are the impacts of the MBTL project on climate change?

- How are medical costs affected as part of this project? Would community members be able to afford the cost of medical care for health issues that may be associated with the project?

- Would the MBTL project bring unforeseen infrastructure costs to the community?

Ms. Davis questioned the accuracy of the ranked themes as they were established by the Focus Groups prior to release of the SEPA and NEPA Draft EISs.

Mr. Lundquist shared his concern about the community and that this is his main focus. He felt it is important to have family wage jobs in a safe environment. He also suggested that the Steering Committee develop simplified questions for the HIA.

Dr. Vines advised the Steering Committee that it was important to have a balanced review of pros and cons. The themes need to be balanced so that there are no clear winners or losers.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Kutz inquired about Mr. Cunningham's professional background and his research process. Mr. Cunningham provided an overview of his background in epidemiology. He explained that he will rely on the resources and expertise available to him through the DOH. He is currently soliciting support from an economist and the DOH for questions about jobs and coal markets. He explained that the Board of Health conducts a Health Impact Review for similar projects. One of the principles of this process is a "strength of evidence" criterion. Mr. Cunningham has been refining the strength of evidence process for several years and will use this method once the Steering Committee identifies research questions for the HIA. Mr. Kutz wanted confirmation the research that the Steering Committee would be reviewing would have scientific rigor and was not just "Googled" online. He wanted to understand how the research would be validated. Mr. Cunningham responded that his validation method would be peer reviewed evidence or expert opinion. Mr. Cunningham assured the Steering Committee that his process will be transparent.

Ms. Davis shared that the Steering Committee needs information from all sources since Cowlitz County does not have the expertise nor the experience to perform studies evaluating possible health impacts from a coal terminal. The HIA will depend on having a comprehensive review from all sources.

Mr. Camba asked if there are resources or research that the Steering Committee could review now. Mr. Cunningham will gather sources and post them to the HIA website.

Mr. Lundquist shared his concern that the HIA scope would become too broad. He thinks it should be more focused on Cowlitz County. Some questions he asked included: How many trains come into Cowlitz County daily? How would increased train traffic impact Weyerhaeuser and first responder access? How many medical calls have occurred in the area over the last 5 years? Has anything happened that impeded/delayed the response of emergency vehicles?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Three written comments were received at the end of the meeting.

1. *Billea Smith (billea-smith@live.com) – What about the private pipelines? How will the trains impact our entire community and county as they pass through Kalama, Woodland, Kelso and Longview, the infrastructure, the coal dust and the diesel fumes? What about the next working generation, college and high school students concerns and comments? What about the ships and the taxes for dredging or new port upgrades?*

2. *Diane Dick (Dickdl50@gmail.com) – Because the MBT coal terminal project involves transporting more coal than has ever been contemplated on the West Coast and will involve significant increases in the number of trains significantly impacting many communities, it is necessary the scope of the HIA include health effects of coal dust from the trains and the increased number of trains on all the communities along the rail route. Public input should be allowed at the scoping point of the process and also after a draft report has been prepared. What is in the draft EIS should not be considered a “fact” because it has not undergone critical review. There is a lot of data from Australia about coal terminal dust. The industrial process is similar – the long history of data needs to be reviewed inasmuch as the Australian data strongly diverge from what is projected in the MBT DEIS. Data from the Oakland Terminal project should also be reviewed. If jobs and economics are to be considered then not only gains should be considered, then losses should also be assessed which has not been done in the DEIS. Loss of property value, loss of current business, loss of future economic growth, loss of health, loss of environmental quality. Do you need a cost-benefit analysis? Find out kinds of personal protective equipment that will be required for workers at various points in the coal terminal.*

3. *Regna Merritt, Physicians for Social Responsibility (regna@oregonpsr.org) – Please include study or research and findings. a) Indirect economic risks – Local economists may be compelled to shift expenditures from health and human services and other health-promoting public expenditures to absorb cost of accommodating increase in rail traffic (i.e., building vehicle and pedestrian overpasses). Increase emissions, noise and traffic congestion could decrease nearby property values, disrupt the local business environment, decrease tourism, and other rail or truck transport, resulting in loss of quality of life, personal income, tax base, and government revenues. Also, generation of GHG emissions, SO₂, NO₂, mercury from furnaces in rapidly industrializing countries can substantially contribute to climate change and increase costs of health and human services. b) Please include review of pictures/video of coal trains in the Gorge with loss of coal dust. Coal dust includes respirable PM 2.5. Dr. Dan Jaffee should be invited to speak to steering committee. c) Scope of analysis and findings should include: Potential impacts to all rail-line communities in Washington; Environmental Justice analysis of all rail line communities and terminal in Longview; Potential impacts to all Washington from Washington shipping lanes; Potential impacts to all Washington from climate change, global warming and deposits of toxic pollutants including mercury. d) Please use Oakland Health Study as reference tool and include those topics in your findings and recommendation. E) Diesel Particulate Matter (DPM) is very dangerous. Please include accurate assessment of potential health impacts from exposure from 4-5 locomotives with each train, plus on-site, and in-channel DPM.*

ACTION ITEMS

At the close of the meeting, the County and State representatives agreed to provide Steering Committee members with the following:

- Final Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement
- Broad literature search on any research around occupational and/or community health impacts from coal terminals; post findings to the HIA website
- Outline of the public input process

Steering Committee members were asked to complete the following before the 14 November 2016 meeting:

- Review the October 31 draft Steering Committee meeting summary
- Review the revised public input process prepared by the HIA co-lead agencies

In addition, the Steering Committee co-chairs will coordinate with Mr. Fazio to create the agenda for the 14 November meeting.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Monday, 14 November, 2016, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Longview Public Library
- Monday, 28 November, 2016, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Cowlitz County Training Center (The Boat House)
- Monday, 12 December, 2016, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., Longview Public Library