

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee Meeting Summary October 17, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview (MBTL) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Steering Committee met on Monday, 17 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/health-impact-assessment.html>.

These members of the Steering Committee attended:

- 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
- Steve Kutz, RN, MPH, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Bob Little, Highlands Neighborhood
- Jason Lundquist, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 21
- Mary Jane Melink, Councilmember, City of Longview, and The Health Care Foundation
- Kathleen Patton, Faith Community
- Mike Wallin, Councilmember, City of Longview

Ted Sprague, Cowlitz Economic Development Council and a member of the Steering Committee, could not attend this meeting.

Eight members of the public attended. Additional participants 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, Healthy Community Design).

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nick Fazio, who serves as staff to the Steering Committee, welcomed everyone and reviewed the ground rules, reminding attendees that this is a committee work session. Nick also recognized new committee members Stella Anderson and Octavio Camba. Members of the public could observe and provide their comments on the forms that were supplied.

The Steering Committee reviewed and approved the 28 September 2016 meeting summary that is posted to the HIA website. The committee agreed that members could share their contact information.

Nick stated that the final State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) environmental impact statement (EIS) is due to be released on 30 April 2017, a release date that means the committee must review the HIA timeline. While the completion of the HIA in fall 2017 was initially envisioned, the change in EIS schedule does not necessarily change the committee's mission. The committee can produce a valuable HIA by March 2017. Nick suggested a schedule for an accelerated workflow. Dian Cooper voiced concern that there may not be enough time for the Department of Health to do the research. Rad Cunningham responded that if the Steering Committee works in an iterative process, the necessary research can be accomplished. Over the next four meetings, the committee will identify research topics. Over the holidays, the Department of Health will conduct research. Then the committee will reconvene in January to review the research and draft recommendations. Kathleen Patton said the accelerated timeline is useful – the HIA will be ready for the decision-makers and the final EIS. The committee came to a consensus to adopt the new time frame. No concerns were voiced.

STEERING COMMITTEE INTRODUCTIONS

The Steering Committee members introduced themselves and their backgrounds and commented on their views of the MBTL project.

Kathleen Patton – Said she is passionate about this conversation and is concerned about the prospect of climate change. Kathleen believes the science she has read that coal is a contributor to climate change and that it is a health impact to the whole world. She is looking at the global impact of the project. How does coal impact climate change? Her conclusion is that the economic benefits do not outweigh the health impacts to the larger community. She is also concerned about the folks that live next to the tracks. They are disadvantaged and will be greatly impacted.

Gary Fredricks – Stated that he is taking a neutral position on the project. His decision will be science-based and come from facts and figures. Gary has been in Longview for 10 years and plans to retire here. He has been following the health of the community and has noted that Longview ranks 37th out of 39 communities in the state. He is concerned that science is only going to take us so far and wonders what the other impacts to the community are.

Sandra Davis – Born and raised here, and recalled attending football games in Longview where the opposing Kelso and Longview teams would chant “Kelso – Smell so” and “Longview – Pee yew.” Sandra believes that coal is a nasty, dirty, 19th-century product. She is concerned about the stigma the project will bring to Longview and believes it will impact attracting jobs and that coal dust will drive people away. She is concerned that the Highlands neighborhood will be directly impacted by coal dust and diesel particulates. She also shared her concern about traffic gridlock. Proposed traffic improvements are not fully funded. She has read that empty coal trains produce just as much dust as full ones. She believes that surfactants applied to coal trains

do not last long enough. She would like to see the scope of the HIA expanded to include the impoverished areas trains will travel through (e.g., Fruit Valley in Vancouver and areas in Spokane, Stevens Pass, and Yakima Valley). She would love to see an HIA for all of Washington. She shared that the MBTL coal is a Powder River Basin coal that is very friable and has a high moisture content. It does not burn as hot as West Virginia coal, which means about a third more must be burned to get the same outcome. She believes there is no such thing as clean coal.

Dian Cooper – Said she is taking a neutral position on the project. She would like the HIA to be data-driven and actionable. Dian is concerned about health equity in Longview and believes the community is divided into the haves and have-nots. She is also concerned about the disparate effects to lower income communities. She wants to make sure that the MBTL project does not have an unintended consequence. She believes the committee needs to weigh all the facts carefully and come up with mitigating factors, including loss of jobs in the community.

Mike Wallin – Shares others' concerns and believes the committee should look at development within Longview and figure out a way to create more jobs and more taxpayers to provide services for those in need. Mike believes that the committee should look at the proposal through a lens with tradeoffs. What are the regional and global benefits? Putting electricity into communities that cannot refrigerate medicines? Look at what the committee can do and what we have control over.

Bob Little – Said his number one concern is bringing jobs to the county followed by improving air quality in his neighborhood. Bob comes from an industrialized family. His parents and grandparents worked in the coal mines of Pennsylvania. His uncle recently passed away of black lung disease. He has observed that a lot of people in the Highlands neighborhood are on oxygen and have asthma. As a delivery driver, he sees the impact of train traffic to car traffic. He is concerned that access to the hospital would be impacted by increased train traffic. The wind blows through the neighborhood – his house is wind central.

Mary Jane Melink – Stated her concerns echo others and that she has three concerns. The first is the health impacts of coal dust on people. Folks closest to the facility have the least ability to take care of themselves. Mary Jane's second concern is that jobs are needed in Longview. Her third concern is that she questions the long-term viability of the MBTL facility. Will Longview once again be stuck with a site that needs to be cleaned up?

Steve Kutz – Shared memories of visiting relatives in Pennsylvania in the early 1950s. During this period, coal came in trucks, not trains. Steve remembers the dirtiness even over 60 years ago. He grew up in a mining town in Montana where all the streams were polluted. He worries about health and the environment. He brings the committee his background as an industrial hygienist. He worries about water pollution. Minerals are encapsulated in the ground; it acts differently when they are excavated. While there are tribes that depend on the coal mines for income, they also have concerns about the mines' pollution. He worries about the river and fish, critical things that the Cowlitz Tribe is trying to restore. He worries about the pollutants that

come back on ships from the around the world. He believes the ships will bring invasive species and pollution. He would like to find out what the scientific impacts of similar facilities around the world are. His Tribe voted to oppose the MBTL project.

Octavio Camba – Said he is taking a neutral position and has no agenda as a committee member. Octavio is going to take a rational approach, review accurate data, and become educated to come to constructive findings.

Bryce Divine – Believes that the MBTL project is negative for the commercial fishing industry. He is concerned that it is a threat to commercial fishing jobs. Bryce said that an increase in large vessels will reduce the opportunity for commercial fishing in the channel. “When you can’t put your net out, you can’t fish.” Increased ship traffic also brings more dredging. He previously worked for Capstone, a company that lost 7,500 jobs. He shared that Longview would need 7 to 10 coal ports to make up for those losses and that would be an enormous footprint. He wants to come up with a defensible, factual HIA with clear statements of facts and no bias.

Jason Lundquist – Represents 300 members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union in the community. Jason believes there have been lost opportunities for young folks in the community. He feels that when a company such as Millennium comes into the community and embraces it, that means a lot. He has seen the coal facility in Australia. He does not like to see the coal trains and ships go by without stopping here – they are missed economic opportunities. He understands that, in the past, there were companies that were bad to Longview. He looks forward to reviewing the data for the HIA.

Stella Anderson – Stated that she opposes the MBTL project. She believes the community has the highest occurrences of Alzheimer’s, autism, and emphysema. She also believes that the long-term impacts of the project are huge. She has her automobile scrubbed after she drives past Millennium’s facility. She feels she is under constant assault. She often has to scrub oil residue from the roof of her house that comes from ships. She shared that ship engines are never turned off. She stated that Millennium refuses to clean up their site after they’ve had committee after committee. She restated that she is against the MBTL project on every level.

Neil Agren – Stated that he is taking a neutral position on the MBTL project. He needs to look at facts and figures. He also wants to consider what happens in the case of the unexpected. His concern is for emergency responders and people working in facilities. He is also interested in learning if there are health impacts that could increase emergency call volumes.

DISCUSSION OF HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCOPE

The Steering Committee discussed the scope of the HIA. The committee’s collaboration agreement states that the scope of the HIA will be Cowlitz County. Nick Fazio stated that, while there are larger impacts that may be valuable to assess, the HIA is a County-led effort and that limited budget, time, and resources are available. He suggested keeping the focus of the HIA on Cowlitz County over the next few months. If committee members believe HIAs are needed for other communities (e.g., Spokane), he suggested advocating funding for them. This HIA needs

to be relevant to Cowlitz County and it is the staff's recommendation that the HIA focus on Cowlitz County.

Bryce Divine suggested borrowing from other studies such as the Oakland HIA to expand the scope to include the global perspective. Nick responded that there is room in the HIA to discuss regional and global impacts. Steve Kutz shared his concern about limiting the scope to Cowlitz County because fish, water, and air all flow to other counties. Kathleen Patton shared her concern that by isolating issues, the committee might miss the larger impacts (e.g., on global climate change) and that the impacts can be seen in the County with increased wildfires.

Nick restated that the committee needs to produce an HIA that speaks to our community and the potential health impacts that are specific to Cowlitz County. Rad Cunningham said that there are opportunities in his research to include the whole state in the data. Gary Fredricks stated that he wants to make sure he gets data that he can use to make recommendations for the County, and that it is beyond the committee's scope to look at other communities and make recommendations for them. Jason Lundquist said the committee is trying to understand the health impacts and understand how the HIA can be used to inform the decision-making process for now and in the future.

Jennifer Vines suggested that the scope should stay flexible, be refined as the committee discussed each issue, and be based on the analysis available. The committee came to a consensus that the scope will be flexible and be refined as each issue is discussed and will be based on the analysis available.

NOMINATION OF COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRS

The following Steering Committee members were nominated as co-chair: Gary Fredricks, Bob Little, Mary Jane Melink, Kathleen Patton, and Mike Wallin. The committee deliberated and decided to have three co-chairs with one serving as a neutral spokesperson. Mike withdrew so that Bob may be a co-chair. There was a unanimous consent to the three co-chairs, Gary Fredricks, Bob Little, and Mary Jane Melink, and Gary will serve as spokesperson.

STEERING COMMITTEE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

Regarding the Steering Committee collaboration agreement, Nick Fazio reviewed feedback received from several committee members expressing concern with the scope of the HIA. The committee deferred to the previous discussion on scope where they felt this was addressed and agreed to keep an eye out to preserve flexibility in the scope. Nick said there is room to add language saying that the HIA is not required by law; the HIA is intended to inform the public and decision-makers in advance of the issuance of the EIS and to serve as a long-range planning tool. Several committee members pointed out that it was important that the term "decision-makers" be included in the goals. County staff will update the agreement and distribute it with the intent to adopt it at the 31 October meeting.

MBTL SITE VISIT

Millennium will provide two opportunities for committee members to visit the project site:

- Thursday, 27 October 2016, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.
- Friday, 28 October 2016, 1 p.m.–3 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

One written comment was received.

Regna Merritt, Physicians for Social Responsibility (regna@oregonpsr.org) – (1) Support inclusion of statewide health impacts of MBTL in HIA as information is readily available to DOH. (2) Support inclusion of language regarding goals of the HIA to specifically inform decision-makers in advance of the MBTL decision by county, state and federal agencies. (3) Support presentations by public health and medical experts to the Steering Committee, particularly given lack of public health expertise among volunteer Steering Committee members. For example, Dr. Alice Suter is recommended to give background and expertise on noise and why noise should be assessed separate from SEPA. (4) Who should be contact for committee for community members who don't wish to send individual email requests to individual steering committee members? How will requests for information and present rations be handled and by when? (5) Public comment should be accepted at each meeting. Three minutes each."

ACTION ITEMS

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

- Logistical information for the Millennium site visit
- Contact list of committee members
- Revised committee collaboration agreement

Committee members were asked to complete the following before the next meeting:

- Review the draft meeting summary
- Review the revised committee collaboration agreement

In addition, the co-chairs will coordinate with Nick Fazio to create the agenda for the next meeting.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- Monday, 31 October, 1 p.m.–3 p.m., Cowlitz County Training Center (The Boat House)
- Monday, 14 November, 1 p.m.–3 p.m., Longview Public Library
- Monday, 28 November, 1 p.m.–3 p.m., Cowlitz County Training Center (The Boat House)
- Monday, 12 December, 1 p.m.–3 p.m., Longview Public Library