

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview Health Impact Assessment Steering Committee Meeting Summary 28 September 2016

The Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview (MBTL) Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Steering Committee met for the first time on Wednesday, 28 September 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Longview Public Library. Meeting materials are available at <http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/health-impact-assessment.html>. Participants included representatives of the Cowlitz County Department of Building & Planning, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, and the Washington State Department of Health, as well as 22 members of the public and former focus group participants who were invited to become members of the Steering Committee.

The following Steering Committee members were present:

- Dian Cooper, Family Health Center
- Sandra Davis, Resident
- Bryce Divine, Longview Commercial Fishing
- Gary Fredricks, Washington State University Extension Longview
- Bob Little, Highlands Neighborhood
- Jason Lundquist, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 21
- Kathleen Patton, Faith Community
- Ted Sprague, Cowlitz Economic Development Council
- Mike Wallin, City of Longview

The following Steering Committee members were unable to attend this meeting:

- Neil Agren, Cowlitz 2 Fire
- Steve Kutz, Cowlitz Indian Tribe
- Mary Jane Melink, City of Longview & The Health Care Foundation

Kris Hafey, Performance Management Lead with the Washington State Department of Health, facilitated the meeting. Attendees introduced themselves and reviewed the agenda and meeting ground rules. Dr. Jennifer Vines, MD, MPH, Cowlitz County Health & Human Services Health Officer, thanked participants for volunteering to participate in the Steering Committee. She explained that participants from the four focus groups held fall 2015 were invited to participate as members of the Steering Committee. Everyone who expressed interest in being on the Steering Committee was invited to join this first Steering Committee meeting.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Nick Fazio, Assistant Long Range Planner with the Cowlitz County Department of Building & Planning, provided an overview of the MBTL project to the committee (see PowerPoint



presentation available on the HIA website). Committee members discussed their desire to tour the MBTL project site and Millennium offered to provide a tour. Committee members will check their calendars and bring availability dates to the next meeting.

HIA Purpose and Process and General Themes from Focus Group Meetings

Rad Cunningham, with the Washington State Department of Health, Healthy Community Design, provided an introduction to HIAs, the purpose for developing an HIA, and the process and expectations of the Steering Committee’s role for the MBTL HIA. He referenced frequently asked questions about HIAs, and explained that the HIA would evaluate potential effects the MBTL project would have on human health and quality of life in adjacent communities. Some analyses from the State Environmental Policy Act environmental impact statement (SEPA EIS) may be used to inform the HIA. Using themes ranked in the focus group meeting as a reference, the Steering Committee will identify what aspects of health should be addressed in the HIA. Mr. Cunningham and his colleagues from the Washington State Department of Health will perform the analysis and share its results with the Steering Committee for members’ input. The Steering Committee will decide when the HIA is ready to be released to the public.

Focus Group Meeting: 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

Steering Committee Membership

Mr. Fazio discussed the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee which are to:

- Assess: Assist in asking and answering research questions regarding health conditions and probable health impacts.
- Recommend: Draft recommendations based on assessment results and/or Draft EIS results and stakeholder and public feedback.
- Report: Review and approve reports and other project materials.
- Monitor and Evaluate: Monitor and evaluate the HIA process and outcomes.

Mr. Fazio explained that throughout the HIA process, Steering Committee members are expected to gather input from their friends, neighbors, and fellow professionals. The goal is to balance as much public input as possible with the need to finalize an HIA report in 2017.

The group discussed the need to identify co-chairs. Members were asked to review the roles and responsibilities for the committee co-chairs and respond with their nominations prior to the next meeting. The group also discussed the addition of members to include youth, a physician, the Hispanic population, and tribes. The committee recommended several people, who will be invited to the next meeting.

Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement

Mr. Fazio reviewed the Steering Committee collaboration agreement with the committee and requested members to review and send comments to him prior to the next meeting.

Process for Public Input

Mr. Fazio advised the Steering Committee that members would need to decide how to receive ongoing public input on the HIA process. Members of the public were welcome to attend this first meeting and observe the HIA process, and a 15-minute public comment period was scheduled at the meeting's conclusion. Members were asked to think about options and bring their ideas to the next meeting.

Meeting Schedule

The Steering Committee discussed time commitments, frequency of meetings, and meeting locations and decided the committee would meet for 2 hours every 2 weeks for about 2 months until the research questions were determined. At that time, Mr. Cunningham will take a few months to complete the research and draft responses, and then the committee will reconvene to review and provide comment. It is anticipated that the draft HIA will be ready for public review in fall 2017.

Public Comment Period

Near the end of the Steering Committee meeting, 15 minutes was provided for public comment on the HIA. Five members of the community spoke during this comment period. Highlights from each person's comments are presented below.

John Steppert, Resident: I live in Longview and am in the mental health field. The impact of this facility is a concern for me. It's a justice issue. Those disproportionately affected such as the Highlands Neighborhood are under-insured or not insured. They will not have the ability to get proper care. It is a conflict of interest for Millennium to be paying for the HIA study. Committee members might be tempted to shine a favorable light. Please don't let Millennium or industry influence you. Please post meeting materials to the website.

Don Steinke, Resident: Democracy takes work. I like the addition of tribes to the committee. The committee should get input from Spokane. Volkswagen was fined billions of dollars for diesel emissions. Do all diesel locomotives add to the risk? Are the emissions from locomotives acceptable now? Consider the 2012 report by John Weizmann “Clark County Climate Change is a public health emergency.” Does the SEPA mitigation for greenhouse gases do enough?

Alona Steinke, Resident: Review “An Assessment of the Health and Safety Implications of Coal Transport through Oakland” by the Public Health Advisory Panel on Coal in Oakland, California, June 2016. Watch Dr. Dan Jaffe’s super duster coal train video. Thank you for volunteering.

Regna Merritt, Washington and Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility: I’m happy this group is together. Thank you for volunteering. I’d like to see the results of the HIA incorporated into the EIS. I think the timeline can support that. I support public comment at the end of each meeting and a public hearing for the draft HIA. I ask that the scope be broader to include Vancouver and cities along the train route. In Vancouver, there are 27 at-grade crossings of which 13 are the only way in and out of neighborhoods. My concern is the delay in emergency response times.

Katie Frei, Resident: I have lived in Longview 34 years in the lowlands of Longview near Mint Valley. In 2012, I became one of a growing number of healthy nonsmokers diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer. I have never-ever smoked. Stage 4 means inoperable and there is no cure. Lung cancer kills more people yearly in the U.S. than breast and prostate cancer combined. It has been directly related to air pollution. Lung cancer is extremely expensive to treat. I have had 3 different treatments including 25 cycles of chemo. Chemo is nasty! I wouldn’t wish what I’ve gone through on anyone. Lung cancer isn’t a pretty way to die. The particulates in diesel fuel lodge themselves deep in the lungs. Up to 40 trains a day will pass through the Highlands, dropping coal dust and filling the air with diesel particulates. I am deeply concerned about the infants and children, with their tiny lungs, who live in the Highland area. There is no safe level of diesel particulates. The dust from coal trains can be detected 10 miles from the trains. I live within that area – I really don’t want to live here if this project is approved. I’m concerned that maybe I’ve lived too close to the industrial area and that contributed to my cancer. But I really enjoy this community.

ACTION ITEMS

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

- Mr. Fazio’s contact information, as he will be the primary contact for the Steering Committee members.
- Link to a YouTube video documenting a successful HIA.

- List of the roles and responsibilities recommended for the Steering Committee co-chairs.
- Examples of completed HIAs.

The Steering Committee members were also asked to complete the following before the next Steering Committee meeting.

- Review the list of roles and responsibilities for the committee co-chairs, and identify who they would nominate to be a committee chair/co-chair.
- Review the HIA Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement and provide comments to Mr. Fazio.
- Review HIA examples.
- Identify dates in October when they are available to participate in a site visit of the MBTL site.

NEXT MEETING

1-3 p.m., Monday, 17 October 2016, at the Cowlitz County Training Center (The Boat House), 1942 First Avenue, Longview, Washington 98632