

**MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINALS-LONGVIEW
HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOCUS GROUP
OCTOBER 28, 2015, LONGVIEW, WA**

Focus Group No. 2 Summary

The Cowlitz County Department of Building and Planning, in conjunction with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is undertaking an environmental review of the Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview project. As part of this overall process, the County and Ecology, with assistance from the Cowlitz County Health and Human Services Department and the Washington State Department of Health, are also preparing a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). Local stakeholders were invited to participate in a focus groups designed to develop recommendations for the HIA public scoping process and general approach.

Fifteen members of the Cowlitz County Mental Health Advisory Board participated in a focus group held Wednesday, October 28, 2015, at the Cowlitz County Health Department. Dr. Jennifer Vines, Health Officer with Cowlitz County Health Department welcomed participants and introduced the team. Ms. Elaine Placido, Director of Cowlitz County Department of Building & Planning, presented an overview of the Millennium Bulk Terminals – Longview project followed by Mr. Michael O'Neill, healthy communities lead with Cowlitz County Health & Human Services, who discussed HIAs and facilitated a group discussion on project benefits and concerns that are listed below.

Coal Dust and Diesel Particulates

- Aesthetics and dust in Highlands neighborhood
- Increased risk factors for children and elderly (allergies/asthma)
- Vegetation – farming – food – ingestion
- Ground water and drinking
- Do we have sufficiently trained medical staff to address impacts of coal dust to community and workers?

Trains

- Traffic delays
- Noise
- Traffic congestion
- Potential for accidents at rail crossings
- Access for EMS and emergency response

Mental Health Impacts

- Anxiety

- Feeling of tension/stress in community
- Polarizing topic – how do we find the middle ground?

Quality of Life

- Increase in tax revenue
- Number of jobs
- Overall economic impact
- Perception of quality of life
- Perception of Longview to outside visitors/business
- Image of place where pollution lives
- Increased access to benefits for employees
- Do we become a “coal town?”

Jobs

- Increase in secondary jobs
- Benefits to workers
- Wages – define “family wage”
- Special training required?
- Can Longview Community College fill education gaps?
- Increased demand on schools/childcare
- Emergency response

Development

- Where does development stop?
- Blight
- Impact on land use
- Impact on housing values
- Green space, natural area buffer around facility – is it possible?
- Will this project deter green companies from coming to the area?

Community

- Taxes and impact on community
- MBTL stewardship of and in the community

Train Track Safety

- Overall community safety related to trains and tracks – need education

Climate Change

- Harmful effects worldwide
- What happens when demand for coal is gone?
- Is coal a long-term industry?

Shipping/River Capacity

- Wake erosion

Capacity of Housing, Infrastructure, Schools, Etc.

- Cost to build
- Schools
- Elasticity

PRIORITIZATION EXERCISE

Participants prioritized topics by importance. They were given three dots and allowed to spend them all on one concern/opportunity or spread across several of the items listed by the group.

Here is the ranking/vote tally:

1. Coal Dust and Diesel Particulates (14 votes)
2. Quality of Life (11)
3. Climate Change (8)
4. Trains (5)
5. Development (4)
6. Community (2)
7. Jobs (2)
8. Mental Health Impacts (2)
9. Shipping/River Capacity (1)
10. Train Track Safety (1)

PARTICIPANTS

- Galen Conrad, Mental Health Advisory Board
- Frank Corie, Mental Health Advisory Board
- Julie Dalen, Health & Human Services, Cowlitz County Health Department
- Chris DesRosier, Health & Human Services, Cowlitz County Health Department
- Cowl Erickson Mental Health Advisory Board
- Beth Fellows, Mental Health Advisory Board
- Kay Gunter, Mental Health Advisory Board
- Tim Krueger, Ombudsman
- Chris Larsen, Family Health Center
- Viki Payten, Mental Health Advisory Board
- Doug Radke, Mental Health Advisory Board
- Beatriz Rush, Health & Human Services, Cowlitz County Health Department
- Jordan Satcher, Health & Human Services, Cowlitz County Health Department
- Jeanne Snow, Health & Human Services, Cowlitz County Health Department
- John Steppert, Mental Health Advisory Board

*There were no volunteers for the proposed MBTL HIA Steering Committee