

From: pseabode@comcast.net  
Sent: Monday, January 8, 2018 7:38 AM  
To: Fazio, Nick  
Subject: Millennium coal export terminal

Assistant Long Range Planner, Cowlitz County, OR  
Nick Fazio  
fazion@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Dear Mr. Fazio,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the draft Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the proposed Millennium coal export terminal. I urge the HIA Steering Committee to reject this proposal, based both on information included in the draft and information omitted from the draft.

If built, Millennium would be the largest coal export terminal in the nation, exporting 44 million metric tons of coal annually. The HIA shows that it would pose real threats of cancer, air pollution, noise pollution and contamination of food sources:

- 44 million metric tons of coal, when burned, emit about 90 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. This is roughly on par with Washington State's current total carbon emissions in one year.
- Changes in our climate in the near and midterm future will increase hazards to human health and increase health disparities.
- Significant coal dust and diesel particulate matter exposures can lead to death, hospitalization from heart and lung disease, asthma attacks, pneumonia, decline in lung function, asthma in children, plus growing evidence of stroke, Type 2 diabetes, neurological and cognitive impairment, and pre-term and low-birth weight babies.
- Communities near the rail line are likely to experience increased cancer rates.
- Low-income areas in Cowlitz County will be exposed to high levels of noise. Noise is associated with higher rates of high blood pressure, heart attack and heart disease.
- A single train could delay traffic by 9 minutes at at-grade crossings. There will be 16 train trips each day at full operation, creating a significant risk of delaying emergency responses.
- Cowlitz County consistently ranks near the bottom of Washington counties in health indicators and would be at even greater risk of health effects than other parts of Washington.
- Tribal members eating shellfish could be exposed to toxic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons due to this project.

In addition to these health threats, the draft HIA fails to recognize the serious threats posed by many heavy metals and other toxics that would be released due to the proposed coal export terminal.

Because many of these serious health impacts cannot be mitigated, I urge the HIA Steering Committee, Cowlitz County and the WA Department of Health to recommend rejection of this project and denial of all permits.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bode  
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