



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

*PO Box 47775 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7775 • (360) 407-6300
711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341*

January 11, 2018

Mr. Nick Fazio, Assistant Long Range Planner
Cowlitz County Department of Building and Planning
204 4th Avenue North
Kelso, WA 98626

Re: Draft Health Impact Assessment for Millennium Bulk Terminals Proposal

Dear Mr. Fazio,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Draft Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Millennium Bulk Terminals (Millennium) proposal. Cowlitz County's decision to conduct an HIA reflects innovative and responsive leadership. HIAs are new public health tools; only a few communities in Washington have actually done one. These assessments help local leaders and the public understand how a new proposal could affect community health. HIAs use available technical and scientific information, and are not required by state or local law.

As a Co-Lead partner with Cowlitz County for preparation of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Millennium proposal, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) recognizes how the local health study goes beyond the EIS. The HIA offers increased information about health impacts, and also confirms findings in the EIS.

Cowlitz County's decision to conduct the HIA ties to questions raised during the public scoping process for the Millennium EIS. Together, Cowlitz County and Ecology witnessed unprecedented public interest in the scoping process, demonstrated by submission of over 217,000 comments. Later in 2016, the HIA process was further informed by an extraordinary 267,000 comments sent to Cowlitz County and Ecology regarding Millennium's Draft EIS.

The Draft HIA offers answers to key questions pertaining to air quality, economic health, climate change, traffic congestion, drinking water, noise, and vibration. Its findings provide further validation of conclusions in the Millennium EIS.



Mr. Nick Fazio
January 11, 2018
Page 2

Thank you again for your leadership to prepare the Draft HIA. Attached are Ecology's specific comments.

Sincerely,



Sally Toteff
Southwest Regional Director

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Jennifer Vines, Cowlitz County Health Officer
Rad Cunningham, Washington Department of Health