

Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview

Health Impact Assessment-Steering Committee Workshop

January 12, 2018 (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM) - Cowlitz County Administration Building

Present: Neil Agren, Stella Anderson, Dian Cooper, Sandra Davis, Bryce Divine, Gary Fredricks, Mary Jane Melink, Kathleen Patton, Mike Wallin, Nick Fazio, Elaine Placido, Jennifer Vines, Shannon Hoskins, Julie Fox, Rad Cunningham, Sydney Hall, Gayle Reid, Yasmina Aknin.

Meeting began at 8:10 am

- Welcome, logistics, safety instructions, and guest Wi-Fi password shared.
- For clarification, the EIS was not appealed.
- SC Roster Update: Bob Little and Jason Lundquist are no longer SC members. Mary Jane suggested finding a replacement representing the Highlands neighborhood. Sandy Davis left a voicemail for Linda Brigham.
- Agenda reviewed. No changes requested.
- Nick reiterated that this is a working meeting and not a public hearing.
- Parking lot was made available for questions needing further research.
- Reminder that HIA used EIS as a springboard, and that this is a local effort with limited time and resources.
- New source of information from Baseline Health also contributed to draft HIA.
- Project was primarily funded by MBTL with in-kind support from the County and DOH.

Review of Steering Committee Collaboration Agreement/Ground Rules

- Nick read the "Decision Making Guidelines:" and commended the group for reaching consensus.
- Nick stated involving the public was an important part of this procedure. Proposal meets standard of acceptability for every SC member present. Process has been fair.
- Ground rules reviewed.

Health Impact Assessment Project Update-HIA Project Staff

- Sandy: How much info came from MBTL draft?
- Jennifer: MBTL information was used mainly for background information.
- Nick: The draft HIA sites this information in the back of the document.
- Translating EIS to a health document was challenging and team had to look outside of EIS. A lot of info was collected since last meeting to determine relevancy and how to answer SC questions. Team sited the different resources they used to provide clarity:
 - Nick-B & P: Decision-makers, EIS and literature.
 - Julie-HHS: Air quality regulations.
 - Shannon-DOH: HIA, EIS and her professional judgement
 - Rad-DOH: Dept. of Ecology data experts.
- Introductions made of new folks around the table.

Discussion: Public Written Comment

- Public comments arrived in batches of form letters, unique comments, critiques, etc. B & P worked with ICF to summarize the comments into a spreadsheet, coded by topic for easier readability.
- Nick divided the comments in two buckets, form letters and substantive comments. Substantive comments were long and unique.
- Form letters submitted had 3 versions: Form A) 1,080; Form B) 1418; Form C) 105. Vast majority of them came from people outside of the county.
 - Nick circulated samples of form letters and the spreadsheet with combined public comments to SC.
- Most of the unique comments on form letters lacked substance with the exception of a few, which were added as unique comments to the spreadsheet. ICF can do an analysis of form comments if SC requests.

- Mike: How the comments were weighted?
- Majority of the submissions have names and addresses. Vast majority of form letters came from outside of the county. Significant portion of unique comments came from Cowlitz County residents.
- SC was asked how they want to move forward with written comments.
- Dr. Vines: would like to see 2 things: 1) process and results 2) brief plain language summary
- Sandy: This will take time, what is the timeframe?
- Nick stated there are no hard deadlines, but we need to review HIA today – Might have to push back the 2nd workshop to allow time to review public comments. This is the first workshop and we need to put blueprints down today. We don't want to put the 2nd workshop off too long. Would SC trust the HIA team to review comments instead of pushing time back for 2nd workshop?
- Rad: Pushing back meeting for comments gives experts less time to review it.
- Decision makers might not necessarily see comments, but used as tools to clarify certain aspects of the HIA.
- SC suggested creating a short, relevant summary for HIA draft or summary of each question to help with readership. People can delve further into details and references afterward.
- Sandy sighted Michael O'Neill's suggestion that the reading level should be brought down a notch, 8th grade reading level.
- Elaine suggested running it through a word processing program to assess reading level. Not all SC members felt the content was hard to follow or above people's heads.
- Nick suggested SC come up with a process to incorporate comments into Assessment. SC suggested adding a column to the matrix that included subject matter reviewed by expert and noted. Nick reminded that regardless of whether the comments make it into the draft, they still serve as public record.
- HIA Team will work on comments and incorporate into draft.
 - Subject matter acquired from today's small groups will be incorporated into draft.
 - Document will be sent to SC to review, make comments.
 - SC agrees that 2nd workshop will be used to review that final document.
- Nick read Ted Sprague's comment of the group recognizing the importance of jobs when looking at social determinants of health.
- Nick provided copies of letter from MBTL to SC.

Discussion: Public Comment During Workshops

Discussion on whether the group agrees to allow public comment. Mike Wallin informed the group that The Daily News has mentioned in the paper that the public will be able to comment, therefore, they should allow public comment. SC in agreement.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Ground rules were read for public comment. Public was allowed a 5 minute time segment.
- Chris Turner: Responding to MBTL letters in draft, shoreline permit letter. Feels the HIA does not address the coal spray surfactants. His concern is about the people who walk around the tracks, the water and port of Kalama. HIA should evaluate the current information that is available today. No one agreed to restrict conditions during 3 day hearing. 2011 Millennium volunteered to reduce noise. HIA should not include quiet crossing, mitigation because they have not attempted to install this or provide timeline for when this would happen.
- Regna Merritt: Represents physicians for social responsibility. Authored 20 pages of comments, recognizes time and effort put into baseline studies, and is grateful that the document includes baseline health risks; however, believes it down-plays some health risks. Overall they believe it does provide adequate information from HIA SC that this project not move forward because of the health concerns. Does not address air quality monitoring. Draft includes economic positive impacts, but fails to provide negative economic health factors. Impact on vulnerable population, and are many concerns for the young adults inhaling particles. Draft should reference delayed emergency response time due to congestion and traffic.

- Diane Dick: Economic indicators need to be updated. Concern for number of workers to fill job roster. Examine subject matrix for content. Feels her comments may have been coded inaccurately. Feels County has a conflict of interest and cannot remain objective. Wanted to know how TDN reported info that had not been released. Concerned about the letter from Millennium's response to comments.
- Peter Bennett: Thanked everyone working on HIA. Stated that MBTL believes in responsible community health. Reminded that MBTL has been in the county for seven years and has spent \$25 million in community cleanup, they offer good wages and health benefits. Support service clubs, support grants for meals on wheels, etc. Offered space onsite for firefighter training. Feels Cowlitz County is better because of their support and community health will be improved.

GROUP DISCUSSION: HIA DRAFT MATERIAL

- Elaine: F/U to Diane Dick's comment about MBTL. Press was responding to information released to public earlier, not to info that had not been released yet.
- Sandy: Question 14: The summary of air quality did not delve into groundwater contamination. There is a concern for groundwater migration. The question will be addressed the small group by Shannon.
- Bryce: Feels # of rail cars vs. weight of shipments (44 million metric tons) doesn't add up and would like that to be reevaluated. This will be a parking lot item for later review.
- Concern raised about impact of sturgeon eating contaminated shellfish, and effects of sturgeon harvesters. Team will check EIS for info.
- Nick: reminded that we need to keep the focus on linking specifically to health, and sift out environmental vs. health impact.
- Nick: asked if SC felt the HIA draft was a comprehensive document. SC in agreement.
- SC suggested that the HIA narrative should be understandable to everyone. Executive summary should be used to lead the discussion. Suggestion to distill some of the questions. It should be more of a 15 sec elevator speech.
- Gary felt it addressed all the questions and likes the appendix in the back.
- Appendix is important, but HIA narrative should stand alone. How well does it do that?
- Kathleen: Likes the idea of adding an executive summary to the beginning of the document. Maybe adding a side bar with other details.
- Gary suggested a paragraph summary of each question. Too much substance would get lost if only one executive summary.
- Nick suggested a tier approach: 1) Summary; 2) Details/Side Bars; 3) Recommendations; 4) Appendix

SMALL GROUP BREAKOUTS

Three groups addressed different sections/subject topics by authors of HIA. Elaine and Dr. Vines rotated to different groups throughout the sessions. (Critical Information Recap).

Breakout groups will identify: Benchmarks, Edits/Format, and Recommendations.

Benchmark questions should be met:

- 1) Is the material mostly complete?
- 2) Is it mostly valid?
- 3) Does it mostly speak to the intent of the questions?

AIR QUALITY, COMMUNITY HEALTH/PERSONAL HEALTH, NOISE, TOPPER AGENTS - DOH (Julie, Rad, Yasmina)

Fish

- Discussion on whether people eat fish or any fresh water shell fish such as crawdads in the Columbia. Most people know not to eat anything out of the Columbia.

- What are the health impacts if people ate this fish? Are people aware what you can and can't eat shellfish in the Columbia?

Noise

- Cowlitz County is already experiencing a high noise impact already. Would this disproportionately affect a group of people? Health equity was brought up as a recommendation.
- To address noise, a recommendation for local planners and decision makers to promote modern homes. Also, to look at improvements that can be made into existing homes.

Emergency Preparedness

- Question was asked: Which geographic area would be isolated from a hospital due to the train? **Rad will look into it.**
- Healthy equity
- Julie had picked 3 neighborhoods: Highlands, Lexington, St. Helen's. The group would like to see other neighborhoods or cities such as Kalama, N. and S. Kelso and Woodland. Jen suggested by using another neighborhood by comparison to show a health equity. **Julie will look at other neighborhoods**
- Emergency response was a topic of conversation. Is there an alternative to address safety on the water front? If there is blockage, what additional resources would the city have?

Air quality

- Could we have another air monitor? It's not unusual to have few monitors. There are other ways in tracking air quality. Is Millennium going to monitor onsite?
- A recommendation to add a chart to make a visual where people are in proximity to the railroad tracks

Climate change

- Question asked: What is the relative value of this one plant in Cowlitz County to climate change?
- Climate change helped set the context.

Active transportation

- Recommendation was to promote physical activity.
- Kathleen is concerned that the recreation trail is right next to the tracks. How will this affect their health and recreation opportunities?

Topper Agents

- The industry will have trainings for their employees. Direct exposure would not be possible according to Mike Wallin.
- A recommendation would be that department of health would have a plan put in place for a resident if they were to come in contact with coal.
- Recommendation was to look at other neighborhood such as North and South Kelso, Kalama and Woodland.

ECONOMIC HEALTH, PROSPERITY, RESILIENCY - B & P (Nick, Sydney)

- What is this likely to do?
- Alternative site use?
- Spent more time saying we don't know alternative use other than coal, i.e. wood. When one person is ill it doesn't effect that one, it effects the whole family. When there is illness it impacts the economics of a family, medical bills, health coverage, etc.
- How many people could be employed per acre (Millennium is only using a small portion).
- Question 5: Can it be answered without spending a ton of time reaching out to larger industries?
- Economy of the future

- Volatility of coal market
- Community Partnership
- Infrastructure from a health standpoint.
- How many employees will MBTL are actually Cowlitz County citizens?
- What is local vs. regional?
- Does MBTL have a union?
- Money coming from an outside agency, i.e. McDonalds. Community buys/money goes back into community. Where a larger industry helps economy by outside money coming in.
- Does increase in county budget translate to health outcomes?
- Availability of House: Proximity of housing and schools inside industrial corridor.
- Risk factor vs. reasonable risk factor. Keeping new development a certain distance from train tracks.
- How many houses in the Highlands are owned by individual owner vs. larger person owning several or groups of housing?
- Recommendation: Future cleanup of the site if they were to move.
- Testing should happen periodically monitoring area.
- Add Canada to impacts of economics.
- Comparing cost benefit ration to any adverse health risk. Direct cost for cancer/case.
- Taxpayer dollars going to additional transportation maintenance such as dredging the river or improving roads due to traffic increase.
- Weyerhaeuser traffic being blocked by train, making access difficult.
- Negative impact on business in the middle of train congestion, losing business to people unwilling to wait for train to pass.
- Stage 1A (1.5 years 60 jobs); Stage 1B (115 jobs); Stage 2 (135 jobs). Breakdown the 135 jobs and they will be new hires.
- What is an indirect job?
- Do Longshoremen have a contract?
- Clarification in wages vs wages & benefits for 16 million
- Define; does operations staff include administration & leadership?
- Are there any metrics that includes occupational statistics on injury, illness & safety?
- Demand on county services will go up. Eating away the additional revenue from county taxes.
- Coal is a pass through product whereas a product could be increased value product would be more beneficial to economy.
- Added research on value added industry vs. raw product.
- Tax money can impact health in a positive way for improvements in certain designated areas.
- Classify the project in the range of industry that it falls. Comparing other similar industry in the country.
- Spectrum of different site uses.
- The ability to pay for healthcare is a direct outcome of health benefits.
- Export facility comparison that is not coal. Rail/vessel dependent translating that to jobs per acre. (EGT, Kalama grain, Tempco, Camron, Steelscape, glass)
- New revenue: X amount be dedicated to most affected or “most likely” to become effected.

Personal Health: Water Quality - HHS (Shannon, Gayle)

Shannon summarized the water quality section, how conclusions were reached and the experts consulted. SC members decided on the following edits/formats/recommendations to questions 14 & 15:

- Reword: Will there be health effects related to changes in **drinking** water quality?
- 2nd to last paragraph - reword: concern about the ~~water's safety and the way it looks~~ **water quality**.
- 3rd paragraph-suggestion to remove paragraph since it isn't focused on drinking water

Recommendations

- Create an easy to understand graphic of aquifer layers.
- Safety of drinking water in case of an earthquake and who monitors the wells. How will public know.
- Who monitors the wells?
- Will drilling into clay compromise impermeable layer.

GROUP DISCUSSION - BREAKOUT RESULTS REVIEWED

- 4) **SC agreed unanimously that HIA Draft benchmarks were mostly met.** The material was mostly complete, mostly valid, and it mostly speaks to the intent of the questions.
- SC felt since some groups had more material to cover it was hard to get through it all in the time allotment.
 - SC can provide additional feedback to Nick in the next few days.
 - Dr. Vines suggested instead of the term “public health”, use the term “health of Cowlitz County”.
 - Julie would like to raise some issues to leverage decision/conversation on emergency response.
 - How children are impacted or what other sensitive population will be affected.
 - There was a suggestion on adding active transportation to the air quality section.
 - Add health equity section in economics – social determinates of health.
 - Some overlap in coal dust with water & air quality. Julie and Shannon will compare notes.
 - Consider eliminating question #10 and feed into other sections of draft already existing.
 - Air quality section may need to be broken down. Section too large.
 - Should be some discussion around what does it mean to live in a coal town?
 - Include FEIS is the place to find info.
 - **The written public comment period is now closed.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ann Turner: Commends work on HIA & vulnerable population; however feels it fails to conclude that impacts cannot be mitigated. Moving forward condones increasing death and seems counter-intuitive to support health. SC should not move forward. . The noise section does not connect health impacts to health such as stress. HIA should include in their document that Millennium should not move forward.

Dani Merin: Lack of activity increases stress levels. Citizens will not be able to get out and exercise with the small particles they will breathe in. Especially unhealthy for children. Train noise will contribute to sleep loss. Sleep loss contributes to depression, which contributes to substance use. Look at impact of jobs offered vs. health risks and effects on population. Need to use cleaner, efficient, sustainable energy.

Next steps:

- HIA authors to take feedback from today and from the public comment process to produce the next, near-final draft, and will send to SC for review before next workshop.
- Jan 20th workshop canceled. Will convene the steering committee one last time to approve the final draft and workshop the final recommendations.
- Nick will send out doodle poll for next workshop meeting. 2nd Workshop will have a similar format.

Meeting Adjourned