

GPT/Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
c/o CH2M HILL
1100 112th Ave NE, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004

To:

Alice Kelly, NW Regional Office, Department of Ecology

Randel Perry, US COE, Regulatory Branch, NW Field Office

Tyler Schroeder, Planning and Development Services, Whatcom Co.

From:

Alison Longley, PhD

Box 1755

Friday Harbor, WA 98250

360 317-4069

As a resident of San Juan Island and a biologist who has worked in a fish cannery, an oyster hatchery, and at the Friday Harbor Marine Biological Laboratory, I am writing to you regarding several potential impacts of the proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point for your consideration as part of the Environmental Impact Study.

For the sake of clarity, I have grouped the impacts in 3 separate letters. Please consider the enclosed letters as addressing separate significant adverse impacts of the proposed project.

Thank you for your work in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alison Longley". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Alison Longley

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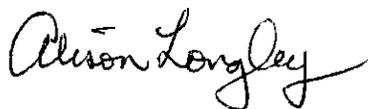
As a resident of San Juan Island and a biologist who has worked in a fish cannery, an oyster hatchery, and at the Friday Harbor Marine Biological Laboratory, I am writing to you regarding the potential impact of the proposed coal terminal on the natural environment at and near Cherry Point in relation to vessels and the industrial site.

Please consider the effects of dust and runoff from coal loading operations and from coal storage piles on the marine environment and its flora and fauna in the region of Cherry Point and the adjacent Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve. This study should include the effects of shading (from built structures, vessels, and from coal released) on eelgrass and species dependent on the integrity of the eelgrass, and the effects of toxins in the dust and runoff on the flora and fauna at all stages of development. In particular, please consider the effects on herring of that area, since as a keystone species, herring are, directly and indirectly, an important food source for many other species in the region, including seals and orca.

Since the terminal, as proposed, will include areas for storage of coal in large, uncovered piles, and since to prevent spontaneous combustion in these piles, the coal must be rotated regularly, dust and runoff can be expected.

Covering the piles and trapping runoff may not be practical mitigation measures because of the problems of spontaneous combustion and the size of the areas needed for coal storage. Please consider not allowing construction of the coal terminal as the best preventive measure for these likely impacts of the proposed project.

Thank you,



Alison Longley

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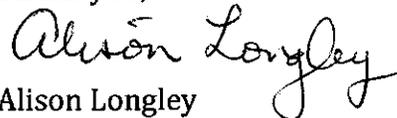
As a resident of San Juan Island and a biologist who has worked in a fish cannery, an oyster hatchery, and at the Friday Harbor Marine Biological Laboratory, I am writing to you regarding the potential impact of the proposed coal terminal on the natural environment and human health and economic activity in relation to vessels and the industrial site.

Please consider the impact of fuel oil and coal spills, both those released during the ordinary course of proposed operations, and those released during a catastrophic spill. When considering the likelihood of a catastrophic spill, consider the increase in vessel traffic from activity at all proposed terminals, including those in Canada.

Please consider the effects of these spills on the natural environment of Puget Sound and consider the geographical extent of the potential oil spill(s). Consider effects on marine-related human activity including fishing, tourism, hatchery operations, and marine biological stations in the area, and consider the effects on residents who choose to live in Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands because of their relatively unspoiled nature. Please consider the effects of both types of spill on land values in the affected areas. And please consider the impact of both limited "ordinary" spills and catastrophic spills on the health of humans who consume fish and other marine products from this area.

Please consider whether there is any possible mitigation measure that would completely prevent these significant adverse effects from releases of coal and oil into the environment. Consider not allowing construction of the coal terminal as the best preventive measure for these impacts of the proposed project.

Thank you,



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As a resident of San Juan Island, a biologist who has worked in a fish cannery, an oyster hatchery, and at the Friday Harbor Marine Biological Laboratory, and as a citizen of the world, I am writing to you regarding the potential impact of the proposed coal terminal on climate change and ocean acidification. These are issues that affect both the human and natural environment, and they relate to the ultimate burning of coal shipped from the proposed terminal at Cherry Point (and other proposed coal terminals).

Please consider the amount of CO₂ and other greenhouse gasses that will be added to the global atmosphere from the burning of coal proposed for shipment, both on a yearly basis and over the expected lifetime of the proposed coal terminal. Please also consider the effects of sea level rise and increased severe weather events on operations of the terminal and vessels serving it.

Please consider the contribution of this CO₂ to increased acidity of the oceans, the operations of shellfish fisheries and hatcheries worldwide, and the economic impacts of ocean acidification. Consider the lag time of this effect, and consider the impact on both a yearly basis and over the lifetime of the proposed terminal. (Basic information on ocean acidification and its effects on shellfish can be found at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration's website):

<http://pmel.noaa.gov/co2/story/Ocean+Acidification>

Considering that each year of delay in reducing the use of fossil fuel increases the cost of reducing climate change (information can be found at the Union of Concerned Scientists' website):

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/climate-costs-of-inaction.pdf

please consider the positive economic impact of not permitting the proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point with its associated ultimate emissions of CO2 into the atmosphere.

Finally, in light of the serious implications of world-wide climate change and ocean acidification, please consider whether, in this instance, a realistic decision not to permit the well-publicized coal terminal proposed for Cherry Point may encourage similar decisions for other projects, and that overall, this example of practical recognition of the importance of avoiding release of greenhouse gasses will contribute to the changes in policy which are needed to effectively reduce climate change and acidification of our oceans.

Thank you,


Alison Longley