

16 Greenbrier Lane
Missoula, Montana 59802
December 4, 2012

Dear Army Corps of Engineers:

Many Montanans have driven to Spokane over two or more snowy winter passes to explain our opposition to the Pacific coal terminals. Thank you for this opportunity.

I am chair of the Missoula City/County Air Quality Advisory Council, but speaking now as a private citizen. Missoula's Health Department (through the Air Pollution Control Board) and Missoula City Council both wrote to you last May asking to be part of the scoping. Below are impacts and mitigations I ask you to consider.

IMPACTS:

- * diesel exhaust effects on health, (esp. old, young and low-income people)
- * increased on-grade crossing risks, primarily ones with a single arm per side
- * climate impacts of shipping over 100 million tons a year to Asia for burning, especially when looked at over a thirty-year period
- * noise effects on hearing, sleep, emotional and physical health
- * rail capacity problems, especially effects on locally-needed commodities
- * dust, from the trains and stirred up by cleaning the tracks
- * impacts on the natural world, tourism and quality of life
- * long and frequent waits in traffic, most serious for emergency vehicles
- * pernicious ballast foulant, implicated in causing derailments
- * return to North America (from coal burned in Asia) of mercury, sulfur, particulates and CO₂, carried on prevailing world-wide air currents

MITIGATIONS: (These must be negotiated BEFORE granting permits.)

- * negotiate the following mitigations if the terminals are to be built:
 - dust suppression
 - cleanest technology for railroad engines and idling systems
 - overpasses at the most-heavily trafficked crossings
 - double arms on both sides of on-grade railroad crossings
 - move rail yards outside of EPA designated air stagnation zones
- * require receiving countries to use best available technology to control CO₂
- * require coal industry (here and abroad) to invest in research and develop technology that permanently captures CO₂, and to set aside funds for developing alternative energies (providing for the future & additional jobs)

The decision you make regarding the Pacific coastal ports for coal export is the most important choice you ever make. You can ^{help} America lead in solving our energy problems. My husband and I are in our 70's and will be gone before the total effects of building the terminals are felt. Before you vote, please, look at photos of China's smog-choked cities and think of our children and yours.

Thank you.

Jan Hoem and Harold Hoem

