

The Proposed Cherry Point Coal Terminal

Ten to twelve thousand years ago the retreat of the ice age profoundly affected this area. Puget Sound was carved out and filled with water, herring, salmon, and orca whales. The Lummi people settled on the shores and created a life in balance with the sea.

Five hundred and twenty years ago, sea pirates came from Europe to the east coast. They methodically stole both the land and way of life from those living here, gradually moving west. Three hundred and thirty six years ago they wrote a constitution. Two hundred and ten years ago Lewis and Clark came west.

There are times that our historical perspective can be lost in our bluster. The proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point would disrupt ancestral burial grounds of the Lummi people. This should end the proposal.

Huge tankers would disrupt herring spawning grounds, which would further decimate Chinook salmon, so important to orca whales. These salmon are 70% of the orcas' diet. Their numbers have been decimated by overfishing, logging, and dam building, as well as other human activity.

The noisy tankers would disrupt communication of the increasingly hungry and stressed orcas. Their talk is important for them finding food. A tanker accident here or further north, spilling dirty diesel fuel, would have unthinkable results. Meanwhile the Fraser River (important salmon source) has risen approximately two degrees in temperature since 1953 according to the Canadian Ministry of the Environment. They say that "logging, agriculture, and industry have had small impacts on river temperature compared to global warming." Burning coal, especially

dirty coal that would be illegal to burn in WA State, produces greenhouse gases that alter ocean acidity and is catastrophic to marine life. Global warming also affects the timing and amount of rain falling. This can restrict the year round Chinook salmon runs to just the wetter months. This causes starving orcas to burn blubber that is laden with DDT and PCB's, which go to their vital organs. Do we want to destroy this awesome creature, which is a symbol of the beauty of our region?

This year there have been seventeen train derailments in the US and Western Canada. This has included over three hundred coal cars and two deaths. Apparently global warming contributes to the steel tracks buckling. The rosy picture of this project being projected by Goldman Sachs, Warren Buffet, Peabody Coal, and SSA Marine doesn't match reality. Accidents happen.

I urge the Army Corps of Engineers to take a global perspective. Study how this project would affect global warming. Think about the blowback from burning coal in Asia dropping into the Pacific and coming to land here. Be sensitive to the Lummi Tribe and their ancestral burial grounds. Study the effect to herring spawning grounds, salmon stocks, and the orca whale. Look at the health effect of coal dust in the air and potential train wrecks spilling into and around Puget Sound. Look at the effect of coal dust from trains, and those same trains disrupting emergency vehicles.

The Pollyanna studies of the big money behind this project never touches upon the jobs that would be lost from people having had enough and leaving our area. Or, the green businesses that would be a natural fit for our new Waterfront Development Project that would choose not to come here.

While kicking the can of what's left of the native people's culture, we would be doing the same to ourselves. Add half an hour per day of dirty trains rolling through town and we will experience outsiders decimating our way of life.

Here is a **summary** of the issues that I feel should be studied in the scoping process.

1. The effect of burning this dirty coal in Asia on global warming and ocean acidity.
2. Consider all five proposed terminals together in relation to global warming and other issues.
3. Consider that the Lummi have lived here for thousands of years with minimal negative effects on the environment and we have been here about two hundred years and have had major negative impacts. Respect their culture and do not disturb ancient burial grounds and other holy property.
4. Herring spawning grounds.
5. Salmon stock
6. Orca whales
7. Consider the inclusive effect of this project, starting with taking it out of the ground. Consider transport all the way to Cherry Point. This should include health and global warming and other environmental issues.
8. Consider the effect of coal transport through Puget Sound and all the way to Asia. This should include probability of accidents, noise affecting sea creatures, pollution affecting sea creatures and ocean acidity as well as tourism.
9. The effect of this project on tourism in this area

10. The amount of jobs that will be lost by people leaving this area because of this project.
And consider how many green and other companies might choose to not move here because of this project.
11. The negative effect on local agriculture
12. The Canadian Ministry of the Environment says that the 1.8 degree raise in temperature of the Fraser River between 1953 and 1998 is mostly due to global warming. How would that tie into this project?
13. Considering the 17 coal train derailments so far this year in the US and western Canada. How many derailments would this project likely entail and what would the effect be. Consider the likelihood of some of those derailments being into Puget Sound and other bodies of water.
14. Consider the ethics of allowing for coal that would be illegal to burn in WA State to be transported through WA State for burning in Asia. (Would we allow sex traders to pass through our state if they weren't functioning here?)
15. Consider the stance of Whatcom Doctors and study the effect of coal dust along the tracks here and elsewhere.
16. Consider that the coal would be best left in the ground. In a time of national need and with better technology, we might need it someday.

Dr. Harvey Schwartz
2501 38th St.
Bellingham, WA 98229
360-733-6046
harveyschwartz@gmail.com