

Thank you for the Vancouver hearing,

My name is Toni Montgomery and I live along the Evergreen Highway. This is along the water shed and seeps for the Columbia River. I am just feet from the passing coal trains.

Have you experienced what coal dust can do to personal property? I have.

I lost a tree to coal dust and my yard is coated with fine particles of coal everyday.

It's a dangerous mess. Six coal trains a day pass by right now. They are going to Canada.

Canada doesn't want the coal traveling through their country because they know what coal does.

Why are we a pass through to Canada spreading coal dust on our Country?

Please stop this.

I have thought about 1.5 mile long trains, at maybe 20 a day dumping their coal dust.

This is not acceptable. My health, my land, the Columbia River and the World will suffer if this happens.

BNSF estimates at least 500 pounds per trip of coal is lost. Horrific.

Trains travel past over Federally protected Chum Salmon spawning grounds and their water supply. I helped to save this area.

What about all the other fish in our Columbia River and every stream the train travels over as it rolls from the Powder River Basin to the planned ports? Please study this.

I have thought about our agriculture and our wine producing grapes and the bees that pollinate the plants. What will happen to them with so much coal dust? Please study this.

What about the schools that trains pass and the health of the children? Please study coal dust impacts on children.

What about the health of all of us in the pass through? Please study human health effects from coal.

Our economy will be jeopardized by coal trains choking the tracks and diminishing our Ports ability to receive or ship goods. Study this.

There is a net loss of jobs wherever coal passes.

The truth is that coal causes derailments. Many derailments. Super fund derailments. Deaths caused by derailments and bridges that collapse. Have we thought about these problems? Study this.

Who would pay for the infrastructure?

Who would pay for derailments? What other goods could end up in our rivers and streams due to coal undermining tracks? Study this.

Who will pay for the loss of revenue due to loss of jobs in areas where coal passes?

The Pass Through areas where coal travels receive nothing except for the problems that coal dust brings. Who will pay for the related health costs? Superfund cleanup?

Do we bankrupt two States for so few jobs? Only 12 permanent jobs in the Port of Morrow confirmed by a Morrow County Official. Do we jeopardize our health, the environment and our agriculture in a time when we are shutting down coal in the world?

We need our Government to think this through and do a comprehensive study.

I wish to be a party of record so that I may receive the findings from the studies I have asked for.

Thank you,

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Re: Coal Trains

Dear Corp of Engineers,

My name is Toni Montgomery. I live along the Evergreen Highway in Vancouver within Clark County. The Columbia River is just steps away. My home is located a few feet from the train tracks. We are lucky to have a sound wall, however, that does not protect us from coal dust or the blow off from the stacks on the trains. Coal dust is covering plants in my yard and because of this we had to remove a weakened dying tree.

I was one of many who saved a marsh, creek and endangered Chum Salmon spawning grounds. All will be damaged by coal dust shipped at an even greater volume than we suffer today.

My husband Bill was a board member for the Building Industry Association of SW Washington. He also served on the Advisory Committee for the Clark County Shoreline Master Plan. This plan states " No net loss of sensitive shoreline habitat." Damage caused by coal deposited along the Columbia River and past a Federally protected endangered Salmon spawning ground and the water that supplies it, does not meet this requirement.

The State of Washington should not be a pass through for coal to Canada. This should be stopped immediately. This pass through is because Canada does not want coal ruining their Country. This is a cost that US Tax Payers should not have to bear.

Our area, once farms and open space, is now densely populated. The financial impact of coal passing through Washougal, Camas and Vancouver would greatly reduce the value of our homes. The building industry would come to a stop as business and new residents would not want to live and work here with the heavy train traffic and coal dust. Coal has a negative impact to our quality of life. Trains over 1 mile long at a rate of 17-20 trains a day, with the addition of normal rail movement, would clog our streets and lock us into our neighborhoods. My neighborhood has 169 homes and a marina, we enter and exit our neighborhood on one street across the BNSF tracks. Emergency vehicles, business and residents would not have free access to our neighborhood.

Our region would be greatly impacted by the huge increase in coal shipments and the length of the coal trains that pass our homes and businesses. Coal dust,(from the R.R. studies), drops at the rate that can exceed 500 pounds per rail car while en route from the Powder River basin to Longview, WA. 44 million tons of coal per year, hauled in 100

car trains, would require 4,400 trains. At a loss of 500#'s per car over the 750 mile trip, the loss per a 100 car train would be 50,000#'s. That equates to 67# loss per mile per train. Over a years time, 4,400 trains would deposit 294,800#'s of coal dust per mile. It is unconchnable that this proposal has come this far. This much coal dust can't be mitigated. This would ruin all growth in our region.

The building industry has suffered with the economic downturn. With the proposal of the export of coal, our City's would be changed forever. Those of us that can sell our homes, probably would, if coal is allowed to pass. Business's would leave due to the loss of customers who are put off by the clogged streets and dust left behind by the trains.

The Evergreen Highway runs east and west along the Columbia River. It is a " State designated Historic Highway" and part of the Lewis and Clark Trail. It is a two lane road that contains few aprons. This puts people in great danger from the trains and traffic. The proposed double rail would cause much more danger. With the added possibility of coal dust related derailments we will be in jeopardy with every passing train. Even though we are within the City of Vancouver, we have been able to maintain it's rural feel. The train runs close to the road and the back yards of homeowners.

Our area is the end of the Columbia River seeps that feed sensitive spawning areas in the lower Columbia River. We have one of three endangered Chum Salmon spawning grounds left on the lower Columbia. Along with the Salmon we have a marsh and a creek that are protected, they are the water that feeds the spawning grounds and all are close to the rail line. Coal would be devastating to the endangered Salmon and the water that supplies the creek.

In our community we have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations and tax dollars to protect the Salmon and our complete watershed education program. This should be added to the millions of dollars of tax payer money spent to clean up the Columbia River. This area has been saved in perpetuity for education and enjoyment where every citizen can be involved. We ask that our government protect it from coal.

Evergreen and Vancouver Schools come to learn about fish and habitat preservation in our facility each day. This all occurs within feet of the tracks. The impact of coal trains on this facility and the endangered Salmon is far to great to estimate. This is totally contrary to the " No net loss of sensitive shoreline habitat. Much of track is along sensitive habitat and the Columbia River. Coal dust will need to be cleaned up on a daily basis. What are the costs of the clean up and who will pay for it?

There is extreme danger for derailment and fires (confirmed by BNSF). Since 2010 there have been 18 derailments due to coal dust on the tracks. In 2006, 2-4 cars spilled and submerged into Clark Fork River resulting in EPA Superfund action. If there is a derailment on the tracks along our neighborhood many people could die because our homes directly abut the rail line.

The burden on tax payers for costs of clean up, infrastructure and other unforeseen damages could be in the millions. Why should we, the overburdened tax payer, shoulder the costs for something we do not want? We do not want the additional danger that coal train traffic would cause.

The surfactants that reduce dust only work until the coal has bumped enough in transport to rub it away. The surfactant does not stop all the coal that continually blows off the tops and drops out the bottom of the rail cars. Will the State government or our Cities be able to afford the clean up when, tax revenues will be decreased because of lack of business and new housing? Will we lose our agriculture due to coal dust? Will coal dust destroy our bee population? Will our grapes be ruined on the vine and destroy our wine industry? Wine grapes can't be washed before the crush. We need a study of this danger to our economy.

Millennium is an Australian business that wants to supply coal to China through our State. They will benefit financially while we pay the cost left behind by coal. Millennium has given some very inflated numbers for job creation. The small amount of jobs created in Longview is not worth the cost to Clark County. We would see no benefit of job growth or a financial benefit of any kind. Clark County is just a pass through. We will see our own Port unable to move products in or out due to the amount of coal on the rail. More costs to our region. Please look at this.

The use of coal is not going to be long term because coal plants are being shut down all over the world. We in Clark County will have our infrastructure destroyed to fill the pockets of businesses not in Clark County and, in fact not even in the State of Washington.

Who will pay? This would cause decades of decline in Clark County that we may never recover from. We can't let coal ruin our Cities, our productivity and our health.

The Cities of Vancouver, Camas and Washougal have plans for exciting growth and are seeing the beginning of economic recovery. Don't let coal ruin these plans.

The issues with coal are:

Coal creates a negative environment that would stop business growth in all areas where coal trains travel.

There is a question damages to local businesses and our regional identity, could ever be adequately mitigated

Coal would hinder construction due to a decrease of new residents and businesses. We may experience a net loss of residents who choose to sell because of coal trains.

Increased traffic and length of trains would add to the noise pollution that we already experience.

In a statement BNSF said it would need a double rail to handle all the rail traffic. This would destroy our quality of life, and add danger we don't need.

Property would be devalued at a rate much higher than just by living close to the tracks. That rate is estimated at 5-7% but with a mile and a half long coal trains you can probably triple those numbers.

We would have a decline in City and State tax revenue because of the decline in residents, property values and sales tax due to a business downturn.

Coal will cause a decline in personal health and will create a severe increase in health related costs. With the present transport of coal, neighbors are seeing an increase in allergies.

Coal dust would cause a contamination of wetlands, estuaries, rivers and streams. The cost for clean up, by the tax payer, would be immeasurable

Coal would cause a decline in fish health, including endangered Salmon, and their ability to spawn. Our area contains one of only three Federally protected Chum Salmon spawning grounds and the marsh and water that supplies them left on the lower Columbia River.

The risks we face of derailment and fires, as reported by BNSF, is huge. They report 18 coal related derailments from 2010 to present and one in 2006 that became a costly EPA super fund action.

Who pays for all of this? Of course it is passed on to the, already strapped, tax payer.

We ask that our Government protect business, home values and ownership, the health and well being of Washington State residents and the continued growth that we have planned for our EVERGREEN STATE. We the people can ask, and yes, demand, but you, our Governing body, make the final decision. Please shut down all coal passing through our beautiful State so that we can continue to prosper. Please study all these impacts to Washington State.

Thank you,
Toni Montgomery