

December 29, 2012

Mr. Randal Perry
US Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
P.O. Box 3755
Seattle, WA 98124-3755



RE: EIS Scoping for Cherry Point Terminal, Bellingham (Docket # COE 2012-00160)

Dear Mr. Perry:

I am very concerned about the proposed construction of a coal export terminal at Cherry Point, Washington and transporting strip-mined coal from Montana and Wyoming on trains and ships throughout the Northwest. The proposed acceleration of coal shipments shows a blatant and cynical disregard for local communities as well as the global environment.

This proposal would have extremely negative impacts on my community in Skagit County that cannot be mitigated. These include congestion and noise of more coal train traffic, delays to emergency responders, impacts to tourism and local businesses, and contamination of our air and local waterways and aquatic ecosystems. There are so many concerns it's hard to capture them all: potential damage fishing grounds at the terminal site, increasing tanker traffic and the potential for serious shipping accidents are just some.

I work on one side of the train tracks and live on the other. I cross the train tracks at least 4 times a day on a work day. I can't imagine what could be done to keep the cities of Mount Vernon and Burlington from complete gridlock if this much train traffic comes through. It is unbelievable to me that the train and coal shipping companies would not have to foot the bill to cover the cost of the necessary improvements. This is completely untenable. The jobs this proposal would generate don't begin to make up for the astronomical costs to local communities, and damage to sustainable business opportunities that it would cause.

Finally, we have no business shipping the heaviest and dirtiest energy on earth across the ocean to burn in China when we already face a critically warming world!

All of these impacts must be included in the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement, especially the escalation of climate change. In addition the Environmental Impact Statement needs to assess the cumulative impact of all five of the proposed coal shipping terminals in the Pacific Northwest -- not look at the proposals piecemeal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink that reads "Martha Bray". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Martha Bray
6368 Erwin Lane
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284