

[Desmoqblog \(http://s.tt/1nUH0\)](http://s.tt/1nUH0)

The prevailing winds at the Westshore Coal Terminal blow south, south east, away from the town of Tsawwassen, and occasionally from the Northwest toward Roberts Banks. The point is that wind patterns are not uniform and coal dust can be expected to be spread around a terminal in a varying pattern, in a 3-5 mile radius. The wildlife preserve at Lake Terrell and Terrell Creek are close enough to the terminal site that the lake and wildlife will be impacted regardless of wind direction. That three to five mile radius would include homes, farms, and schools all the way into Ferndale, maybe not on a daily basis, but often enough to create a problem. High winds are a regular occurrence in Whatcom County and the direction is often unpredictable.

Fugitive coal dust is a universal problem at terminals and there is a record of problems with fugitive coal dust at other terminals in the Pacific Northwest, including the coal terminal in Seward, Alaska (http://www.newsmine.com/view/full_story/8720313/article-Alaska-Railroad-take-steps-to-reduce-coal-dust) and we have all seen the pictures of the cloud of coal dust over the Ridley Terminal at Prince Edward, where the company has offered to pressure wash homeowners' properties.

SSA has promised to install some state of the art systems to control coal dust, but those systems are designed to reduce the risk of a dust explosion and spontaneous combustion inside enclosed conveyor systems, not reduce the fugitive coal dust from the open coal piles that are planned for the Cherry Point facility.

There are in fact many different methods being employed around the world to control fugitive coal dust from coal piles. Some of those systems include, Geodesic domes such as are employed in Taiwan (<http://coalstorage.com/>), Soil-Sement (<http://www.midwestind.com/problems-we-solve/controlling-dust/coal-pile-management-btu.html>), coal dust monitoring systems, and wind screens.

A new coal terminal in Amsterdam, LBH.Rietlanden's facility, claims to be the state of art coal terminal. They claim that there is practically no dust escaping from their terminal.

A new state-of-the-art dust monitoring system has been developed around the new coal terminal. It is unique for the Port of Amsterdam and goes beyond the environmental permit requirements and painstakingly monitors the amount of dust. Devices have been installed at four locations near the coal terminal that can detect the origins of dust particles and check them against the norm. Langedijk explains that LBH/Rietlanden has taken 'every imaginable' measure to prevent dust, including placing screens around the site and using enclosed fixed and mobile conveyor belts and using far fewer vehicles than at other terminals. The company also sprays a layer of cellulose (paper pulp) over the coal mounds and uses enclosed grab cranes. Langedijk says that these measures have proved 'very successful'. 'We produce virtually no dust.'

Whatcom County is our home and we expect that any corporation which comes to our county would make every effort to protect the health and well-being of our community. The best way to ensure that SSA takes every available precaution to protect our community is to require that the coal terminal be built

using the Best Available Practices and Protections , and Best Available Technology. Hold the GPT developers to the BAP, BAT standards, or don't bring the coal to our county. Please study the best available methods of preventing fugitive coal dust from settling on our homes, our farms, our school yards, our lakes and streams as well as the Sound and make sure that these standards are followed.

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