

Blaine Ackley

To whom it may concern:

This project is a real environmental disaster waiting to happen so I hope that the Department of Ecology will review the application carefully. Here are just a few of the issues this proposed terminal raises:

- 1) Train derailments are estimated at one per year. Any one of these derailments could pose a real environmental threat.
- 2) The type of coal that the trains would carry has a very low flash point and therefore it is very volatile,
- 3) The coal dust released along the tracks is full of toxic chemicals that can and will harm the environment and people living along the route.
- 4) The terminal could have a very deleterious effect of endangered salmon and steelhead. There are 16 different species of fish who use the river to return to their spawning grounds. The construction and operation of the terminal at that site would be another obstacle to the recovery of these species.
- 5) Maritime safety would be affected because with a low estimated average of 3 ships per week, that would be nearly 200 extra ships crossing the Columbia River Bar and navigating this narrow and very dangerous waterway. There have been numerous ship collisions in the river and on the bar in the past and the development of this terminal would only serve to exacerbate the problem.
- 6) Community and Marine safety concerns are only increased because by their own admission, first responders lack the resources to address any emergency posed by these coal trains.
- 7) A market for the coal is certainly an issue. Many of these coal companies are in bankruptcy proceedings as I write this note to you. That it because the market that the terminal is intended to address is shrinking on an almost daily basis. Where are the long term contracts that this plant is supposedly designed to address?
- 8) As a fossil fuel, coal is very inefficient and will contribute to the further accumulation of green house gases. For the sake of our children and grand children, there is a point at which we say enough.

So, in summary, this proposed terminal is a danger to flora, fauna, and humans. It is an accident waiting to happen that is not needed and un-necessay. I urge you to deny this permit application.