

WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP COAL EXPORTS IN LONGVIEW?



**** ATTEND PUBLIC HEARINGS THIS SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER! ****

Public Hearing About Coal Trains & Coal Terminal. September 17th. Cowlitz Expo Center.
Doors open at 4pm. Hearing begins at 5pm.

What Is the Purpose of Upcoming Coal Hearings?

Beginning on September 17th in Longview, Northwesterners will have our first chance to express our concerns and opposition about the coal industry's plan to ship dirty coal through Washington and Oregon towns to a proposed coal export terminal in Longview. For the first time, we will have the opportunity to raise our issues about the full scale of the Longview project in public meetings called "Scoping" hearings.

Background: The Scoop on "Scoping" and Environmental Impact Statements

The final product of the state and federal environmental review process is called an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)—a large document that reviews the kinds of impacts that would be caused by building the Longview coal export terminal and shipping coal through Washington's railways.

- Federal, state, and local decision-makers will use the EIS to make a final decision about whether to approve or deny the coal terminal.
- This first phase of producing an Environmental Impact Statement is known as the Scoping phase. In the Scoping phase, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Washington Department of Ecology, and Cowlitz County will decide the breadth and depth of impacts that will be included in the EIS.
- In Longview, it is very important for the EIS to consider the impact of train traffic and huge open coal piles next to the Columbia River and the residents of Longview. The agencies must consider plans for taxpayer funded train and highway developments necessary for the project.

Why Should We Participate?

Through the scoping process, the Department of Ecology, Cowlitz County, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will decide which impacts to study in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). We'll urge the agencies to use the EIS to disclose all of the impacts of coal exports—everything from the health, environmental, and safety risks of mining coal in Montana, to shipping coal by rail through communities across the Northwest, to storing coal in open piles near Longview neighborhoods, to burning coal abroad and exacerbating dangerous climate change. Coal and rail companies want to ignore most of these issues.

Where & When Will Hearings Happen?

Comments will be accepted in writing through November 18. For more information on how to comment, go to www.powerpastcoal.org. Evening public meetings where you can give oral testimony are set for:

- **Sept. 17, Cowlitz Expo Center, Longview – 4pm – 8pm.**
- Oct. 9, Clark County Fairgrounds, Vancouver
- Oct. 17, Tacoma Convention Center, Tacoma



Who Should Participate in Scoping Hearings?

We need you, your friends and family, your neighbors, your co-workers... it's going to take a village to stop Big Coal in its tracks! Bring friends, and wear a red shirt to show where you stand!

How to Make a Comment

You don't need to be an expert to contribute your thoughts, ideas and concerns. You can share your personal story, a concern in your community or whatever issue motivates you. We want to explain why we oppose coal exports and identify impacts from the project that we consider significant. In your testimony, you can explain how local resources such as air quality, water quality, and human health could be affected by the proposed coal terminal and trains. Here are a few key issues to consider:

- With 8 loaded and 8 empty mile-and-a-half long trains each day, the proposed coal project has the potential to snarl local traffic and increase air pollution. Pollution from open coal cars and open piles will harm the community and cannot realistically be mitigated.
- Any infrastructure improvements necessary to facilitate coal trains– such as the proposed SR 432 re-alignment project and new overpass at the foot of the Lewis & Clark Bridge – should be part of the EIS review. Without major changes, coal trains would make traffic unbearable in Longview.
- The EIS should evaluate the cumulative impacts of coal trains in communities like Camas, Washougal, and Vancouver that could see train traffic from multiple coal export terminals.
- The EIS should evaluate the human health impact of coal exports on Longview from coal dust and diesel pollution. The EIS should assess how toxic coal will impact the Columbia River.

While one of our goals for these hearings is to establish a broad, rigorous scope of review in the EIS, another goal is to use the Scoping process as a platform to demonstrate the enormous public opposition to coal exports. Your participation and your perspective matter!

How to get involved

There are many ways to help out. You can gather extra comment cards in your community or volunteer at a phone bank. Contact a local organizer to find out how you can help out in your community:

- Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, jasmine@columbiariverkeeper.org, (503) 929-5950
- Laura Stevens, laura.stevens@sierraclub.org, 503-238-0442 x 305
- Dan Serres, dan@columbiariverkeeper.org, (503) 890-2441
- **More Information: columbiariverkeeper.org, powerpastcoal.org**

Attend the No Coal Workshop on Monday, August 26th at 6:30 PM. The location will be the Cowlitz PUD Auditorium. 961 12th Ave. At the workshop, we can explain the process for upcoming hearings, discuss key issues, and help you prepare written and oral testimony. Please join us, and bring a friend!