

**BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**  
**FOR**  
**COYOTE ISLAND TERMINAL DOCK AT THE PORT OF MORROW**

**MORROW COUNTY, OREGON,**

**AUGUST 2013**

Prepared for:

Coyote Island Terminal, LLC  
Ambre Energy North America

Prepared by:

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

Coyote Island Terminal, LLC (the Applicant), a subsidiary of Ambre Energy North America, Inc., proposes to construct a new barge loading dock and coal receiving and storage facility at the Port of Morrow (Columbia River, River Mile [RM] 271).

At the facility, the Applicant will accept coal from trains arriving on existing rail lines at the Port of Morrow near Boardman, Oregon. At the Port of Morrow, coal will be unloaded in an enclosed rotary dump shed by Coyote Island Terminal. Coal will be transported on enclosed conveyors and temporarily stored in enclosed, negative pressure coal storage barns. Coal will be loaded, through an enclosed conveyor with telescoping loader, into enclosed barges.

At the Port of Morrow, six new components will be constructed: enclosed storage buildings, enclosed rail unloading shed, enclosed coal conveyor system, loading dock with enclosed telescoping loader, dock walkway, and dolphins for moorage. Outside of the rail unloading and coal storage buildings, and the majority of the conveyance system, the remaining components are associated with in-water construction. The loading dock facility at the Port of Morrow was designed to allow the moorage of a four-barge tow.

On May 16, 2011, the Port of Morrow Commission approved the development of the Port of Morrow coal transfer facility. On January 31, 2012, the Applicant filed a Joint Permit Application (JPA) for dock construction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The USACE has jurisdiction over the installation of temporary and permanent piles to construct a barge loading dock in the John Day pool of the Columbia River. This BA has been prepared in association with the USACE JPA.

### 1.2 Project Information

<b>Project Name:</b>	Morrow Pacific Project
<b>Location:</b>	Columbia River at Port of Morrow RM 271 HUC-6: 170701 T4N, R25E, Section 2, Willamette Meridian (W.M.), Morrow County, Oregon
<b>Project Applicant:</b>	Coyote Island Terminal, LLC Ambre Energy North America 170 S. Main Street, Suite 700 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101 Contact – Clark Moseley, P.E. (214) 725-5785

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### **1.3 Action Area**

The ESA requires that potential effects to listed and proposed endangered and threatened species be evaluated in relation to the complex extent of area influenced by the proposed action, referred to as the action area (50 CFR Part 402.02). The action area encompasses the location(s) where measurable direct and indirect effects resulting from the proposed action are foreseeable and are reasonably certain to occur (USFWS, 1998; NMFS, 1996).

The action area includes all areas that could be potentially affected by the proposed action. For this BA, the action area is defined as approximately 41 acres at the new Port of Morrow facility, of which 8 acres are below water. This area will encompass the enclosed storage buildings, enclosed coal conveyor system, loading dock with enclosed loader, dock walkway, dolphins for moorage, as well as all associated adjacent areas that could be impacted by Coyote Island's activities at the Port of Morrow. The Port of Morrow facility is at RM 271.

### **1.4 Project Purpose and Need**

The purpose of the proposed action is to develop and successfully operate an environmentally responsible coal receiving and transfer facility in the Pacific Northwest. The project has been designed to minimize train traffic through Oregon's urban areas and the Columbia River Gorge, reduce the exposure of coal to the atmosphere, and use existing infrastructure while minimizing impacts to the environment.

A coal receiving and transfer facility at the Port of Morrow will begin to provide a secure route for intermountain coal to supply the substantial and growing need of Asia, establish an environmentally responsible coal export facility, and operate a socially responsible industry in Oregon. The upstream location of the facility at the Port of Morrow reduces the distance traveled and number of urban areas impacted by trains carrying coal treated with dust suppressant. At the transfer facility, coal is enclosed as it moves from train to storage facility to covered barge. At the Port of Morrow, the project creates local, family-wage jobs in Oregon, supports mining-related jobs nationally, and provides low-sulfur coal to Asian countries to generate electricity.