In late 2015, Pacific Northwest communities have an important opportunity to stop financially unstable Millennium Bulk Terminals from putting a massive coal export terminal in Longview. You can help protect Northwest families from this dirty and dangerous proposal. Here’s how to make your voice heard:

WHAT’S HAPPENING
More than 200,000 Northwest residents have voiced concerns about this proposed coal export terminal. As a result, Washington State instructed Millennium Bulk Terminals to prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) that considers all the project’s proposed impacts, from rail-line communities in Montana to where it’s burned overseas for fuel. DEIS hearings are your opportunity to comment on the report’s findings. By emphasizing risks identified in the DEIS or raising concerns about other potential harms that the report overlooks, we can demand that not a single permit be issued for coal exports in the Northwest.

WHY NOW?
The DEIS will identify and report on the environmental impacts of different project alternatives, including a “no action” alternative. Millennium will push to have the alternative that maximizes coal company profits and reduces their responsibility to deal with the project’s serious public health and environmental impacts. Tell the public officials that the only good alternative is “no action”—we don’t want any coal export terminals built here, because no community should bear the harmful impacts of coal.

HOW TO PROVIDE COMMENTS
As a community member, your personal story and community concerns matter. Public officials need to hear from you in order to hold Millennium fully accountable for their project’s bad environmental impacts. You can submit your comments in writing or testify at public hearings.
You don’t need to have a background in science or technical issues to weigh in on the DEIS. In fact, it helps public officials to hear from people who are motivated by a range of issues. And if you’d like support preparing your comments or testimony, we can help.

WHERE AND WHEN

The DEIS for Millennium Bulk Terminals is scheduled for release in November 2015. Sign up with us today, and we will let you know about opportunities to comment in the fall. Want to help even more? We can also help provide tools for you to engage your neighbors, friends, and family to be involved in this important process. Let us know you’d like to volunteer.

Background

The Environmental Impact Statement should describe how this proposed coal export terminal will impact our health and the built and natural environment by studying specific issues including delays at rail crossings and the effects of coal dust on our air and water.

The EIS also describes impacts of project alternatives and explains plans to reduce or manage those impacts. When a project requires permits from multiple agencies, as is the case here, the EIS provides information that those agencies use to make their individual permitting decisions. This is why it is important for us to make sure all of our community members’ perspectives, potential impacts, and concerns are voiced and reflected in the final EIS.

Millennium Bulk Terminals has two EIS processes happening at once: one under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and one under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Two agencies lead the state EIS: the Washington State Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing a separate EIS based on federal regulations. After these agencies consider all public comments on each DEIS, they will release Final Environmental Impact Statements where they identify their preferred project alternative. You can visit the project website at: http://www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov/index.html.

BE NOTIFIED WHEN IT’S TIME TO COMMENT!

We’ll keep you updated about public hearing dates and let you know when it’s time to share your concerns.

Contact Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky: jasmine@ColumbiaRiverkeeper.org 503-929-5950