

Coal Dust

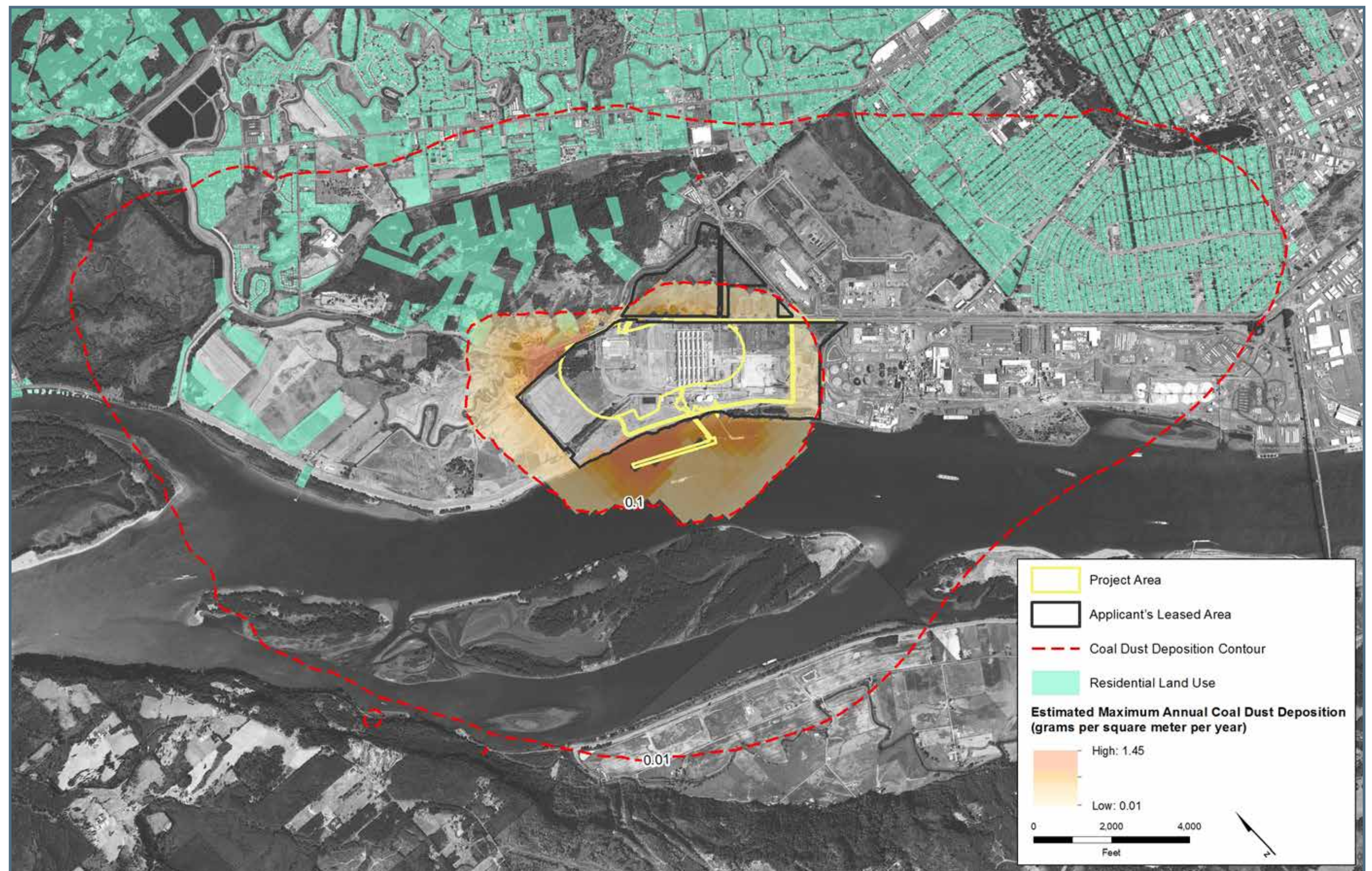
Coal dust is a form of particulate matter and can affect air quality. Particulate matter is composed of tiny particles suspended in the air. Coal dust particulate matter poses a human health risk.

The study analyzed:

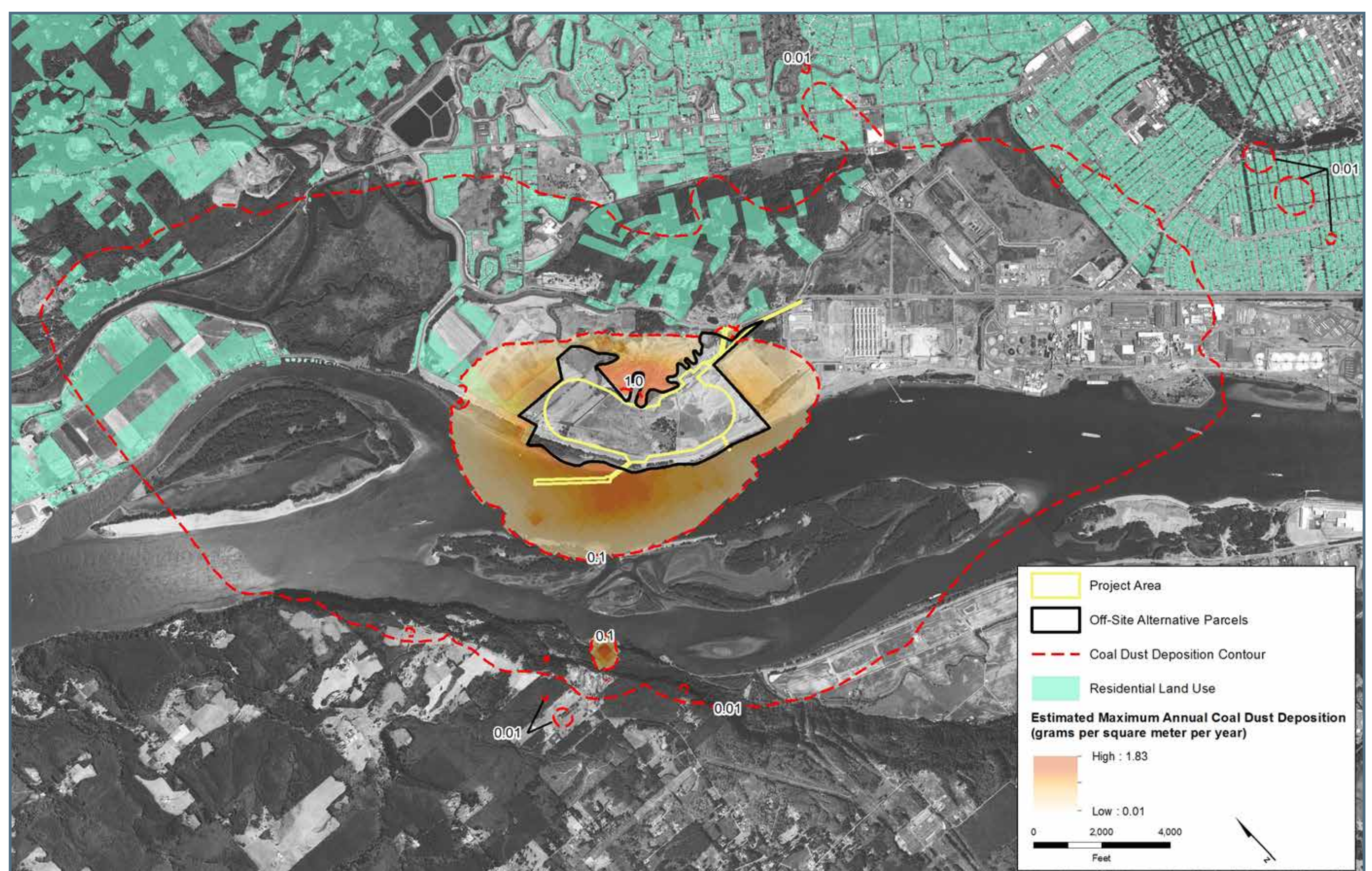
- Potential impacts on human health and the environment from coal dust and nuisance impacts from coal dust.

The study found:

- Construction - There would be no coal dust impacts during construction.
- Operations – The proposed export terminal would use enclosed conveyors and a dust suppression system to minimize coal dust. The proposed export terminal would meet state and federal air quality standards for particulate matter.
- Rail Traffic - Coal in rail cars would be shaped and surfactants applied to minimize coal dust. Particulate matter concentrations (including coal dust) from trains would be highest near the rail lines and would decline by 50 percent approximately 160 feet from the rail lines. Particulate matter from coal dust would not exceed federal standards along the rail lines.
- Vessel Traffic - Coal on vessels would be stored in fully enclosed areas, which would prevent coal dust from blowing off of moving vessels.



Estimated maximum annual coal dust deposition for the On-Site Alternative



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What could be done to reduce impacts?

- Design and implement a coal dust awareness and investigation system for community members in Cowlitz County with the Southwest Clean Air Agency.
- Monitor coal dust levels during operation and take action to reduce coal dust emissions if levels are exceeded.