

*Longview is an economically depressed area. Education levels and wages are generally low. Please consider the environmental justice implications of transporting and storing coal, including toxic components, in such large quantities through and to an area so close to residences. Particularly please consider the disadvantaged population that lives in the area. Will traffic congestion caused by increased rail decrease the competitiveness of the area for other industries that provide long-term (not just construction) employment? Will traffic congestion cause an increase in stress on families that must spend more time sitting in traffic and less time with their families (less time for preparing healthy meals, helping children with homework, exercising)? Will emissions from traffic congestion caused by rail transport of coal adversely impact air quality? Will emissions from transporting coal further disadvantage this population through increased toxic air emissions? Will noise from increased rail traffic, including train horns, violate noise standards, adversely impact schools or playgrounds, or otherwise lower the quality of life for area residents? Will schools have an increase in children who are not performing at grade level due to an increase in toxins, air or noise pollution?*

*It is apparently standard industry practice to convey coal shipments in uncovered rail cars, but based upon personal observation of emissions, I am concerned that the air and water quality impacts of this practice are substantial. I am also concerned that air and water impacts that the industry/past evaluations have considered "not substantial" are considered quite substantial by people living near the industry. "Not substantial" would mean that we would not have noticeable or measurable coal dust on our property as a result of the transport of coal or creation of a terminal. "Not substantial" would also mean that there would be no increase in coal related toxins in our air or water after construction of a terminal. People living near existing terminals and rail where coal is transported report very substantial accumulation of coal dust and report increases in coal toxins in the air and water. Please evaluate the cumulative air and water quality impacts of transporting and storing coal without covers. Corporate profit should not take precedence over human health. If data is not available to evaluate the impacts, the development should be delayed until there is strong and compelling evidence that human health will not be adversely impacted rather than assuming there is no impact based upon lack of data.*

*Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) regulations require and regulate the use of train horns at at-grade crossings. The only current options to eliminate the horn requirement are to create a grade separated crossing or to install a "quiet zone" at grade crossings. Quiet zones are regulated by the FRA, and implementation is the responsibility of local jurisdictions and handled on a case-by-case basis. Please evaluate the impact of train noise on the community. If grade separation or rail and roadway is justified, and I can't imagine how it would not be required based on traffic projections, please ensure that it occurs before substantial adverse impacts to circulation occur. Consideration of noise impacts as well as traffic impacts should be considered when determining the need for grade separation. Finally, the financial cost of grade separation should be paid by the industries benefitting from the action, not by the taxpayers.*

Thank you.

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