

Coal hearing
Lead and asthma

My name is Marilee Dea PNP- I am a Public Health Nurse Practitioner- in that role coordinated the Lead and Asthma Prevention Program for Multnomah County.

I am very concerned about the health of your terminal workers and the young people that live near the Terminal or along the tracks.

Coal contains toxic heavy metals - including Lead, Mercury and Arsenic.

They can be released when they are dug up, transported in open train cars, when they are unloaded and loaded at the terminals, and released again when burned. Lead has caused many deaths unknowing workers and children but more commonly it is a neurotoxin that causes workers and to be mentally and physically compromised. It has more profound effects on young children who can be contaminated by their parents work clothes or by living near the tracks or terminal.

The dust from the coal train also causes Asthma.

The "clean coal" you are getting from the Powder River Basin is fine flies off the train in a cloud of dust. That dust and the diesel particulates are bronchial irritants. Like a allergic bees sting to the pulmonary system. It causes swelling and inflammation and prevention of normal air to flow in and out of the lungs in asthmatics. If not treated by bronical dilators promptly they will need emergency treatment. Which brings me to my last point. The long trains, taking 30 minutes to pass will prevent emergency vehicles from reaching patients by 30 minutes or more.

Before you decide on Coal for your terminal, **Please request a cumulative HIA that includes a public scoping process.** Investigate the impact of your emergency vehicle response time; speak to the mayor of Skamania about their delay from coal trains. Consider the necessity of Lead testing the workers and all the folks who live along the tracks and the impact of increasing the morbidity and mortality of your asthmatics in the vicinity of the trains and terminal. I urge to please say no to dirty coal, consider being a wind turbine capital of the US instead the coal export capital.