

Environmental Review Process Fact Sheet

Proposal

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview coal export terminal in Cowlitz County

Environmental review required by

Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA)

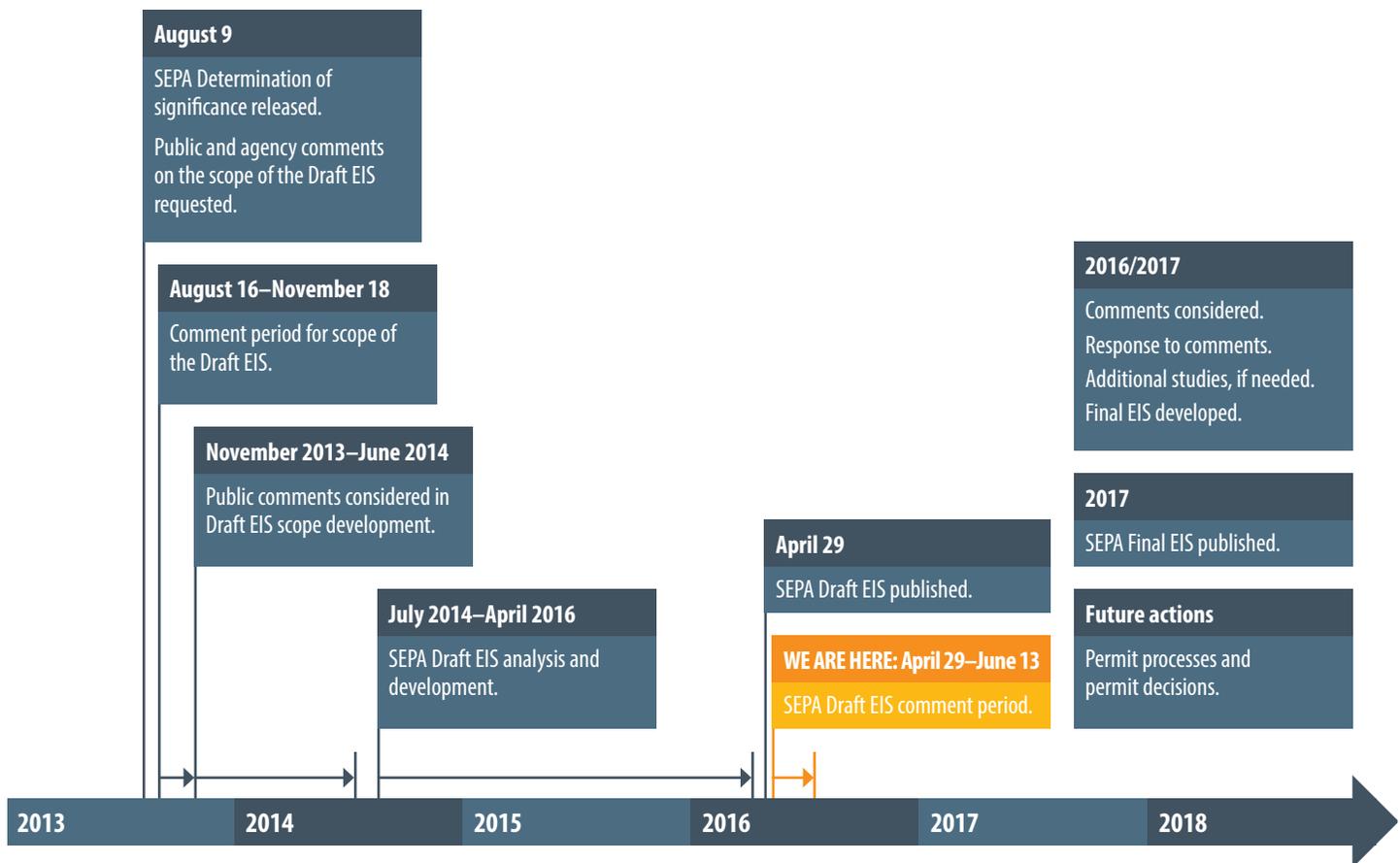
SEPA Co-lead Agencies

Cowlitz County and Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology)

Where we are in the environmental review

Public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – April 29 to June 13, 2016

What is the environmental review process timeline?



What are people being asked to comment on?

For this phase of the environmental review, Cowlitz County and Ecology are asking the public for comments on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is intended to be a thorough, factual, and impartial document.

Cowlitz County and Ecology request comments on the analysis methods, information, and proposed mitigation measures provided in the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS is not a decision document and will not approve or deny the proposed project. Comments on the analysis, data, findings, and proposed mitigation will help the agencies develop the Final EIS.

What environmental resources are analyzed in the Draft EIS?

Built Environment (Chapter 3 of the Draft EIS)	
Land and Shoreline Use	Cultural Resources
Social and Community Resources	Tribal Resources
Aesthetics, Light, and Glare	Hazardous Materials
Natural Environment (Chapter 4 of the Draft EIS)	
Geology and Soils	Vegetation
Surface Water and Floodplains	Fish
Wetlands	Wildlife
Groundwater	Energy and Natural Resources
Water Quality	
Operations (Chapter 5 of the Draft EIS)	
Rail Transportation	Noise and Vibration
Rail Safety	Air Quality
Vehicle Transportation	Coal Dust
Vessel Transportation	Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Climate Change

The chapters are divided into subsections. Each subsection describes existing conditions, potential impacts from the proposed project, and what impacts would occur if the proposed project were not built. Then, if significant impacts are identified, potential ways to mitigate or offset impacts of the proposed project are proposed.

What is the purpose of the SEPA environmental review process?

The review provides a way for state and local agencies in Washington State to identify possible environmental impacts for proposals that require permits. SEPA applies to the proposed project.

When a proposed project is likely to result in significant adverse environmental impacts, an EIS is issued. An EIS provides the public and agencies with information about the potential environmental impacts of a proposal and how those impacts can be offset or mitigated. The EIS is required to be final before any local and state agency permit decisions.

Who decided what would be studied in the Draft EIS?

Cowlitz County and Ecology agreed on what would be studied in the Draft EIS based on the SEPA rules and comments from the public, tribes, and agencies received during the scoping period.

What are the study areas?

In general, the most detailed area of study is the project area and areas nearby in Cowlitz County. The study also looks at potential impacts along the rail lines in Cowlitz County and Washington State that would likely be used by trains for the proposed project. It also looks at impacts along the lower Columbia River where vessels used by the proposed project would travel.

What is “mitigation?”

Measures that could reduce or compensate for the environmental impacts of a project are referred to as “mitigation.” The Draft EIS identifies proposed mitigation that could reduce or offset potential adverse environmental impacts identified in the analysis. Mitigation is required to be reasonable and capable of being done. These proposed mitigation measures could be placed as conditions on permits issued by Cowlitz County or other local, state or federal agencies. For certain environmental impacts, Millennium has proposed voluntary mitigation measures.

What are cumulative impacts?

Cumulative impacts are the additive impacts that would result from the proposed project in combination with the impacts of past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects. Chapter 6, Cumulative Impacts, of the Draft EIS evaluates the potential cumulative impacts of the proposed project with other projects.

Will the EIS say if a proposal is approved or denied?

No. The purpose of an EIS is to provide factual and transparent information and thorough evaluations. That information helps agency decision-makers, the project applicant, and the public understand how a proposal may affect the environment. An EIS does not determine if a proposal will be approved or denied.

How can the public comment on the Draft EIS?

There are multiple ways for the public to provide comments. Comments will be accepted during the comment period from April 29 to June 13, 2016.

By Mail

Millennium Bulk Terminals—Longview SEPA EIS
c/o ICF International
710 Second Avenue, Suite 550, Seattle, WA 98104

Online

At www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov

In Person

At a public hearing, orally or in writing

- **May 24, 2016**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Cowlitz County Regional Conference Center
1900 7th Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
- **May 26, 2016**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Spokane Convention Center
334 W Spokane Falls Boulevard
Spokane, WA 99201
- **June 2, 2016**
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm
TRAC Center
6600 Burden Boulevard
Pasco, WA 99301

What are the next steps?

All comments received during the review period on the Draft EIS will be reviewed by Cowlitz County and Ecology to determine if additional analysis is needed. Comments will be used in the preparation of the Final EIS, and a response to comments will be included in the final document. Once complete, the Final EIS will be issued, and available to the public and interested parties. The Final EIS will be available to local and state agencies when considering local and state permits.

When could permits be issued?

After the EIS is completed, the processes for local and state permits begin. Millennium would submit additional information specific to each permit needed for construction or operations of the proposed project. Permits are approved or denied by the agency with legal authority to issue the permit. Multiple permits are required for the proposed project. The necessary permits are identified in Chapter 8, Required Plans, Permits, and Approvals, of the Draft EIS. Permits cannot be issued before the Final EIS is issued.

The EIS provides information to agencies that receive permit applications for the proposed project. Agency decision-makers will consider the environmental information, along with other information about the proposal. Using that information, decisions are made to approve a permit, approve with conditional requirements, or deny a permit if the proposal cannot demonstrate compliance with the permit criteria.

What about the federal environmental review process?

Constructing and operating the proposed project also requires permits and approvals from federal agencies. Environmental review under the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is being done. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing a separate federal EIS for the proposed project to meet the requirements of NEPA. The NEPA Draft EIS is scheduled to be released later in 2016. After the NEPA EIS is completed, the processes for federal permits would begin.

Where can I find more information?

Visit www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov for more information on the proposed project and the draft environmental impact statement.