

Health impacts from coal exports

coal: the dirtiest of all fossil fuels

Coal transported through our communities would have negative health impacts on people living and working along the rail line, children and the elderly, individuals with underlying health conditions like asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart disease and diabetes, women over 50, and exposed workers.

In Washington, more than 600,000 people have asthma. Nearly 120,000 of these are children.

Exposure to diesel emissions and coal dust would increase the health challenges faced by Washington families.

According to the Washington Department of Health (2016) :

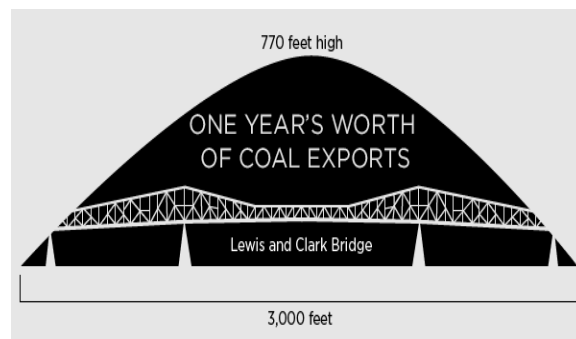
- More than 5,000 people with asthma are hospitalized each year.
- Nearly 100 people die each year of asthma.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified Washington's asthma prevalence as among the highest in the nation, and steadily increasing.
- In 2010, hospitals charged about \$73 million for asthma related hospitalizations.

"Coal pollutants affect all major body organ systems and contribute to 4 of the 5 leading causes of mortality in the US: heart disease, cancer, stroke, and chronic lower respiratory diseases."

— *Physicians for Social Responsibility* (2009)

"Children are not little adults. They eat more, breath more, drink more per body weight than adults do, so the impact of health-related exposures is greater on them than on adults."

- *Dr. Steven Gilbert*



Contacts:

Regna Merritt at Regna@oregonpsr.org
Power Past Coal at powerpastcoal.org
Landowners and Citizens for a Safe Community
PO Box 2484 Longview, WA 98632 | LCSCdoingbetter@gmail.com

POWER PAST COAL
communities against coal export

**THIS IS WHAT 44 MILLION TONS
OF COAL LOOKS LIKE:**

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Longview Coal Exports: A Threat to Health and Safety

This proposal would transport coal through the Northwest for shipping and burning overseas.

This project presents a direct and local risk to the health and safety of Washington and Oregon residents

“It is a cruel and bitter irony that our salmon is now contaminated with coal-derived mercury, one of the most powerful toxins to neural development—so that the intake of fish by pregnant woman and children needs to be limited.”

— Dr. Martha Neuringer

NEGATIVE HEALTH IMPACTS OF COAL TRAINS MOVING THROUGH OUR COMMUNITIES

Diesel particulate matter is associated with:

- Impaired pulmonary development in adolescents
- Increased cardiopulmonary mortality and all-cause mortality
- Measurable pulmonary inflammation
- Increased severity and frequency of asthma attacks, ER visits, and hospital admissions in children
- Increased rates of heart attacks in adults
- Increased risk of ischemic stroke
- Neurodevelopmental disorders

Coal dust is associated with:

- Chronic bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Pulmonary fibrosis (pneumoconiosis)
- Environmental contamination through the leaching of toxic heavy metals

Coal contaminates air, water and soil:

- Coal contains mercury, arsenic and lead
- When coal is burned in China, mercury, nitrous and sulfur oxides, ozone and heavy metals are carried by trade winds to the Northwest
- 18% of mercury concentrations in snowpack on Mt Bachelor are traced to Asian emissions; run-off contaminates fish, enters the food chain and harms health
- Coal dust and chunk pollution falling from trains also contaminates waterways with toxic heavy metals such as mercury
- Coal dust may damage crops and affect organic certification

Increased number of coal trains would:

- Delay emergency response times
- Increase accidents, injuries and deaths
- Increase potential for derailments and coal spills
- Increase risk of coal fires along rail routes and at storage facilities

Noise exposure causes:

- Cardiovascular disease, including increased blood pressure, arrhythmia
- Stroke and ischemic heart disease
- Cognitive impairment in children
- Sleep disturbance, hypertension, arrhythmia, and increased rate of accidents and injuries
- Exacerbation of mental health disorders

Take Action

Preventing the mining, transport and burning of coal would improve our health and safety.



Share information about health impacts with family, friends and neighbors



Attend and/or testify at public hearings



Partner with local organizations and the Power Past Coal Coalition (contacts on other side)