

Tell DEQ to Deny Coal Export

The State of Oregon will soon decide whether to approve or reject Oregon's first coal export project—Ambre Energy's Morrow Pacific Project. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) should protect our air, water, and communities and deny dirty coal export.

Ambre's Morrow Pacific Project proposes:

- **exporting 8 million metric tons of coal per year**
- **transporting the coal on uncovered trains from Wyoming and Montana, along the Columbia River to the Port of Morrow near Boardman, Oregon**
- **building a new industrial dock on the Columbia River at the Port of Morrow**
- **transferring coal over the Columbia River to barges**
- **barging coal 219 miles down the Columbia River to Port Westward, an area renowned for its high quality salmon habitat**
- **transferring coal over the Columbia River from barges to ocean-going vessels at Port Westward**
- **shipping coal overseas to Asia**

Tell DEQ:

- 1. Coal is toxic and DEQ should stop toxic pollution.** DEQ should not allow coal dust from trains and terminals to pollute our river and our lungs.
- 2. It is foolish for DEQ to only look at one small part of the coal export project – the coal storage site at the Port of Morrow.**
 - a. What about the uncovered coal trains spilling coal dust in the Columbia River?
 - b. Or a new coal dock at Port of Morrow that would harm salmon?
 - c. Or the impact of a huge increase in barging on the Columbia?
 - d. Or the air and water impacts of the OTHER coal terminal where Ambre would transfer coal from barges to ships? This terminal is proposed in a salmon nursery 219 miles downstream from the Port of Morrow at Port Westward.
 - e. Or the impacts of new coal barges on the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area or coal ships on the Columbia River Estuary?
- 3. Instead of putting on blinders and ignoring the full impacts, DEQ should require a Clean Water Act 401 certification to consider all of the impacts of Ambre's coal – from the trains to the ships.**
 - a. DEQ can require a Clean Water Act section 401 certification to look at the water quality impacts of the entire coal project – from train to ship.
 - i. Under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, DEQ can evaluate whether Ambre's entire project complies with Oregon's water quality standards.

DEQ can consider the impacts of coal dust, barges, a new dock, and ships on salmon and other river life.

- b. DEQ should notify Ambre immediately that a 401 certification is necessary for their industrial dock at the Port of Morrow.
- c. It is unacceptable for DEQ to give Ambre a free pass by waiving its 401 authority
 - i. Doesn't DEQ want to know the full impacts?
 - ii. Why would DEQ waive its right to conduct a 401 certification and protect the Columbia River from dirty coal?

4. Without 401 certification, there are large gaps in government review.

- a. Ask DEQ: Who is going to check if the coal barges will harm the Columbia River? The Army Corps will not review, and responding to spills is not enough.
- b. Ask DEQ: Who is going to evaluate the impact of coal ships and barges in the salmon nursery at Port Westward?

5. Oregon should not piecemeal coal permits.

- a. The Oregon Department of State Lands made the prudent decision to require the full analysis of impacts before issuing any permits.
 - i. Why is DEQ plowing ahead?
 - ii. The State should act in a coordinated manner.

6. Air permit – DEQ should deny the air discharge permit because Ambre's coal terminal and tugs will violate Oregon's air quality standards.

- a. DEQ has no experience reviewing a coal export terminal. DEQ should wait for the full federal analysis.
- b. DEQ should evaluate the air impacts from the Port Westward end of the project. Why look at only half of the project?

7. Reputation – Ambre has a bad history of lying to public officials and DEQ should not trust Ambre.

- a. Ambre lied to the State of Washington and Cowlitz County about the size of a project in Longview, purposefully getting permits for a 5 million ton per year coal export facility while secretly planning 60 million tons per year.
- b. DEQ should ask hard questions, not waive its authority.

Suggested Questions

Ambre promises the moon. But the company has no track record of operating a coal export terminal and is on shaky financial ground.¹ We should ask DEQ how it would protect Oregonians from the Northwest's first coal export terminal using unproven technologies administered by an inexperienced corporation that has never operated a coal export terminal.

¹ Sightline Institute, Ambre Energy: Caveat Investor (Feb. 2013), available at <http://www.sightline.org/research/ambre-energy-caveat-investor/>

- Is DEQ planning to regulate coal pollution from trains? What if coal falls out of trains and into the Columbia River or local creeks?
- Is DEQ planning to regulate coal pollution from hundreds of coal barges?
- Once DEQ issues air and water quality permits, can Ambre use uncovered barges? What would stop Ambre from using uncovered barges?
- Does DEQ know how much coal pollution would enter the Columbia River if Ambre used uncovered coal barges?
- Does DEQ know if coal pollution would dirty the local drinking water source in Boardman?
- Did Ambre inform DEQ about its history of misleading public officials about the true size of its coal export project in Longview, Washington?
- Will DEQ require that Ambre obtain an air pollution discharge permit for the pollution coming from its Port Westward coal export operations?

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Portland Hearing:

WHERE: Oregon Convention Center, Rooms C120 and C125

Visit us in the Hospitality Suite in C-122!

(777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd)

WHEN: Tuesday, July 9th

Sign up to testify! [Multiple timeslots to choose from.](#)

Join us to rally during the hearing at 5:30pm

Bus leaving from Hood River, contact Peter Cornelison (peter@gorgefriends.org) for details.

Hermiston Hearing:

WHERE: Blue Mountain Community College , Room 134

(975 SE Columbia Drive)

WHEN: Tuesday, July 9th

Sign up to testify! [Multiple hearings to choose from.](#)

Bus leaving from Hood River, contact Peter Cornelison (peter@gorgefriends.org) for details.

You do not need to testify in order to play an important role in these hearings. Just show up at 5:30pm in Portland at the Convention Center, and join us in demonstrating our opposition to coal exports!

The Power of the People must have a louder voice than Big Coal! *Be sure to [comment](#) if you can't join us July 9.*