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### **[Ambre Energy Asks State of Oregon for Seventh Permit Delay for Fledgling Coal Export Proposal](#)**

PORTLAND, Ore. – In a letter sent to the Oregon Department of State Lands on Monday, Ambre Energy requested yet another permit delay for its struggling Morrow Pacific coal export proposal along the Columbia River. The request represents the seventh time over the past two years that Ambre Energy has asked the Oregon Department of State Lands to delay a decision on its Morrow Pacific coal export project.

**Co-Director of the Power Past Coal coalition, Cesia Kearns issued the following statement in response:**

“The public expects the State of Oregon to deny the coal export permit, not delay. After a staggering seventh permit delay request, it’s time for Governor Kitzhaber and the Oregon Department of State Lands to tell Ambre Energy once-and-for-all that ‘enough is enough.’ For the past two years, Ambre Energy has had more than enough time to provide the Department of State Lands with basic information about its proposal. As enormous hurdles continue to mount for the struggling coal export proposal, today’s announcement proves yet again that Ambre Energy is a bad bet for our state and our communities.”

“Across Oregon and the entire Northwest, thousands of parents, doctors, businesses leaders, clergy and many more have urged Governor Kitzhaber to show leadership by protecting our Oregon communities from this dirty, dangerous proposal. Now is the time for Governor Kitzhaber to act on his commitment to our state and communities by stopping this coal export proposal.”

### **BACKGROUND**

Ambre Energy has been plagued by financial questions and has made little progress in obtaining state or federal permits. Last month, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) announced Ambre Energy’s proposal to build the coal export terminal will require an additional permit, known as a 401 Water Quality Certification. DEQ received a record breaking 16,500 public comments on Ambre’s proposal to export 8.8 million tons of coal through Northwest communities and along the Columbia River. The agency also announced its decision to issue three permits for the coal export project, an air quality permit, a construction storm water permit, and an internal wastewater permit.

The State of Oregon also notified Ambre Energy this month that its controversial proposed coal export terminal is located on state-owned land in the Columbia River and now requires a state land lease. The requirement to obtain a state land lease for Ambre Energy’s dangerous coal export project is yet another setback to the struggling coal export terminal.

In 2011, a legal challenge to the Ambre proposal in Longview, WA [exposed internal documents](#)

showing that Ambre and their US subsidiary Millennium Bulk Logistics lied to Cowlitz County and state officials about the size of their project, claiming it would ship five million tons per year when they planned a project more than 10 times that size. Following the controversy, Ambre withdrew its permit and in 2012 filed a permit for a terminal that would handle 44 million tons of coal/year.

Last week, Ecotrust released a new report entitled "[Economic Risks of the Morrow Pacific Project: Livelihood, Habitat and Recreation.](#)"

which outlines the huge economic risks that Ambre Energy's proposed Morrow Pacific coal export project would have for the regional economy. The report concludes, "far from being a 'clean' project, Morrow Pacific would jeopardize vital, valuable economic, cultural and ecological resources throughout Western Oregon."

More than 3,000 medical professionals and public health advocates have raised concerns about significant risks associated with coal exports and related facilities proposed for the Pacific Northwest. Coal contains toxins like mercury and arsenic known to harm human health. In addition to dangerous diesel exhaust from barges, trains and ships, toxic coal dust will threaten air quality and worsen asthma, respiratory illness, and other severe health problems. 165 Oregon physicians voiced their concerns directly to Governor Kitzhaber in the [Position Statement on Coal Exports from Concerned Oregon Physicians to Governor Kitzhaber](#)

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