



The Pacific Northwest has the opportunity to build more export facilities in Oregon and Washington, which could bring in millions in tax revenue for rural communities and create thousands of jobs. However opponents are demanding a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), a type of environmental review that goes well beyond the comprehensive, multi-year process already required by existing law. They are determined to block the \$660 million Gateway Pacific shipping terminal in Whatcom County because one of the commodities the terminal would handle is coal. In the process, they are sacrificing thousands of construction jobs, hundreds of permanent family-wage jobs, and millions of dollars a year in new tax revenues.

Over the next several weeks, hearings will be held on the proposal. Can you join us by supporting the Gateway Pacific shipping terminal? Your attendance could help stop harmful, precedent setting and lasting regulations on exports.

These are important opportunities to demonstrate to decision-makers the broad support for proposed export terminals. We cannot let opponents of progress be the only voices heard.

Background:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is required to carry out a comprehensive, multi-year environmental review on the Gateway Pacific shipping terminal in Whatcom County, and it has said it plans to carry out the strictest available review under the law. However, because one of the commodities the terminal would handle is coal, the EPA and environmental groups are pressuring the Corps to expand – even further - its review to a “Programmatic” Environmental Impact Statement, one which would evaluate not only the project itself but the lifecycle environmental impact of the cargo (in this case, the coal). Such a move would delay—and potentially kill—the Gateway project and the jobs it would bring to the region. *It would also create a dangerous national precedent whereby any commodity with an environmental impact could be used as a reason to block an export terminal.*

In addition, opponents want the EIS to cover the entire state, because the commodities would be transported to the Gateway terminal by rail. If rail service alone is sufficient justification for a statewide EIS, that sets a precedent for any future project that uses gasoline, diesel, oil, jet fuel, chemicals or grain – all commodities that are shipped by rail.

Opponents want to broaden the scope of this and future EIS reviews to create a precedent that will allow them to bury this and future development projects in a costly, overwhelming and virtually limitless avalanche of studies.

Action Needed:

Attend a local hearing and voice your concern for this proposed precedent.

A solid way to strengthen the Northwest region and create much-needed jobs is by increasing the ability to export goods. Government officials, media and the public needs to hear how the

decision to build new shipping terminals and move forward with coal exports is critical to manufacturing.

Below are the details on the coal exports hearings. We hope that you can attend one or more of these hearings:

EIS Scoping Hearing Schedule

- Bellingham, Saturday, Oct. 27, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Friday Harbor, Saturday, Nov. 3, noon-3 p.m.
- Mount Vernon, Monday, Nov. 5, 4-7 p.m.
- Seattle, Tuesday, Nov. 13, 4-7 p.m.
- Ferndale, Thursday, Nov. 29, 3-7 p.m.
- Spokane Valley, Tuesday, Dec. 4, 4-7 p.m.
- Vancouver, Wednesday, Dec. 12, 4-7 p.m.

Website for Exact Location of Hearing:

<http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov/get-involved/upcoming-meetings>

Click here for more information: <http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov/get-involved/upcoming-meetings>

If you are interested in attending any of the hearings listed above, please contact:
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You may also send [comments](#) to the hearings examiners.

For more information, please visit the Alliance for Northwest Jobs and Exports website:
<http://createnwjobs.com/learn-more>