



Resources on the Pacific Northwest Coal Export Issue

Updated August 31, 2012

Fall Public Input Opportunities and Events

Public Input Opportunities

Although information about the plans of coal companies is not readily available to the public, there are important public input opportunities coming up soon that would benefit from the voices of people of faith with a concern for the Common Good and the environment. Beyond these opportunities, the timeline for other public input is unclear. Call Oregon Interfaith Power & Light (OIPL) at (503) 221-1054, ext 214 or 210, for updates.

1. Unlike Oregon, **Washington State's Dept. of Ecology** requires Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for many projects. In late summer, they will start a 60 to 90-day scoping process as part of the EIS process to determine what the EIS should cover. Since coal trains to serve Cherry Point near Bellingham would come through the Columbia Gorge and southwest Washington, Oregonians can comment. It is possible that a public input meeting will be held in Vancouver, Wash., in the early fall.
2. **Oregon's Department of State Lands** will be opening up a 30-day public comment period in late summer or early fall for the proposed Port of Morrow coal barge facility in the Boardman area. Go to <http://cms.oregon.gov/dsl> to register your comments when the public comment period opens.
3. The **City Council of Portland** will discuss their on their coal export resolution on Wednesday, **September 19, at 2 p.m.**, and public comment is invited.
4. The **City Council of Eugene**, also on **September 19, at noon**, will hold a panel on their resolution to oppose coal trains and public comment is invited.

Fall Events

September 12, at 7 p.m., Sierra Club SW Washington Beyond Coal Task Force. First Congregational Church, 1220 NE 68th St., Vancouver, Wash. Contact laura.stevens@sierraclub.org, Associate Organizing Representative, Sierra Club Beyond Coal Campaign.

September (date/time TBA), Monthly Oregon Beyond Coal Task Force. Contact Laura Stevens (see above) for Portland meeting date.

September 16, 12 to 1:30 p.m., Coal Forum. Fireside Room, First United Methodist Church, 1838 SW Jefferson, Portland. Cosponsored by Planet Church and OIPL. The plan to export 150 million tons of Montana and Wyoming coal through cities and ports in the Pacific Northwest has been much in the news lately. Supporters hope for increased economic activity, more jobs and additional tax revenues, but many concerns have emerged. Learn more from a presentation by Bonnie Meltzer and Richard Ellmyer who live, work and vegetable garden five blocks from the St. Johns Railroad Cut—the site of one proposed coal route through Portland. They are co-founders of the North Portland Coal Committee, an organization that educates neighbors about coal and the actions to take to stop coal exports. For more information go to <http://www.goodgrowthnw.org> <http://www.facebook.com/NorthPortlandCoalCommittee>. Jenny Holmes, EMO Environmental Ministries director, will provide and update on faith based involvement on the issue and some of the key ethical concerns of people of faith.

September 24, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Westside Coal Hard Truth Forum. Multnomah Art Center Auditorium, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy., Portland. There are proposals to transport megatons of coal through Oregon and Washington enroute to Asia's coal-fired plants. A panel of experts and community members will discuss the coal export issue. Learn more at this free event. No reservations needed. For more information, contact Bonnie McKinlay at (503) 705-1943 or goto350pdx@gmail.com, and Samantha Lockhart at Samantha@gorgefriends.org or (503) 241-3762, ext. 110. Hosted by Power Past Coal.

October 2, 7 to 8:30 p.m., Eastside Coal Hard Truth Forum. Rose City Park United Methodist Church, 5830 NE Alameda (near NE 58th & Sandy), Portland. There are proposals to transport megatons of coal through Oregon and Washington enroute to Asia's coal-fired plants. A panel of experts and community members will discuss the coal export issue. Learn more at this free event. For more information, contact Bonnie McKinlay at (503) 705-1943 or goto350pdx@gmail.com, and Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky at jasmine@columbiariverkeeper.org. Hosted by Power Past Coal.

For more information on coal exports and how to get involved, go to www.emoregon.org/power_light.php. If you would like to be connected to presenters for a forum at your congregation and to advocacy efforts, contact Jenny Holmes at (503) 221-1054, ext. 214. To receive regular action alerts on coal export and other climate and energy issue, send an e-mail to awarren@emoregon.org.

Organizations

Some of the organizations that are providing information, outreach and advocacy on this issue currently are as follows:

The website of the **Power Past Coal Coalition** (www.powerpastcoal.org) has many fact sheets and has information on what is happening at the county level.

Friends of the Columbia Gorge (www.gorgefriends.org) is concerned especially about the air quality impacts and environmental degradation from coal trains and barges on the Columbia Gorge National Scenic area. They hold a monthly meeting in Hood River.

Columbia Riverkeeper (www.columbiariverkeeper.org) is concerned with the health of the Columbia River systems and does research and advocacy on coal export throughout the watershed.

As part of its **Beyond Coal Campaign** (<http://www.sierraclub.org/coal/coalexport/>), the Sierra Club has staff in Oregon and southwest Washington working to oppose coal export. Regular meetings are held at the Portland Sierra Club Office and at First Congregational in Vancouver for interested citizens.

Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility (<http://www.psr.org/chapters/oregon/environmental-health-/proposed-coal-exports.html>) is calling for a Health Impact Assessment of proposed coal export trains and ports.

Sightline (<http://www.sightline.org/research/coal-export-faq/>) provides a fact sheet that examines the potential benefits and potential risks of coal export facilities, in-depth reports, and a coal export blog.

Reports, Articles and Other Information

The True Cost of Coal:

http://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/GlobalWarming/Reports/NWF_PacificCoal_FINAL.ashx

For a variety of fact sheets, reports, and articles go to <http://www.coaltrainfacts.org/>.

Learn about Australian-based Ambre Energy's plans for west coast coal transport:

<http://www.ambreenergy.com/what/us-operations>.