



SUNSHINE COAST CLEAN AIR SOCIETY
www.cleanaironthecoast.com

To: Port Metro Vancouver
From: Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society
Date: 16 December 2013

Opposition to a Coal Transfer Facility at Fraser Surrey Docks and Transportation to Texada Island

The Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society is opposed to a coal transfer facility at Fraser Surrey Docks and the transport of coal to Texada Island on the Sunshine Coast for the following reasons:

- (1) There are health hazards due to the transportation of coal and coal dust such as increased damage to cardiovascular and pulmonary systems, increased severity and frequency of asthma attacks, heart attacks, and ER visits, and increased incidences of bronchitis and risk to cancer. There's cognitive impairment in children. Children and the elderly are most susceptible to coal dust pollutants such as mercury and sulphur.
- (2) There's increased cost to our health care system because of these health hazards. The coal industry is passing their costs onto the health system/taxpayer.
- (3) Coal, more than any other source of energy, contributes to greenhouse gases and climate change. It's the dirtiest form of energy, and many parts of the world have stopped burning coal for the environmental and health hazards it causes.
- (4) Port Metro Vancouver is undermining Metro Vancouver's goal of reducing air pollution. Coal dust is a major air pollutant.

The Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society joins others opposing your coal project: Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment, British Columbia Nurses' Union, The Fraser and Vancouver Coastal Health Authorities, the Provincial Chief Medical Officer, the city councils of New Westminster, White Rock and Surrey, the Sunshine Coast Regional District, our MLA, Nicholas Simons, the Shishalh Nation on the Sunshine Coast.

We support the June 2013 Board of Metro Vancouver's request for a health impact assessment and oppose expansion of coal shipments in the Fraser River Estuary. We're pleased that the states of Washington and Oregon refuse transportation of coal trains through their states and that the World Bank in July 2013 stopped financing the construction of coal-fired power plants in developing countries due to global warming impacts.

We support the Shishalh Nation on the Sunshine Coast, whose traditional waters will be impacted, in their request for a full Environmental Assessment, a Health Impact Assessment, a Navigational Risk Assessment, an Environmental Management Plan, a Spill Response Plan, and an Air Quality Management Plan.

for the Sunshine Coast Clean Air Society
Elizabeth McNeill
President