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Millennium environmental review delayed again by agencies

On October 23, 2015 Cowlitz County, Washington State Department of Ecology, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers published a new environmental review schedule for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview coal export facility. The county and state's Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now scheduled for release April 30, 2016. The federal Draft EIS is scheduled to be released in July 2016.

Below is a statement from Bill Chapman, CEO for Millennium Bulk Terminals:

Plainly we're disappointed by the delay but we're also pleased to be back on track with agencies committed to firm deadlines for the next milestone in the Millennium permitting process.

We appreciate all the efforts that led to this new commitment.

It will soon be four years since Millennium submitted our complete permit applications. We and our investors remain dedicated to seeing this project built and operating.

On a daily basis I am reminded that much-needed family-wage jobs in the community continue to be delayed. Just this past Monday we were joined by supporters from Montana and Wyoming reminding us it is not just new Longview jobs at stake but existing family wage jobs in those states and others.

We look forward to working with the agencies to ensure the analyses are completed, public process underway and deadlines of this new commitment are all met.

Millennium is a member of PNWA. To learn more about the project, including the significant environmental restoration work which has been underway for years, click here: www.millenniumbulk.com.

NOAA releases *2014 Fisheries of the United States* report

NOAA has released its *2014 Fisheries of the United States* report, with data that shows once again the value of Northwest navigation and port infrastructure to the region and the nation. In the list of the top 50 U.S. Commercial Landings, the Port of Newport is now the top port in the OR/WA/CA area, based on quantity. The Port of Newport recorded 124 million pounds of fish and shellfish landed, which is valued at $53 million. Four other PNWA members also made the list. Port of Astoria logged 122 million pounds, worth $43 million dollars. Westport, Washington's largest fish landing port and a part of Port of Grays Harbor, had 100 million pounds worth $64 million. The Port of Coos Bay's Charleston Marina Complex had 29 million pounds, and the Ports of Ilwaco and Chinook had 27 million pounds.

Two more PNWA members made another list, the Top 50 Fishery Landings by Value. The Port of Bellingham had landings valued at $29 million, and the Port of Seattle had landings at $24 million. To view the full 2014 report, click here to visit NOAA's site.

Oregon and Washington coastal ports, home to fishing fleets, marinas and recreational facilities, are critical to the economic health of their communities. With the release of the latest fish landing data, we are reminded yet again that international trade, recreational boating and commercial fishing are more important than ever to the economic health of coastal port communities. PNWA strongly supports continued federal funding of coastal maintenance dredging and jetty repairs, to ensure that these ports can continue to serve as critical economic development engines in their communities.

Lt. Colonel Vail responds to opponents of Snake River Dams

The Commander of the Walla Walla District, Lt. Colonel Vail, continues to provide information regarding the Snake River Dams and the value they provide to the nation. In his most recent statement, Lt. Col. Vail defends the Corps and the work being done to bring back salmon populations in the Columbia and Snake Rivers:

I find it interesting that some fish advocates clamor for the removal of the Corps' four dams on the lower Snake River at a time when the region is experiencing record fish returns.

I too am a fish advocate and so are the hundreds of scientists, biologists, and engineers from federal, state, tribal, and local partners dedicated to fish recovery in the Northwest. We operate the Nation's largest fish conservation effort while balancing competing interests within a complex ecological system.

We let science show us the path to fish recovery and our actions, combined with favorable ocean conditions and investments by the American people are paying dividends. Chinook, sockeye and

coho salmon, three of the four Snake River Endangered Species Act-listed fish all experienced record fish returns past Bonneville Dam in 2014. Since 2009 we've seen record returns for steelhead, sockeye and coho past Lower Granite Dam.

Fish runs were dramatically affected in the Northwest starting in the 1800s due to pollution and silting from mining operations; habitat destruction from logging; and overfishing when Columbia River cannery operations grew from one cannery in 1866 to more than 50 by 1900. Also, numerous private and public dams cut off access to historical fish spawning grounds because those dams were built without fish ladders, unlike the Lower Snake River Dams.

Biologists and engineers have reduced the effects of dam building and operations by researching, designing, building and equipping the lower Snake River Dams with the world's most advanced fish passage systems. Spillway weirs, which have a fish survival rate of 95-100%, help juvenile fish get downstream to the ocean. After spending two to five years in the ocean, adult fish return to their spawning grounds using fish ladders to swim through the lower Snake River dams. Adult fish survival through the Snake River dams' fish ladders exceeds 99%.

This year hot weather and drought conditions presented challenges to fish passage and survival. Conditions were unfavorable throughout the West, but in the Lower Snake River fish managers were able to improve conditions by modifying spill patterns and by releasing cool water from Dworshak Reservoir to moderate temperatures affecting fish in the lower Snake River.

Corps scientists, biologists and engineers team with our many partners to prove that dams and fish can coexist. We are on track to meet performance standards of 96% survival for spring migrating juvenile fish and 93% for summer migrants through each lower Snake River Dam. The next generation power turbines are coming to Ice Harbor Dam starting this winter. Meanwhile, we are upgrading Lower Granite Dam's Juvenile Fish Facility.

But fish aren't the only reason we operate the Snake River Dams. Snake River dams deliver clean, renewable hydropower, an efficient marine transportation corridor, and valuable recreation opportunities.

The American people invest about $62 million a year in the Snake River Dams. In return these projects generate about $200 million annually in electricity and help move 3.5 million tons of cargo, worth $1.5 billion, to regional markets. In 2012 alone, nearly 10% of the nation's wheat exports moved through this infrastructure. These dams also provide 2.8 million visitors a year with recreation opportunities and benefit the environment by avoiding 7,300 kilotons of carbon dioxide pollution coal-fired power plants would emit to generate the same amount of power.

Our science-based approach is working and we'll continue pursuing smart solutions that provide outstanding value to the American people.

Updated PNWA Supported Projects

PNWA has updated our supported Corps projects document with the latest project funding levels we will be advocating for in FY2016. These requests will be the bases for our advocacy efforts should Congress pass an FY2016 omnibus bill with additional funding pots for which the Corps will

develop a workplan. Please make note of the updated numbers in the document and let Heather Stebbings know if you have any questions.