

“I took an oath to protect the lives and wellbeing of our communities.” SGC

Testimony of Stephen G Chandler, MD

Submitted as testimony of Oregon PSR and Washington PSR to Hearings Examiner

Cowlitz County Shoreline Substantial Development and Conditional Use Permit Public Hearing

Read by Regna Merritt, PA Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility November 2, 2017

I'm sorry that I'm unable to be with you today but, as a practicing physician in hematology and oncology who lives here in Longview along with my children and grandchildren, I wish to communicate to you my strong reservations and concerns regarding this proposed project by MBT (Millennium).

I would initially state that, from prior industrial spillage and wastes and environmental abuse, this community has already borne huge health consequences, along with environmental toxicities, resulting in some of the worse overall health as a populace and county in the state of Washington.

Now- to dare even consider to again submit our Longview citizens to the risks of increasing that toll is not possible to fathom.

From cancers to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular diseases, pulmonary and allergic diseases --- this community cannot bear more of these burdens.

Despite how Millennium personnel try to minimize or mitigate, these illnesses will occur.

By inference, Millennium is consigning people in our community, especially the most vulnerable---young, elderly, ill---in the closest neighborhood and beyond --- to the development of cancer, pulmonary and cardiovascular and heart diseases.

This will occur.

To whom are they thus willing for this to occur? Will Millennium claim responsibility?

All day, every day, I see and treat patients with cancer. For me, and for them, cancer is not a statistic. For them, it is 100%. I have never had one patient, over nearly 5 decades, not ask me how did they get this cancer.

These diseases, especially cancer, do not come with name tags as to who or what caused them; but we will know.

Cancers will occur from these multiple emissions of diesel fumes, particulate matter, coal dust, surfactant exposure, and the accompanying exposures to the multitude of toxic chemicals, such as arsenic, mercury, lead, and benzene.

Millennium may state that the statistics are low. Yet, I see these patients every day----all of whom say to me the same thing----that the statistics were so low!

But what I know from all these years and patients, is that statistics prove that these diseases happen! They are real, and life altering, if not life ending.

Those of us in these medical specialties will be seeing these patients, looking them in the eyes, listening to their hearts and lungs, and hearing their stories and anguish. It is our profession and our duty.

A wise professor of Public Health once said to me that statistics are patients, with the tears removed. In my life, that is profoundly true.

You need to know that the very real and potential cancers that will develop, will likely not occur to you. These leukemias and various cancers will occur to our children and grandchildren.

The cardiovascular and cerebrovascular and pulmonary diseases can certainly occur in us. The malignancies will occur to our young ones as they grow older. Time is necessary for these exposures to wreak their havoc.

This is not the legacy and inheritance anyone would willfully and knowingly subject to their heirs. As human beings, parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts, relatives, that is all of us, it is incumbent for us to protect the future for those that follow, for the young, the most vulnerable.

Added to these known diseases, are the other substantial accompanying hazards, such as:

- major and prolonged delays of all traffic, especially emergency vehicles and first responders,
- increasing river traffic with associated risks for accidents and pilot error or shifting sand bars,
- excessive noise of train traffic,
- the ever-present risks of train accidents along the long and tortuous tracks from the mines to Longview,
- the mountain pile of coal,
- the relentless inclement weather and
- earthquake potential.

The area of our community closest to this proposed undertaking is already significantly affected by poor health and wellbeing. This project would only add to their burden and ill health.

Lastly, I am deeply aware of the economic concerns and need for sustainable and durable jobs in our community. The economic wellbeing of our community is also about healthy living and healthy jobs and environment, which would be a magnet for others to move

here and work here, and for companies to locate and thrive here.

I wish we were having a different conversation, but as this proposed project has morphed into this giant coal way-station, so too have the health and medical risks and consequences increased. This entire subject of Millennium coal export runs counter to all of medicine, and the health and wellbeing of our community.

As in medicine, Millennium and the County do not have my consent for this toxic enterprise, the subject of which has paralyzed our leaders from looking forward to a productive, creative, imaginative use of this precious river site.

I speak for the health and wellness of our community.

Thank you.

Stephen G Chandler, MD