

Jeff Scott
CEO
Fraser Surrey Docks LP
11060 Elevator Road
Surrey BC
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May 10 2015

Re: your proposal to build a coal port serving ocean going vessels on the Fraser River

Dear Mr. Scott,

We write in response to your announcement that you intend to replace plans for a coal barge loading facility with plans to build a coal port serving ocean-going vessels at your Surrey site. We wish to inform you of our ongoing opposition to the construction of *any* coal operations on the banks of the Fraser River, for reasons including the following:

- This proposal will increase open-car coal train traffic through our residential communities. More coal train traffic means our families will be exposed to more [diesel exhaust \(a known carcinogen\)](#), more coal dust, and more nighttime noise from train whistles at levels deemed unsafe by the [World Health Organization](#). Homes in neighbourhoods closest to rail lines will also be exposed to more potentially damaging vibration from heavy coal trains more than 2 kilometres long.
- When burned, the coal exported from Fraser Surrey Docks would release as much global warming pollution as the 6th largest polluter in Canada - just behind the two biggest tar sands processing facilities and the three biggest coal-fired power plants. Just last week [UN Climate Chief Christiana Figueres](#) said that in order to avoid runaway, catastrophic climate change there is no room in the world for new coal developments. That includes new ports like the one you're proposing.
- This proposal will increase freighter traffic in the Salish Sea, increasing risk of oil spills and shipping accidents and impacts on wild salmon and endangered orca populations.

We remind you that in June 2013, Metro Vancouver, our regional government, voted overwhelmingly to oppose any coal exports from your Fraser River site. Numerous individual municipalities, including New Westminster, Surrey, White Rock, Delta, Richmond and Vancouver have either opposed this project outright or demanded full public hearings, an independent health impact assessment (HIA) and a fully-scoped environmental assessment before any approvals were granted for your project.

The call for an HIA to fully evaluate the risks posed by your proposal came directly from our regional health authorities. Numerous health care groups and doctors have supported this request.

As you know, to date these requests remain unanswered. Public hearings, an HIA and a fully scoped EA have not taken place for this project. In general, the lack of meaningful consultation with the public, local and regional governments and health authorities has been an issue of ongoing concern during the review of your project.

There is widespread opposition to your project. The cities of Surrey and New Westminster have indicated they will apply to intervene in the [legal challenge](#) of the Port's previous approval of your direct transfer coal facility, initiated by Communities and Coal, Voters Taking Action on Climate Change and two individual applicants. The Musqueam Nation has filed its own, [separate legal challenge](#) of the permitting of your facility as well.

Further, we note that [your company has been a strong advocate](#) for removal of the George Massey Tunnel and deeper dredging of the Fraser River — modifications to the river would allow deeper draft vessels to reach your facility, effectively turning the Fraser into a “marine highway.” We are deeply concerned that if these modifications come to pass your facility will begin exporting larger volumes of coal on bigger vessels. This will mean still more coal trains through our communities, more noise, diesel exhaust and coal dust, more ship traffic in the Salish Sea, and more climate-harming pollution when the exported coal is burned.

This is not something we want to see happen in our region, and we know that our neighbours in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana are working hard to stop more coal trains from running through, and new coal ports from being built, in their communities to avoid these same impacts.

Mr. Scott, we have nothing against your company and wish it well, but there is no future in exporting thermal coal. The end of the age of coal has been acknowledged by a wide range of organizations including the [World Bank](#), [HSBC](#), [Goldman Sachs](#), the [International Energy Agency](#) the [US Export-Import Bank](#) and even [executives of your company's owner, the MacQuarrie Group](#). We share their concerns about coal and climate change and our opposition to this project will not end. We want our communities to host the ports of tomorrow, not the ports of yesterday.

We urge you to abandon plans for this coal port and seek a different path forward.

Sincerely,