

Gateway Pacific Terminal

- **PROJECT TYPE:**
Coal export terminal
- **LOCATION:**
Cherry Point Whatcom County, Washington
- **INVESTMENT COST:**
\$665 million
- **ORIGINAL CONSTRUCTION DATE:**
2013
- **ORIGINAL OPERATING DATE:**
2015

LOST OPPORTUNITY ECONOMIC IMPACT



**\$17.1 ↓
BILLION**
in GDP impact*



117,423 ↓
total full-time
equivalent job
years*



**\$3 ↓
BILLION**
in lost tax
revenue*



1,251 ↓
full-time jobs
during operations**



**\$10 ↓
MILLION**
in lost annual tax revenue
during operations**

*Number refers to total economic impact from construction/operations/upstream through August 2018. Lost tax revenue estimate includes \$183 million during the construction phase, \$35 million during 3.75 years of lost operations, and \$2.8 billion from reduced upstream operations

** Self-reported by project sponsor

OVERVIEW

- In June 2011, Pacific International Terminals (PIT) submitted an application for the Gateway coal export terminal to Whatcom County, WA, noting that the project will support more than 1,200 jobs and generate over \$10 million in annual state and local tax revenue.¹
- KIITG activists launched a coordinated campaign to block the project. A visit from KIITG leader Bill McKibben even encouraged civil disobedience as a means to halt the project.

"I take it seriously when the well-being of my community is threatened. Some of you might have heard the call for civil disobedience from environmentalist Bill McKibben. McKibben hails from Vermont, but he has been spending time in the Northwest a lot lately to talk about coal exports. In fact, while in Oregon, he even encouraged opponents of coal exports to take the law into their own hands. What I want McKibben to know is that here in the Northwest, we have a long history of dealing with contentious issues without lawbreaking or disorder."
– Ozzie Knezovich, Spokane County Sherriff²

"The demand is simple: Leave it in the ground." – Spokane City Council President Ben Stuckart³

- In August 2015, the Lummi Chairman said he and his supporters would fight the coal terminal "by all means necessary."⁴
- In May 2016, the Army Corps of Engineers denied PIT's permit application on the grounds that it could potentially impact tribal fishing rights, despite state data showing that over a 12-year observation period, only 15 fishing boats were sighted near the project location. "This is an inconceivable decision. Looking at the set of facts in the administrative summary, it's quite obvious this is a political decision and not fact based." – PIT President Bob Waters⁵

"The advent of the environmental movement in the 1970s and 1980s introduced a few new rules, but it didn't try to shut down the whole enterprise...The only way to short-circuit this zombie process is to fight like hell, raising the price, both political and economic, of new fossil fuel infrastructure to the point where politicians begin to balk. That's what happened with Keystone and it's happening elsewhere, too. Other Canadian tar sands pipelines have been blocked. Coal ports planned for the West Coast haven't been built. In May, a coalition across six continents is being organized to engage in mass civil disobedience to 'keep it in the ground.'" – Bill McKibben⁶

STATUS:

In June 2017, after a series of delays resulting from activist opposition and regulatory setbacks, PIT formally withdrew its permit application, effectively cancelling the proposed terminal.

1. [Gateway Pacific Terminal Major Project Permit Application Submittal](#), Whatcom County Planning & Development Services filing, 6/6/11
2. [Coal Ports, Rail Facilities Essential to Economic Growth, Says New Report](#), Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports article, 8/19/13
3. [Western Washington tribe brings protest against planned coal export terminal to Spokane](#), *The Spokesman-Review*, 8/27/14
4. [Lummi Chairman: We will fight coal terminal 'by all means necessary'](#), *Longshore & Shipping News*, 8/27/15
5. [PIT Shocked by US Army Corp Permit Determination](#), PIT press release, 5/9/16
6. [Bill McKibben: How to drive a stake through the heart of zombie fossil fuel \(Op-Ed\)](#), *Los Angeles Times*, 1/19/16

Sources:
Global Energy Institute analysis
[Pacific International Terminals Project / Information Document](#)