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Boaters to occupy Sabine Channel **Coal Dust Free Salish Sea**

The provincial government and Port of Metro Vancouver have now approved coal transshipment permits to bring dusty thermal coal by train from the US to Surrey (up to two trains per day, each train up to 1 km long). After arriving in Surrey, the coal would be reloaded onto open-topped barges and transported down the Fraser River and up the Sabine Channel.

The open-topped barges would be off-loaded by conveyor at the Lafarge limestone quarry on Texada Island, and then reloaded onto bulk cargo freighters to export to its final destination in Asia. After arriving in its final destination in Asia, 4 million tonnes of coal per year (increasing to 8 million) will be burned to produce electricity, releasing large amounts of greenhouse gases, and polluting the air and farmland.

The western US states of Oregon and Washington have rejected the export of thermal coal from their coastline. So, coal originating in the US will to be exported through Canada instead.

Two open-topped barges moving through the Sabine

Channel each day will release coaldust into the air and the marine environment of the Salish Sea. Coal dust floats.

No environmental assessment was required for the Sabine/Texada portion of the plan. No health impact assessment was required for any part of the plan, despite pressure from the public and health authorities.

Occupy Sabine Channel

A flotilla of boats of all sizes will be occupying Sabine Channel, near Jedediah Island, on Saturday, October 4, to protest this coal export approval.

Boaters are asking for others from across the Salish Sea, on both sides of the border, to join them on October 4. For more information, visit the Occupy the Sabine facebook group 'Occupy The Sabine For A Coal Free Salish Sea' or contact Andrew Fall at CoalDustFreeSalishSea@gmail.com. ✉

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