

Industry: Coal exports won't affect global demand

Associated Press

CHEYENNE, Wyo. — Exporting large amounts of Wyoming coal to East Asia would have a negligible effect on global greenhouse gas emissions because the amount of coal burned in those countries isn't a result of coal's availability so much as their rapid economic growth and heavy reliance on the fossil fuel to produce electricity, developers of coal export facilities said Thursday.

Environmentalists warn that exporting U.S. coal overseas has the same effect on climate change as burning it here. But participants in a coal exports discussion panel at the Wyoming Infrastructure Authority spring energy conference said the global coal market isn't driven by supply but demand.

Some countries, particularly China, are committed for the foreseeable future to burn large amounts of coal no matter who steps up to provide it, they said.

The Powder River Basin of north-east Wyoming and southeast Montana is the top coal-producing region in the U.S., supplying around 40 percent of the nation's coal.

Production is down over the past few years amid low prices for natural gas.

Should large docking facilities get approved and built in the Pacific Northwest, Wyoming could find new coal markets in Japan, South Korea and

Taiwan, the panelists said. "The opposition to port developments in this country talk of creating greater coal burn in Asia if more U.S. coal is available," said Michael Mewing, a consultant with coal mine owner and export terminal developer Lighthouse Resources, Inc. "The reality of life is that demand will continue to grow, and it will be met whether the U.S. participates or not."

Another panelist agreed, pointing to a recent U.S. Surface Transportation Board draft environmental study for a Montana rail line for coal shipments. The study found that exporting Wyoming coal overseas mostly would offset — and only marginally increase — existing international coal shipments, Millennium Bulk Terminals Chief Executive Officer Bill Chapman said.

Greenhouse gas emissions could in fact decrease because Wyoming coal burns hotter and therefore more efficiently than coals from other countries, Chapman said.

"The effect globally is slightly positive, or unable to observe by any movement of the needle whatsoever," he said.

Indonesia over the past 15 years or so has become a major coal exporter, supplying 35 percent of the Asian market, Mewing said.

The U.S., which after China remains the second-ranked producer of coal, could yet claim some of Indonesia's

share of the market by exporting Powder River Basin coal, he said.

"You can more than compete with them. You are a superior grade of coal," Mewing said.

Lighthouse Resources, formerly known as Ambre Energy, owns the Decker Mine in Montana and the Black Butte Mine in southwestern Wyoming and is pursuing two major coal export terminals on the Columbia River in Oregon and Washington.

One is Millennium Bulk Terminals' facility in Longview, Washington, a former aluminum smelter eyed for conversion to a coal export facility. Lighthouse owns 62 percent of Millennium and Arch Coal the other 38 percent.

Another coal export terminal proposal undergoing government review is SSA Marine's proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal near Cherry Point, Washington, which is about 10 miles south of the Canadian border. Local tribes oppose that project as well, saying it would disrupt their fishing practices.

"We believe we have a good design that if given a fair environmental review, will prove to meet the state's environmental permitting requirements," said Joe Ritzman, vice president of business development at SSA Marine.

Many people in Washington state support coal exports, Chapman said.

"They understand we are not going to change what China does," he said.

New Oregon law allows women to obtain year of birth control at a time

Associated Press

SALEM — Oregon has enacted a first-of-its-kind insurance law that will allow women to obtain a year's worth of birth control at a time, expanding coverage that previously needed to be renewed every 30 or 90 days.

Gov. Kate Brown signed the legislation Thursday, saying it "has a simple premise that I wholeheartedly believe in: increase access and decrease barriers."

Supporters say the measure will reduce unintended pregnancies and make things easier for women, especially in rural areas, since they won't need to visit doctors or pick up prescriptions as often.

The plan passed easily and advances a push on the issue this year in the state.

Oregon legislators also are considering a proposal that would allow pharmacists to write birth control prescriptions for women who pass a self-administered risk-screening assessment. That proposal also has received wide support.

The Catholic church opposes contraceptive expansion, saying Oregon's measures could have "moral implications and social consequences."

Critics of the new law, meanwhile, say it could increase health care costs for employers and insurers. It could be wasteful to dispense a year's worth of pills, for example, since a woman could decide to stop taking them or choose to switch prescriptions, they say.

"To me it's just a checkbook issue, plain and simple," Rep. Julie Parrish, a West Linn Republican, who opposed the measure.

Mary Nolan, interim executive director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon, however, said the benefits of the plan "are so

obvious once you point them out. People had been accustomed to going along with 30 days for so long that people hadn't really questioned it."

She said the proposal has drawn interest from lawmakers in California, New York and Washington state. A similar measure is pending in Washington, D.C., reproductive rights expert Elizabeth Nash said.

Insurance companies typically cover a 30- or 90-day supply of contraception, Nash said. But a year's supply "would reduce the potential for skipping pills or not having her patch or ring when she needs it," the Guttmacher Institute researcher said.

The plan would require women to first get a three-month supply to make sure there are no adverse reactions. Subsequent prescriptions could be filled for a year. It goes into effect Jan. 1.

Oregon's moves to expand access to contraception stand in contrast to efforts elsewhere.

Some more conservative states have focused on allowing pharmacists to opt out of dispensing contraception if they have religious objections. And a recently passed Missouri law would have required insurers to issue policies that don't cover birth control if individuals or employers said contraceptives violate their moral or religious beliefs. A federal judge, however, struck that down last year as unconstitutional.

Nolan said Oregon has traditionally been a champion for women's rights, citing a 1969 move to decriminalize abortion that came several years before Roe v. Wade.

"We have a long history," she said, "of really strong advocates for health care for women — and particularly around reproductive health care."

Bill to ban criminal record question on job forms advances

SALEM (AP) — The Oregon Senate has approved a bill making it illegal for employers to ask about criminal records on job applications.

The bill passed Thursday in a 21-8 vote.

The so-called "ban the box" measure would prohibit questions on job applications, but an employer could still ask about convictions during a job interview.

The bill's proponents say it's extremely difficult for people with a criminal record to find work because they're automatically excluded at an early stage. Supporters say waiting until an interview to ask about convictions would give people a chance to explain their conviction, their more

recent conduct and their qualifications.

Critics worry the measure will put businesses at risk of lawsuits.

The measure returns to the House, which must agree to changes made in the Senate.

Grand jury clears officer who shot man outside Portland home

PORTLAND (AP) — A grand jury has indicted a 48-year-old man shot by Portland police last month, and cleared the officer who fired her handgun.

Michael Harrison remained in the Multnomah County Jail on Thursday. He faces charges of burglary, unlawful use of a weapon and menacing.

Officers responded May 17 when a man reportedly upset over a pending divorce left a southeast

Portland home after cutting himself with a steak knife.

A short time later, a woman reported that a man with a knife and blood on his hands had broken into her house. She hid in the basement with her two young children.

Police say Officer Raelynn McKay fired her handgun after Harrison left the house and ran toward officers.

Harrison spent nearly a week in the hospital.

Judge jumps into courtroom scuffle; minor injuries

VANCOUVER, Wash. (AP) — Officials in Vancouver, Washington, say a judge who jumped into a courtroom scuffle suffered minor injuries.

The *Columbian* reports that Clark County Superior Court Judge Daniel Stahnke stepped into the

fray Thursday afternoon to help stop a defendant who reportedly was trying to assault a deputy prosecutor.

Superior Court Administrator Jeff Amram says he did not see the fight but later saw a bite mark on Stahnke's cheek and arm.

Deputy Prosecutor Colin Hayes says a jury had just convicted the 49-year-old defendant on child molestation charges. After the jury was excused, the sheriff's office says the man left the defense table and tried to strike the deputy prosecutor. The sheriff's office says a deputy sheriff on courthouse jury intervened, as did the judge.

A sheriff's statement says both the judge and the deputy suffered injuries that required medical attention but should be fine. The injuries were not described. The newspaper says the judge's judicial assistant described the injuries as minor.

BRIEFLY

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Plenty of sun	Plenty of sunshine	Pleasant with plenty of sunshine	Sunshine and patchy clouds	Partly sunny and very warm

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
82° 44° 79° 48° 83° 50° 86° 55° 89° 55°

HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST
85° 47° 82° 48° 85° 52° 91° 55° 90° 54°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	88°	54°
Normals	77°	51°
Records	103° (1934)	31° (1904)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date 0.05"
Normal month to date 0.59"
Year to date 4.99"
Last year to date 6.47"
Normal year to date 7.10"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	92°	65°
Normals	78°	52°
Records	104° (1934)	40° (1973)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.00"
Month to date Trace
Normal month to date 0.27"
Year to date 3.14"
Last year to date 3.77"
Normal year to date 5.38"

SUN AND MOON

	New	First	Full	Last
	June 16	June 24	July 1	July 8

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Windy today; plenty of sunshine, but clouds giving way to sun across the north.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Plenty of sunshine today. Very warm in the south; pleasant in central parts.

Western Washington: Clouds yielding to sun today. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern Washington: Mostly sunny today. Clear to partly cloudy tonight.

Cascades: Nice today with plenty of sunshine. Clear tonight. Plenty of sunshine tomorrow.

Northern California: Windy at the coast in the morning; hot in central parts today. Clear tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	63	50	pc	63	49	pc
Baker City	77	38	s	75	37	s
Bend	77	38	s	76	39	s
Brookings	72	51	s	68	51	s
Burns	82	39	s	80	40	s
Enterprise	75	39	s	71	38	s
Eugene	78	43	s	79	45	s
Heppner	80	41	s	76	43	s
Hermiston	85	47	s	82	48	s
John Day	78	41	s	74	44	s
Klamath Falls	85	45	s	83	45	s
La Grande	78	40	s	74	40	s
Meacham	71	34	s	68	34	s
Medford	89	51	s	87	52	s
Newport	58	45	s	57	45	pc
North Bend	60	48	s	62	48	s
Ontario	88	51	s	84	50	s
Pasco	86	46	s	82	48	s
Pendleton	82	44	s	79	48	s
Portland	73	50	pc	77	51	s
Redmond	79	37	s	78	38	s
Salem	77	47	s	79	49	s
Spokane	75	45	s	74	49	pc
Ukiah	75	36	s	72	35	s
Vancouver	72	49	pc	76	49	s
Walla Walla	84	52	s	80	56	s
Yakima	85	48	s	84	51	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	83	65	pc	84	65	pc
Hong Kong	90	83	c	91	83	t
Jerusalem	83	57	s	83	57	s
London	78	58	t	70	54	pc
Mexico City	80	58	t	78	59	t
Moscow	67	52	pc	77	60	pc
Paris	77	59	t	77	57	s
Rome	83	65	pc	86	68	pc
Seoul	83	65	pc	83	64	pc
Sydney	65	51	pc	65	51	pc
Tokyo	77	69	r	78	68	c

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Saturday
Boardman	WS 8-16	WSW 3-6
Pendleton	W 8-16	WNW 4-8

UV INDEX TODAY

2 5 7 7 5 2

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low; 3-5, Moderate; 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

SHOWERS t-storms rain flurries snow
FRONTS cold front warm front stationary front
SYMBOLS H L

National Summary: Despite spotty, locally drenching storms, the area from the South to the mid-Atlantic will be hot and humid today. Rain and gusty storms will drench areas from the southern Rockies to the Great Lakes.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 104° in Presidio, Texas
Low 36° in Lake Yellowstone, Wyo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Sat.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Albuquerque	82	62	pc	84	61	t
Atlanta	85	70	t	90	73	pc
Atlanta City	87	72	pc	87	69	t
Baltimore	91	73	pc	90	67	t
Billings	84	53	s	75	52	pc
Birmingham	85	70	t	90	72	pc
Boise	85	52	s	83	53	s
Boston	86	65	pc	78	61	t
Charleston, SC	91	74	t	94	74	pc
Charleston, WV	88	68	pc	83	67	t
Chicago	69	53	t	71	61	c
Cleveland	87	62	t	72	61	t
Dallas	91	72	pc	87	70	t
Denver	69	52	t	79	55	t
Detroit	83	60	t	74	62	pc
El Paso	98	70	s	99	68	s
Fairbanks	61	43	pc	69	48	s
Fargo	82	61	s	82	61	s
Honolulu	85	72	s	87	72	s
Houston	89	75	t	84	74	t
Indianapolis	86	68	t	85	70	t
Jacksonville	91	70	pc	94	70	pc
Kansas City	72	65	t	79	68	t
Las Vegas	97	79	pc	99	80	pc
Little Rock	91	73	t	88	74	t
Los Angeles	76	63	pc	77	63	pc
Louisville	88	73	t	86	71	t
Memphis	90	74	t	90	74	t
Miami	90	79	pc	89	79	pc
Milwaukee	64	50	sh	64	55	pc
Minneapolis	79	59	pc	74	63	pc
Nashville	86	71	t	87	70	pc
New Orleans	84	76	t	84	76	t
New York City	86	71	pc	88	67	t
Oklahoma City	88	70	t	82	69	t
Omaha	73	62	pc	76	66	t
Philadelphia	94	75	pc	90	69	t
Phoenix	103	80	s	104	81	s
Portland, ME	80	59	pc	80	57	s
Providence	85	67	pc	83	59	t
Raleigh	90	73	pc	93	73	pc
Rapid City	78	56	s	78	55	pc
Reno	92	61	s	94	59	s
Sacramento	101	63	s	95	59	s
St. Louis	88	72	t	86	74	t
Salt Lake City	86	59	pc	85	61	s
San Diego	70	64	pc	72		