

This *Responses to Comments* report presents comments received during the comment period on the Draft EIS for the Westway Expansion Project and the responses to those comments.

Chapter 1 describes the Draft EIS comment period and noticing, the availability of the Draft EIS, and the public hearings for the Draft EIS. Chapter 1 also describes how comments were received, the type and number of comments received, and the process for reviewing and responding to comments.

## 1.1 Draft EIS Comment Period

The Draft EIS was released on August 31, 2015. Comments were accepted on the Draft EIS from August 31, 2015, to November 30, 2015. This included an initial 60-day comment period and a subsequent 30-day extension. Notice of availability of the Draft EIS and notification of public hearings, comment period, and comment period extension were advertised as follows.

- Legal notices for the release of the Draft EIS, comment period, and public hearing were published in the *Washington State Register* (201504472 and 201504475) on August 31, 2015.
- Email notices were sent to the individuals, tribes, agencies, and organizations listed in Draft EIS Chapter 8, *Distribution List*, and repeated below under Section 1.2, *Availability of the Draft EIS*.
- A Notice of Availability was published on August 27, 2015, in the Montesano *The Vidette*.
- A news release was issued on August 31, 2015.
- Notice of the public hearings and comment period was published in the following papers: Centralia *The Chronicle* and Aberdeen *The Daily World* on September 26 and October 3; Montesano *The Vidette* on September 24 and October 1.
- Notice of the 30-day extension of the comment period was published in *The Vidette* on October 22, 2015. In addition, notice was provided on October 19, 2015 via the project LISTSERV, SEPA Register, stakeholder emails, and the Washington State Department of Ecology website.

## 1.2 Availability of the Draft EIS

The Draft EIS was available in electronic format on the Washington State Department of Ecology website at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/geographic/graysharbor/terminals.html>.

Printed copies of the Draft EIS available for public review at the following locations.

- Aberdeen Timberland Regional Library
- Hoquiam Timberland Regional Library
- Centralia Timberland Regional Library
- Olympia Timberland Regional Library

- Lacey Timberland Regional Library
- McCleary Timberland Library
- Ocean Shores Public Library
- Washington State Department of Ecology Offices in Lacey
- Hoquiam City Hall, Hoquiam

Notice of the Draft EIS with a link to the document was sent to the following agencies and organizations:

19th District—Representatives	Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission
19th District—Senator	Columbia Riverkeeper
24th District—Representatives	Cosmopolis
24th District—Senator	Ecology SEPA Register
32nd District—Representative	Elma, City Council
36th District—Representatives	Forest Ethics
36th District—Senator	Friends of Grays Harbor
38th District—Senator	Friends of San Juans
46th District—Representatives	Friends of the Columbia Gorge
Aberdeen, City Council	Grays Harbor Audubon
Aberdeen, Community Development Department	Grays Harbor Chamber of Commerce
Anacortes, City Council	Grays Harbor Council of Governments
Association of Washington Businesses	Grays Harbor County Division of Emergency Management <i>and</i> Grays Harbor Local Emergency Planning Committee
Bellingham, City Council	Grays Harbor County, Planning Division
Capitol Land Trust	Grays Harbor Economic Development Council
Centralia Stream Team	Grays Harbor Marine Resources Committee
Centralia, City Manager	Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge
Chehalis Basin Partnership	Grays Harbor, Office of County Commissioners
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation	Greater Grays Harbor, Inc.
Chehalis Land Trust	Hood River, City Council
Chehalis River Council	Hoquiam, City Council
Chehalis, Community Development Department	Hoquiam Development Association
Citizens for a Clean Harbor	Imperium Terminal Services
Clark County, Fire and Rescue	Jefferson County, Board of Commissioners
Climate Solutions	
Coalition of Coastal Fisheries	
Coeur d’Alene Tribe	
Coastal Dungeness Crab Advisory Board	
Columbia River Gorge Commission	

Lewis County Emergency Management,  
Local Emergency Planning Committee  
McCleary, City of  
Montesano, City Council  
Montesano, Community Development  
Department  
National Park Service  
Nature Conservancy  
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service  
North Pacific Coast Marine Resources  
Committee  
Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission  
Oakville, City Hall  
Ocean Shores, City Council  
Ocean Shores, Planning Department  
Olympia, City Council  
Olympia, Port Commission  
Olympic Coast National Marine  
Sanctuary  
Olympic Region Clean Air Agency  
(ORCAA)  
Port of Grays Harbor  
Quinalt Indian Nation  
RE Sources for Sustainable  
Communities  
Ridgefield, City of  
Safe Energy Leadership Alliance  
Seattle, City Council  
Shoalwater Bay Tribe  
Sierra Club  
Spokane Lands Council  
Spokane Riverkeeper  
Spokane Tribe

Spokane, City Council  
Surfrider Association  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River  
Vancouver, City Council  
Vancouver, City Manager  
Washington Coastal Marine Advisory  
Council  
Washington Department of Archaeology  
and Historic Preservation (DAHP)  
Washington Department of Fish and  
Wildlife (WDFW)  
Washington Department of Natural  
Resources (DNR)  
Washington Emergency Management  
Division (WEMD)  
Washington Energy Facility Site  
Evaluation Council (EFSEC)  
Washington Environmental Council  
Washington Public Ports Association  
Washington State Council of  
Firefighters  
Washington State Department of  
Transportation (WSDOT)  
Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission (UTC)  
Washougal, City of  
Westport, City of  
Westway Terminal Company LLC  
Willapa Grays Harbor Oyster Growers  
Association  
Yakama Nation

## 1.3 Public Hearings

Two public hearings were held during the comment period.

- October 1, 2015 (1 to 4.30 p.m. and 5:30 to 9 p.m.), at Satsop Business Park in Elma.
- October 8, 2015 (1 to 4.30 p.m. and 5:30 to 9 p.m.), at D&R Theatre in Aberdeen.

The hearings included an open house with informational materials (fact sheets and display boards). Representatives from the Washington State Department of Ecology and consultant staff were

available to answer questions. Open public testimony opportunities were provided from during two sessions: the first from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the second from 5:30 p.m. until the last speaker had commented. A brief presentation provided a description of the proposed action prior to the start of each of the two public testimony sessions. Comment forms were available in the open house at tables where commenters could write in comments and drop into comment boxes. Two court reporters were also available in private areas to record public testimony.

Table 1-1 shows the estimated number of individuals in attendance and the number of comments received at the public hearings.

**Table 1-1. Estimated Number of Attendees and Comments Received at Public Hearings**

	<b>Elma Hearing (October 1)</b>	<b>Aberdeen Hearing (October 8)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Attendees	120	399	519
Comments received <sup>a</sup>	147	990	1137

<sup>a</sup> Includes oral testimonies, written statements, and form letters/cards.

## 1.4 Comments on the Draft EIS

Comments on the Draft EIS were accepted during the comment period through the following methods.

- Oral testimony at the public hearings.
- Written statements submitted at public hearings, by mail, or by email to Ecology.
- Statements entered into or uploaded to the online comment form.

### 1.4.1 Comment Submittals Received by Method

Table 1-2 presents the number of submissions received by the method submitted.

**Table 1-2. Submission by Method**

<b>Method</b>	<b>Number of Submissions</b>
Online comment form	633
Mail and email	96
Public hearing—in writing	93
Public hearing—oral testimony	271
Form letters	96,475
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,568<sup>a</sup></b>

<sup>a</sup> Total reflects some duplication not included in the number of submissions presented in Table 1-3, including statements read aloud during oral testimony that were also submitted in writing and form letters that were submitted by multiple methods.

## 1.4.2 Comment Submittals Received by Commenter Type

Table 1-3 presents the number of submissions received by commenter type.

**Table 1-3. Submissions by Commenter Type**

<b>Commenter Type</b>	<b>Number of Submissions</b>
Federal agencies	5
State agencies	7
Local agencies	11
Organizations	71
Tribes	9
General public	902
Form letters	96,475
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,480</b>

## 1.5 Review of and Responses to Comments

All submitted materials were reviewed and considered in the development of this Final EIS. During this review, issues or questions raised by many commenters were identified. These common themes and responses to these themes (master responses) are presented in Chapter 2, *Common Themes and Master Responses*. Unique comments are identified, organized by commenting entity, and responded to in Chapter 3, *Agencies*, Chapter 4, *Tribes*, Chapter 5, *Organizations*, Chapter 6, *General Public*.

Chapter 7, *Form Letters*, presents form letter comments and response to those comments, including individual comments that were submitted on form letters and responses to those comments.

Responses to individual comments rely on the master responses when appropriate.

Additional materials (e.g., studies, reports, news clippings, related communications) presented in support of unique comments are listed in Chapter 8, *Attachments*.