ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS KEEP THE PORT SHIP SHAPE

The Columbia River is the Port of Longview’s lifeline and the responsibility of managing our relationship with it rests with our environmental team. These folks manage everything from the air around the Port, to the water produced from cargo operations, all while making sure the Port adheres to a host of related, state-mandated permits.

When moving bulk cargoes, it’s important to capture particulates and prevent them from leaving the Port through the air or water. The Port does this by using powerful dust collection systems made up of enclosed conveyors, transition points and filters. As bulk cargoes move through the system, the air around them moves through giant filters called baghouses. Baghouses work like giant vacuum cleaners, trapping up to 99% of dust from the cargo operation.

Just like the air, water at the Port is also carefully monitored. Rainwater making contact with our paved surfaces (stormwater) is treated in eight different locations on site, while water run-off from cargo operations (wastewater) is collected and sent to on-site treatment facilities. Once debris is removed, the clarified water is sent for further processing at the city’s water treatment facility.

Many operations at the Port are regulated by the Washington State Department of Ecology, which issues permits outlining how cargo is handled at our facility. Our environmental team expertly navigates through these complex permits, ensuring cargo operations run successfully and without interruption.

With a top-notch team of environmental professionals leading the way, the Port of Longview is committed to stewardship of our shared environment and preserving our quality of place.

Q&A SEAN KELLY

BACKGROUND: Sean Kelly began his journey with the Port of Longview in 2010 as our Environmental Technician and was promoted three years later to the position of Environmental Field Manager. Sean’s demonstrated understanding of environmental systems and permitting requirements make him a valuable member of the team.

Q: What are some of the day-to-day things the Port does to stay compliant with its environmental permits?
A: “Air, stormwater and wastewater are all constantly monitored, using a variety of systems, to ensure minimal impact to our environment. We also do a lot of vacuum sweeping of our roads and routinely clean out stormwater catch basins and pipes in areas of cargo operations.”

Q: How does the environmental department contribute to the Port’s overall success?
A: “We implement and operate environmental systems necessary for efficient cargo handling. For example, we are currently improving dock areas that will allow us to contain and treat more cargo-related water (wastewater) than ever before. When the upgrades are complete, the docks will become more versatile and able to handle a mix of cargoes that weren’t possible before. This flexibility is important to our customers and to the Port’s continued success.”

TOP ECO-FRIENDLY PRACTICES OF THE PORT OF LONGVIEW

- WETLAND PRESERVATION: With an eye on enhancing Willow Grove’s wetlands, the Port recently planted dozens of shade-producing willow trees to help suppress the growth of damaging non-native plant species.

- CARGO HANDLING: Environmental practices are implemented at the beginning of all cargo operations and continue through the clean-up once the operation is complete. This practice keeps the Port compliant with permits and contributes to a cleaner environment.

- RESPONSE KITS + TRAINING: Port crews can be on site, upland or in water, within minutes to contain spills, assess the situation and notify the Environmental Services Department.

EARTH DAY, EVERY DAY: A FEW MORE WAYS THE PORT STAYS GREEN ALL YEAR

- RECYCLING: A variety of items are recycled on a daily basis at the Port: office paper, plastics and aluminum all find their way to multiple recycling bins.

- DUST COLLECTION: The Port recently purchased two new baghouses to assist in the removal of dust and other particulates from bulk cargo operations.

- NO IDLING: The Port implemented a new policy in 2015 to reduce emissions from its vehicles, resulting in lower maintenance costs and cleaner air.

COMMISSION MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am and are open to the public. Meeting times are subject to change.

For more information, visit portoflongview.com