

Greater New Orleaa

Rally set against proposed Plaquemines coal terminal



[<http://connect.nola.com/user/bbloch/index.html>] By Benjamin Alexander-Bloch, NOLA.com | The Times-Picayune
[<http://connect.nola.com/user/bbloch/posts.html>]

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Plaquemines [<http://www.nola.com/plaquemines/>] and **Jefferson Parish** [<http://topics.nola.com/tag/jefferson/posts.html>] residents are being called by environmental activists to a "Coast Not Coal" event and protest march Saturday (July 18) to rally and prepare for its next fight against a proposed coal export terminal in Plaquemines.

A judge's ruling

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2014/12/plaquemines_judge_rules_coal_e.html] in December invalidated a Louisiana Department of Natural Resources permit for the controversial RAM Terminals LLC coal export facility. The state Office of Coastal Management **requested more information in March**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/03/plaquemines_coal_terminal_prop.html] from RAM Terminals LLC before reconsidering the permit.

In May, Lanier & Associates Engineers of Baton Rouge, on behalf of RAM, **filed a report**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/06/coal_export_plant_proposal_for.html] with coastal management officials, examining alternative sites and suggesting why they wouldn't work.

RAM's initial proposal called for building a plant that would process 6 million tons of coal annually on 600 acres on the **Mississippi River** [<http://topics.nola.com/tag/mississippi-river/index.html>] near Myrtle Grove, north of Ironton. Barges and railcars would transport coal from Illinois Basin to southern Plaquemines for mixing and storage before being shipped to Europe and Asia.

Gretna officials had called for rerouting such train traffic following **residents' health concerns and fears**

[http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2014/08/residents_to_ask_gretna_city_c.html] about a decrease in their property values from uncovered coal cars rumbling through the West Bank.

The Jefferson Parish Council in February **also asked**

[http://www.nola.com/environment/index.ssf/2015/02/jefferson_parish_council_calls.html] the Department of Natural Resources to hold public hearings to educate the public on potential environmental impacts.

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Grace Morris, senior organizer at the [Gulf Restoration Network \[http://www.healthygulf.org/\]](http://www.healthygulf.org/), said the Department of Natural Resources has committed to hold a public hearing before the agency moves forward on a permit decision.

"As we reconnect and refocus our efforts this Saturday, we'll prepare to re-engage our friends, neighbors and allies to stop the RAM coal export terminal once and for all," Morris said in a statement announcing the Saturday event.

It is scheduled for 10 a.m. at the Saint Paul Baptist Church, [133 Bradish St., Port Sulphur \[https://www.google.com/maps/place/St+Pauls+Baptist+Church/@29.6494022,-89.9614883,17.02z/data=!4m2!3m1!1sox000000hl=en-US\]](https://www.google.com/maps/place/St+Pauls+Baptist+Church/@29.6494022,-89.9614883,17.02z/data=!4m2!3m1!1sox000000hl=en-US).

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