



January 17, 2013

Combined NEPA/SEPA Review Teams  
Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur  
RE: Scoping Comment Impact

Dear NEPA/SEPA Reviewers,

It is our understanding that the Pacific International Terminals' proposed Gateway Pacific marine terminal at Cherry Point Whatcom County would provide storage and handling for the export and import of up to 54 million metric tons per year of commodities, primarily coal from the Powder River Basin of Wyoming and Montana. This would mean that 9 full northbound long trains or 18 train trips a day with possibly 1.5 mile long trains would run through the tunnel adjacent to Seattle's Chinatown International District (CID) and that the number of trains would increase as business expands.

Our agencies, the Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS) and the International Community Health Services (ICHS) provide health care to a residents of the CID, which include families with children and a high concentration of elderly people. The mission of ACRS is to promote social justice and the wellbeing and empowerment of Asian Pacific American individuals, families and communities - including immigrants, refugees and native born by developing, providing and advocating for innovative community-based multilingual and multicultural behavioral health and human services. ACRS serves 27,000 people annually. The mission of ICHS is to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate health services to improve the health of Asian Pacific Islanders and the broader community. Annually, ICHS serves about 20,000 unduplicated patients for approximately 150,000 visits.

We are appalled at the likely adverse effects of this proposal. Running 18 plus coal trains a day would exacerbate the air quality of the CID, which has the poorest air quality in the City of Seattle. It is likely to lead to significant public health impacts on our vulnerable youth and elderly populations at the CID and its visitors. They are likely to suffer respiratory health impacts from diesel particulate matter associated with increased train traffic/coal dust, the health effects associated with mercury and other heavy metal pollution from open-pit coal trains, and acid rain degradation of their living conditions in low income senior housing located in rehabilitated historic buildings.

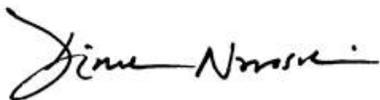
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We ask that the NEPA/SEPA Review:

- Include health and environmental justice impact assessment for CID vulnerable youth and elderly populations and other patients of the CID ICHS Clinic seeking health care, and
- Share information with our agencies on said assessments.

We value the mission and services of your respective agencies to uphold the common good and keep our communities safe and healthy. We look forward to the inclusion of our concerns in the NEPA/SEPA review process and hearing from you on the assessment effort. Thank you.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Rep. Jim McDermott  
David Fleming, MD, King County Public Health Director and Health Officer  
Ngozi Oleru, Co-Chair King Co. Social Justice Equity Proj/Dir DPH Environment Div.