



January 17, 2013

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

Dear NEPA/SEPA Reviewers,

We at the Community Coalition for Environmental Justice (CCEJ), GotGreen, and the Wilderness Inner-city Leadership Development (WILD) Program strongly request that the NEPA/SEPA EIS for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal include an environmental justice and adverse health impact assessments in its environmental impact statement for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur coal to China project.

Our respective missions call for environmental justice advocacy. The mission of CCEJ is to "achieve environmental and economic justice in low income communities of color". Got Green's mission includes "ensuring that the voices of low income communities and communities of color are included on issues related to the green economy". WILD's mission is to provide opportunities for students to lead Chinatown International District (CID) neighborhood projects related to environmental justice, empowering action through environmental education and intergenerational learning.

Specifically, 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 trains 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.

This proposal presents serious environmental justice problems for the CID with lasting effects. Running 18 plus coal trains a day would exacerbate the air quality of the CID, which already has the poorest air quality in the City of Seattle. It is likely to lead to significant public health impacts on the vulnerable youth, elderly, immigrants and the

poor living at the CID as well as the numerous visitors who come to the CID to shop, eat and play. 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. The likely ravages to the CID will also discourage visitors from coming to the CID and kill the businesses, shops and restaurants present in the historic community.

We ask that the NEPA/SEPA Review:

- Include an environmental justice assessment and a health impact assessment on the CID neighborhood where vulnerable elderly, poor and immigrant populations live, work and visit, and
- Engage our organizations as partners in this endeavor.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input into the EIS review scope. We look forward to the inclusion of our concerns in the NEPA/SEPA review process and partnering with you on the assessment effort. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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