



Combined NEPA/SEPA

Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur

Comment form

Please submit your comments on the Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur Environmental Impact Statement by January 21, 2013 to be included in the scoping summary report. Comments can also be submitted online at www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov.

What part of the proposal does your comment relate to?

- Vessel
- Rail
- Industrial site
- Multiple/not listed

Does your comment relate to any of the following topic areas? Comments can relate to any topic. If your comment relates to any of the topics below, please check the appropriate box. (check all that apply)

Human environment

- Noise
- Air quality
- Human health
- Traffic or safety
- Other human environment topic

Natural environment

- Wildlife or vegetation
- Marine species, fish or fisheries
- Wetlands or streams
- Water quality
- Other natural environment topic

EIS Process

- Alternatives
- Areas of potential effect
- EIS regulatory process
- Other EIS process topic (1)

Please share your comments below: (comments can also be attached to this form)

① PLEASE FACTOR IN YOUR EIS THE IMPACT THIS WILL HAVE ON OUR ~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ EIS YEARS 2017 WHEN BNSF PLANS TO SEND 55 COAL FILLED TRAINS THROUGH WA AND YEAR 2022 WHEN THAT NUMBER WILL INCREASE AGAIN TO 105 COAL FILLED TRAINS. PLEASE TELL US HOW MANY ^{MORE} TRAINS BNSF CAN REALLY ~~BARE~~ BARE. ALSO, SHOULD THIS AUDACIOUS PLAN BE APPROVED PLEASE ENSURE WE THE PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED FROM COAL DUST, AND THERE IS A COMPREHENSIVE

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Would you like to be added to the mailing list? Yes No I THINK I AM NOT

Note: Any information provided to the agencies will be posted on the website and may be released to a third party as part of the agencies' record for this action. This includes the release of identifiable personal information such as personal name, address, phone number, etc., that is provided in the response.

PLAN THAT WILL CONTINUE TO
MANAGE SUBSTANTIVE COAL DUST
AND ^{OUR} ENVIRONMENT (WATERS,
FISH, ORCA, MARSH AND ANYTHING
THAT WILL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED
BY THIS COAL TRAIN!



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**Environmental Impact Statement
Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur**

Place
Stamp
Here

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
c/o CH2MHILL
1100 112th Avenue NE, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004

There are many important environmental impacting reasons to oppose Burlington Northern Santa Fe's plan to transport coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin, through Washington State for export to China and Asia. The following reasons affect both environmentalists as well as non-believers equally.

Imagine eighteen additional freight trains a day, each a mile and a half long, shaking everything within a mile of the tracks, as they thunder through our towns and cities.

→ To be exact, eighteen trains comprise of nine coal carrying trains and nine empty trains.

It is estimated that nine additional coal carrying trains and nine empty returning trains will add 2 hours each day, (that's 6.5 minutes per train), to existing traffic delays at all affected rail way crossings. Each train, more than one and a half miles long, carrying 125-150 cars full of coal, will be so heavy that each train will require three to five diesel emitting engines to pull the load.

Now imagine 500lbs of filthy fugitive coal dust from each of 125 cars, pulled by 3-5 diesel emitting engines nine times a day, strewn all over our state from all points between Spokane, Yakima, Seattle, Bellingham. This accumulates roughly 20.5 million ~~lbs~~ ^{LB} of fugitive coal over a one year period.

We won't have too much time to adjust our lives to this disruption because BNSF plans to increase their daily coal haul to 55 trains per day by 2017 and then again to 105 coal trains a day by 2022.

Much less has been written about the health effects of coal dust during transport outside of the coal mines. It is the same coal dust that contains varying amounts of metal, including lead, mercury, chromium and uranium as well as a fine particulate matter causing many respiratory disorders.

Coals' grimy particles, accumulate and leach into buildings and homes through poorly sealed windows and doors. Coal is water hating making it very difficult to clean off of anything including boats, swing sets, windows and window sills.

PRB coal is known for it's friable nature which means it begins to degrade as soon as it is removed from the mine causing it to dry out and create dust. There are various chemical technologies designed to suppress the flying dust, bearing additional costs accrued by the shipper and therefore, most coal is not suppressed.

On December 3, 2012 the Canadian Pacific Rail Road (CP) announced their intention to cancel their plans to add 260 miles of track to serve the Powder River Basin coal mines. They said that overall weaker demand for coal in the US along with low natural gas prices, warmer winters and emerging GHG regulations will continue to erode the demand for coal by US power companies and consumers. Let's encourage BNSF to change their plans as well.