

January 21, 2013

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Comment on the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT)

Today is a national holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Today is inauguration day and the first time in American history a man of color is sworn in as the President of the United States of America. A truly great day honoring the ability of this country to change as change is needed.

Today the President said, *"We will respond to the threat of climate change."*

Today also brings the close of the EIS scoping public comment period for the Gateway Pacific Terminal.

Per the GPT March 2012 Permit Application - Purpose and Need

"Since operation of these large, oceangoing vessels is the most costly part of transporting bulk commodities, the time that each vessel spends at dock must be kept to a minimum. To achieve this operating efficiency, the Terminal must have sufficient land area, rail capacity, and ancillary infrastructure to marshal large quantities of bulk cargo quickly to or from a vessel."

Please include the following study topics in the Gateway Pacific Terminal Environmental Impact Statement.

Rail Lines

How much rail capacity is available on the current line between Seattle and Bellingham, Washington?

How much more rail capacity would be needed to move the proposed 48 million tons of coal annually based on 8,500 feet long unit trains?

How is the cost to build the increased rail capacity to move 48 million tons of coal paid for?

Does the Gateway Pacific Terminal have "access to rail of sufficient length, configuration, and capacity to support" transporting the proposed 48 million tons of coal annually? (GPT purpose and Need, March 2012 Permit Application)

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Economic – The current rail lines often follow coast lines.

What is the best use of land that is comprised of parks, residential neighborhoods, businesses, cities, and farmlands along the coastline between metropolitan Seattle, Washington, USA and metropolitan Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada?

What are best practices for Cargo train rail lines?

What are best practices for Passenger train rail lines?

What are the areas of population within 10 miles of the current rail lines between Seattle, Washington, USA and Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada?

What is the projected long-term (over 1 year) population growth in each area to transport the proposed 48 million tons of coal annually?

Shipping

What are the size and number of ships to move the proposed 48 million tons of coal annually along coastlines and across oceans?

What are the safety and mitigation measures to move the proposed 48 million tons of coal annually along coastlines and in oceans?

How does the Gateway Pacific Terminal respond to the threat of climate change?

What is the increase in ocean acidification to move 48 million tons of coal annually along coastlines and across oceans and the burning of 48 million tons of coal in China?

I request that the Environmental Impact Statement encompass the entire transportation corridor.

Thank you,
Cathy Cameron