



For our children, our community, our world, our future
CHENEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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January 18, 2013

GPT/Custer Spur EIS
c/o CH2M HILL
1100 112th Ave. NE, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004

Re: Scoping Comments

To Whom It May Concern:

As superintendent of Cheney Public Schools, I am writing to express the district's request that our school district, as well as the City of Cheney and the West Plains area, be included in the scoping process to determine any potential negative impacts of increased coal train traffic that would result from the "Gateway Pacific Terminal-Coal-Exports."

It would be important to us that an Environmental Impact Statement be granted to look at the environmental impacts to the whole coal-exports area, and not just the Bellingham area. Several of our public schools are located in the City of Cheney, in the immediate vicinity of the railway which would be utilized to transport the coal.

Our buses transport students throughout the school district, consisting of approximately 360 square miles, on a daily basis and cross the railway tracks often as they transverse the area. A large number of our students have severe allergies/asthma issues which could be significantly increased by exposure to coal dust.

I would like to encourage you to examine the impact on children's health that could be caused by air pollution, as well as the possible negative economic impacts. For example, we know that increased rail traffic will result in traffic delays, and potentially the need to make changes to roads to ease congestion. We could also see delays that result in additional cost to the school district if a large number of trains result in regular delays for busses traveling to pick up students on rural routes in our district.

I sincerely hope that you will give careful consideration to our request.

Respectfully,

Debra J. Clemens, Ph.D.
Superintendent