

Mr. Randel Perry
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
C/ O GPT/ BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

Subject: EIS Scoping Comments

Dear Mr. Perry,

Good day. I write from Missoula, Montana, as a representative of Ward One to the Missoula City Council. Ward One encompasses northeast Missoula, an area of the city bisected by an interstate rail line that among other things, currently moves a number of coal trains each day, and a rail yard where these trains are stored and serviced.

As a city councilman, I deal mostly with concerns people have about their safety, health and quality of life. The rail line and yard are a source of some consternation already. Despite their operators' attempts to be good neighbors, trains cause noise and air pollution as well as traffic congestion that generate regular complaints.

Now, I understand that there are a number of coastal terminals proposed that would take coal from the trains coming through town and put it on barges to China. It's hard for me to believe that my job is going to get any easier because of that traffic. In fact, I figure it's likely the noise, air pollution and traffic congestion will get worse.

Further, I am somewhat familiar with Environmental Impact Statements, having endured a decade-long process to reach a Record of Decision for a road and bridge project on Missoula's Russell Street. In the course of that course at the School of Hard Knocks, I learned about how exhaustingly impacts have to be identified and mitigated to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal in Cherry Point, Washington, is likely to have considerable impacts on Missoula due to the increased train traffic. It is imperative these impacts, albeit indirect, be identified and mitigated now, at the outset of the project, in order that the costs of shipping coal to Cherry Point are not incurred by Missoulians and others along the route.

While those local indirect impacts are my main concern, I'd be negligent to ignore a serious cumulative impact of the project you are evaluating: the impact on the atmosphere climate. Coal is a serious threat to air quality because of the pollutants emitted and a substantial contributor to the higher levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide altering the climate. Any EIS that doesn't consider the eventual effects of the coal-burning this project seeks to facilitate doesn't seem to me to be worth the cost of the substantial paper that'll be generated in its creation.

Please do your best to ensure that, should this new export terminal be permitted, the costs from it are not imposed on those who do not stand to profit from it.

Regards,



Alderman Jason Wiener
Missoula City Council, Ward One