

To: GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

RE: EIS Scoping

We are residents and property owners in Whatcom County. We hear the noise and use the streets affected by the BNSF rail line on an almost daily basis. One of us is asthmatic. We conduct our personal business using roads from Seattle to Vancouver, BC but mostly in Bellingham. One impact we want included in scoping is:

**Social & Economic Impact on Citizens**

Investigate the loss of property values. If potential buyers of property see impacts as being deleterious to property, they will reduce offer price or locate elsewhere. Citizens don't want to lose property values due to coal train and terminal impacts. Most citizens don't want to live and work near noisy, vibrating, dirty trains and terminals.

Investigate loss of property and values to eminent domain for this project.

Investigate loss of use of parks, effect of traffic and pollution, division of communities near tracks.

Investigate the impaired development of high speed rail due to resources used by this project.

Investigate the loss of tourism industry because out-of-towners won't think this is a nice place to visit.

Investigate the non-reimbursed direct and indirect government taxpayer expenses due to this project.

Investigate the cost of each bridge to mitigate crossing problems and the law requirements for expense coverage by interested parties.

Sincerely,



Donna J. Mason  
3686 South Bay Drive, Lake Whatcom, Whatcom County  
Mail: Sedro-Woolley P.O., WA 98284



Paul L. Rosetter

Date: 10/26/12

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**Groundwater Contamination and Runoff**

Coal mines and coal dust suppression techniques at coal terminals cause contamination of groundwater.

What can control, what is the record of effectiveness, and what mitigations will work?

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**Mine Health & Safety**

How much more coal will be mined because of this project?

What is the increase in hazardous activity which will result in illness, injury and death?

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**Structural Damage to Infrastructure**

Investigate vibration causing accumulated damage to nearby buildings, roads, sewers. Vibration has the potential to trigger landslides and land subsistence, especially during our wet seasons.

What mitigations are possible or the project should not occur.

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**Road congestion**

Physics lesson: Two objects of matter cannot occupy the same space at the same time.

With coal trains using available rail lines, fewer freight trains can move. More traffic will be diverted to trucks on roads, more people will drive instead of taking train transportation. This will increase road congestion.

Investigate impact on road infrastructure, increased traffic, increased highway maintenance costs near coal train routes.

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### **Marine Transportation of Coal**

Indicate the types and effects of marine shipping collisions: commercial, large, small, pleasure and recreational boats. Project collision probabilities based upon comparable, appropriate historical records.

Discuss worst-case scenario: sinking which exposes 100% of cargo exposed to water. Discuss in terms of occurrence in inland waterways, Puget Sound, Salish Seas projected routes. Provide a pollution distribution map to show effects on sea life. Also, discuss effects of less than worst-case scenarios.

Discuss effects in terms of ocean currents, temperature, near land or not near land in the Salish Sea, Puget Sound and inland waters.

Discuss full set of effects on fish and fishing industry such as salmon and herring.

Discuss effect on shipping lane congestion, especially narrow passageways such as near Cherry Point. Discuss the effect of adding 400 more large ships per year to this area.

Discuss effects on recreational boating in Salish Sea/Puget Sound regarding safety, loss of pleasure boating opportunities in coal ship waterways, effect on the marine trades for the reduction in pleasure boat maintenance and services.

Discuss the effect of air pollution from burning bunker fuel. The EIS should quantify with Air Pollution Control Agency. Also include regional and global quantities of greenhouse gases, toxic air pollutants, acid rain pollutants, and particulate matter.

Ships will increase invasive marine animal pollution from foreign waters to Puget Sound/Salish Sea which will imperil our native species. Quantify impacts of animals released in ballast water and from animals released from outside hulls.

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