

Coal Train Concerns

The companies that are pushing for coal trains running through the State of Washington to the proposed Cherry Point will only be making a fortune and will never have to live with the turmoil they create. I am not totally familiar with our railway laws in this state other than I have heard that the transportation of fossil fuel is against the law here but yet coal trains have been running through our state for several years. Someone has been turning their heads the other way if this is true. Now they want to run 60 more trains per day through Spokane, heading south running near the Columbia River and Puget Sound.

My concerns that need to be addressed are:

- Traffic
 - a. Severe traffic delays causing gridlock at several main intersections
 - b. Traffic delays regarding medical response due to emergencies
 - c. Traffic delays regarding fire trucks response
 - d. Disruption of traffic for local commerce, freight, etc

- Costs to Local Taxpayers
 - a. Local taxes would pay for overpasses/underpasses to assist with traffic gridlock, this could run into billions of dollars as BNSF would not be responsible
 - b. Property values decline near railroads
 - c. Noise control and seismic effects on our delicate bluffs-will our areas survive the tremors and possible landslides caused by many additional heavy trains?

- Health Concerns
 - a. Air Quality-coal dust difficult to control (and there will be hundreds of pounds of coal dust dropped throughout our land and waters)
 - b. Public Health – Mercury in coal dust is known to cause neurological disorders, even cancer- is this a city or county controlled issue?
 - c. Again-medical and fire response time due to delays at intersections – several main intersections in Marysville would be totally blocked for several minutes (I've waited at a light for over 10 minutes now due to trains-check I-5 off ramps—they are backed up now without train traffic)

- Wildlife and Marine Life
 - a. Devastation to marine life, shorelines due to coal dust and oil spills
 - b. Rise of mercury in waters due to coal dust
 - c. Fishery damage

- Coal terminals have been known as risky ventures, coal trains do derail causing gridlock. I haven't read a word about BNSF involvement and the care they will give the already aging railroad.
- Why do the few million residents in Washington have to deal with health and traffic issues so companies back East and China can become wealthy? Presently there is a railroad installed on high pillars out of Spokane over I-90. Why not have those who will make millions install railroad overpasses to help eliminate gridlock and clear up safety issues. Rail cars should also be covered during the transportation of dusty coal.
- Also, please review our laws regarding the transportation of fossil fuel in Washington.
- Construction of terminals will make jobs but how many jobs will be lost due to loss of marine life, trucking companies going elsewhere, tourism
- I know the CEO's state it's coming no matter what so "Washingtonians deal with it"! WOW!