

"Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Gifford Pinchot, on the moral compass for public lands and resources.

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

Greenhouse Gases will be emitted from equipment, machinery and combustion beginning from the mining of Powder River Basin coal, through rail transport to the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, transport from Chinese terminals and distributed out to coal burning plants. I am very concerned with the compounding and indirect impacts that are not easily measured. We share the atmosphere with China and all other nations around the planet. Here on the west coast our prevailing winds bring China's pollution over to us, so it certainly impacts us and should be taken into consideration with the decision to go ahead with this project or not.

Please measure the cumulative and compounding effects of this pollution that will be caused by each step of the way, (including in China,) taking into consideration the unique type of machinery fuels utilized (and their "cradle to grave" greenhouse gas footprint,) and their various chemical wastes from combustion/use, including such things as:

- the making, operating and disposal of huge earth movers, crushers, conveyor belts, vehicles bringing workers to the work site, the locomotives & rail cars, super tankers, coal burning plants and ash disposal systems,
- the compounding effects over time that must be factored in to quantifying the suspension and durability of greenhouse gases before we feel or realize the effects where we live. This is popularly termed, "baked into the cake".
- the sea level rise from the greenhouse gases emitted from volume of coal that will be processed through the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal, when used as designed,
- the increase in frequency and severity of storms caused by disrupted climate patterns from increased gases in the air,
- the increased melting of permafrost in the polar regions from the warming and the subsequent release of methane gas, which in turn speeds up climate change much faster than CO₂. This has been accelerating and destroying infrastructure in Alaska, including sewer systems, building foundations, and petroleum pipelines.

I live in Skagit County and my husband and I, among billions of other people will be adversely affected and victimized if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is permitted at Cherry Point, and operates as designed. As you study the impacts of the proposed GPT, please keep in mind that what is known and quantifiable now reflects an imperfect and ongoing science. When making your decision to permit or not to permit the construction of the terminal, please bear in

mind that the opportunity costs, cumulative and long term environmental, social, psychological, geopolitical and economic impacts must be studied as completely as possible, beyond the "seventh generation", beyond 500 or 1,000 years.

Political upheavals in China, the customer for GPT coal, are set to rapidly change as the populace there insist that their fossil fuel based pollution levels are intolerable. Market forces have already begun to cease the favorability of coal in China, as domestic coal stockpiles grow and mining firms are asked to curtail operations, as recent news reports tell us. An air inversion is currently keeping pollution at ground level in major cities in China, with the density of PM2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers) of up to over 755 micrograms per cubic meter--over thirty times the deemed "safe levels". The Chinese citizens are getting more vocal for the push to clean energy. If the market drops in China for coal, what will happen to this proposed terminal, infrastructure, and the workers? Why should you not be held responsible with your decision for the effects we will incur or lost paths we might have walked. A scope which is too narrow is neither realistic nor valid.

"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present." Letter to the American People (v. 11 Jan 2013)

<http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/download/NCAJan11-2013-publicreviewdraft-letter.pdf>

Thank you,

Joanna Idczak



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US scientists in fresh alert over effects of global warming

US National Climate Assessment reveals that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years

Robin McKie, science editor

guardian.co.uk, Saturday 12 January 2013 16.16 EST



Clearing up in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy. Photograph: John Moore/Getty

Global warming is already having a major impact on life in America, a report by US government scientists has warned. The draft version of the US National Climate Assessment reveals that increasing storm surges, floods, melting glaciers and permafrost, and intensifying droughts are having a profound effect on the lives of Americans.

"Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington state and maple syrup producers have observed changes in their local climate that are outside of their experience," states the report.

Health services, water supplies, farming and transport are already being strained, the assessment adds. Months after superstorm Sandy battered the east coast, causing billions of dollars of damage, the report concludes that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years. Nor do the authors flinch from naming the culprit. "Global warming is due primarily to human activities, predominantly the burning of fossil fuels," it states.

The uncompromising language of the report, and the stark picture that its authors have painted of the likely effects of global warming, have profound implications for the rest of the world.

If the world's greatest economy is already feeling the strain of global warming, and is fearful of its future impact, then other nations face a very worrying future as temperatures continue to rise as more and more greenhouse gases are pumped into the atmosphere.

"The report makes for sobering reading," said Professor Chris Rapley, of University College London. "Most people in the UK and US accept human-induced climate change is happening but respond by focusing attention elsewhere. We dismiss the effects of climate change as 'not here', 'not now', 'not me' and 'not clear'.

"This compelling new assessment by the US experts challenges all four comforting assumptions. The message is clear: now is the time to act!"

Bob Ward, of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, at the London School of Economics, said: "For those outside the US, this report carries a brutal message because it shows that even the world's leading economy cannot simply adapt to the impacts of climate change. The problem clearly needs concerted international action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the worst potential consequences."

The national climate assessment, written by a team of 240 scientists, is required every four years by US law. The first was written in 2000, though no report was issued while George W Bush was president. The next came out in 2009. The latest is only a draft version and will be revised after comments by other scientists and the public.

However, observers have noted that the 2013 version is far more uncompromising in its language. "The bluntness reflects the increasing confidence we have in the science and day-to-day realities of climate change," said one of its authors, Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Centre at Texas Tech University.

The report highlights, among other things, that 13 American airports have runways that could be inundated by rising sea levels, and that billions of dollars will be needed to repair Alaskan roads, pipelines, sewer systems, buildings and airports where melting permafrosts are disrupting the landscape. These are problems that will not just affect the US. They will be repeated across the planet.

Environmental groups are now hoping that the report will revitalise the debate over climate change in the US and stimulate the administration of Barack Obama into taking action over an issue that has been put on the backburner. "There is so much that is already happening today," said Hayhoe. "This is no longer a future issue. It's an issue that is staring us in the face today."

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Climate change set to make America hotter, drier and more disaster-prone

Draft report from NCA makes clear link between climate change and extreme weather as groups urge Obama to take action

Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16.26 EST



The report says steps taken by Obama to reduce emissions are 'not close to sufficient' to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change. Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP

Future generations of Americans can expect to spend 25 days a year sweltering in temperatures above 100F (38C), with climate change on course to turn the country into a hotter, drier, and more disaster-prone place.

The National Climate Assessment, released in draft form on Friday, provided the fullest picture to date of the real-time effects of climate change on US life, and the most likely consequences for the future.

The 1,000-page report, the work of the more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, was unequivocal on the human causes of climate change, and on the links between climate change and extreme weather.

"Climate change is already affecting the American people," the draft report said. "Certain types of weather events have become more frequent and/or intense including heat waves, heavy downpours and in some regions floods and drought. Sea level is rising, oceans are becoming more acidic, and glaciers and Arctic sea ice are melting."

The report, which is not due for adoption until 2014, was produced to guide federal, state and city governments in America in making long-term plans.

By the end of the 21st century, climate change is expected to result in increased risk of asthma and other public health emergencies, widespread power blackouts, and mass transit shutdowns, and possibly shortages of food.

"Proactively preparing for climate change can reduce impacts, while also facilitating a

more rapid and efficient response to changes as they happen," said Katharine Jacobs, the director of the National Climate Assessment.

The report will be open for public comment on Monday.

Environmental groups said they hoped the report would provide Barack Obama with the scientific evidence to push for measures that would slow or halt the rate of climate change – sparing the country some of the worst effects.

The report states clearly that the steps taken by Obama so far to reduce emissions are "not close to sufficient" to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change.

"As climate change and its impacts are becoming more prevalent, Americans face choices," the report said. "Beyond the next few decades, the amount of climate change will still largely be determined by the choices society makes about emissions. Lower emissions mean less future warming and less severe impacts. Higher emissions would mean more warming and more severe impacts."

As the report made clear: no place in America had gone untouched by climate change. Nowhere would be entirely immune from the effects of future climate change.



A heatwave swept across the US in 2011, with temperatures reaching over 110F (43C). Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP

Some of those changes are already evident: 2012 was by far the hottest year on record, fully a degree hotter than the last such record – an off-the-charts rate of increase.

Those high temperatures were on course to continue for the rest of the century, the draft report said. It noted that average US temperatures had increased by about 1.5F since 1895, with more than 80% of this increase since 1980.

The rise will be even steeper in future, with the next few decades projected for temperatures 2 to 4 degrees warmer in most areas. By 2100, if climate change continues on its present course, the country can expect to see 25 days a year with temperatures above 100F.

Night-time temperatures will also stay high, providing little respite from the heat.

Certain regions are projected to heat up even sooner. West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware can expect a doubling of days hotter than 95 degrees by the 2050s. In Texas and Oklahoma, the draft report doubled the probability of extreme heat events.

Those extreme temperatures would also exact a toll on public health, with worsening air pollution, and on infrastructure increasing the load for ageing power plants.



This 8 November

2011 image shows a storm bearing down on Alaska. Photograph: Ho/AFP/Getty Images

But nowhere will see changes as extreme as Alaska, the report said.

"The most dramatic evidence is in Alaska, where average temperatures have increased more than twice as fast as the rest of the country," the draft report said. "Of all the climate-related changes in the US, the rapid decline of Arctic sea ice cover in the last decade may be the most striking of all."

Other regions will face different extreme weather scenarios. The north-east, in particular, is at risk of coastal flooding because of sea-level rise and storm surges, as well as river flooding, because of an increase in heavy downpours.



A flooded farm along the Mississippi River is seen in Cairo, Illinois. Photograph: Stephen Lance Dennee/AP
 "The north-east has experienced a greater increase in extreme precipitation over the past few decades than any other region in the US," the report said. Between 1958 and 2010, the north-east saw a 74% increase in heavy downpours.

The midwest was projected to enjoy a longer growing season – but also an increased risk of extreme events like last year's drought. By mid-century, the combination of temperature increases and heavy rainfall or drought were expected to pull down yields of major US food crops, the report warned, threatening both American and global food security.

The report is the most ambitious scientific exercise ever undertaken to catalogue the real-time effects of climate change, and predict possible outcomes in the future.

It involved more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, compared to around 30 during the last such effort when George W Bush was president. Its findings were also much broader in scope, Jacobs said.

There were still unknowns though, the report conceded, especially about how the loss

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I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

In an era of obstruction-as-policy in our American Congress, and increasingly at the state level, please measure the economic impacts and effects of allowing the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT), to be permitted. While national and local treasury coffers are drained and stymied from possible growth by a "do-nothing Congress", hostile to common sense regulations, and the environment is being put at a low priority or not even considered, please measure effects of unrestrained pollution in a "gold rush" type mania for making money for the pockets of a few, while they can, before regulations go into effect and stem the resulting mayhem. At some point, sooner than we now think, when enough of the public gets shocked into caring and insisting on turning away from fossil fuel consumption the carelessness will be restrained. Then mitigation will be necessary- but not always possible, and desperation for innovation to save ourselves will hold court. Please quantify and chart out the environmental, economic, physical destruction, social degradation, and job loss difference between:

- an energy policy run with low regulations and permissibly allowing preventable accidents to occur and then having the public pay for costly litigation and eventually procuring a slight monetary penalty from the polluters, and having an energy policy that is well regulated, honestly assessing the viable pathways towards the most efficient, safest, least toxic and most sustainable methods of getting energy to the public for heat, transportation, business and industrial needs,
- an energy policy that allows for innovation and research incubators with new players being given a fair shot at flourishing if their energy innovation warrants acceptance as compared to a tightly proscribed system that ensures the big corporations are protected from viable competition and continue with power in Congressional and legislative decision making and market-share power for their income,
- "Opportunity costs" -eliminating or forestalling our future of sustainability by undercutting the impetus and funding for renewable energy evolution. Compare economic as well as environmental effects of cessation of fossil fuel energy production consumption with solar / wind / tidal / wave / geothermal / biodiesel energy production & "build out" of a smart grid and infrastructure and energy consumption levels,

- local and federal budgets being dominated with environmental mitigation & litigations costs stemming from the resulting GPT pollution and climate effects, which crowd out other necessary budget items such as repair of infrastructure, education, health care, aid to the poor,

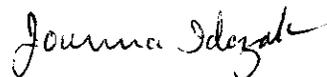
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Thank you,
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"Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington state and maple syrup producers have observed changes in their local climate that are outside of their experience," states the report.

Health services, water supplies, farming and transport are already being strained, the assessment adds. Months after superstorm Sandy battered the east coast, causing billions of dollars of damage, the report concludes that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years. Nor do the authors flinch from naming the culprit. "Global warming is due primarily to human activities, predominantly the burning of fossil fuels," it states.

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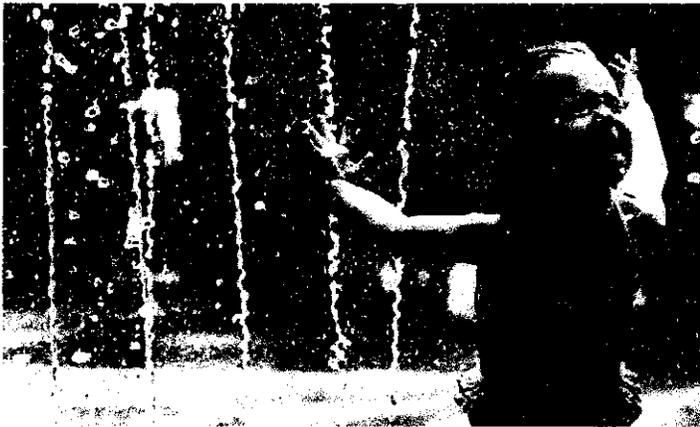
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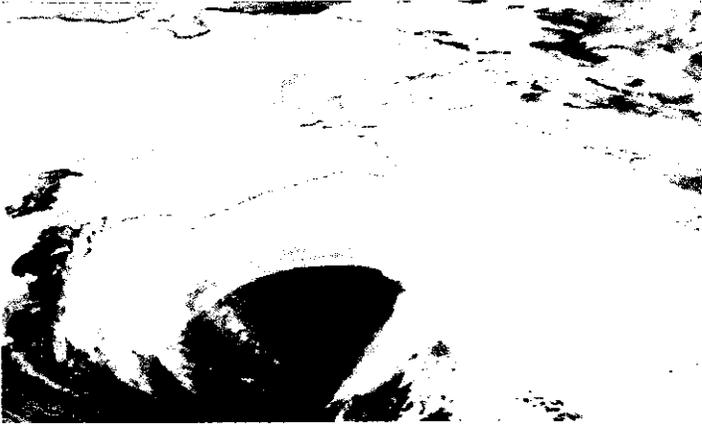
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There were still unknowns though, the report conceded, especially about how the loss

"Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Gifford Pinchot, on the moral compass for public lands and resources.

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

My husband and I live in Anacortes overlooking the Salish Sea, San Juan Islands, and the Olympic mountains. We built our view home here for a solid investment and for the intangibles of living with the utterly magnificent view. We altruistically care for more than just ourselves, and highly value a clean environment, so we have invested in many energy saving capital projects and practices, such as solar panels, passive solar design, air drying clothes, an efficient vehicle, LED light bulbs and solar-heated water. The combustion of the coal that will be transported to and from this proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) will emit pollutants that will decrease atmospheric visibility and solar intensity. Our investment of time and money in our home will be undermined, negated and uncompensated.

I must tell you an illustrative anecdote that I witnessed recently. I went on a field trip with a bus full of Chinese exchange students, who suddenly pointed to the sky, getting out of their seats to see, and joyfully exclaimed to each other in amazement, "Look at the blue sky!". It had been overcast since they had arrived and the sun had just come out from behind the clouds. Where they lived in China these youth had never seen blue sky from industrial wastes ubiquitously polluting the atmosphere. Their atmospheric pollution is carried to us in our prevailing winds, and will only increase if the proposed GPT is permitted.

Please quantify and longitudinally study, with compounded projections and effects:

- economic devaluation of view-property values from increased smog and decreased view/visibility (the mountains would "be out" on fewer, if any days),
- economic losses due to decreased energy production of solar panels, solar hot water appliances and "passive solar" design due to loss of solar intensity from smog,
- increased costs of purchasing more energy units (at increasing prices) to offset losses from decreased solar energy production
- myriad health impacts of decreased solar exposure, including but not limited to Vitamin D deficiency and the cost of Vitamin D supplements, Seasonal Affective Disorder, loss of joy, and other psychological impacts, and the opportunity to play in health-giving sunshine and bright colors of the summoning outdoors,
- loss of nutrient density in homegrown produce from lack of sunshine, decreased agricultural yield, and increased contamination of homegrown produce from precipitation of atmospheric pollutants emitted by coal and diesel combustion,

- The coal that the proposed GPT would allow to be burned will contribute to climate change which in turn will cause increasing frequency and severity of dust storms and wildfires, which darken our skies for extended periods of time. (We witnessed this recently for nearly a month with the wildfires in Russia.) In turn, clouds form around the particulates in smoke and dust, increasing cloudiness and further decreasing solar intensity.

I live in Skagit County and my husband and I, among billions of other people will be adversely affected and victimized if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is permitted at Cherry Point, and operates as designed. As you study the impacts of the proposed GPT, please keep in mind that what is known and quantifiable now reflects an imperfect and ongoing science. When making your decision to permit or not to permit the construction of the terminal, please bear in mind that the opportunity costs, cumulative and long term environmental, social, psychological, geopolitical and economic impacts must be studied as completely as possible, beyond the "seventh generation", beyond 500 or 1,000 years.

Political upheavals in China, the customer for GPT coal, are set to rapidly change as the populace there insist that their fossil fuel based pollution levels are intolerable. Market forces have already begun to cease the favorability of coal in China, as domestic coal stockpiles grow and mining firms are asked to curtail operations, as recent news reports tell us. An air inversion is currently keeping pollution at ground level in major cities in China, with the density of PM2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers) of up to over 755 micrograms per cubic meter--over thirty times the deemed "safe levels". The Chinese citizens are getting more vocal for the push to clean energy. If the market drops in China for coal, what will happen to this proposed terminal, infrastructure, and the workers? Why should you not be held responsible with your decision for the effects we will incur or lost paths we might have walked. A scope which is too narrow is neither realistic nor valid.

"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present." Letter to the American People (v. 11 Jan 2013)
<http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/download/NCAJan11-2013-publicreviewdraft-letter.pdf>

Thank you,

Joanna Idczak



PO Box 1907

Anacortes, Washington

98221

Climate change set to make America hotter, drier and more disaster-prone

Draft report from NCA makes clear link between climate change and extreme weather as groups urge Obama to take action

Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16.26 EST



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The 1,000-page report, the work of the more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, was unequivocal on the human causes of climate change, and on the links between climate change and extreme weather.

"Climate change is already affecting the American people," the draft report said. "Certain types of weather events have become more frequent and/or intense including heat waves, heavy downpours and in some regions floods and drought. Sea level is rising, oceans are becoming more acidic, and glaciers and Arctic sea ice are melting."

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By the end of the 21st century, climate change is expected to result in increased risk of asthma and other public health emergencies, widespread power blackouts, and mass transit shutdowns, and possibly shortages of food.

"Proactively preparing for climate change can reduce impacts, while also facilitating a

more rapid and efficient response to changes as they happen," said Katharine Jacobs, the director of the National Climate Assessment.

The report will be open for public comment on Monday.

Environmental groups said they hoped the report would provide Barack Obama with the scientific evidence to push for measures that would slow or halt the rate of climate change – sparing the country some of the worst effects.

The report states clearly that the steps taken by Obama so far to reduce emissions are "not close to sufficient" to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change.

"As climate change and its impacts are becoming more prevalent, Americans face choices," the report said. "Beyond the next few decades, the amount of climate change will still largely be determined by the choices society makes about emissions. Lower emissions mean less future warming and less severe impacts. Higher emissions would mean more warming and more severe impacts."

As the report made clear: no place in America had gone untouched by climate change. Nowhere would be entirely immune from the effects of future climate change.



A heatwave swept across the US in 2011, with temperatures reaching over 110F (43C). Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP

Some of those changes are already evident: 2012 was by far the hottest year on record, fully a degree hotter than the last such record – an off-the-charts rate of increase.

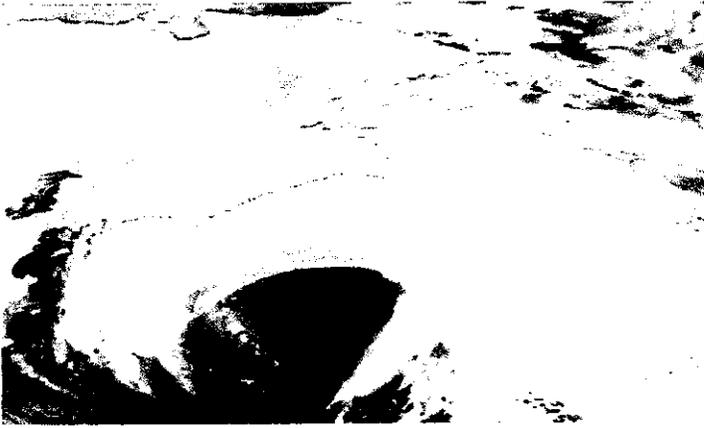
Those high temperatures were on course to continue for the rest of the century, the draft report said. It noted that average US temperatures had increased by about 1.5F since 1895, with more than 80% of this increase since 1980.

The rise will be even steeper in future, with the next few decades projected for temperatures 2 to 4 degrees warmer in most areas. By 2100, if climate change continues on its present course, the country can expect to see 25 days a year with temperatures above 100F.

Night-time temperatures will also stay high, providing little respite from the heat.

Certain regions are projected to heat up even sooner. West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware can expect a doubling of days hotter than 95 degrees by the 2050s. In Texas and Oklahoma, the draft report doubled the probability of extreme heat events.

Those extreme temperatures would also exact a toll on public health, with worsening air pollution, and on infrastructure increasing the load for ageing power plants.



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2011 image shows a storm bearing down on Alaska. Photograph: Ho/AFP/Getty Images

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"The most dramatic evidence is in Alaska, where average temperatures have increased more than twice as fast as the rest of the country," the draft report said. "Of all the climate-related changes in the US, the rapid decline of Arctic sea ice cover in the last decade may be the most striking of all."

Other regions will face different extreme weather scenarios. The north-east, in particular, is at risk of coastal flooding because of sea-level rise and storm surges, as well as river flooding, because of an increase in heavy downpours.



A flooded farm along the Mississippi River is seen in Cairo, Illinois. Photograph: Stephen Lance Dennee/AP
 "The north-east has experienced a greater increase in extreme precipitation over the past few decades than any other region in the US," the report said. Between 1958 and 2010, the north-east saw a 74% increase in heavy downpours.

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Mr. & Mrs. Anthony & Joanna Idczak
PO Box 1907
Anacortes, Washington 98221

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington
98004

To Whom It May Concern,

I WOULD LIKE THE REVIEW PROCESS TO STUDY THE COMPLETE CARBON FOOT PRINT OF THIS PROPOSAL. THE PEOPLE THAT WORK AT THE MINE DRIVE TO WORK IN THE MORNING AND THAT BEGINS THE EQUATION. THEIR FUEL, PLUS THE FUEL OF THE MINING EQUIPMENT AND THE ELECTRICITY NEEDED TO RUN THE OFFICES MUST BE FIGURED IN TO THE CALCULATION. AS THE COAL IS DUG AND LOADED AND TRANSPORTED TO THE RAIL CARS, THEN SHIPPED BY RAIL HUNDREDS OF MILES. THE LOADING ONTO HUGE SHIPS THAT HAVE RETURNED EMPTY FROM CHINA AND THEN IT TRAVELS HALF WAY ROUND, THE WORLD ONLY TO BE UNLOADED AND SHIPPED AGAIN TO BE BURNED WHICH PUTS LOTS OF CO₂ AND OTHER POLLUTANTS INTO OUR ATMOSPHERE.

IT CANNOT BE PRACTICAL TO DO ALL OF THIS JUST TO MAKE ELECTRICITY IN CHINA. OUR EARTH AND ITS PEOPLES CANNOT ALLOW THIS JUST SO A FEW PEOPLE CAN MAKE A PROFIT. WE HAVE MORE EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGY THAT DOES NOT HAVE ALL OF THESE NEGATIVE EFFECTS AND COSTS TO THE REST OF US.

Sincerely
Tony Idczak 1/13/13
Tony IDCZAK

"Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Gifford Pinchot, on the moral compass for public lands and resources.

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1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

I am blessed with a good sense of smell, and I value clean air for my lungs to breathe. When I am driving by the oil refineries in Anacortes, I watch for the direction of the pollution plumes to see if I need to close off outside air in the car, to avoid the harmful stink. When I am driving behind an older vehicle or a diesel vehicle emitting higher quantities of pollutants, I will pull off the road to let it pass awhile so I can then continue on my way, unhampered with harmful chemicals entering my lungs. If I am chewing gum when my car passes through a cloud of pollution I can taste the contamination that the gum picked up and I have to get rid of it. On air inversion days, the clouds of diesel fumes hang heavy nearby, collecting in the large and small valleys, not dissipating. These smells are not just unpleasant odors, they are real environmental health dangers to any living thing.

The proposed project to ship our Powder River Basin coal to China is, in effect, a disjointed, uncovered pipeline, projected to transport 48 million tons of uncovered coal every year until the coal is gone or the market dries up, whichever comes first. (News of November, 2012 reports that China has a stockpile of unused coal and the central government is telling mining firms to hold up on mining, as prices are dropping. Efforts to turn China's energy consumption towards cleaner renewables is ramping up and coal's share is dropping.) A pre-scrubbed, original version of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe website page for freight customers stated that a freight customer could expect to lose from 500 pounds, up to a ton, or up to 3% of a single carload's cargo to be lost, from dust blowing away and coal chunks jostling away.

Please include in your impact study how health effects will increase from the additional toxic burdens brought to us by the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project- "cradle to grave" (mining to combustion and waste removal) - from the contamination by airborne pollutants, including carcinogenic soot, toxic heavy metals, ground-level ozone, volatile organic compounds, and other common pollutants from diesel engines (rail and ship) and escaping flyaway coal dust:

- on wildlife (ingested both through lungs and through the mouth by feeding, grooming and licking paws for example),
- on people (respirated through lungs and from playing or exercising, backyard produce ingestion for example),
- on minorities and poor people living in closer proximity to train tracks and disproportionately exposed to pollutants,

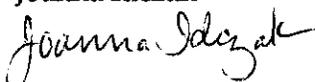
- impaired organ (especially pulmonary and brain) development in adolescents,
- increased mortality including cardiopulmonary mortality,
- measurable pulmonary inflammation,
- increased severity and frequency of asthma and pulmonary fibrosis attacks, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, pneumonia, visits to emergency room, and hospitalizations of children and adults,
- increased rates of heart attack in adults and youth,
- teratogenic compounds impacting the DNA and cancer risk of subsequent generations

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Thank you,
 Joanna Idczak



PO Box 1907
 Anacortes, Washington, 98221

US scientists in fresh alert over effects of global warming

US National Climate Assessment reveals that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years

Robin McKie, science editor
guardian.co.uk, Saturday 12 January 2013 16.16 EST



Clearing up in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy. Photograph: John Moore/Getty

Global warming is already having a major impact on life in America, a report by US government scientists has warned. The draft version of the US National Climate Assessment reveals that increasing storm surges, floods, melting glaciers and permafrost, and intensifying droughts are having a profound effect on the lives of Americans.

"Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington state and maple syrup producers have observed changes in their local climate that are outside of their experience," states the report.

Health services, water supplies, farming and transport are already being strained, the assessment adds. Months after superstorm Sandy battered the east coast, causing billions of dollars of damage, the report concludes that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years. Nor do the authors flinch from naming the culprit. "Global warming is due primarily to human activities, predominantly the burning of fossil fuels," it states.

The uncompromising language of the report, and the stark picture that its authors have painted of the likely effects of global warming, have profound implications for the rest of the world.

If the world's greatest economy is already feeling the strain of global warming, and is fearful of its future impact, then other nations face a very worrying future as temperatures continue to rise as more and more greenhouse gases are pumped into the atmosphere.

"The report makes for sobering reading," said Professor Chris Rapley, of University College London. "Most people in the UK and US accept human-induced climate change is happening but respond by focusing attention elsewhere. We dismiss the effects of climate change as 'not here', 'not now', 'not me' and 'not clear'.

"This compelling new assessment by the US experts challenges all four comforting assumptions. The message is clear: now is the time to act!"

Bob Ward, of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, at the London School of Economics, said: "For those outside the US, this report carries a brutal message because it shows that even the world's leading economy cannot simply adapt to the impacts of climate change. The problem clearly needs concerted international action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the worst potential consequences."

The national climate assessment, written by a team of 240 scientists, is required every four years by US law. The first was written in 2000, though no report was issued while George W Bush was president. The next came out in 2009. The latest is only a draft version and will be revised after comments by other scientists and the public.

However, observers have noted that the 2013 version is far more uncompromising in its language. "The bluntness reflects the increasing confidence we have in the science and day-to-day realities of climate change," said one of its authors, Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Centre at Texas Tech University.

The report highlights, among other things, that 13 American airports have runways that could be inundated by rising sea levels, and that billions of dollars will be needed to repair Alaskan roads, pipelines, sewer systems, buildings and airports where melting permafrosts are disrupting the landscape. These are problems that will not just affect the US. They will be repeated across the planet.

Environmental groups are now hoping that the report will revitalise the debate over climate change in the US and stimulate the administration of Barack Obama into taking action over an issue that has been put on the backburner. "There is so much that is already happening today," said Hayhoe. "This is no longer a future issue. It's an issue that is staring us in the face today."

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Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16.26 EST



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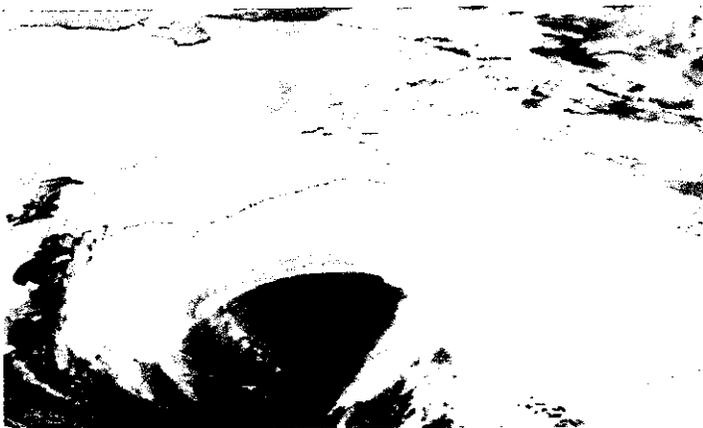
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Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

Whereas our planetary atmospheric dynamics hold to no boundaries of nation, and that severe weather and record-breaking, horrifying mega-storms are a signature element of climate change, and if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal(GPT) is permitted to go forward, what are the increasing, cumulative, aggregate, catalyzed, direct and indirect impacts:

- to habitat degradation and destruction of endangered, threatened, wild and domestic species in the plant and animal kingdoms,
- in "severe weather events", to lost souls, habitat, livelihoods, food and cultural destruction to populations around the world,
- economically to disrupted lost business and distribution of materials & supply, people's homes, businesses, community and public infrastructure (roads, bridges, schools, churches, government buildings and other assets, parks, water supplies, etc.) hurricane Sandy is estimated to cost \$60 Billion. Can America absorb this impact many times a year, over and over and over?
- psychologically to people who must endure the strain of the threat and experience of these increasingly violent mega storms in America, and destruction of their homes, property, lives as they know it, loss of sleep, fortunes, and having to re-build- sometimes repeatedly. Where we live in Anacortes, sea level rise at high tide storm events are now impacting our neighbors with waves crashing over their homes. Before too long sea level rise "events" will disrupt transportation to get to the I-5 freeway, department stores, doctors and other services. Our local storms impact our home mainly with wind speeds. Since late 2007 at our home we have clocked wind gusts at 77 mph with at least 2 other gusts in the 70s, at least 30 gusts in the 60s, and scores of gusts in the 50s. A friend told me her neighbor's large steel BBQ blew up and off of their deck and landed a few homes away! I do not like the violent winds, start fretting when the gusts enter into the 30s as they audibly pound the house and bend the windows, and I have a difficult time sleeping on a windy night. Will this increase in severity and frequency? Will our windows blow out, or roof blow off? Will those profiting immensely from the proposed coal terminal even be aware of their contribution to these events? Will they compensate me for enduring this impact, increased lack of sleep and damaging repercussions ?
- socially and civically, what are we faced with enduring, over and over, and how can we cope with continuing to rally and rebuild? Can our already frightened and divided nation withstand not rationally coping with solving or preventing such problems, brought on by our human activities with carbon combustion based energy?-- (Much of our political leadership

keep us in the dark, prevent common sense regulations and in fact enact protections and give-a-ways to the fossil fuel industry, to repay their monetary assistance in getting elected. Much of our media keep us in the dark to protect their fossil fuel based sponsors. I saw in the news last night, that the New York Times will be closing down their environment department of staff reporters.) -- How can we even measure all those impacts, as we must, when faced with a decision to dig deeper into a future of burning more fossil fuels,

- likelihood of further territory degradation by permits being granted for environmentally harmful industrial endeavors because an area is already ravaged (from the proposed GPT enterprise effects),
- "opportunity costs"-- eliminating or forestalling our future of sustainability by undercutting impetus and funding for renewable energy evolution. Compare effects of cessation of fossil fuel energy production consumption with de-centralized solar/wind/tidal/wave/geothermal/biodiesel energy production & "build out" of smart grid and infrastructure, and energy consumption. Quantitatively contrast the future where we invest in clean, renewable, de-centralized energy production with one that goes full speed ahead with burning fossil fuels, our current trajectory. Not only would we not be spending money and human energy on repairing what gets laid waste to, but conversely, quantify how lower cost, renewable clean energy that is de-centralized, and the subsiding threat of climate change and settlement of our climate, would allow us to be building a country where energy is inexpensive, and would allow us concentrate on bettering our lives and pursue greater, happier pursuits than adaptation to devastation and wastage. Quantify the entire marginal difference between the negative reparation cost, up through the expansion of the economy through cheaper energy and societal capital being put to use in happier pursuits, as prescribed for in our Constitution.

These are our public choices, and you are tasked with measuring impacts to our lives and future if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is allowed to go forward. These real dangers impact real people and other living things. Measure, survey, chart and quantify. You cannot ignore these impacts. If you deem that this cannot be done in these realms, then you are not faithfully carrying out your commission. *If these real and dangerous impacts are too difficult to even measure the permit should not be granted.*

I live in Skagit County and my husband and I, among billions of other people will be adversely affected and victimized if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is permitted at Cherry Point, and operates as designed. As you study the impacts of the proposed GPT, please keep in mind that what is known and quantifiable now reflects an imperfect and ongoing science. When making your decision to permit or not to permit the construction of the terminal, please bear in mind that the opportunity costs, cumulative and long term environmental, social, psychological, geopolitical and economic impacts must be studied as completely as possible, beyond the "seventh generation", beyond 500 or 1,000 years.

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Thank you,

Joanna Idczak

PO Box 1907

Anacortes, Washington

98221

US scientists in fresh alert over effects of global warming

US National Climate Assessment reveals that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years

Robin McKie, science editor

guardian.co.uk, Saturday 12 January 2013 16.16 EST



Clearing up in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy. Photograph: John Moore/Getty

Global warming is already having a major impact on life in America, a report by US government scientists has warned. The draft version of the US National Climate Assessment reveals that increasing storm surges, floods, melting glaciers and permafrost, and intensifying droughts are having a profound effect on the lives of Americans.

"Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington state and maple syrup producers have observed changes in their local climate that are outside of their experience," states the report.

Health services, water supplies, farming and transport are already being strained, the assessment adds. Months after superstorm Sandy battered the east coast, causing billions of dollars of damage, the report concludes that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years. Nor do the authors flinch from naming the culprit. "Global warming is due primarily to human activities, predominantly the burning of fossil fuels," it states.

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If the world's greatest economy is already feeling the strain of global warming, and is fearful of its future impact, then other nations face a very worrying future as temperatures continue to rise as more and more greenhouse gases are pumped into the atmosphere.

"The report makes for sobering reading," said Professor Chris Rapley, of University College London. "Most people in the UK and US accept human-induced climate change is happening but respond by focusing attention elsewhere. We dismiss the effects of climate change as 'not here', 'not now', 'not me' and 'not clear'.

"This compelling new assessment by the US experts challenges all four comforting assumptions. The message is clear: now is the time to act!"

Bob Ward, of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, at the London School of Economics, said: "For those outside the US, this report carries a brutal message because it shows that even the world's leading economy cannot simply adapt to the impacts of climate change. The problem clearly needs concerted international action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the worst potential consequences."

The national climate assessment, written by a team of 240 scientists, is required every four years by US law. The first was written in 2000, though no report was issued while George W Bush was president. The next came out in 2009. The latest is only a draft version and will be revised after comments by other scientists and the public.

However, observers have noted that the 2013 version is far more uncompromising in its language. "The bluntness reflects the increasing confidence we have in the science and day-to-day realities of climate change," said one of its authors, Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Centre at Texas Tech University.

The report highlights, among other things, that 13 American airports have runways that could be inundated by rising sea levels, and that billions of dollars will be needed to repair Alaskan roads, pipelines, sewer systems, buildings and airports where melting permafrosts are disrupting the landscape. These are problems that will not just affect the US. They will be repeated across the planet.

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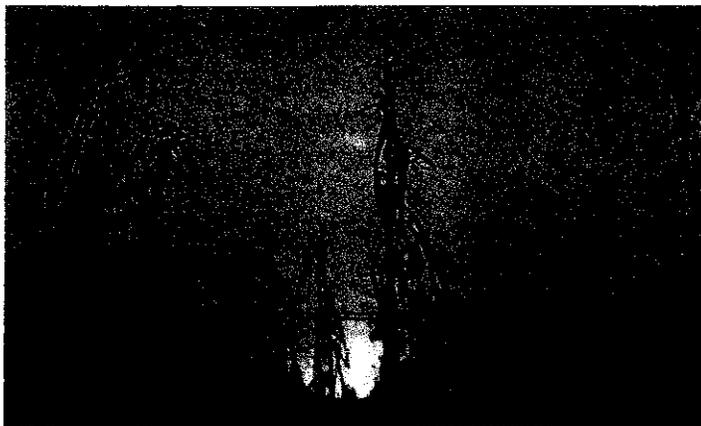
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Draft report from NCA makes clear link between climate change and extreme weather as groups urge Obama to take action

Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16:26 EST



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"Climate change is already affecting the American people," the draft report said. "Certain types of weather events have become more frequent and/or intense including heat waves, heavy downpours and in some regions floods and drought. Sea level is rising, oceans are becoming more acidic, and glaciers and Arctic sea ice are melting."

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By the end of the 21st century, climate change is expected to result in increased risk of asthma and other public health emergencies, widespread power blackouts, and mass transit shutdowns, and possibly shortages of food.

"Proactively preparing for climate change can reduce impacts, while also facilitating a

more rapid and efficient response to changes as they happen," said Katharine Jacobs, the director of the National Climate Assessment.

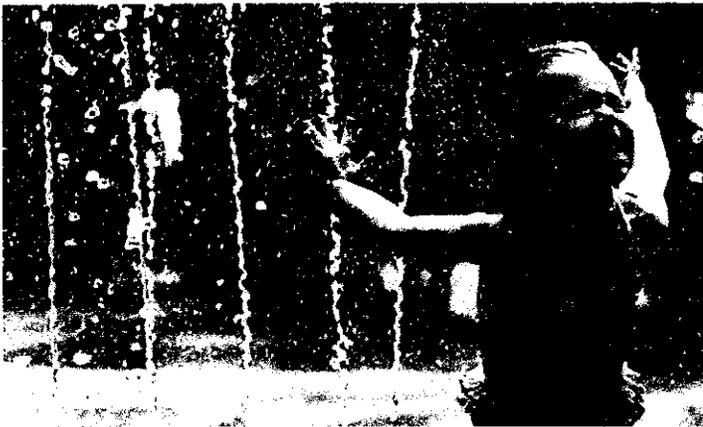
The report will be open for public comment on Monday.

Environmental groups said they hoped the report would provide Barack Obama with the scientific evidence to push for measures that would slow or halt the rate of climate change – sparing the country some of the worst effects.

The report states clearly that the steps taken by Obama so far to reduce emissions are "not close to sufficient" to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change.

"As climate change and its impacts are becoming more prevalent, Americans face choices," the report said. "Beyond the next few decades, the amount of climate change will still largely be determined by the choices society makes about emissions. Lower emissions mean less future warming and less severe impacts. Higher emissions would mean more warming and more severe impacts."

As the report made clear: no place in America had gone untouched by climate change. Nowhere would be entirely immune from the effects of future climate change.



A heatwave swept across the US in 2011, with temperatures reaching over 110F (43C). Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP

Some of those changes are already evident: 2012 was by far the hottest year on record, fully a degree hotter than the last such record – an off-the-charts rate of increase.

Those high temperatures were on course to continue for the rest of the century, the draft report said. It noted that average US temperatures had increased by about 1.5F since 1895, with more than 80% of this increase since 1980.

The rise will be even steeper in future, with the next few decades projected for temperatures 2 to 4 degrees warmer in most areas. By 2100, if climate change continues on its present course, the country can expect to see 25 days a year with temperatures above 100F.

Night-time temperatures will also stay high, providing little respite from the heat.

Certain regions are projected to heat up even sooner. West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware can expect a doubling of days hotter than 95 degrees by the 2050s. In Texas and Oklahoma, the draft report doubled the probability of extreme heat events.

Those extreme temperatures would also exact a toll on public health, with worsening air pollution, and on infrastructure increasing the load for ageing power plants.

"Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Gifford Pinchot, on the moral compass for public lands and resources.

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

From a close proximity or around our planet, the decision to permit the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal will have profound physical and psychological effects for species in the plant and animal kingdoms. Please research and quantify:

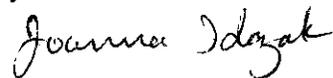
- in proximity to GPT infrastructure, the pollutants, noise, vibrations and sleeplessness effects of stress levels on humans and animals.
- effects of stress and mortality from those people and families further afield around the planet who suffer, knowing they are powerless over your decision. Nevertheless, from the enhancement of global warming by the proposed GPT project, they get mass effects they cannot mitigate for- like drowning deaths from sea level rise, flooding and mudslides from extreme weather events, drought and extreme heat, cancerous deaths caused by pollution, lack of food from crop failure from drought and insect infestations, wars over territory, mass migrations of refugees due to any or all of the above,
- effects of stress endured while waiting for trains to pass at railroad crossings, with babies crying, people needing medical attention and bathrooms, having to breathe diesel fumes while they wait. There will be increased train/ vehicle/ pedestrian collisions and cargo spills/ derailments,
- our knowledgeable minds suffer whilst unaware minds assist the greedy to pillage our environment and future without consequences

I live in Skagit County and my husband and I, among billions of other people will be adversely affected and victimized if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is permitted at Cherry Point, and operates as designed. As you study the impacts of the proposed GPT, please keep in mind that what is known and quantifiable now reflects an imperfect and ongoing science. When making your decision to permit or not to permit the construction of the terminal, please bear in mind that the opportunity costs, cumulative and long term environmental, social, psychological, geopolitical and economic impacts must be studied as completely as possible, beyond the "seventh generation", beyond 500 or 1,000 years.

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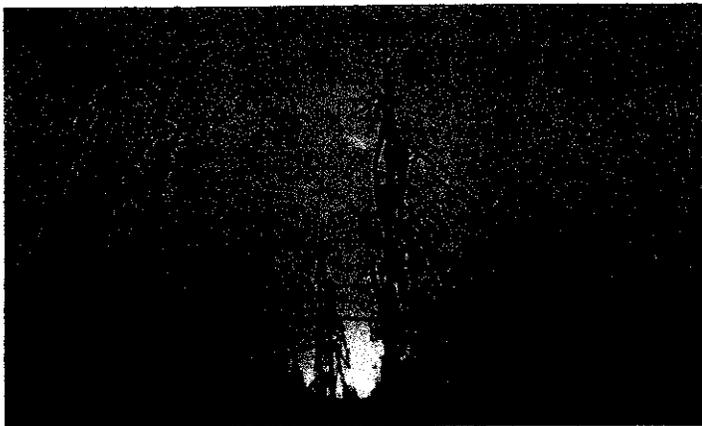
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"Proactively preparing for climate change can reduce impacts, while also facilitating a



This 8 November

2011 image shows a storm bearing down on Alaska. Photograph: Ho/AFP/Getty Images

But nowhere will see changes as extreme as Alaska, the report said.

"The most dramatic evidence is in Alaska, where average temperatures have increased more than twice as fast as the rest of the country," the draft report said. "Of all the climate-related changes in the US, the rapid decline of Arctic sea ice cover in the last decade may be the most striking of all."

Other regions will face different extreme weather scenarios. The north-east, in particular, is at risk of coastal flooding because of sea-level rise and storm surges, as well as river flooding, because of an increase in heavy downpours.



A flooded farm along the Mississippi River is seen in Cairo, Illinois. Photograph: Stephen Lance Dennee/AP
"The north-east has experienced a greater increase in extreme precipitation over the past few decades than any other region in the US," the report said. Between 1958 and 2010, the north-east saw a 74% increase in heavy downpours.

The midwest was projected to enjoy a longer growing season – but also an increased risk of extreme events like last year's drought. By mid-century, the combination of temperature increases and heavy rainfall or drought were expected to pull down yields of major US food crops, the report warned, threatening both American and global food security.

The report is the most ambitious scientific exercise ever undertaken to catalogue the real-time effects of climate change, and predict possible outcomes in the future.

It involved more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, compared to around 30 during the last such effort when George W Bush was president. Its findings were also much broader in scope, Jacobs said.

There were still unknowns though, the report conceded, especially about how the loss

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The atmospheric loads of CO₂, the waste product from combustion of fossil fuels is continually being absorbed into the ocean waters. At this point the levels are set to increase this very real threat to the marine web of life, as the process unfolds. Ocean acidification is dissolving the calcium carbonate shells of marine life at the base of the ocean food web and enthusiastically enjoyed by humans. Study the unfolding, direct and indirect, cumulative impacts of destructive process at these current levels and with the increased levels from the transport and burning of coal from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal. Please measure the increased impacts of:

- CO₂ load from the combustion of the coal,
- resulting ocean acidification levels from the absorption of the CO₂,
- contamination levels and impacts on marine life from the diesel particulates and chemical toxins used in transport of the coal,
- oil spills resulting from marine vessel collisions,
- increased turbidity of the water in sensitive areas, impacting procreation and juvenile viability of marine species, animal and vegetable,
- coal dust on marine environs at the terminal area and all along the marine routes
- mercury, arsenic, radioactive molecules and other toxins resulting from coal and diesel combustion, from "cradle to grave" of the project, impacting marine edibles for human consumption, and following the web of life for marine food chain. What are the cumulative, aggregate, compounding effects of subsequent generations from consumption, to humans and all marine species, animal and vegetable,
- introduction of toxic waters and foreign invasive species from discharged bilge water from foreign lands in the fragile Salish Sea ecosystems

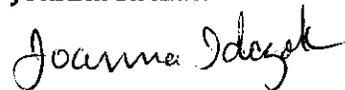
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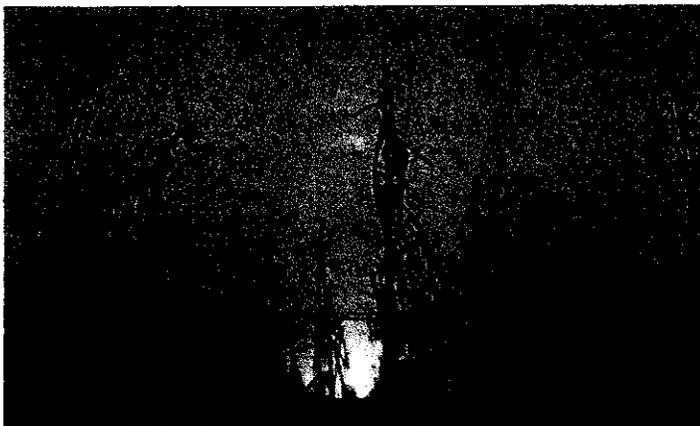
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Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16.26 EST



The report says steps taken by Obama to reduce emissions are 'not close to sufficient' to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change. Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP

Future generations of Americans can expect to spend 25 days a year sweltering in temperatures above 100F (38C), with climate change on course to turn the country into a hotter, drier, and more disaster-prone place.

The National Climate Assessment, released in draft form on Friday, provided the fullest picture to date of the real-time effects of climate change on US life, and the most likely consequences for the future.

The 1,000-page report, the work of the more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, was unequivocal on the human causes of climate change, and on the links between climate change and extreme weather.

"Climate change is already affecting the American people," the draft report said. "Certain types of weather events have become more frequent and/or intense including heat waves, heavy downpours and in some regions floods and drought. Sea level is rising, oceans are becoming more acidic, and glaciers and Arctic sea ice are melting."

The report, which is not due for adoption until 2014, was produced to guide federal, state and city governments in America in making long-term plans.

By the end of the 21st century, climate change is expected to result in increased risk of asthma and other public health emergencies, widespread power blackouts, and mass transit shutdowns, and possibly shortages of food.

"Proactively preparing for climate change can reduce impacts, while also facilitating a

more rapid and efficient response to changes as they happen," said Katharine Jacobs, the director of the National Climate Assessment.

The report will be open for public comment on Monday.

Environmental groups said they hoped the report would provide Barack Obama with the scientific evidence to push for measures that would slow or halt the rate of climate change – sparing the country some of the worst effects.

The report states clearly that the steps taken by Obama so far to reduce emissions are "not close to sufficient" to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change.

"As climate change and its impacts are becoming more prevalent, Americans face choices," the report said. "Beyond the next few decades, the amount of climate change will still largely be determined by the choices society makes about emissions. Lower emissions mean less future warming and less severe impacts. Higher emissions would mean more warming and more severe impacts."

As the report made clear: no place in America had gone untouched by climate change. Nowhere would be entirely immune from the effects of future climate change.



A heatwave swept across the US in 2011, with temperatures reaching over 110F (43C). Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP

Some of those changes are already evident: 2012 was by far the hottest year on record, fully a degree hotter than the last such record – an off-the-charts rate of increase.

Those high temperatures were on course to continue for the rest of the century, the draft report said. It noted that average US temperatures had increased by about 1.5F since 1895, with more than 80% of this increase since 1980.

The rise will be even steeper in future, with the next few decades projected for temperatures 2 to 4 degrees warmer in most areas. By 2100, if climate change continues on its present course, the country can expect to see 25 days a year with temperatures above 100F.

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However, the White House was exceedingly cautious on the draft release, **noting in a blogpost:** "The draft NCA is a scientific document—not a policy document—and does not make recommendations regarding actions that might be taken in response to climate change."

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"Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question shall always be answered from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run." Gifford Pinchot, on the moral compass for public lands and resources.

GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

Since mankind learned to plant and cultivate food, the practice has sustained families and supplemented meager incomes. Growing backyard "Victory Gardens" and home preserving our produce was the patriotic thing to do for our American response to World Wars I and II. Many families and farmers will be negatively impacted by the increased mining, distribution and combustion of coal. They will be seeing poor yields and failed or polluted crops and forced to adapt somehow. Increased prices at the grocery stores are inevitable. It is immoral and unreasonable to allow a very few people to make a very large amount of money digging up and transporting our mineral earth whilst a great many other people are forced to bear the brunt and cost of the impacts of the enterprise. Leaving the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) coal in the ground keeps the harmful CO₂ and other pollutants out of the atmosphere. Please longitudinally study and measure how the quality, quantity and distribution of agricultural and homegrown produce will be impacted from the GPT coal mining, transportation and combustion:

- by "cradle to grave" Powder River Basin coal dust, diesel exhaust and coal combustion pollutant fallout, including the acreage adjacent to the mining lands, along truck routes and the entire rail corridor (study at widths of 20 feet, 40 feet, 100 feet, 200 feet, 500 feet, 1000 feet); acreage of commercial agricultural lands and gardens of cooperative or home grown produce adjacent to and downwind from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal; the edible sea plants along marine voyage routes and down wind/ current; acreage and commercial agricultural lands and gardens of cooperative or home grown produce in China adjacent to China's marine coal terminals and coal combustion sites,
- specifically with this proposed GPT project, study the difference between the coal loads in each of the rail cars being tightly and securely covered to prevent loss in transport due to blowing dust and jostling as compared to the planned method (uncovered, even with a paint sprayed on) as described by the applicant's talking points. A pre-scrubbed, original version of a Burlington Northern Santa Fe website page for freight customers stated that a freight customer could expect to lose from 500 pounds, up to a ton, or up to 3% of a single carload's cargo to be lost, from dust blowing away and coal chunks jostling away.
- by the many pollutants and toxicity emitted from the combustion of proposed GPT coal,
- by the many pollutants precipitating down, settling as dry dust or wet in rain or snow,
- by the many pollutants adhering to or penetrating cell walls of plants,
- by the many pollutants altering biological and biochemical processes within the plants,
- by the many toxic pollutants altering soil chemistry,

- by the many pollutants altering soil nutrient availability for the proper formation and maturation of the crop,
- by the many pollutants altering microbial density and diversity of the soil,
- by the proposed GPT coal combustion contribution to climate change, and in turn alteration of micro and macro zonal climate patterns for agriculture and home grown production,
- by food shortages and crop failures from severe weather, including increased prices and hunger
- by the many pollutants' effects on native species within the garden area, and mitigating possibilities and costs,
- impacts from the added pollution/ climate change effects from GPT to insect population and migration increasing disease and crop failures,
- by the health effects of consumption of contaminated produce in babies and nursing mothers, children, elderly, ill and healthy humans and other species,
- by the changes to agricultural methods (both organic and conventional) necessary for adapting to climate change's increasingly negative impacts, (such as drought and flooding), and the cumulative contamination of water, soil and crops by pollutants from coal such as
 - introduction of unfamiliar crop seeds,
 - increased labor,
 - purchase of genetically modified seed and those subsequent impacts,
 - increased use of pesticides/herbicides,
 - corporate litigation against organic farmers who do not want genetically modified organisms on their land, stemming from windblown pollen of patented crops upon their organic land

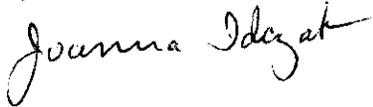
I live in Skagit County and my husband and I, among billions of other people will be adversely affected and victimized if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is permitted at Cherry Point, and operates as designed. As you study the impacts of the proposed GPT, please keep in mind that what is known and quantifiable now reflects an imperfect and ongoing science. When making your decision to permit or not to permit the construction of the terminal, please bear in mind that the opportunity costs, cumulative and long term environmental, social, psychological, geopolitical and economic impacts must be studied as completely as possible, beyond the "seventh generation", beyond 500 or 1,000 years.

Political upheavals in China, the customer for GPT coal, are set to rapidly change as the populace there insist that their fossil fuel based pollution levels are intolerable. Market forces have already begun to cease the favorability of coal in China, as domestic coal stockpiles grow and mining firms are asked to curtail operations, as recent news reports tell us. An air inversion is currently keeping pollution at ground level in major cities in China, with the density of PM2.5 (particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers) of up to over 755 micrograms per cubic meter--over thirty times the deemed "safe levels". The Chinese citizens are getting more vocal for the push to clean energy. If the market drops in China for coal, what will happen to this proposed terminal, infrastructure, and the workers? Why should you not be held responsible with your decision for the effects we will incur or lost paths we might have walked. A scope which is too narrow is neither realistic nor valid.

"Climate change, once considered an issue for a distant future, has moved firmly into the present." Letter to the American People (v. 11 Jan 2013)
<http://ncadac.globalchange.gov/download/NCAJan11-2013-publicreviewdraft-letter.pdf>

Thank you,

Joanna Idczak

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanna Idczak". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

PO Box 1907

Anacortes, Washington

98221

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US scientists in fresh alert over effects of global warming

US National Climate Assessment reveals that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years

Robin McKie, science editor

guardian.co.uk, Saturday 12 January 2013 16.16 EST



Clearing up in the aftermath of superstorm Sandy. Photograph: John Moore/Getty

Global warming is already having a major impact on life in America, a report by US government scientists has warned. The draft version of the US National Climate Assessment reveals that increasing storm surges, floods, melting glaciers and permafrost, and intensifying droughts are having a profound effect on the lives of Americans.

"Corn producers in Iowa, oyster growers in Washington state and maple syrup producers have observed changes in their local climate that are outside of their experience," states the report.

Health services, water supplies, farming and transport are already being strained, the assessment adds. Months after superstorm Sandy battered the east coast, causing billions of dollars of damage, the report concludes that severe weather disruption is going to be commonplace in coming years. Nor do the authors flinch from naming the culprit. "Global warming is due primarily to human activities, predominantly the burning of fossil fuels," it states.

The uncompromising language of the report, and the stark picture that its authors have painted of the likely effects of global warming, have profound implications for the rest of the world.

If the world's greatest economy is already feeling the strain of global warming, and is fearful of its future impact, then other nations face a very worrying future as temperatures continue to rise as more and more greenhouse gases are pumped into the atmosphere.

"The report makes for sobering reading," said Professor Chris Rapley, of University College London. "Most people in the UK and US accept human-induced climate change is happening but respond by focusing attention elsewhere. We dismiss the effects of climate change as 'not here', 'not now', 'not me' and 'not clear'.

"This compelling new assessment by the US experts challenges all four comforting assumptions. The message is clear: now is the time to act!"

Bob Ward, of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, at the London School of Economics, said: "For those outside the US, this report carries a brutal message because it shows that even the world's leading economy cannot simply adapt to the impacts of climate change. The problem clearly needs concerted international action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the worst potential consequences."

The national climate assessment, written by a team of 240 scientists, is required every four years by US law. The first was written in 2000, though no report was issued while George W Bush was president. The next came out in 2009. The latest is only a draft version and will be revised after comments by other scientists and the public.

However, observers have noted that the 2013 version is far more uncompromising in its language. "The bluntness reflects the increasing confidence we have in the science and day-to-day realities of climate change," said one of its authors, Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Centre at Texas Tech University.

The report highlights, among other things, that 13 American airports have runways that could be inundated by rising sea levels, and that billions of dollars will be needed to repair Alaskan roads, pipelines, sewer systems, buildings and airports where melting permafrosts are disrupting the landscape. These are problems that will not just affect the US. They will be repeated across the planet.

Environmental groups are now hoping that the report will revitalise the debate over climate change in the US and stimulate the administration of Barack Obama into taking action over an issue that has been put on the backburner. "There is so much that is already happening today," said Hayhoe. "This is no longer a future issue. It's an issue that is staring us in the face today."

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Climate change set to make America hotter, drier and more disaster-prone

Draft report from NCA makes clear link between climate change and extreme weather as groups urge Obama to take action

Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16.26 EST



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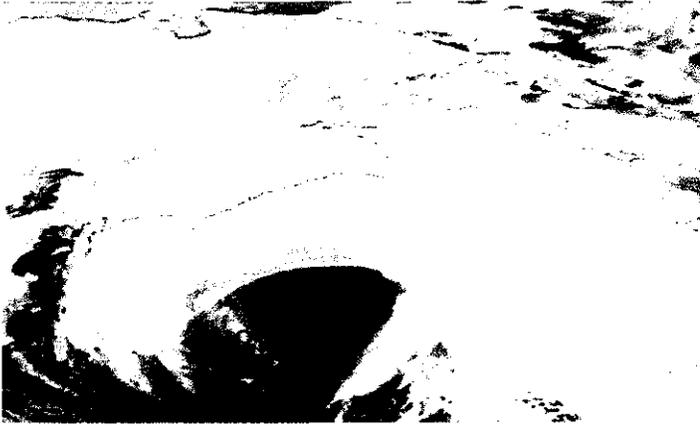
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1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400
Bellevue, Washington 98004

1-14-2013

To Whom It May Concern,

I urge you to thoroughly research, quantify and study the following points and issues:

A lack of imagination, a lack of adequate understanding of facts, impacts and unintended consequences and super-monetized advertising ploys are leading uninformed people to support this project "for the jobs". What are the impacts felt in employment metrics by permitting a very few people to make almost all of the money off of extracting, transporting and selling an American national resource to China. China is a country with skyrocketing and increasingly intolerable pollution from coal combustion, its own plentiful supply of domestic coal stockpiled with falling prices, and supply still tucked in under ground there, for their later use, after ours is gone. Continuing and expanding this model as with the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project not only acts as a saboteur of a healthy environment, but a shortsighted business decision as well. Measure the effects and impacts:

- on an infrastructure established, including the entire rail corridor, then abandoned as the market dries up for the product, continuing a hazardous boom and bust cycle of outmoded economic models and business strategies,
- the opportunity costs if GPT gets permitted in negating or slowing the possibility of jobs established for clean renewable energy, from research, build up of factories, infrastructure, installations and ongoing operations & maintenance,
- of new jobs created from the cheaper, cleaner, renewable energy catalyzing new ideas, services and products, if GPT is not permitted and investment capital moves instead to renewable energy that is currently viable and cost competitive with fossil fuels,
- on China's race to develop renewable energy with their cheap labor, leaving us with lost opportunities to have become the world's innovator, supplier and model for customers around the world. Permitting GPT would contribute to their impetus by accelerating their pollution levels from the GPT coal combustion, thus catalyzing their move to renewables,
- on the environment having a lower priority in public policy when jobs are threatened and the economy is slow. Allowing the proposed GPT to be permitted only serves to further undermine the environment, which in turn further undermines the public's attitudes towards caring about the environment when their livelihoods are at stake. We see this time and time again as the full picture, possibilities and consequences are not adequately or widely discussed in the media, (which feeds public opinion), at times like this when faced with a crossroads of decision, and busy, desperate people just want a job *now* to pay their mortgage and feed their family, understandably. Survey, study and measure these environmental/

societal/ political axioms and measure the responses if the further environmental degradation from allowing the GPT project was or was not allowed to be permitted,

- on state and local governments being forced to respond, beef up infrastructure such as safer railroad crossings and widening intersections, and physically mitigating and litigating intolerable conditions that arise at hazardous pressure points along the entire rail and marine transport corridor and at the terminal site, impacting citizens. These expenditures from local coffers and taxpayers will prevent other necessary and life enhancing projects from getting implemented with limited budgets. Study these issues and if there is not enough breadth of scope and insight in the GPT proposal to to fully codify and include mandatory monetary compensation for these expected and unexpected impacts on state and local budgets and strains on personnel, then it is your duty to not allow the permit to go through,
- by selling off our Powder River Basin coal now to China, if this GPT project gets permitted, will leave us without these highly concentrated fossil fuel BTUs stored in our country. Study the impacts of not having it to rely on here, for our citizen's use, 1,000 or 5,000 years from now if we need to use it and have excellent technologies to use it without harming the environment then. It would have been sold off for the benefit of only a handful of citizens for their monetary enrichment, at the expense of our future- in more ways than one. Utilize this perspective of looking backwards at this crossroads, we currently stand. Impacts we will in the future have the hindsight to say, we should not have allowed the GPT project to get permitted. Come up with ways to study this environmental and societal significance,
- assess the ways that a declining and endangered marine fisheries from pollution, ocean acidification, heavy marine traffic, marine accidents & spills and underwater noise will from GPT will effect jobs, livelihoods and recreational pastimes for families in the Pacific Northwest, including Alaska/Canadian waterways. Native families, who depend on fishing and collecting shellfish and seaweed for their livelihoods and cultural affairs, have rights to continue into perpetuity their sustainably honed ways, without interference or damages due to the fallout of GPT. I live in Anacortes, Washington which has a grand history of fishing and canning. Still today a large segment of our population remains in the fishing industry and friends of ours are long time fisherman families.

I live in Skagit County and my husband and I, among billions of other people will be adversely affected and victimized if the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal is permitted at Cherry Point, and operates as designed. As you study the impacts of the proposed GPT, please keep in mind that what is known and quantifiable now reflects an imperfect and ongoing science. When making your decision to permit or not to permit the construction of the terminal, please bear in mind that the opportunity costs, cumulative and long term environmental, social, psychological, geopolitical and economic impacts must be studied as completely as possible, beyond the "seventh generation", beyond 500 or 1,000 years.

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Thank you,
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Robin McKie, science editor

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If the world's greatest economy is already feeling the strain of global warming, and is fearful of its future impact, then other nations face a very worrying future as temperatures continue to rise as more and more greenhouse gases are pumped into the atmosphere.

"The report makes for sobering reading," said Professor Chris Rapley, of University College London. "Most people in the UK and US accept human-induced climate change is happening but respond by focusing attention elsewhere. We dismiss the effects of climate change as 'not here', 'not now', 'not me' and 'not clear'.

"This compelling new assessment by the US experts challenges all four comforting assumptions. The message is clear: now is the time to act!"

Bob Ward, of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, at the London School of Economics, said: "For those outside the US, this report carries a brutal message because it shows that even the world's leading economy cannot simply adapt to the impacts of climate change. The problem clearly needs concerted international action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to avoid the worst potential consequences."

The national climate assessment, written by a team of 240 scientists, is required every four years by US law. The first was written in 2000, though no report was issued while George W Bush was president. The next came out in 2009. The latest is only a draft version and will be revised after comments by other scientists and the public.

However, observers have noted that the 2013 version is far more uncompromising in its language. "The bluntness reflects the increasing confidence we have in the science and day-to-day realities of climate change," said one of its authors, Katharine Hayhoe, director of the Climate Science Centre at Texas Tech University.

The report highlights, among other things, that 13 American airports have runways that could be inundated by rising sea levels, and that billions of dollars will be needed to repair Alaskan roads, pipelines, sewer systems, buildings and airports where melting permafrosts are disrupting the landscape. These are problems that will not just affect the US. They will be repeated across the planet.

Environmental groups are now hoping that the report will revitalise the debate over climate change in the US and stimulate the administration of Barack Obama into taking action over an issue that has been put on the backburner. "There is so much that is already happening today," said Hayhoe. "This is no longer a future issue. It's an issue that is staring us in the face today."

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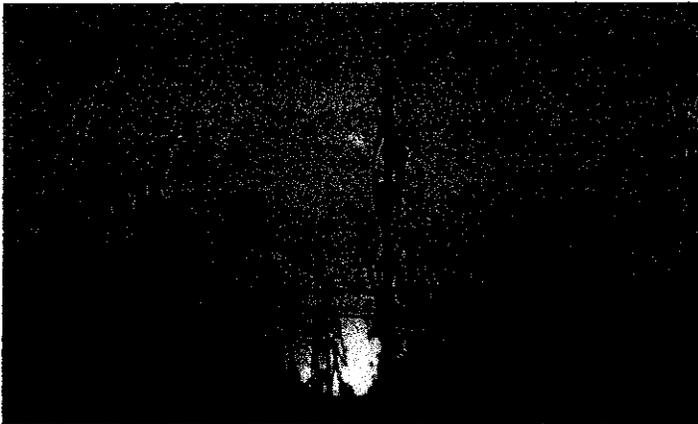
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Climate change set to make America hotter, drier and more disaster-prone

Draft report from NCA makes clear link between climate change and extreme weather as groups urge Obama to take action

Suzanne Goldenberg, US environment correspondent
guardian.co.uk, Friday 11 January 2013 16:26 EST



The report says steps taken by Obama to reduce emissions are 'not close to sufficient' to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change. Photo: Saul Loeb/AFP

Future generations of Americans can expect to spend 25 days a year sweltering in temperatures above 100F (38C), with climate change on course to turn the country into a hotter, drier, and more disaster-prone place.

The National Climate Assessment, released in draft form on Friday, provided the fullest picture to date of the real-time effects of climate change on US life, and the most likely consequences for the future.

The 1,000-page report, the work of the more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, was unequivocal on the human causes of climate change, and on the links between climate change and extreme weather.

"Climate change is already affecting the American people," the draft report said. "Certain types of weather events have become more frequent and/or intense including heat waves, heavy downpours and in some regions floods and drought. Sea level is rising, oceans are becoming more acidic, and glaciers and Arctic sea ice are melting."

The report, which is not due for adoption until 2014, was produced to guide federal, state and city governments in America in making long-term plans.

By the end of the 21st century, climate change is expected to result in increased risk of asthma and other public health emergencies, widespread power blackouts, and mass transit shutdowns, and possibly shortages of food.

"Proactively preparing for climate change can reduce impacts, while also facilitating a

more rapid and efficient response to changes as they happen," said Katharine Jacobs, the director of the National Climate Assessment.

The report will be open for public comment on Monday.

Environmental groups said they hoped the report would provide Barack Obama with the scientific evidence to push for measures that would slow or halt the rate of climate change – sparing the country some of the worst effects.

The report states clearly that the steps taken by Obama so far to reduce emissions are "not close to sufficient" to prevent the most severe consequences of climate change.

"As climate change and its impacts are becoming more prevalent, Americans face choices," the report said. "Beyond the next few decades, the amount of climate change will still largely be determined by the choices society makes about emissions. Lower emissions mean less future warming and less severe impacts. Higher emissions would mean more warming and more severe impacts."

As the report made clear: no place in America had gone untouched by climate change. Nowhere would be entirely immune from the effects of future climate change.



A heatwave swept across the US in 2011, with temperatures reaching over 110F (43C). Photograph: Timothy A Clary/AFP

Some of those changes are already evident: 2012 was by far the hottest year on record, fully a degree hotter than the last such record – an off-the-charts rate of increase.

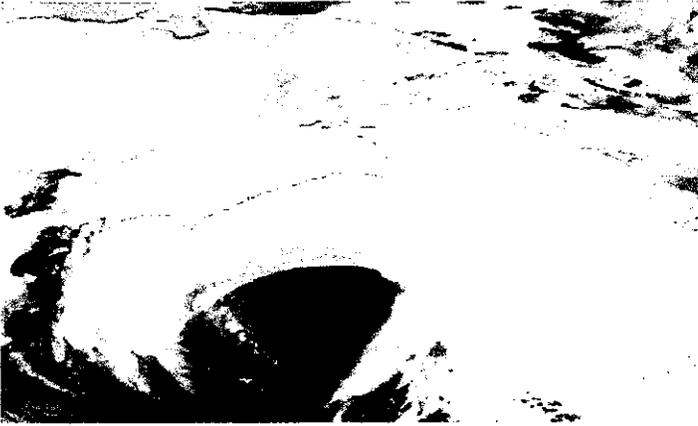
Those high temperatures were on course to continue for the rest of the century, the draft report said. It noted that average US temperatures had increased by about 1.5F since 1895, with more than 80% of this increase since 1980.

The rise will be even steeper in future, with the next few decades projected for temperatures 2 to 4 degrees warmer in most areas. By 2100, if climate change continues on its present course, the country can expect to see 25 days a year with temperatures above 100F.

Night-time temperatures will also stay high, providing little respite from the heat.

Certain regions are projected to heat up even sooner. West Virginia, Maryland and Delaware can expect a doubling of days hotter than 95 degrees by the 2050s. In Texas and Oklahoma, the draft report doubled the probability of extreme heat events.

Those extreme temperatures would also exact a toll on public health, with worsening air pollution, and on infrastructure increasing the load for ageing power plants.



This 8 November

2011 image shows a storm bearing down on Alaska. Photograph: Ho/AFP/Getty Images

But nowhere will see changes as extreme as Alaska, the report said.

"The most dramatic evidence is in Alaska, where average temperatures have increased more than twice as fast as the rest of the country," the draft report said. "Of all the climate-related changes in the US, the rapid decline of Arctic sea ice cover in the last decade may be the most striking of all."

Other regions will face different extreme weather scenarios. The north-east, in particular, is at risk of coastal flooding because of sea-level rise and storm surges, as well as river flooding, because of an increase in heavy downpours.



A flooded farm along the Mississippi River is seen in Cairo, Illinois. Photograph: Stephen Lance Dennee/AP
 "The north-east has experienced a greater increase in extreme precipitation over the past few decades than any other region in the US," the report said. Between 1958 and 2010, the north-east saw a 74% increase in heavy downpours.

The midwest was projected to enjoy a longer growing season – but also an increased risk of extreme events like last year's drought. By mid-century, the combination of temperature increases and heavy rainfall or drought were expected to pull down yields of major US food crops, the report warned, threatening both American and global food security.

The report is the most ambitious scientific exercise ever undertaken to catalogue the real-time effects of climate change, and predict possible outcomes in the future.

It involved more than 300 government scientists and outside experts, compared to around 30 during the last such effort when George W Bush was president. Its findings were also much broader in scope, Jacobs said.

There were still unknowns though, the report conceded, especially about how the loss

of sea ice in Greenland and Antarctica will affect future sea-level rise.

Campaign groups said they hoped the report would spur Obama to act on climate change in his second term. "The draft assessment offers a perfect opportunity for President Obama at the outset of his second term," said Lou Leonard, director of the climate change programme for the World Wildlife Fund. "When a similar report was released in 2009, the Administration largely swept it under the rug. This time, the President should use it to kick-start a national conversation on climate change."

However, the White House was exceedingly cautious on the draft release, **noting in a blogpost**: "The draft NCA is a scientific document—not a policy document—and does not make recommendations regarding actions that might be taken in response to climate change."

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