

We insist (demand) this totally unsafe routing be dropped before it's given serious consideration in a formal EIS process. Notify Army Corps of Engineers such projects must NEVER BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!

As residents of King County who live, work and enjoy recreation in Washington State's highest-density population neighborhoods; Puget Sound's waterfront communities and Ports; our State's most profitable, growth business centers; our largest Universities, research centers, hospital centers, public and private schools; travel visitor center for millions via tourist cruise line ship; convention centers and fast-growing tourism industries; busiest State Ferry system; and thriving export center you represent millions of unsuspecting, uninformed people of Washington State who need YOU to be our voices.

Please Note: Already, over 160 elected officials – including U.S. Senators Murray and Cantwell, plus about 600 health professionals, over 400 local businesses, 220 faith leaders, close to 30 municipalities and Tribal Councils, Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI) including the Lummi Nation have either voiced concern or come out against coal export from the West Coast.

See copies of resolutions, memoranda and positions taken by dozens of State and local leaders and communities (at www.powerpastcoal.org). Fortunately, many citizens and POWER PAST COAL formed an alliance of health, environmental, clean-energy, faith and community groups working to stop coal export off our West Coast.

IMPROPER PLANNING LEADS TO ECONOMIC AND HEALTH DISASTERS

Washington State, Puget Sound and especially King County businesses and residents will be tragically, severely harmed by negative financial and public health aspects of these proposed coal-trains. The projects pose impending environmental disasters. UNSAFE, irresponsible and immoral planning failures are clearly evident for all to see and read in published proposals by Gateway Pacific. Severely impacted communities along the route are speaking out against the atrocity. But who listens? This is a “cram-down”. Neighborhoods will be severely harmed. Health will suffer. Be warned, you are being “steamrolled” by dirty coal and a politically-driven EIS process.

The Project Planning process does not address most harmful, unhealthy, and deadly impacts to our population, immoral risks and toxic pollution to our environment; nor severe economic penalties that dwarf any imaginary, unproved financial benefits by many orders of magnitude.

For the State's and Seattle's rail corridor to Cherry Point, we're positive this EIS planning process will be error-filled, contain hundreds of mistakes, devious language, wrongful statements, and be so unprofessionally engineered, designed and poorly prepared that the proposed King County, Puget Sound waterfront corridor and Downtown Seattle route must never be considered:

- **Flawed coal-train projects are underway now (construction permit requests) for OR and WA that violate the entire region ecology, health and lives of residents, voters and taxpayers who live and work along the route. Design failures reflect total disregard for State laws.**

A glaring example of coal-transport planning failures is Morrow Pacific's Project Plan for coal-train routes in Oregon, Port of Morrow; and barging on Columbia River to proposed coal ports in WA. Corps of Engineers is fully involved in this debacle, as well.

- Who's protecting our public interests? Such projects don't belong in an EIS planning process. The Gateway Pacific projects appear to be a poorly conceived Hedge Fund or Investment Banking schemes. Also politically-motivated interests with complete disregard for regulatory safeguards or risk-mitigations. National security and environmental disregard, too.
- King County will be most severely damaged of all state business interests. Tourism will dwindle. Downtown streets and businesses will be impossible to keep clean of coal dust. Storm drains will carry a mixture of exhaust oils from vehicles and coal dust into Puget Sound. Water pollution and water quality will suffer. Sealife will be harmed or destroyed.
- Value of prime waterfront property along the new Seattle Seawall district will collapse with "Coal-Train" dust, noise, and traffic congestion. Billions of dollars in city revenues and investments will be lost. Tax revenues will disappear in our most promising future business districts.
- Coal train project is UNSAFE for pedestrians, vehicles, visitors, and residents along downtown rail routes. This routing will be far too dirty with noxious coal dust; congested traffic; stop ferry traffic from reaching piers; create noisy conditions round-the-clock; and add to already unacceptable levels of traffic backups; and block critical bus routings through these same streets. Tourists will be appalled and never return to Seattle.
- Gateway Pacific Project planning disaster is not just an inconsequential "EIS Exercise". Washington State's and Seattle's health and environment are at risk. Puget Sound is at risk. Fisheries will be damaged. Out of control global greenhouse gases are at issue, too.
- Sending coal to China is immoral and unethical. China is a cesspool of pollution already. Unregulated coal-fired emissions will harm millions of innocent people. Many fatalities will result from air pollution and climate change. Washington State should have NO PART in such a disaster. Seattle and Puget Sound region should reject it. We are better than that!
- This is a coming 50-Year frontal-attack on our cities, communities and environment. It should NEVER MOVE FORWARD into EIS reviews where Millions of public dollars will be wasted. If approved for construction and operation, millions will be spent defending and attempting to protect citizens, ecology, schools, hospitals and businesses of our state. Health costs and burdens on our state hospitals for coal-dust related diseases and illnesses will be enormous.

LEGAL ACTION VIA CITY OF SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY

Legal action should be promptly initiated by Seattle and King County if instigators of this dangerous project persist in public planning or an EIS evaluation process.

Dwight & Mary Schrag - Bellevue, WA

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- Coal trains create an unacceptable level of health and safety risk for residents, pedestrians, vehicles, and business people downtown. Health and safety risks cannot be properly or realistically mitigated.
- Certain damage and destruction of the environment, air, water, land, ecosystems and animal life will occur. Once this occurs it cannot be reversed.
- Heavy coal-dust pollution will coat Seattle city streets, sidewalks, hospitals, schools, homes, businesses of our cities and countryside. Diseases of the lungs and harm to children, the elderly and the sick will be greatly aggravated.
- Toxic pollution will enter Puget Sound via storm drains and directly from coal dust in the air.
- None of these poorly designed, error-filled proposed mitigation's will be effective or sufficient to avoid disasters (see Port of Morrow Coal Project, OR on Columbia River for example).

UNACCEPTABLE HEALTH & SAFETY RISKS TO CITIZENS

As county and state residents, as taxpayers and citizens we urge and demand you to take prudent, immediate and reasonable actions to protect our safety, our health, our economy and the environment of our State.

To spend taxpayer money and time to conduct a fatally-flawed EIS review for such a harmful, ridiculous project will be illegal, unethical and immoral. We believe and assert that NONE, NOT EVEN ONE of the most dangerous SAFETY HAZARDS can be properly mitigated or corrected for Downtown Seattle's routing, much less at Edmonds, Mukilteo, Everett or at Cherry Point.

Even worse damages will occur along other parts of the route up and down the coast and in the Columbia River, Puget Sound's or Pacific Ocean ecosystems. Because of this, severe accidents and deaths, unforeseen illnesses and breathing difficulties could occur on a regular, ongoing basis. Wildlife will be destroyed; plus environmental and economic damage to Washington and Oregon will be permanent or irreversible. Coal dust is a noxious, severely harmful health issue. Children and the elderly or those in hospitals will be most at risk. No amount of statistics or engineering studies can "wash away" the true facts and serious harms to our citizens.

You have a moral and ethical AND LEGAL obligation to protect people in Washington. State and Federal laws require it. Where are your Planning Staffs on these safety matters? Why haven't our officials acted already to put a STOP to this Project? We want to know.

We ask you to inform us of your plans to end any further consideration for coal trains through downtown Seattle. We appreciate some of the mediocre efforts you made so far, but they are unlikely to have any impact on the terrible end-result facing all of us.

Please speak up at next week's public hearings on our behalf. We need you to stand firm and represent all of us. These five (5) projects in WA and OR should never be allowed to happen.

Sincerely yours,

Dwight and Mary Schrag
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Bellevue, WA 98004

cc: - Sierra Club - Northwest Region & San Francisco Legal Offices
- Climate Solutions - President, Seattle Office
- ATNI - President, Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States

PUBLIC INTEREST NOTE: Take the "Coal-dust Test" below for your personal education :
This is the same test Coal and Railroad interests are asking all of us to take for the rest of our lives. See what you discover? Multiply your TEST results times one-million teaspoons each year for fifty years in our neighborhoods, streams, air, forests, farmlands and city streets.

AT YOUR OWN RISK USING EXTREME CAUTION. THIS TEST MAY BE ILLEGAL & UNSAFE. DO NOT EXPOSE PETS, CHILDREN, OR FAMILY MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY ELDERLY OR ANYONE IN POOR HEALTH OR WITH BREATHING DIFFICULTIES, ASTHMA OR EMPHYSEMA.

HOME DISASTER PREPARATION TEST FOR COAL DUST POLLUTION (AT YOUR OWN RISK)

We wonder if ANY Seattle citizen would knowingly, willingly submit to an uncontrolled scientific experiment to examine potential health risks and pollution hazards for themselves. It requires you buy a face mask and pair of rubber gloves; plus a face shield and goggles to protect your eyes. Disposable paper coveralls and booties is also suggested protective wear.

Soiled clothes, rugs or furnishings resulting from the experiment may be disposed of at a toxic waste site. Your home test site is at risk. **ASK YOUR LOCAL HAZMAT CLEANUP TEAM TO STAND BY.**

COAL-DUST TEST RECIPE :

(1) Mix one-teaspoon of fine coal dust in a blender with one quart of water and two-tablespoons of road oils (or motor oil as substitute). (2) Blend for two-minutes at high speed to create emulsion. (3) Spill one cup onto your floor in a home or private business office (it will be Against-the-Law to put it on streets or in a public place due to toxicity or health hazards).

HOW MANY WEEKS DOES IT TAKE TO CLEAN UP THE MESS, IF EVER?

WARNING - YOUR ENTIRE HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD IS AT RISK !!!