

I live in Whatcom County and raise my family. I am very concerned about the amount of coal that will be coming through the West and Washington and Whatcom County. It is enormous.

You must look at how this coal export will affect all of the West in every town and city. It will be a transformational effect because of the amount of coal able to be exported from the Powder River Basin. The Report (linked below) from the Bureau of Land Management says that right now, 27 billion tons is available for coal mining and under lease from a report published on Sept. 5, 2007. GPT wants to send 54 mtpa out through Cherry Point. The problem is that year after year after year coal will be sent for 300 years.

When you look at the massive tons of coal available to be sent from the Powder River Country you must see the overall unbelievable problem of bringing the billions of tons of coal through the West to Northwest Ports. Surely this will eventually have a devastating effect on our states and homes and fauna and flora. It is most probable. It is an overwhelming amount of pollution.

As coal plants in the US shut down much more of this coal will come through to the West to China and India. There is a push by Peabody Energy to allow energy poor countries like India to be able to get electricity. The Indian population is going to be, in a few years, larger than China, and most of the Country does not have electricity. India does not have much coal, so the likelihood of all this coal coming through our Northwest ports is enormous and probable.

How much coal is there in the Powder River Basin?

550 billion short tons. Out of that right now 27 billion tons is available for mining under standard leasing. The amount is staggering.

“The report found that approximately 1.5 percent of the Federal mineral estate assessed in the Powder River Basin—or 82,000 out of 5.4 million acres—is available for coal mining under standard lease terms. (These 82,000 acres represent about 27 billion tons of Federal coal that is available for mining under standard lease terms.) Nearly 88 percent of the Federal mineral estate in the basin is available for mining with varying degrees of access restrictions. About 11 percent of the Federal acreage in the basin is prohibited from being leased by statute or because of land-use planning decisions.”

Report name: The Inventory of Assessed Federal Coal Resources and Restrictions to Their Development, by BLM , Contact: Matt Spangler, BLM, 202-452-5031 or

John Grasser, Department of Energy, 202-586-6503

http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/newsroom/2007/september/NR_0709_03.html