

January 18, 2013

Combined NEPA/SEPA Review Teams
Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur
RE: Scoping Comment Impact

Dear NEPA/SEPA Reviewers,

On behalf of the businesses, residents, and organizations in Seattle's Chinatown-International District we are writing you with concerns regarding Pacific International Terminal's proposed Gateway Pacific terminal at Cherry Point, Washington.

We understand that the proposed terminal would be capable of exporting 48 to 54 million dry metric tons of coal per year, and the likely delivery of said coal would be directly through Seattle. This would result in an additional 18 diesel trains running every 1.3 hours daily through Seattle, with each train approximately 7,000 feet long. The Chinatown-International District's proximity (or rather adjacency) to these train routes raises a number of concerns, and we as a neighborhood feel that additional studies need to be undertaken to better understand the impacts.

The Chinatown-International District is already disproportionately impacted by a variety of environmental justice issues. Past studies conducted in partnership with the University of Washington have found that our neighborhood constituents have had greater levels of exposure to particulate pollution from multiple transportation sources (including traffic from Interstates 5 and 90; and Highway 99; Port of Seattle; major trucking routes and local stadiums; and of course both commuter and freight trains). This exposure has directly resulted in poorer health outcomes for our vulnerable citizens, over 50% of whom are low-income seniors and 20% of whom are young children; In fact, Seattle King County Public Health has found neighborhood respiratory illness rates to be significantly higher (historically over 250%) than anywhere else in the City. Further, with at least 12% of the neighborhood classified as a 'sensitive land-use' (where the elderly or children live, play or attend school), it is all the more critical to ensure that other regional land-use planning efforts that impact this neighborhood take precautionary measures to protect human health and well-being.

Thus, Seattle's Chinatown-International District strongly encourages the NEPA/SEPA Review to include the following actions:

- 1) Include a health and environmental justice impact assessment for the Chinatown-International District that includes local agencies and organizations as partners in said assessment.
- 2) Include a traffic study that takes into consideration the affects the 18 trains will have on the Chinatown-International District. The October, 2012 "Coal Train Traffic Impact Study" completed by Parametrix failed to include the Chinatown-ID as an affected area, nor did this study list the Chinatown-International District as a stakeholder.
- 3) Include a thorough assessment relating to the impact the 18 coal trains will have on each of the historic buildings within the Chinatown-International District. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1996 (NHPA) necessitates that Federal agencies must take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this complex matter. We deeply appreciate the work your respective organizations do, and we look forward to the inclusion of our concerns in the NEPA/SEPA review process.

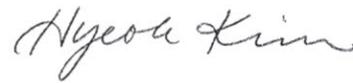
Sincerely,



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Maiko Winkler-Chin
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