



TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR
Post Office Box 219 • Friday Harbor, Washington 98250
(360) 378-2810 • FAX: (360) 378-5339 • www.fridayharbor.org

January 3, 2013

Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal

c/o CH2M HILL

1100 112th Avenue NE, Suite 400

Bellevue, WA 98004

Mr. Randel Perry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

Care of: GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

1100 - 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400

Bellevue, Washington 98004

Tyler Schroeder, Planning Supervisor

Whatcom CDPD

5280 Northwest Drive

Bellingham, WA 98008-5452

RE: Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal draft EIS scoping comments

Dear CH2M HILL , Army Corps of Engineers & Whatcom CDPD:

Thank you for allowing the Town of Friday Harbor, Washington to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal and Cluster Spur Projects. The comments provided herein will identify concerns relating to significant adverse environmental impacts to the Town of Friday Harbor, San Juan Island and San Juan County if the Terminal project is approved.



The Town of Friday Harbor is dependent upon the health and stewardship of our natural environment to remain sustainable, and both residents and visitors alike utilize private and public modes of transportation in our waters. As noted by San Juan County in their scoping letter of November 27, 2012:

Our air, water, fish and fowl migrate over long distances on our planet. Thousands of species spend all or part of their life cycle in San Juan County, with 113 Salish Sea species listed as threatened, endangered, of concern or candidates for listing. Their health directly affects our quality of life in San Juan County. The impacts from the Gateway Pacific Terminal do not exist in an isolated bubble that can be drawn only around the location of the proposed terminal.

Our economy is dependent upon tourism and the maintenance of our environment and ecosystems. The transportation of large, coal-bearing vessels through Haro, Rosario and Juan de Fuca Straits would increase the risk of a catastrophic accident that could forever change that economy. In assessing the risk to our community it is incumbent upon you to measure not only the probability of a spill event, but the potentially irreversible impacts to wildlife and the ability of the islands to regain the pristine environmental conditions upon which so many depend for their livelihood.

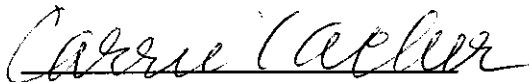
It is our belief that the following questions must be answered during the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and studies should be scoped so as to render data for that purpose:

- Are the proposed/available shipping lanes impacted by shallow waters, narrow passages, strong currents or high incidents of seasonal fog or wind?
- What are the increased risks of an oil and/or coal spill from a collision or grounding given the number of potential shipping events?
- How many species of marine life would be impacted by a significant spill event?
- What would the impact be to commercial and recreational fishing from a significant spill event? To the commercial and recreational shell fish industry?
- What would be the impact from a spill on property values? Commercial businesses? Tourism?
- What are the risks to marine wildlife from the engine propulsion systems on the proposed ships?

We call your attention to the additional questions and scoping issues identified in the above-referenced letter from the elected officials in San Juan County. We look forward to seeing these questions addressed as a part of the EIS and ask that special attention be paid to the risks that cannot be mitigated or cannot safely be undertaken given the scope of the potential impact.

Sincerely,


TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR, WASHINGTON



Mayor Carrie Lacher




Councilmember Anna Maria deFreitas



Councilmember Steven Hushebeck



Councilmember Felix Menjivar



Councilmember Noel Monin



Councilmember Barbara Starr



TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR
Post Office Box 219 • Friday Harbor, Washington 98250
(360) 378-2810 • FAX: (360) 378-5339 • www.fridayharbor.org

January 3, 2013

Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal

c/o CH2M HILL

1100 112th Avenue NE, Suite 400

Bellevue, WA 98004

Mr. Randel Perry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District

Care of: GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

1100 - 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400

Bellevue, Washington 98004

Tyler Schroeder, Planning Supervisor

Whatcom CDPD

5280 Northwest Drive

Bellingham, WA 98008-5452

RE: Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal draft EIS scoping comments

Dear CH2M HILL, Army Corps of Engineers & Whatcom CDPD:

Thank you for allowing the Town of Friday Harbor, Washington to comment on the scope of the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal and Cluster Spur Projects. The comments provided herein will identify concerns relating to significant adverse environmental impacts to the Town of Friday Harbor, San Juan Island and San Juan County if the Terminal project is approved.



The Town of Friday Harbor is dependent upon the health and stewardship of our natural environment to remain sustainable, and both residents and visitors alike utilize private and public modes of transportation in our waters. As noted by San Juan County in their scoping letter of November 27, 2012:

Our air, water, fish and fowl migrate over long distances on our planet. Thousands of species spend all or part of their life cycle in San Juan County, with 113 Salish Sea species listed as threatened, endangered, of concern or candidates for listing. Their health directly affects our quality of life in San Juan County. The impacts from the Gateway Pacific Terminal do not exist in an isolated bubble that can be drawn only around the location of the proposed terminal.

Our economy is dependent upon tourism and the maintenance of our environment and ecosystems. The transportation of large, coal-bearing vessels through Haro, Rosario and Juan de Fuca Straits would increase the risk of a catastrophic accident that could forever change that economy. In assessing the risk to our community it is incumbent upon you to measure not only the probability of a spill event, but the potentially irreversible impacts to wildlife and the ability of the islands to regain the pristine environmental conditions upon which so many depend for their livelihood.

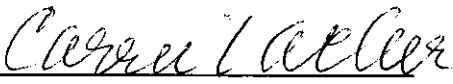
It is our belief that the following questions must be answered during the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement and studies should be scoped so as to render data for that purpose:

- Are the proposed/available shipping lanes impacted by shallow waters, narrow passages, strong currents or high incidents of seasonal fog or wind?
- What are the increased risks of an oil and/or coal spill from a collision or grounding given the number of potential shipping events?
- How many species of marine life would be impacted by a significant spill event?
- What would the impact be to commercial and recreational fishing from a significant spill event? To the commercial and recreational shell fish industry?
- What would be the impact from a spill on property values? Commercial businesses? Tourism?
- What are the risks to marine wildlife from the engine propulsion systems on the proposed ships?

We call your attention to the additional questions and scoping issues identified in the above-referenced letter from the elected officials in San Juan County. We look forward to seeing these questions addressed as a part of the EIS and ask that special attention be paid to the risks that cannot be mitigated or cannot safely be undertaken given the scope of the potential impact.

Sincerely,

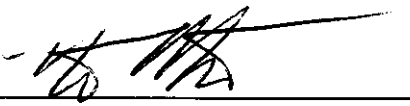
TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR, WASHINGTON



Mayor Carrie Lacher

Absent

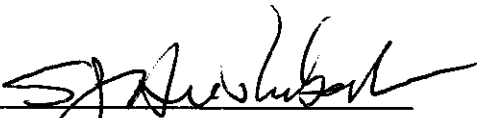
Councilmember Anna Maria deFreitas



Councilmember Steven Hushebeck



Councilmember Felix Menjivar



Councilmember Noel Monin

Barbara Starr

Councilmember Barbara Starr