

January 15, 2013

Mr. Randel Perry, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
1100 112th Avenue Northeast, Suite 400, Bellevue, Washington 98004

Dear Mr. Perry,

For the following reasons I strongly oppose the export of coal from North West ports:

- Coal combustion is a major source of mercury in our atmosphere and ocean. Asia now contributes over half of that mercury (see reference 1 (R1)).
- Thousand of commercial fishing jobs and thousands of jobs in support industries (e.g. fish processing, fish net manufacture, fishing vessel manufacture and maintenance) would surely suffer if consumers stop eating fish due to fear of mercury poisoning.
- Fugitive coal dust is a threat to communities, fish and wildlife and agriculture from the point of coal extraction, all along the transport corridor (railroad routes), at the loading terminals and through the shipping and unloading process at the final destination.
- This week in China, coal fired power plants sent their air quality index rating to 755, way over the top of the scale which is 500 (R2). The Chinese people will not benefit or profit if their industries poison their air.

R1 COAL AND MERCURY IN ALASKA

Kendra L. Zamzow, Ph.D.

Center for Science in Public Participation, August 2010

R2 <http://www.slate.com>

Please consider the negative impacts to our health and economy before making your decision. Commercial fishing, clean water and clean air will sustain future generations for far longer than any boom provided by a coal mining frenzy that would only last a for a few decades.

Sincerely,

Barney D. Baker