

Jan 21 2013
To: Randall Perry
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District
c/o GPT/BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies

Comments for Docket No. COE-2012-0016

Dear Mr. Perry,

I am a resident of Montana and am writing to ask you to please consider the impacts of increased train traffic in our state when constructing and evaluating the EIS for the Cherry Point, WA Gateway Pacific coal export terminal. I personally live on a road where my only access in and out crosses a set of two railroad tracks where trains frequently stop to wait for other trains to pass. I already have to deal with delays on a fairly regular basis and a severe increase in the number of trains per day (possibly up to 40 more!!) would be devastating on my ability to have timely access in and out of my home. I will not be able to get my children to school on time. My job will be in peril if I cannot make it to work on time. Emergency services will not be able to access my house if I need them. This will effect my life in so many negative ways and .

The proposed coal strip mine on the Otter Creek coal tracts will be the largest strip mine developed in Montana and will have nothing but devastating effects on our state. Arch Coal Company has already stated that over 50 million tons per annum will be mined and shipped through Montana via a new railroad line and sold exclusively to Asia to be burned in coal plants. Exporting coal means more global warming pollution. Here in Montana we are having unseasonably warm weather and practically had no winter at all last year. I think it is becoming more apparent every year that we need to burn less fossil fuel and start thinking about the impacts of our actions. We have actually started to make headway here in the US cutting our carbon emissions but will totally lose any and all progress made here by supporting more coal burning overseas. We cannot support the runaway energy needs of China and Asia by mining and selling them our own resources. It is always a possibility that we may need those resources ourselves someday.

Coal dust, a byproduct of coal mining and coal transportation in open train cars, also threatens our health. Each open train car can lose up to 500 lbs. of coal dust en route and this coal dust ends up in our air and water. It pollutes and destroys wildlife habitat, poisons lakes and streams creating "dead zones" where nothing can live, and exposes everyone to harmful heavy metals such as lead, mercury, and selenium. These can cause cancer, infant mortality, asthma, wheezing, and heart attacks just to name a few maladies. Increased train traffic will cause more noise pollution as well. Trains are disruptive and loud and frequently interrupt my sleep.

We need to consider all these impacts on not only the state of Washington but here in Montana as well. It is time to move away from mining and burning coal. We cannot support China's need for cheap fuel at the cost of more greenhouse gases. For the well being of our children and future generations we need to focus more on clean energy and stop allowing corporate giants such as Arch Coal and other exporters to destroy the pristine land we still possess at the expense of short term profits. PLEASE DO NOT

ALLOW THE GATEWAY PACIFIC COAL EXPORT TERMINAL TO BE BUILT.
Thank you for considering my comments.

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