

I have been a resident of Bellingham, Whatcom County, Washington since 1975. My husband and I have raised our family in this practically pristine environment, enjoying all of its natural beauty over the years. I am first and foremost concerned about the environment we live in and the environment we will pass on to our children and grandchildren. The impact I wish to have scoped is the physical vibration/movement of increased coal train traffic on the Olympic Pipeline.

Having gone through the 1999 Olympic Pipeline explosion in Whatcom Falls Park (Bellingham, WA), it became apparent that not a single cause was responsible for the explosion, rather a series of events from: a 1994 damage caused by excavation work, failure to repair the damage, faulty computer system which failed indications of pressure building, faulty pressure valve and failure by the company to train its employees. Tragedy ensued with 3 deaths and extensive damage to the environment.

There are approximately 400 miles of pipeline from Cherry Point to Portland, OR, that parallels the Railroad transporting people and goods, including coal. The geography alone begs to ask the question "Could increased rail traffic vibrations, weight of coal, damage to the infrastructure of the rails directly or indirectly affect the pipeline?" Furthermore, under the Washington Pipeline Safety Act (House Bill 2420) would the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission have a role in conducting an inspection or become a part in oversight?

Being that the Olympic Pipeline explosion had a horrific effect on 3 families, the surrounding environmental destruction and the emotional scars received by most all Bellingham/Whatcom County citizens at that time, I believe the coal train impact question on the pipeline merits investigation and response.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

CHRIS SYMONDS