

AUG. 3, 2015 or Ken Blodgett
Attn: Victoria Rutson, Surface Transportation Board (STB)

I am writing to state my concern about Arch Coal's proposed ~90 mile rail link from the Otter Creek Mine to a trans-national line. I urge the STB to take the "no action alternative". The draft EIS wrongly assumes that there is a domestic market for Otter Creek coal. Given the EPA's new air quality standards to reduce carbon emissions over the next 15 years, this claim rings untrue.

The draft EIS also wrongly assumes that 18-26 coal trains/day would have zero traffic impacts. This is an outrageous and ridiculous assumption. Towns and cities along the rail lines from SE Montana to the Pacific Northwest would suffer the impact of dramatically increased coal train traffic from fugitive coal dust as well as diesel exhaust.

The long-term impact of burning over a billion tons of coal on global climate change cannot be overlooked. Given that domestic and foreign markets for coal are diminishing as renewable alternatives become more affordable, I urge you to question the wisdom of one short-term speculative profit-seeking venture by Arch Coal in which precious few will benefit at the expense of communities throughout our region and around the world.

Sincerely,
Mike Lince
Washington State