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Commenter: Dena Jensen

Organization:

State: Washington

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

Dear Mr. Blodgett and all Draft EIS personnel: I live in Birch Bay, Washington, about 2 miles from the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) and have been educating myself about coal and this export project for the last 4 years. I understand that it is a strong possibility that the proposed Tongue River Railroad and Otter Creek Mine are depending on west coast export terminals being built in order for there to be sufficient demand for their products. I oppose GPT and all coal related projects because there is no mitigation possible for the fact that we already have too many industries and projects that depend on processing materials with toxic components and storing or releasing the toxic elements in some fashion. We cannot afford to approve anymore. Period. The toxic chemicals stored inertly in coal are released when coal is processed. Even if you take those toxic materials out, they have to be put somewhere. We live in an age, where we really cannot even afford any storage space for such dangerous items, let alone have them escaping from accidents or negligence. I do not know if you have studied and addressed this in your very long Draft EIS that I understand is confusing and is missing vital items that should be studied. But I think focus on this one item is essential and will keep the process short. Plain and simply, we have too many toxic materials being released in our world right now. More mining, more transporting materials that release their toxins in transport, equals more danger, thus, speeding up this potential mass extinction that we are running into, head-on. I'm sure it won't take you long to find out what trouble we are in here on earth. Here's a mini starting place: <http://www.usatoday.com/story/tech/2014/07/24/mass-extinction-study/13096445/> Tell the big corporations to go back to the drawing board and to start proposing projects and getting investors whose primary focus is protecting and preserving our sacred lands, waters, and life forms. That's where the big pay-offs will really start to show up for all of us! Sincerely, Dena Jensen Birch Bay, WA