

Received: 6/9/2015 3:00:48 AM

Commenter: Caleb Laieski

Organization:

State: Virginia

Agency: Surface Transportation Board

Initiative: Tongue River Railroad

Submission Text

Comment on Tongue River Railroad DEIS (Docket #30186 I oppose construction of the Tongue River Railroad, and urge the STB to take the “no action alternative.” The railroad proposes to haul coal from the speculative Otter Creek mine at a time when coal markets are crumbling both domestically and around the world. The Otter Creek mine is clearly a connected impact of the railroad’s construction. Otter Creek is the largest proposed coal mine in the United States, and represents 1.3 billion tons of coal that, if mined, would contribute to climate change for the next 55 years. The draft EIS wrongly assumes that there is a domestic coal market for high-sodium Otter Creek coal, and wrongly assumes zero train traffic impacts from construction of a rail line that could transport 18-26 additional coal trains per day. Rail communities between the proposed railroad in Montana and Pacific Northwest export terminals would suffer the consequences of dramatically increased coal train traffic, including slashed property values, increased traffic congestion, safety hazards, and air pollution from both diesel exhaust and fugitive coal dust. The TRR and coal export only benefit private coal companies and Asian energy users while it hurts those of us who live along the rail line. Just say no the Tongue River Railroad. Thank you for your time and consideration, Caleb Laieski