

25 September 2013

TO: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Washington State Department of Ecology,  
Cowlitz County  
FROM: Jim Kolva, developer/owner and resident of the historic Adams Street Lofts, 115  
South Adams Street, Spokane, WA 99201  
SUBJECT: Scoping for the Proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview Environmental  
Impact Statement

As a property owner adjacent to the BNSF rail corridor through downtown Spokane, I have the following issues that I feel should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview EIS.

In general, what impacts will the coal trains have on the integrity of two National Historic Register Districts (West Downtown Historic Transportation Corridor, and East Downtown) in the city of Spokane. Further, how will the trains affect the health of the people living along this corridor?

How will the increased train traffic impact the economic viability of public housing, loft apartments and condominiums located within historic buildings within this corridor? How will the emissions from the increase affect the health of those living along the corridor? Over the past ten years over a dozen residential projects and hundreds of new residents occupying these residences (private and public funding) have been developed within a block either side of the BNSF corridor that stretches through downtown Spokane. Millions of dollars have been invested and the corridor's assessment rolls have increased significantly.

Specific impacts to be addressed:

- Vibration
- Noise
- Diesel emissions – effects on human health
- Coal dust emitted from open rail cars – effects on human health
- Other dust generated by the movement of the cars along the corridor

What is the distance from the tracks that would be evaluated as the area of impact by the increased traffic?

Will a baseline study be conducted to determine existing conditions for human health and air quality along the corridor; i.e. will a baseline study be completed?

Will monitoring be conducted along the corridor to determine increases in noise levels, diesel emissions, and coal dust emissions?

What mitigating measures can be taken to reduce coal dust and diesel emissions?

In order to control dust from escaping the rail cars during transit along the corridor can an emulsion be sprayed on after loading to encapsulate the coal surface? (Presently lumps of coal regularly fall from moving rail cars.)

Are there diesel fuels or engine technologies that emit lower levels of emissions?

How does speed through the downtown affect emissions of particulates, gases, and noise?