

No: 13-46
Date: September 4, 2013

RESOLUTION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SANDPOINT

TITLE: CONCERNS REGARDING INCREASED COAL TRAIN TRAFFIC IN THE CITY OF SANDPOINT AS A RESULT OF THE LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON, MILLENNIUM BULK TERMINAL

WHEREAS: Coal companies are proposing to increase the number of coal trains that travel through Sandpoint in order to reach their new and existing export terminals in the states of Oregon and Washington, with mining currently taking place in the Powder River Basin in Montana and Wyoming;

WHEREAS: The City of Sandpoint recognizes the potential for economic, public health, and environmental impacts on Lake Pend Oreille, the City, its visitors and residents;

WHEREAS: Coal is commonly transported in open top rail cars attached to diesel locomotives;

WHEREAS: Coal dust, which contains heavy metals, and diesel exhaust are known to pose a threat to public health;

WHEREAS: The proposed Millennium Bulk terminal in Longview, Washington, is being designed to annually export up to 44 million metric tons of coal to Asia;

WHEREAS: Coal is known to escape open top rail cars and has been identified in multiple water bodies along the route from the Powder River Basin;

WHEREAS: The rail line runs adjacent to and across Lake Pend Oreille, and coal dust, along with particulates from diesel locomotives, will have potential negative impact on the water quality of Lake Pend Oreille;

WHEREAS: Increased train traffic threatens emergency response times and pedestrian safety, can cause traffic circulation issues, and increases the likelihood of derailment;

WHEREAS: An increase in the amount of rail traffic threatens property values and has no economic benefit to the City of Sandpoint; and

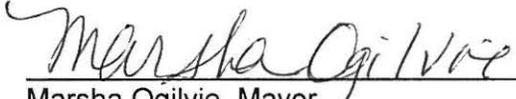
WHEREAS: The Washington State Department of Ecology has air quality, storm water and water quality permitting responsibility for the proposed Millennium Bulk terminal.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SANDPOINT, BONNER COUNTY, IDAHO, THAT:

1. The City Council of the City of Sandpoint, charged by law with protecting the health and safety of its citizens, is deeply concerned about potential hazards increased train traffic and coal effects will have on the City of Sandpoint, its residents, and visitors.

2. The City Council urges the Washington State Department of Ecology to scrutinize the impact of the proposed Millennium Bulk terminal, mindful of the full range of human and environmental hazards expanded shipping will have on Bonner County.
3. The City of Sandpoint urges the Army Corps of Engineers to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement—in accordance with NEPA and the U.S. Supreme Court ruling of *Kleppe v. Sierra Club* (1976)—that includes Bonner County.
4. The City of Sandpoint recognizes that, due to local topography, Burlington Northern/Montana Rail Link and Union Pacific rail service is funneled through the City of Sandpoint on single tracks. If a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement is not prepared for the project, the City of Sandpoint requests that a point specific Environmental Impact Statement be prepared for the City of Sandpoint.
5. The City of Sandpoint urges the Army Corps of Engineers to host a scoping hearing within Sandpoint in order to determine the scope of an environmental review, explore alternatives and allow for public comment.
6. The City of Sandpoint urges development and adoption of an emergency environmental cleanup plan in the event of a derailment along the shores of Lake Pend Oreille.
7. This Resolution shall be effective upon its passage and approval and shall be forwarded to the Washington State Department of Ecology, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the City's legislative representatives, Bonner County Commissioners, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, members of the Idaho State Legislature, members of the U.S. Congress representing the State of Idaho, and any other agencies having jurisdiction in the permitting process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council hereby adopts this Resolution.



 Marsha Ogilvie, Mayor

ATTEST:



 Maree Peck, City Clerk

City Council Members:

		YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
1.	Logan	X			
2.	Brunner				X
3.	Schuck			X	
4.	Qualls	Motion	X		
5.	Eddy	Second	X		
6.	Rognstad				X