

Form Letter ZA:

The EIS should consider the fact that as Columbia River vessel traffic has declined 30%, from a peak of 2021 ships in the year 2000 to 1404 ships in 2011, increased vessel traffic as the increased volume will be replacing lost vessel traffic not increasing total volumes. The EIS should recognize the beneficial impact of increased vessel traffic in such areas as reducing pilotage costs and increasing the port service infrastructure (e.g. additional tugs to serve the lower Columbia River).