

Emails pertaining to
Gateway Pacific Project
For September 15-21, 2012

From: Council
To: gpttweb@co.whatcom.wa.us
Date: 9/17/2012 8:52 AM
Subject: Fwd: Coal Trains - A Contrast
Attachments: Coal Trains - A Contrast

Please note: Emails are public records subject to public disclosure upon request.

From: "Paul Tholfsen" <paul@ptjt.com>
To: <council@co.whatcom.wa.us>
Date: 9/13/2012 5:02 PM
Subject: Coal Trains - A Contrast

Please distribute this to all County Council members

The item below was prompted by my visit last week to White Rock, BC

Coal Trains - A Contrast

I occasionally spend a summer afternoon in the nearby BC town of White Rock. Because so many Bellinghamsters seem very rarely to visit the lower mainland, I'll describe the section of White Rock adjoining Boundary Bay, looking across at Semiahmoo.

It's a beach resort, very similar to Birch Bay but more upscale.

There's Marine Drive, a two lane street of a couple of miles paralleling the beach.

On the land side of the street is a row of a hundred or more restaurants, fish and chips and ice cream shops, all busy on a nice summer weekend.

Higher up the hill behind the restaurants are layers of very expensive view homes and condominiums.

Across the street, towards the beach and paralleling it is a long narrow strip of municipal parking.

Continuing toward the beach, next is the "promenade", a long raised pedestrian walkway also paralleling the beach, for strolling and enjoying the view.

Then there's the beach – actually a tidal flat, not good for swimming but good for kites and other pursuits when the tide is out.

And on a nice summer weekend the place is really busy. The restaurants and the shops are all full as are the street and parking lot spaces. Pedestrians are strolling, and people are enjoying the beach.

Oh, but there's one thing I omitted.

Nestled between the promenade and the beach is the main line of the BNSF railroad - the very same line which runs through Bellingham on the way to the BC coal port at Tsawwassen.

So the other day, while enjoying my gelato, I heard the horn of an approaching train. Sure enough, a minute later along came a southbound train hauling about 100 empty coal cars.

How did people react?

As nearly as I could see, nobody seemed to notice. In about three minutes the train passed and then life went merrily on.

Now we are told, by none other than the Whatcom Docs organization that the coal trains are responsible for about fifteen different and very serious health conditions, some even deadly.

They believe the trains are slowly poisoning us with diesel exhaust and coal

dust, causing a future epidemic of cancer.

Still others assure us that the coal trains will render the waterfront hopelessly undesirable for public or commercial usage.

So here's the question:

a) Are the White Rock Canadians and their government hopelessly naïve and even reckless in their complete disregard of the health risks and community degradation allegedly posed by the coal trains.

Or

b) Are the 10,000 people who petitioned the City Council to stop the coal trains the victims of mass hysteria?

You'll have to be the judge

Very truly yours,

Description: Description: Description: Description: Description:
Description: PT Signature

Paul Tholfsen, CPA

2626 South Park Drive

Bellingham, WA 98225

paul@ptjt.com

360-734-9343

From: Jack Louws
To: Tyler Schroeder
Date: 9/17/2012 10:26 AM
Subject: Fwd: Coal Trains - A Contrast

For the record.

>>> "Paul Tholfsen" <paul@ptjt.com> 9/13/2012 5:08 PM >>>
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Paul Tholfsen, CPA

2626 South Park Drive

Bellingham, WA 98225

paul@ptjt.com

360-734-9343

From: Jack Louws
To:
Date: 9/18/2012 10:31 AM
Subject: Fwd: Cherry Point Terminal
Attachments: Cherry Point Terminal

for the record

From: Paddy Bruce <paddyab@gmail.com>
To: <jlouws@co.whatcom.wa.us>, <council@co.whatcom.wa.us>, <Tschroed@co.what...>
Date: 9/18/2012 9:48 AM
Subject: Cherry Point Terminal

I *oppose* the planning and building of the SSA terminal at Cherry Pt. for many reasons. I know you've probably heard them all before but as we seem to be unable to vote on this and must be subject to corporate entitlement and backroom dealings here is yet *another appeal to ask* you to prioritize the quality of our water, air, and land and seek clean, modern industry. Cherry Pt needs to be protected because.

1. The straight herring population needs to rebound in order to rebalance the ecology for all marine life, whales, Orca's one of our signature species are at risk over the entire Salish Sea. Seals, birds and all bivalves need a pristine environment to rebound and flourish.

2. Jobs that support the transport and shipping of low grade coal to foreign countries without environmental regulations for burning coal hurt everyone and the environment both here and around the world as the prevailing winds and currents circulate the pollution around the planet. Acid rain is a well documented product of the burning of fossil fuels.

3. Science tells us that we live in a web of life interconnected at a micro and macro level. Short term vision for profits for a few corporate executives and stockholders does not represent the needs of the many, including the earth and it's host of irreplaceable plants, animals, and health providing systems. *We need better design for the future that includes all of us*. Clean air, water, and earth for all people for all time. We can do it.

Read: Cradle to Cradle - Bill McDonough

Criteria of Systems Thinking:

"Living systems are integrated wholes whose properties cannot be reduced to those of smaller parts. Their essential, or "systemic", properties are properties of the whole, which none of the parts have. they arise from the "organizing relations" of the parts--that is, from the configuration of ordered relationships that is characteristic of that particular class of organisms, or systems. *Systemic properties are destroyed when a system is dissected into isolated elements."*

Fritof Kapra - The Web of Life

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Thank you for representing our people and community.

Paddy Bruce

From: Council
To: gpttweb@co.whatcom.wa.us
Date: 9/18/2012 11:39 AM
Subject: Fwd: Cherry Point Terminal
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From: Paddy Bruce <paddyab@gmail.com>
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Paddy Bruce