



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

TOM TRULOVE, MAYOR

January 18, 2013

GPT / BNSF Custer Spur EIS Co-Lead Agencies
c/o CH2M Hill
1100 112th Avenue NE, Suite 400
Bellevue, WA 98004

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments regarding the scope of the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) addressing the Gateway Pacific Terminal Project.

Cheney, Washington, is located approximately 17 miles southwest of Spokane and is bisected by mainline tracks for both the Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern / Santa Fe (BNSF) railroads. Its population includes slightly less than 11,000 permanent residents and, during the school year, a significant number of students attending Eastern Washington University (Fall 2012 enrollment is 12,587).

We are concerned about the additional rail traffic that would occur through the city were the Gateway Pacific Terminal Project to be built. Currently there are four intersections within the city limits where roads cross the BNSF rails. The UP rails involve three crossings within, and one just outside, the city limits. All of these crossings are at grade.

We request that the DEIS scope include an analysis of the impacts of added rail traffic that would result if the Gateway Pacific Terminal Project were to be built. These impacts would include delays at rail crossings, resulting in increased response times for emergency services, traffic congestion, and emissions from waiting vehicles. Other impacts that should be considered include increased emissions from diesel locomotives, train noise (including both rail noise and train horns), and the potential consequences of a derailment or train/vehicle collision within the city.

In addition to the direct impacts of the Gateway Pacific Terminal Project, we request you also conduct a cumulative impact analysis that includes consideration of both existing rail traffic and any additional rail transport effects in Cheney resulting from other reasonably foreseeable future rail terminal projects that could further increase rail traffic through Cheney. Specifically, this should include impacts associated with the construction of the proposed Morrow Pacific Coal Export Terminal Project to be built by Ambre Energy with a projected completion date in 2014 and the Ambre Millennium Bulk Terminals proposed for construction near Longview, Washington. It is our understanding that these projects would depend on additional rail shipments over the tracks bisecting Cheney.

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Thank you for your attention to these requests. Please add the following to your project mail list:

Arlene Fisher, ICMA-CM
City Administrator
City of Cheney
609 Second Street
Cheney, WA 99004

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Trulove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Trulove
Mayor