

## 9<sup>th</sup> Grade HEP: COAL TRAIN

Search Terms: Gateway Pacific Terminal, Coal Train, Bellingham Coal Export Terminal,

**\*\*<http://cccu.wustl.edu/research-stat.php>**

### **GENERAL TOPICS:**

“Annual Coal Report.” EIA. *Independent Statistics & Analysis; U.S. Energy Information Administration*. U.S. Department of Energy, Dec 12, 2013. Web. 8 Apr 2014.

<http://www.eia.gov/coal/annual/>.

“New Addition: Use EIA's new interactive [Coal Data Browser](#) to find, graph, and map coal data. Data sets include production, imports and exports, shipments to electricity plants, and individual mine-level data. Maps include [world trade](#), [national](#), [basin](#), [state](#), and [supplier networks](#)”

*Beyond Coal Coalition*. Sierra Club, nd. Web. <http://content.sierraclub.org/coal/>

Bowers, Elaine. “Proposal for a New Coal-Shipment Terminal Promises Thousands of Jobs, Lots of Debate.” *Seattle Business*. Tiger Oak Media, Sep. 2012. Web.

<http://seattlebusinessmag.com/article/proposal-new-coal-shipment-terminal-promises-thousands-jobs-lots-debate>

*Coal Train Facts*. Coal Train Facts, Coal Train Facts, 2013. Web. <http://www.coaltrainfacts.org>

Look specifically at:

<http://www.coaltrainfacts.org/scoping/featured-scoping-comments>

Includes a list of all organizations specializing in specific areas of impact such as Rail, Marine and Fisheries Impacts, Public Health and Safety Impacts, Financial Costs, Global Impacts, Organizations, Tribal Nations, Agencies, and “Elected Officials, School Districts, Parks, Counties, Ports and Cities.” There are no links to each but a simple search for any of these in the list should produce a hefty return.

“COAL CLASH: Possible coal train routes.” *OregonLive: The Oregonian*. Oregon Live, 2012.  
<http://projects.oregonlive.com/coal/map.php>.

The likely routes for coal trains from Montana and Wyoming’s Powder River Basin to export terminals in the Northwest, denotes which trains will carry coal to each terminal.

“Coal Transportation in the Northwest.” *MRSC*. Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington, Jan. 2013. Web. < <http://www.mrsc.org/subjects/transpo/coaltrans.aspx>>

Cockerham, Sean. "Analyst: Chinese Coal Demand Falling as Pacific Northwest Considers Export Terminals." Editorial. *The Bellingham Herald* [Bellingham] 17 May 2013: n. pag. *The Bellingham Herald*. The Bellingham Herald, 17 May 2013. Web.  
<<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2013/05/17/3013262/chinas-hunger-for-american-coal.html>>.

Davenport, Coral. “ The Obscure County Election That Could Change the Planet.” *National Journal*. National Journal Group, Inc., 29 May 2013. Web.  
<http://www.nationaljournal.com/magazine/the-obscure-county-election-that-could-change-the-planet-20130523>

De Place, Eric and John Abbotts. How Coal and Oil Trains Will Block Traffic in Spokane County: Hours of street closures in Spokane, Cheney, and other communities. *Sightline Daily*. Sightline Institute, September 19, 2013. Web. 8 Apr 2014.  
<http://daily.sightline.org/2013/09/19/how-coal-and-oil-trains-will-block-traffic-in-spokane/>

This is one of 10 articles dealing with traffic problems caused by coal trains in various communities.

*Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point – a Proposed Coal Export Terminal*. League of Women Voters of Bellingham/Whatcom County, 03 Jun. 2013. Web.  
<http://lwvbellinghamwhatcom.org/CherryPt.html>

An example of one letter from the *Scoping Letters* section is below at this link. Very informative in how weight of rail cars would

impact grades crossings in the city, rail crossing safety, walking, spillover and environmental contamination, and more.

“Heavy Traffic *Still Ahead*.” *Western Organization of Resource Councils*. WORC.org., 2012.

<http://www.heavytrafficahead.org/>.

*Heavy Traffic Still Ahead* updates WORC’s July 2012 report, *Heavy Traffic Ahead*, and reevaluates the anticipated increase in coal train traffic in light of the current proposals for new or expanded port facilities in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, the update discusses the combined effects of oil trains traveling from North Dakota over the same routes. The report also identifies impacts to communities along the transport route, consequences for existing rail users, including grain shippers and passenger service, and how coal export could affect rail corridors already near capacity.

Hoekstra, Gordon. “Homes near rail lines face exposure to harmful emissions: study University of Washington study sparks renewed calls for health study for Surrey coal project.” *The Vancouver Sun*. The Vancouver Sun, 23 Mar 2014. Web. 8 Apr 2014. <http://www.vancouversun.com/health/Homes+near+rail+lines+face+exposure+harmful+emissions+study/9652314/story.html>.

McKay, Floyd. “Coal Train: The People and the Process Behind Bellingham’s Coal Port Decision.” *Crosscut.com*. Crosscut Public Media, 22 Jan. 2013. Web. <http://crosscut.com/2013/01/22/coal-ports/112576/coal-train-the-Gateway-Pacific-Terminal-decision/>

- Presents the players of both sides of the issue.

McKay, Floyd. “How coal trains could choke NW’s economic engines.” *Crosscut.com*. Crosscut Public Media, 12 Jul 2012. Web. 8 Apr 2014. <http://crosscut.com/2012/07/12/coal-ports/109550/coal-ports-trains-seattle-edmonds-bellingham/>.

McClellan, Roger. "Guest: Weigh Science, Instead of Conjecture, On Dangers of Coal Train Dust." *The Seattle Times*. The Seattle Times Company, 09 May 2013. Web. <  
[http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2020956387\\_rogermcclellanopedxml.html](http://seattletimes.com/html/opinion/2020956387_rogermcclellanopedxml.html)>

Power Past Coal: Communities Against Coal Export, 2012. Web.  
<http://www.powerpastcoal.org/library/>

"Power Past Coal." *ReSources: For Sustainable Communities*. ReSources, n.d. Web.  
<http://www.re-sources.org/gpt>

Profita, Cassandra. "A Columbia River Pilot's View of Coal Exports." *Oregon Public Broadcasting*. Oregon Public Broadcasting, 04 Mar. 2013. Web. <  
<http://www.opb.org/news/blog/ecotrope/a-columbia-river-pilots-perspective-on-coal-exports/>>

"Some Conclusions As We Ponder a Local Coal Terminal." *The Daily News*. Longview Daily News, 11 June 2013. Web. [http://tdn.com/news/opinion/some-conclusions-as-we-ponder-a-local-coal-terminal/article\\_b2746f22-d222-11e2-940d-0019bb2963f4.html?comment\\_form=true](http://tdn.com/news/opinion/some-conclusions-as-we-ponder-a-local-coal-terminal/article_b2746f22-d222-11e2-940d-0019bb2963f4.html?comment_form=true)

- Longview, Washington Newspaper Editorial about local coal terminals.

US Army Corp of Engineers, State of Washington Department of Ecology, Whatcom County, National EPA, State EPA. "Environmental Impact Statement: Proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal/Custer Spur: Scoping Report." *Gateway Pacific Terminal EIS*. US Army Corp of Engineers, State of Washington Department of Ecology, Whatcom County, National EPA, State EPA, 2012. Web. <  
<http://www.eisgatewaypacificwa.gov/resources/scoping-report>>

## **PRO Stakeholders:**

"Ambre Energy: Unlocking the export potential of America's Pacific Northwest." *Youtube*. Youtube, n.d. Web. 9 Apr 2014. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=veh5SxmtOY0>.

Company ad to promote Millenium Terminal and coal trains.

DiBenedetto, Bill. "Ambre Energy's PNW Coal Export Plans Face Financial Problems." TriplePundit. TriplePundit, 2014. Web. 9 Apr 2014.  
<http://www.triplepundit.com/2013/02/ambre-energys-pnw-coal-export-plans-face-financial-problems/>.

"Get the Facts (three terminal expansion projects)". *Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports*. Alliance for Northwest Jobs & Exports, 2014. Web. 8 Apr 2014.  
<http://createnwjobs.com/learn-more/get-the-facts/>.

Includes port project infographics and various factsheets on various coal terminal related topics (ie: tax revenue, job creation, coal dust, etc.)

Zernow, Vladimir. "How Is Peabody Energy Corporation Different From Other Coal Miners?" The Motley Fool. The Motley Fool, 2014. Web. 9 Apr 2014. <http://www.fool.com/investing/general/2014/04/09/how-is-peabody-energy-corporation-different-from-o.aspx>.

## **PERMITTING:**

Davis, Rob. "Ambre Energy asks permit delay." *Hood River New*, Apr 8, 2014. Eagle Newspapers, Inc., 2014. Web. 9 Apr 2014.  
<http://www.hoodrivernews.com/news/2014/apr/09/ambre-energy-asks-permit-delay/>.

"Environmental Review: Gateway Pacific Terminal at Cherry Point Proposal." *Department of Ecology State of Washington*. Washington State Department of Ecology, n.d. Wweb. 8 Apr 2014. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/geographic/gatewaypacific/>.

\*\*Details the Permitting Process, Environmental Review sequence and a listing of Related Documents (from various agencies such as US. Army Corps of Engineers)

Oregon Issues 3 Permits For Columbia River Coal Terminal.” *OPB*. Oregon Public Broadcasting, Feb 11, 2014. Web. 8 Apr 2014.

<http://earthfix.opb.org/energy/article/oregon-issues-3-permits-for-boardman-coal-export-t/>.

Schwartz, Ralph. “Whatcom council rejects reviewing all contract changes for coal terminal.” *The Bellingham Herald*. February 12, 2014. The Bellingham Herald. Web. 8 Apr 2014. <http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2014/02/12/3473362/whatcom-council-rejects-reviewing.html>.

“Second Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Request.” *City Council Agenda Bill 19809*. Bellingham City Council, 14 Jan. 2013. [http://1wvbellinghamwhatcom.org/files/city\\_technical\\_scoping\\_statement\\_ab19809.pdf](http://1wvbellinghamwhatcom.org/files/city_technical_scoping_statement_ab19809.pdf) *Resources*. Fact Sheets, Reports, Impacts, Fliers, Legislation, Maps.

## **PERMITTING: WHO DECIDES AND HOW**

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The permitting process for GPT will be complex and will involve multiple levels of federal, state and local review. Decision-makers include the [Whatcom County Council](#) for shoreline and development permits and the [Public Lands Commissioner](#) at the Department of Natural Resources for an aquatic lease (state-owned tide lands). The Department of Ecology, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must also grant approvals in order for the project to go through. These governmental bodies will consider the Environmental Impact Statement when making their decisions. The Lummi and Nooksack Nations, following their own processes, will render pivotal decisions regarding usual and accustomed fishing grounds.

[↑ READ MORE about Permitting](#)

**Primary decision makers on permits will be: [Gateway Pacific Terminal]**

- the Whatcom County Council for shoreline and development permits;
- the Public Lands Commissioner at the Department of Natural Resources for an aquatic lease;
- the Department of Ecology for water quality and stormwater approvals;
- the Department of Fish and Wildlife for Hydraulic Project Approvals ([GPT's application is still incomplete](#)); and
- the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for fill of 140 acres of wetlands and construction of a pier in navigable waters.

As recognized in the Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve Plan, the [Lummi Nation](#) and [Nooksack Indian Tribe](#), with at least four other tribes, have treaty rights in the Georgia Strait, as usual and accustomed fishing grounds. Cherry Point is also known to have spiritual and cultural significance to one or more Tribes. Their approval or disapproval of the project by Tribes will be cited by the Corps of Engineers and other agencies in making their permitting decisions, based on formal government to government consultations with the Tribes. Sovereignty and Treaty Protection for the Lummi Nation has taken a [“no” position](#) on the use of Xwe’chi’eXen (Cherry Point) as a coal terminal.

Other important decision makers:

- the U.S. Congress in authorizing rail improvements needed by BNSF for rail sidings; and
- potentially federal and/or state railway regulatory bodies that require permits for new rail construction.

**Permits and other considerations include:**

- **Shorelines:** This project will be subject to study of the nearshore habitat and the shoreline habitat. Of particular interest is Whatcom County’s Shoreline Management Program, at [Title 23 of the Whatcom County Code](#).
- **Forest Practices:** This project will need a [Forest Practices Permit](#) under Chapter 76.09 RCW to cut trees on the site.
- **Water Supply:** This project will need to provide water to the site, likely in the form of [water rights issued by the Department of Ecology](#).

- The project will require several permits under the [National Permit Discharge Elimination System \(NPDES\)](#).

[Analysis: The History and Significance of SSA Marine's Land and Cultural Disturbance at the Gateway Pacific Terminal Site, Summer 2011.](#)

- See more at: <http://www.coaltrainfacts.org/key-facts#permit>