

SCOPING COMMENT OUTLINE

“The lead agency shall narrow the scope of every EIS to the (1) probable SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACTS and (2) REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES, including MITIGATION measures” (Wash. Admin. Code sec. 197-11-408(1)).

Introduce yourself, state your purpose for writing, and the impact you want scoped:

A

✘ Be specific stating the direct, indirect, or cumulative impact you want studied (effect of emissions from diesel particulates on people with asthma living within 1000 feet of the rail line).

✘ Avoid stating an opinion (“I oppose...,” “I do not believe that...,” “I fear...”).

Describe the significance of the impact (risks to lives, species, businesses, opportunities, etc):

B

✘ Define the breadth of the scoping necessary to adequately address the significance of the impact in terms of time, geography, and all populations impacted.

✘ Discuss Cumulative Impacts.

✘ Consider if an impact is measureable.

C

Provide support as to why this impact is foreseeable:

✕ Link the harm to an activity necessary for the operation of a coal terminal.

✕ Consider specific references to the Project Information Document if available.

✕ Provide supporting information or relevant research when arguing potential harms of the impact.

D

Clearly ask what you would like studied, why, and any ideas as to how:

Please study _____
by _____
because _____

ALTERNATIVES

Discuss the alternative(s) or mitigations you want the EIS to consider, including: (a) no action, (b) proposal with mitigations, and (c) other reasonable courses of action:

✘ Proceed with caution: do you want a coal terminal with mitigations or do you want to stop the construction of the coal terminal? If the latter, you should discuss why mitigations are inadequate.

✘ In discussing the “no action” alternative, note that this leaves SSA with the economic benefit of building the terminal permitted in 1997.

RESOURCES

Coal Train Fact ✘ coaltrainfacts.org
CommunityWise Bellingham ✘ communitywisebellingham.org
Power Past Coal ✘ powerpastcoal.org
Protect Whatcom ✘ protectwhatcom.org
SafeGuard the South Fork ✘ safeguardthesouthfork.org
Whatcom County Planning ✘ co.whatcom.wa.us/pds
Gateway Pacific Terminal ✘ gatewaypacificterminal.com

NOTES: