

#No2ndBridge Comment Resources

Compiled by Palouse Environmental Sustainability Coalition (PESC)

1. Draft Environmental Assessment BNSF Sandpoint Junction Connector Project, Bonner County

File name: USCG 1085-0014 Draft Environmental Assessment (PDF)

The Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) report issued by the U.S. Coast Guard on February 6, 2019, was submitted by Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Railway, written by their hired tech company, Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc.

Appendix A Bridge Permit Drawings

Appendix B Site Photographs

Appendix C Wetlands and Waters of the U.S. Delineation Report

Appendix D Waters of the U.S. Impact Maps

Appendix E Hydraulic Analysis

Appendix F Biological Assessment

Appendix G State Historic Preservation Office Concurrence

Appendix H Idaho Department of Lands Encroachment Permit

Appendix I Visual Impact Analysis

Appendix J Lake Pend Oreille Geographic Response Plan

Appendix K State and Local Agency Letters

Appendix L Geographic Response Plan After-Action Reports

2. Lake Pend Oreille and Pend Oreille River Geographic Response Plan (PDF)

This excellent, emergency management plan, written by regional agencies, describes the risks of hazardous materials, including oil, transported throughout the City of Sandpoint and along and over regional waters and wetlands, including Lake Pend Oreille. It addresses many, pertinent issues related to the well-being of Sandpoint and surrounding waters.

Comments due by March 25, 2019, to:

<https://www.regulations.gov>, docket number USCG-2018-1085

If you cannot enter comments online, please contact the manager of the 13th U.S. Coast Guard District, which will accept anonymous comments, at 206-220-7282, or mail your comments to: Attn: Steven Fischer, 915 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98174-1067.

3. Ideas for issues to explore and address in comments

- * Lack of overall plan to ease rail traffic congestion over the next fifty years
- * Protection of waters (Lake Pend Oreille, Pend Oreille River, Sand Creek, Clark Fork River) and wetlands
- * Protection of aquifers, tributaries, and Columbia River basin
- * Transport and derailments of oil and hazardous substances along/over Clark Fork/Pend Oreille basin waters
- * Changes needed for train, track, and bridge infrastructure and technology to minimize risks
- * Impacts on Endangered Species Act-protected, threatened bull trout and its critical habitat in the project area
- * Construction and expansion effects on residents, businesses, tourism, recreation, and the Sandpoint area economy
- * Specific, construction concerns for each location, such as Bridge Street, Sand Creek, Dog Beach, U.S. Highway 95, and Lake Pend Oreille
- * Noise from pile driving in Sand Creek and Lake Pend Oreille
- * Air and water pollution from dredging, pile driving, construction equipment, and coal dust
- * Bridge Street closures causing interruptions in land and water uses and disruptions to tourism industries and economies
- * Water navigation access and safety concerns
- * Wetland protection and restoration, including bird habitats
- * Use of herbicides near water and soil and water contamination
- * Aesthetic and economic implications of the project