

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

**United States
Coast Guard**



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

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16591
June 8, 2018

Mr. Matthew Keim
Manager Engineering
BNSF Railway Co.
Northtown GOB
80-44th Avenue NE
Minneapolis, MN 55421

Dear Mr. Keim:

The Coast Guard has completed its review of the *Sandpoint Junction Connector Project Draft Environmental Assessment* dated May 16, 2018. Unfortunately, the document does not address a number of environmental concerns that have been brought to the Coast Guard's attention through comments received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) during their most recent comment periods. Of specific concern, the document does not discuss the movement of coal and oil through Sandpoint Junction. The environmental assessment needs to address coal dust and its impact on air and water quality; impacts on endangered species; derailments; hazardous materials; oil spill response and potential impacts; and impacts to public safety and roadway traffic. These and a number of other issues are repeatedly mentioned in the public and agency comments. Please see the attached enclosure for a more specific listing of Coast Guard comments on the draft EA.

The Coast Guard will contact you early next week to discuss any questions you may have concerning our comments on the draft EA. We look forward to working closely with you in advance of any decision under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Please contact Mr. Jim Moore of my staff, at (202) 372-1518 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Dunn".

Brian L. Dunn
Chief, Office of Bridge Programs
U. S. Coast Guard

Enclosure: (1) Draft EA Comments

Copies: Mr. Pierre Bordenave, Director – Environmental Rail, Jacobs Inc.
CGD13(dpb)