

Public Comments by Case

Total Comments: 171

In Favor: 2

Opposed: 168

Undecided: 1

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No			
	Alex Ramel, Forest Ethics	In person	Mr Ramel's written comments, provided at the Dec 1 public comment hearing in Bellingham, save under Notes tab.
	Matt Petryni	In person	<p>Comments, and a petition, provided by Mr. Petryni at the Dec 1 comment hearing in Bellingham saved under Notes tab</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>I am concerned also that this road closure might be used to facilitate the delivery of tar sands. This should be carefully examined in an EIS that looks closely at the cumulative impacts of the road closure and any expanded capacity to receive crude oil trains potentially carrying tar sands.</p> <p>Matt Petryni Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Matt Petryni on 12/2/2015.)</p>
	Sandy Robson	In person	Comments provided at public comment hearing Dec 1, 2015 in Bellingham saved under Notes tab
	Gary Bannerman	E-mail	<p>12/3/15</p> <p>All,</p> <p>I am opposed to BNSF petition #150189 to close the Valley View road rail crossing north of Custer, WA on the industrial spur used by (3) Cherry Point customers. It's no secret BNSF would like to close all rail crossings in the county and Washington State based on safety concerns. The BNSF premise for closing Valley View road is to allow oil or coal unit trains that are typically 100-120 cars long to sit on the industrial spur so passenger traffic can pass on the nearby main line. BNSF would rather petition for closure of Valley View road than seek alternatives. I propose</p>

			<p>an alternative solution: have BNSF unit trains separate and straddle the Valley view road on the rare occasions they need to sit on the spur and are waiting to use main line, NO crossing closure required. As a local resident I have never seen unit trains sitting near the main line, waiting. For over 50 years BNSF has been using the spur for freight type trains and recently unit trains with no need to close Valley View road. There have been no reported safety/traffic incidents at this public crossing, so closing Valley View road is only for convenience or to save BNSF money.</p> <p>This proposed closure would negatively impact local traffic that routinely use this crossing and provides options to nearby local residents around the Custer main street and Lynden Birch Bay Road crossings during maintenance activities or other closures.</p> <p>BNSF has announced plans for a new Ferndale to Custer double track rail siding project. See petitions TR-140478 & TR-140479. These projects will add 3.48 miles of siding track along the main line and impact two major rail crossings at Brown Road and Grandview Road (Hi way 548). After the proposed rail improvements are completed BNSF will have a siding track from the Aldergrove Road in Ferndale, north to Birch Bay Lynden Road about 7 miles.</p> <p>From the UTC website on proposed closures - as a courtesy UTC will mail a letter to nearby property owners inviting comments. Was a letter mailed? I did not get one or my family. If the public had been properly notified, UTC would receive many more comments in opposition to the closing.</p> <p>I don't want BNSF to close the Valley View rail road crossing which sits on a spur with this much siding track available.</p> <p>Thank You Gary Bannerman 6810 Portal Way Ferndale WA 98248</p> <p><Bellingham Herald articles saved as attachments under Notes tab></p>
	Anne Elkins	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;

			<p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Anne Elkins Anacortes, Washington 98221</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Anne Elkins on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	William Beers	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>William Beers</p>

			Bellingham, Washington 98225 (Comment was submitted by William Beers on 11/24/2015.)
	Elizabeth Murray	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Elizabeth Murray Poulsbo, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Elizabeth Murray on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Dirk Burgon	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and

			<p>violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Dirk Burgon Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Dirk Burgon on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Joel Stewart	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Joel Stewart Orcas, Washington 98280</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Joel Stewart on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Liisa Wale	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Liisa Wale Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Liisa Wale on 11/24/2015.)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>I would like to add that after visiting the site yesterday of the road closure I have additional concerns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The road closure is a frequently used crossing and will have significant travel impact. - at the proposed area currently has farms with cows and horses. I am concerned about the impact

			<p>of this change on them including noise pollution and possible contamination leaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I also noticed the population which lives there appears to be increasing and that will have an impact on them. - I would also like to add that I agree with all the statements made in opposition to the road closure at the December 1st hearing in Bellingham, WA. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Liisa Wale Bellingham, WA (Have lived here for 1 and 1/2 years).</p>
	Jeanne Miller	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Jeanne Miller Olympia, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jeanne Miller on 11/24/2015.)</p>

	Jill Hein	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Jill Hein coupeville, Washington 98239</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jill Hein on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Tim Gordon	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

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	Krista Hunter	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Krista Hunter Ferndale, Washington 98248</p>

			(Comment was submitted by Krista Hunter on 11/24/2015.)
	Annapoorne Colangelo	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Annapoorne Colangelo Clinton, Washington 98236</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Annapoorne Colangelo on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Mary Anne White	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

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	Suzaznn Finch	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Suzaznn Finch Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Suzaznn Finch on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Stan Parker	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Stan Parker Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Stan Parker on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Susan Mulligan	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the</p>

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	Beth Brownfield	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Beth Brownfield Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Beth Brownfield on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Wendelin Dunlap	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Wendelin Dunlap Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Wendelin Dunlap on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Catherine Lowell	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p>

			<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Catherine Lowell Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Catherine Lowell on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Amy Glasser	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;

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	Wesley Banks	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Wesley Banks Vancouver, Washington 98682-0067</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Wesley Banks on 11/24/2015.)</p>

	Susan Thurn	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Susan Thurn Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Susan Thurn on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Susan Wechsler	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

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	Joanne Peterson	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Joanne Peterson Bellingham, Washington 98225</p>

			(Comment was submitted by Joanne Peterson on 11/24/2015.)
	Dominique Coulet du Gard	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Dominique Coulet du Gard Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Dominique Coulet du Gard on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	LeeAnn Cogert	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

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	Janet Wynne	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Janet Wynne Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Janet Wynne on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Asko Hamalainen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Asko Hamalainen Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Asko Hamalainen on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Sharon Holford	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the</p>

			<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Sharon Holford Portland, Oregon 97222</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Sharon Holford on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	John Bremer	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>John Bremer Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by John Bremer on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Scott E. Hulse	E-mail	<p>Dr. Scott E. Hulse, PhD. P.E. 6911 Holeman Avenue Blaine, Washington 98230 Telephone (360) 243 0745</p> <p>2 December 2015</p> <p>Ms. Rayne Pearson Administrative Law Judge Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Washington 98504-7250</p> <p>Dear Ms Pearson;</p> <p>The Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company (BNSF) has asked to close a portion of the Valley View Road south of the Birch Bay – Lynden Road and west of Portal Way between Blaine and Custer, Washington. This request has been made because BNSF claims the closure is necessary to assure safety and increase efficiency of BNSF operations. Furthermore, a BNSF representative has stated under oath that closure is the “best option.” However, upon further questioning, the same representative stated that, “no other options had been considered.”</p> <p>My concerns about the BNSF request to close a portion of the Valley View Road where the Intalco Spur crosses the road are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been either no or minimal consideration for public safety including, egress and ingress of emergency response vehicles and fifteen to twenty minute blockages of roads, risk of public exposure to hazardous materials, risk of explosions, proximity to a local elementary school in the adjacent town of Custer, Washington, noise from BNSF operations, etc. • It is my understanding that this is only one of four or more requests for road closures in the same

general area extending from the Canadian border to Bellingham, Washington that BNSF is making. While the unloading spur at the British Petroleum (BP) refinery located along the Grandview Road was undertaken by BP, this also benefits BNSF and should have been part of a much larger Environmental Impact Assessment looking at the areal impact of increased rail traffic at railroad crossings, environmental risks related to rail accidents, and the impact of changes on road vehicle traffic along Whatcom County Roads, among other factors.

- Each road closure in Whatcom County decreases the number of degrees of freedom for routing traffic in the event of a major emergency at one of the six BNSF customer sites and thus reduces the number of routes available to evacuate local residents and employees at the various customer sites. While remote, there may also be the need for the same people to evacuate should there be an environmental emergency; for example, major earthquake related events, flooding, etc.
- One of the BNSF customers, ALCOA's Intalco operation, is in the process of closing down its smelting operations, which should significantly reduce rail traffic to the Intalco facility.
- BNSF stated that it wants to improve safety and increase efficiency for itself; however, this is without regard for the safety and efficiency of the general public. I described some of the safety concerns previously. Public efficiency is another consideration that BNSF must factor into their request. I have counted as many as thirty road vehicles stopped on either side of a rail crossing along the Grandview Road where the stoppage caused by train traffic exceeded fifteen minutes. A conservative consideration that on average all of the vehicles were delayed for seven minutes assuming a constant flow of traffic indicates that ($7 * 60 = 420$) seven hours of public productivity were lost because of a train related delay in this instance. What this says is that increased BNSF efficiency decreases public efficiency and therefore costs the public money!

It is unclear for these and other reasons described by others why BNSF is asking to increase the size of the switching yard along the Intalco Spur. This is particularly troubling since BNSF is completing a nearly two mile long siding track between Custer and Ferndale, Washington, which is intended to shunt freight traffic off the main line so that passenger trains can pass. Why was the request to construct the Custer-Ferndale siding not grouped with the BNSF request to expand the Intalco Spur switching yard since these two facilities are immediately adjacent.

The Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission should consider the fact that railroads in the United States are still operating under laws and regulations that were enacted during the Nineteenth Century. Early trains consisted of a locomotive, a coal car, four or five passenger or freight cars, and possibly a caboose. The right of eminent domain claimed by railroads relates to granting of every other section of land for ten miles on either side of the tracks, which was intended to reward railroad companies for their efforts while encouraging and facilitating westward migration and formation of our country as it exists today. Those days are over.

Trains today often have multiple locomotives and rail cars that trail the locomotives for one, two or more miles. When these trains are traveling at sixty miles or more per hour, they clear crossings in a few minutes, thus resulting in minimal delays. However, when these long trains are being made up, they either block crossings or travel across crossings at three to five miles per hour. These slow speeds cause significant road vehicle delays

Contrary to the BNSF claim that closing the Valley View Road is the best option, there are numerous other options. One is addition of one or more short sidings. Another is to limit the length of trains so that the trains clear crossings faster. Sure, there will be more trains and therefore more stoppages; however, the stoppages will be shorter in duration and will therefore allow vehicle traffic to clear crossings with a more uniform flow.

Members of my family have lived on Whitehorn Point along the southern edge of Birch Bay, Washington since 1960. Farms covered the area where the BP and Conoco Phillips refineries as well as the Intalco facility and other smaller industrial facilities are located. The main line for the Union Pacific Railroad ran along the coast and along Portal Way; however, there were no other railroad tracks in the immediate vicinity of the Valley View Road, the Bay Road, the Kickerville Road or the Grandview Road. There are crossings on all of these roads now that severely impede the flow of road vehicle traffic when trains are being formed up along the Intalco Spur. The number of families living between Birch Bay and Custer where the road closure has been proposed by BNSF has increased significantly and continues to increase since the Intalco Spur was built. Rail traffic related delays continue to increase as BNSF expands operations in the vicinity. These delays are having a significant impact on our quality of life.

It is time for the United States Congress to address the issue of eminent domain granted to railroads during the Nineteenth Century; however, until Congress takes up that task, it is up to Washington State as well as the other forty-nine states to address railroad expansion in a rational and realistic way. Please stop the unnecessary expansion of rail facilities and the loss of roadways in our communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott E. Hulse

	Alan F. Bell	Web	This proposal should wait to be decided until a decision has been on the coal terminal at Cherry Point. There are too many changes due to Intalco closing. Also it would give the proponents of the coal port an advantage. However, it seems that the railroad can do what ever it wants anyway.
	jim Johannessen	Web	Re: Valley View Rd closure proposal; TR-150189 This proposal should be rejected for the following reasons: - this proposal is against SEPA, as it clearly piecemealing as these proposed rail improvements which would be required to service the oil by rail projects at Conoco Philips and BP Cherry Pt, when the MDNS for those projects stated that rail upgrades where not required. - The project may also be required for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal project, which is also under separate study--and the proposal is not part the consideration - SEPA clearly states that a cumulative impacts analysis must be completed for these projects in there entirety and considered along with all project elements. - BNSF has not been truthful when they stated average daily vehicle traffic at the crossing was 90 vehicles, while Whatcom County has stated is is actually on the order of 350 trips per day. - The road closure would add time for emergency response as well as regular travel trips. - The closure appears to be for oil trains to wait at this location, which would increase the chance of the toxic oil and other substances to enter the local wetlands, surface and groundwater.
	sheryl cline	E-mail	Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding: Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission, Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following: -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.

			<p>sheryl cline Blaine, Washington 98230</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by sheryl cline on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Irmgard Conley	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Irmgard Conley Olga (Orcas Island), Washington 98279-0088</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Irmgard Conley on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Nettie Post	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF</p>

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	Jon Cline	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>no oil trains blocking our roads for up to 45 minutes, stopping at crossing for lengthy times. Blocking E.R. personnel, school buses!</p> <p>Jon Cline Blaine, Washington 98230</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jon Cline on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Patt Doyle	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF</p>

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	Suzanne Scala	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Suzanne Scala Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Suzanne Scala on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Donna Merlina	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Donna Merlina Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Donna Merlina on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Dorothy Jordan	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p>

			<p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Dorothy Jordan Lynden, Washington 98264</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Dorothy Jordan on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Lyle Anderson	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;

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	Leaf Schumann	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Leaf Schumann Deming, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Leaf Schumann on 11/24/2015.)</p>

	Colleen Curtis	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Colleen Curtis Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Colleen Curtis on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Stephanie Trasoff	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

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	rein Attemann	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>rein Attemann Seattle, Idaho 98117</p>

			(Comment was submitted by rein Attemann on 11/24/2015.)
	John Chadwick	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>John Chadwick Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by John Chadwick on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Scott Martin	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

			<p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Scott Martin Seattle, Washington 98102</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Scott Martin on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	james hipp	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

james hipp
bellingham, Washington 98226

(Comment was submitted by james hipp on 11/24/2015.)

Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:

Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,

This is a dangerous and unnecessary project that needs to be denied due to the following considerations:

- *This project is piecemealing, being connected to other projects, but only being reviewed as an individual project. This is in violation of State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and the BNSF and Cherry Pt industry projects separately submitted obscure permitting agencies ability to properly assess the permitting process (Whatcom County Council has pointed this out in a previous letter to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission on this very project).
- *A cumulative assessment is needed to fully assess this project in the context of the Cherry Point industries and BNSF projects being separately proposed, though inherently interconnected.
- *The previous rulings of Mitigation Determination of Nonsignificance (MDNS), for BP and Conoco Phillips at Cherry Point, each stated that their rail projects did not require any upgrades or expansions of the rail. If this is so, there is no apparent need to close Valley View Road so the Cherry Point rail spur can be used as a holding area for trains.
- *There is a distinct possibility that this road closure may be a part of the anticipated Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, and if so, this road closure and change to a rail highway crossing should be included in the GPT SEPA process and no permit decisions on this proposed project should be made until the GPT EIS is completed with an included analysis of this road closure.
- *If the urgency and necessity that BNSF claims exists, BNSF should present clarity on the real necessity for project. Furthermore, with piecemealing, it is unclear whether this Valley View Road closure will still be needed if the Custer to Ferndale double track goes through, or vice versa.
- *Traffic discrepancies: BNSF stated that the average annual daily vehicle traffic (AADT) over this crossing is 90 vehicles. On the other hand, Whatcom County stated in a response that more recent counts of the AADT show approximately 350 vehicles per day. Valley View Road is also an established truck route. Approximately eight percent of the average daily traffic is comprised of commercial vehicles. There are also up to three school buses that travel over the crossing daily. BNSF needs to provide clear sources of their data and properly report AADT for Valley View Road.
- *Traffic impacts: The cumulative impacts of detoured traffic from this closure, the increased travel

			<p>time on commercial routes, and the increased time it would take for first responders should be examined. The Whatcom Fire Marshall has expressed concern about delays to emergency first responders due to this road closure. Minutes can mean a matter of life or death in some circumstances.</p> <p>*Safety increased at other crossings: This road closure would mean increased traffic at other crossings. If this project proposal moves forward, safety improvements would be needed at alternative crossings. Some safety precautions include increasing sight distance and provide stop refuges.</p> <p>*Contaminants and impacts on locally impaired waterways: This road closure would permit trains to idle or park for extended periods of time. This would allow for runoff from trains carrying contaminant to have impacts on the environment, in particular, waterways. The impacts of these parked and potentially leaky oil trains should be investigated.</p> <p>Please consider these points in your assessment and deny BSNF the ability to move forward with this illegal and dangerous project.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Jim Hipp</p> <p>Jim Hipp Bellingham, Washington 98226</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jim Hipp on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Gordon Hait	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Gordon Hait Olympia, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Gordon Hait on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Gayle Janzen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Closing the Valley View Road sounds like a giveaway to BNSF but will have a very negative impact on the community. Does anyone really think that causing traffic jams and wreaking havoc on emergency vehicles trying to rush someone to the hospital is a good idea? Not to mention the fact that increasing oil trains in itself is bad for our health and environment and the risks of exploding trains goes up with increased traffic. The dirty energy industry wants to turn WA state into the largest dirty energy hub in the country but that's not what the majority of citizens want for our state. I urge you to do the right thing and not allow BNSF to close this vital road for their own purposes.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Gayle Janzen Seattle, Washington 98133</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Gayle Janzen on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Jillian Froebe	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Jillian Froebe Deming, Washington 98244</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jillian Froebe on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Mary Carr	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the</p>

			<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Mary Carr Spokane, Washington 99203</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Mary Carr on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Teresa Allen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Teresa Allen Deming, Washington 98244</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Teresa Allen on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Sue Zerangue	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Sue Zerangue Astoria, Oregon 97103</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Sue Zerangue on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	David Turnoy	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p>

			<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>David Turnoy Eastsound, Washington 98245</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by David Turnoy on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Cynthia Bentley	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;

			<p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Cynthia Bentley Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Cynthia Bentley on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Brent Rocks	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Brent Rocks Portland, Oregon 97201</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Brent Rocks on 11/25/2015.)</p>

	Kristin Barber	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Kristin Barber Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Kristin Barber on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Antonella Antonini	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

			<p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Antonella Antonini Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Antonella Antonini on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	R H	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>R H Bellevue, Washington</p>

			(Comment was submitted by R H on 11/25/2015.)
	l sherwood	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>l sherwood bham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by l sherwood on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Alan Stein	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

			<p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Alan Stein Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Alan Stein on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Thomas Gilmore	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Thomas Gilmore Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Thomas Gilmore on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Carolynn Cory	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Dr Carolynn Cory Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Dr Carolynn Cory on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Mike Sennett	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the</p>

following:

- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;
- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;
- this road closure would impact emergency response times;
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- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;
- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.

Mike Sennett
Bellingham, Washington 98226

(Comment was submitted by Mike Sennett on 11/25/2015.)

Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:

Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:

- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;
- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;
- this road closure would impact emergency response times;
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- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;
- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.

The following are my personal comments. I believe that BNSF did some wetlands mitigation along the north side of Arnie Rd., west of Custer. I am concerned about the potential pollution from idling locomotives & oil leakages on the flora & fauna of that wetlands, which are in the Drayton Harbor watershed as well. Are such areas protected, and if so then the ecological threat posed by parked trains resulting from the Valley View RD. closure should be considered. Thank You Mike Sennett

Mike Sennett
Belingham, Washington 98226

(Comment was submitted by Mike Sennett on 12/3/2015.)

Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:

Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:

- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;
- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;
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- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.

The following are my personal comments. I lived in the Birch Bay area from April 1992 to July 2013. I experienced many delays at rail crossings on the main line as did everyone who had to cross the tracks, as they do today. The citizens of the county should not be subjected to any more

			<p>delays due to rail operations any where.</p> <p>I attended the hearing in Bellingham on December 1, & if I had recalled the incident I am about to tell, I would have done so under oath. I cannot recall the date, but one morning I drove south on Arnie Road from Birch Bay Lynden Rd. As I slowed to stop at the uncontrolled RR crossing on Arnie RD., I couldn't help but notice the track was on fire, burning in the wooden spacers between the rails. I called 911 & then was released from the scene by dispatch. I'm sure it was an isolated incident but with the coming of highly flammable oil trains I believe it illustrates the dangers of this traffic in general & to the area that would be affected by the road closure. Cutting access from any direction to locations of parked trains & the tracks that carry them to the refineries is a bad idea for emergency response for the fire departments if such an incident were to ever occur again.</p> <p>Mike Sennett Bellingham, Washington 98226</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Mike Sennett on 12/3/2015.)</p>
	Brice Boland	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Brice Boland</p>

			<p>Tacoma, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Brice Boland on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Jack MacSlarrow	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Jack MacSlarrow Ferndale, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jack MacSlarrow on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Pam Borso	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and

			<p>violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Pam Borso Custer, Washington 98240</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Pam Borso on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Stoney Bird	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Stoney Bird Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Stoney Bird on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Chris Pasquini	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Chris Pasquini Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Chris Pasquini on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Suzanne Steel	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF</p>

			<p>appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Suzanne Steel Blaine, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Suzanne Steel on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Ellen Murphy	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Ellen Murphy Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Ellen Murphy on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Dennis Smith	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Dennis Smith Deming, Washington 98244</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Dennis Smith on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Hal Glidden	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p>

			<p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Hal Glidden Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Hal Glidden on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	fred karlson	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;

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	Kimberly Leeper	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Kimberly Leeper Seattle, Washington 98116</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Kimberly Leeper on 11/25/2015.)</p>

	Steve Knutzen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Steve Knutzen aNACORTES, Washington 98221</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Steve Knutzen on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Adina Parsley	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

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	Carol Follett	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Carol Follett Bellingham, Washington 98226</p>

			(Comment was submitted by Carol Follett on 11/25/2015.)
	Lori Erbs	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Lori Erbs Acme, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Lori Erbs on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Heather Chapin	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

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	Gretchen Clay	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Gretchen Clay Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Gretchen Clay on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Rochelle Parry	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Rochelle Parry Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Rochelle Parry on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Robin Holcomb	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the</p>

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	Kathryn Lindsay	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Kathryn Lindsay Mount Vernon, Washington 98273</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Kathryn Lindsay on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	margret milici	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>margret milici bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by margret milici on 11/26/2015.)</p>
	Sammy Low	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p>

			<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Sammy Low Stanwood, Washington 98292</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Sammy Low on 11/25/2015.)</p>
	Deborah J Cruz	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;

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	Linda Kearney	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Linda Kearney Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Linda Kearney on 11/26/2015.)</p>

	brent harrison	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>brent harrison bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by brent harrison on 11/27/2015.)</p>
	S. P. Almskaar	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

			<p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>S. P. Almskaar Everson, Washington 98247</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by S. P. Almskaar on 11/27/2015.)</p>
	James Hansen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>James Hansen Bellingham, Washington 98225</p>

			(Comment was submitted by James Hansen on 11/28/2015.)
	Lynn Graham	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Lynn Graham Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Lynn Graham on 11/29/2015.)</p>
	JOAN SCHRAMMECK	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in

			<p>GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>JOAN SCHRAMMECK CAMANO ISLAND, Washington 98282</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by JOAN SCHRAMMECK on 11/29/2015.)</p>
	Jan Woodruff	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following: -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Jan Woodruff Anacortes, Washington 98221</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jan Woodruff on 11/30/2015.)</p>
	Sara Airoidi	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. You can make a huge difference to our community, and my hope is that you will do so with an open heart for all who live here. We don't need to choose between jobs and safety, or between jobs and health, or between jobs and our quality of life, or between jobs and our futures. I know there are many minds and passions at work here. I hope we can take the time to consider the costs of the current plan, and consider alternatives our grandchildren can thank us for. That being said--please consider: the closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Sara Airoidi Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Sara Airoidi on 11/30/2015.)</p>
	Gayle Le Dent	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p>

			<p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Gayle Le Dent Mount Vernon, Washington 98273</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Gayle Le Dent on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Rebecca Rettmer	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;

			<p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Rebecca Rettmer Lummi Island, Washington 98262</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Rebecca Rettmer on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Pat Rasmussen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Pat Rasmussen Olympia, Washington 98508</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Pat Rasmussen on 12/1/2015.)</p>

	Wendy Wilhelm	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Wendy Wilhelm Acme, Washington 98220</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Wendy Wilhelm on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Peggy Parker	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times;

			<p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Peggy Parker Deming, Washington 98244</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Peggy Parker on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Barbara Schumacher	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF raises community and environmental concerns, including the following: --we cannot burn fossil fuels and continue to survive on Earth -- this project is piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly sacrifice the Earth for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Barbara Schumacher Ferndale , Washington 98248</p>

			(Comment was submitted by Barbara Schumacher on 12/1/2015.)
	Andronetta Douglass	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Andronetta Douglass Bellingham, Washington 98226-8174</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Andronetta Douglass on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Summer Starr	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

			<p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Summer Starr Blaine, Washington 98230</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Summer Starr on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	William Young	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>William Young Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by William Young on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Hermene Reinhard	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Hermene Reinhard Bellingham, Washington 98226</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Hermene Reinhard on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Anita Darling	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the</p>

			<p>following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Anita Darling Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Anita Darling on 12/1/2015.)</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Roads have already closed downtown Bellingham. This is SO UNACCEPTABLE to the tax paying public. If BIG coal/oil get their way I will be moving as far away from any western shipping terminal as I can. Oregon said NO so can Washington! But on another note the WSUTC ALREADY SANCTIONED THE SALE OF OUR ONLY POWER COMPANY GO FOREIGN INVESTORS. God help us all!!!!</p> <p>Anita Darling Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Anita Darling on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Alys Kennedy	E-mail	Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:

			<p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Alys Kennedy Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Alys Kennedy on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Ann Mulvey	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;

			<p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Ann Mulvey Birch Bay, Washington 98230</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Ann Mulvey on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Wendy Bartlett	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Wendy Bartlett Bellingham, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Wendy Bartlett on 12/1/2015.)</p>

	Barbara Davenport	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Barbara Davenport Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Barbara Davenport on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Libby Hazen	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>I live near the railroad tracks in Bellingham and am very aware of the problems created by the increasing traffic of dangerous cargo. I am particularly concerned about the very long oil and coal trains. There is no adequate provision for dealing with a derailment that would devastate the environment and people. The surrounding communities are not prepared for any disaster. I fear for the safety of my grandchildren and my home. The proposed closure of Valley View Road for the benefit of BNSF increases community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;

			<p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Libby Hazen Bellingham, Washington 98225</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Libby Hazen on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Laura Brakke	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <p>-- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process;</p> <p>-- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact emergency response times;</p> <p>-- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses;</p> <p>-- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings;</p> <p>-- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p>

			<p>Laura Brakke Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Laura Brakke on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Jean Olson	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Jean Olson Seattle, Washington 98115</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Jean Olson on 12/2/2015.)</p>
	Wyburn Bannerman	E-mail	<p>My name is Wyburn Baannerman, 3455 Kluken Rd. Ferndale, Wa.</p> <p>I live approximately 2 miles south of the current rail crossing on the Valley View Rd. We use this road on a regular basis to access the Birch Bay outlet stores on Portal Way and Birch Bay Lynden Rd. This route is also the desired way to Lynden, Blaine and Canada.</p> <p>I attended the hearing on the morning of December 3rd at the council chambers and was able to</p>

			<p>examine the proposed changes that the railroad will make if the closer is allowed. Instead of closing the Valley View crossing so they can extend the current siding both to the East and West there is another alternative. The railroad could construct another siding rail to the south of the current rails. This rail could be built on basically empty land and extend from the Valley View to the Ham road. Another siding track would alleviate the back-up on the main line which they say is the main purpose for closing the Valley View Rd.</p> <p>The Valley View road is a main access and is necessary for school bus, emergency vehicle and private automobile traffic. Please have them consider other avenues and face greater expense in order to protect our neighborhood.</p> <p>Wyburn Bannerman</p>
	lorena havens	E-mail	<p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>lorena havens Acme, Washington</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by lorena havens on 12/6/2015.)</p>

	Michael R Butler	Phone	Mr said the solution that will work for everyone is grade separation. He grew up in Custer and lives in Birch Bay.
	Corrine Patterson	Web	I noticed an article in The Bellingham Herald today that was from March 19, 2015 about BNSF and their proposal for closing the Valley View crossing of their trains. Since November of 2014 I have been trying to fax a complaint letter to their local office listed online (attempted about 20 times!) and was trying to contact the regional rep that was listed on their site (left many messages) and never were any calls returned or faxes completed. I and my neighbors used to find the trains very polite. They would often back up or move forward to let us through if they were taking too long. No longer does that happen. We often sit there for 20-30 mins. I've tried going around to the Ham Rd. crossing. .. but it was blocked also. or the Custer School Rd./Main st. crossing and it was blocked off also. Very frustrating when you are in a hurry to get somewhere. . .and aren't we all? Their number of 90 cars per day is EXTREMELY low. If this road closes. We won't have access to the grocery store/gas/freeway any longer. This is very troubling for many of my neighbors. I hope they saw the article and wrote in also.
	Richard W. Mollette	E-mail	TR - 150189 To Whom It May Concern: I am writing regarding the closure of the Valley View Rd. railroad crossing. I use this route eight to ten times a week and should it be closed, I would have to go eight miles south and then west to get back to Valley View Rd. This would add 16 miles round trip. I plan extra time in my trip should I encounter a train being made up and thus am not unduly inconvenienced. Please keep this transportation route open. Respectfully, Richard W. Mollette 9007 Valley View Rd. Custer, WA. 98240
	Kerry D Holloway	E-mail	I live in Custer I protest this closing, it will endanger the residents of this city, we already experience up to 30 minute waits when the coal trains run through our city, this junction closing would as well cost us our little bit of remaining freedom we have to this rail system. Kerry D Holloway 3083 Main Street, Custer WA 98240
	Ruth Danielsen	Web	I do not believe BNSF should be closing a county road to create a new siding extension. There must be other property they could utilize or purchase if they needed additional space for this project. I have lived on the Bay Rd for over 30 years and know there is amply industrial property adjacent to existing railroad lines that could be utilized without closing one of our county roads. They are probably looking at the cheapest option for BNSF compared to the best option for our

			community. If the siding was needed for BP oil shipments this should have been a part of the approval process for the oil terminal at BP. But if this is connected to the gateway terminal project, then it should not be approved now since the gateway project is not approved. In any event I would request BNSF be requested to look at alternative locations for the siding without closing one of our county roads that the rural population uses on a daily basis.
	Ron Gillig	E-mail	My name is Ron Gillig. I live at 8144 James Tree Lane Blaine.wa 98230 and I oppose the closure of Valley view rd. In Custer wa. It will cause a major inconvenience towards everyone in the surrounding area, emergency responders , bus routes, and local delivery . So to close a road , that will effect so many , just for the benefit to so few ,to boost their bottom line is wrong. Let them suck it up and find another way to schedule around the future increase in rail traffic. Sincerely , Ron Gillig.
	Krista Johnson	Web	This is concerning the closure of the Valley View RR crossing in Custer, WA. Docket TR-150189 I am opposed to this closure as this road is a main access from our community to get to Blaine, Lynden and the freeway. Closing of this crossing would remove the main route for driving north/south, directing traffic either through the town of Custer (which is not set up to handle lrg amounts of traffic safely), or the VERY round-about route of Ham Rd. Though alternate crossings are less than 2 miles away, the actual "drive around" time is more than double that. We expect some delays, and, at times, expect to take an alternate route, but this removes one of those routes creating a potential 10-15min drive around when there are trains across more than one crossing. In the case of an emergency this could be disastrous.
	Ravyn Whitewolf	E-mail	Please don't authorize BNSF to close this intersection. It is completely improved, and provides freeway access to hundreds of residents in the area. In addition, is the direct route for emergency vehicles to respond to these homes. While Valley View is not a major arterial, it provides access to Portal Way which is the ONLY alternative to Interstate 5 for the Custer community in the event of an emergency. Located in the area near this switching yard are other crossings that are not improved and affect far less people. In addition, there is available land in the area adjacent to the tracks. Please make BNSF accomplish their goals by acquiring more land for there switching operations instead of irrevocably impacting the daily lives and safety of this growing community. Thank you for your time and consideration. Ravyn Whitewolf Bay Road, Ferndale <additional comments provided by Ms Whitewolf at Dec 1 public comment hearing saved under Notes tab>
	Loren Lundholm	E-mail	Just plain NO! Surely you don't need me to elucidate why this is wrong. I won't even go into the

			<p>details of why the citizens of Whatcom County are going to stop the entire coal terminal project.</p> <p>On the other hand if you need help sorting out the moral and ethical issues this brings up, let me know.</p> <p>Loren Lundholm instrumentgeek@hotmail.com Phone Contacts: Home: (360)715-1515 Cell: (360)224-1709 Skype: (360)312-7710</p>
	Leigha Culp	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>Custers is already quite cumbersome to get through. closing Valley View Road makes this worse. I'm quite sure there are better solutions to this conundrum. How about an underground railway, an overpass for traffic, or diverting the railway. If we must endure the coal trains that have already affected traffic let's make the impact as small as possible. The railway and coal companies can pay for the better solution since they are the ones that need a solution at all.</p> <p>Leigha Culp</p>
	Carolyn Huggett	E-mail	<p>While increased rail traffic is good for business in the Bellingham/Custer area, it is not right to close off access to residents and make their lives harder. It is also not safe for residents when emergency vehicles cannot get easy access to these areas. No one would complain about increasing tracks along the line if there were roads and bridges at suitable distances. If you are going to take something away then you should immediately be making plans to improve access by other means.</p> <p>Even better why are we still moving oil by train when pipelines are better in the long run. Perhaps the environmental lobbyists who are holding up this suggestion should see the impact the increased rail traffic is having on people who are trying to live peacefully and as cheaply as possible in rural areas. Not to mention the hazards of oil spills and rail accidents. I thought this was the 21st century and with all the modern technology available we could have a better solution to this problem. If pipelines are not going to be built then money to areas affected by extra rail traffic for moving oil should be paid to allow for the building of roads and bridges. It seems that government influenced by environmentalists is very good at saying "No" to progress and yet very good at saying "Yes" to large companies like BNSF at the expense of good honest tax payers.</p> <p>Carolyn Huggett</p>
	Carl Lind, Lind	Phone	Mr. Lind says his fuel trucks go across the tracks at Valley View Rd. If he is forced to go across

	Fuel		Ham Rd he is afraid that it will be unsafe as there are no signals at the Ham Rd crossing.
	Pam Borso	E-mail	<p>I am writing to oppose the closure of Valley View Rd at Custer until further studies can be done to see how this will impact traffic and emergency services. Purportedly, this is for the additional rail lines needed to support the Gateway Pacific Terminal which will not be determined for two years at best and maybe never at all.</p> <p>I believe that there should be an environmental impact statement for this work as we do not know the noise, pollution, or impacts of this closure and the additional train traffic.</p> <p>I would suggest an overpass be built at the expense of BNSF.</p> <p>I also would request a longer comment period. I live in Custer and want to know how this will affect my neighborhood.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to comment</p> <p>Pam Borso P O Box 154 Custer, WA 98240</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains.

			<p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>Pam Borso Custer, Washington 98240</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by Pam Borso on 12/1/2015.)</p>
	Wyatt Beckwith	Phone	Closing this crossing would inconvenience many people.
	Christopher Rose	E-mail	<p>Dear UTC,</p> <p>I am wanted to express my concern with the proposed rail crossing closure at Valley View Rd near Custer. This crossing and road serves as fairly important connector road within this area and I believe that a few of the estimates in this report are incorrect. As someone that uses this road almost every day to go to and from work, I feel like I have a fairly good understanding of the use that this road gets. As a fireman, I also recognize the value that this provides in connecting the area. Valley View provides direct access from Portal Way to Bay and Grandview roads that other connections don't provide. The alternatives have multiple 90 degree turns and stop signs that impede upon response times and access. To me, this is the most critical aspect of this connection. As more and more homes are being built at the end of Arnie Rd and Ham Rd, this will become more important. In the report, the estimated traffic on this road was approximately 80 cars per day. This is grossly underreported. As I use this road almost every day, rarely do I NOT see another car. This includes odd hours as I go to and from work between 4 and 6 am. The road also serves as access for farms on Arnie Rd that some workers bike and or walk upon. I feel that this would be a simple fix for BNSF, when it is not necessary. There is room for them to build there staging areas further west and not have to close this road. I realize the need for a staging are for the oil trains is necessary as I work for a company that relies on them. While I am constantly inconvenienced by trains crossing in all directions around me. This is minor compared to the main road I use being permanently closed. I can say that I would be willing to compromise with a good neighbor. However, over the years, BNSF has proven they are far from such and resemble more of a bully. I have witnessed them renege on promises made in exchange for crossings being closed, they leave diesel engines idling constantly exposing neighbors to hazardous fumes and noise, and they refuse to show any support when called upon. I am not lodging this as a complaint, but rather an awareness of errors within their report.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christopher Rose</p>

	Robbie Harris, A/P Westside Building Supply	E-mail	<p>Please do not close the RR crossing on Valley View Rd, in Whatcom County. We use that crossing on a daily basis.</p> <p>Robbie Harris, A/P Westside Building Supply 360.354.5617 (v) 360.354.7057 (f)</p>
	Roberta Harris	E-mail	<p>Please don't close the RR crossing on Valleyview Rd. in Custer (Whatcom County). We use that crossing nearly every day. The other nearby crossing on Ham Rd. is uncontrolled and has a HUGE hump in the road, something I would prefer not to negotiate with my truck and horse trailer. Ham Rd is also considerably narrower and has an awkward junction with Birch Bay Lynden Rd for a truck and trailer turning east onto Birch Bay Lynden.</p> <p>Sincerely, Roberta Harris 360.319.1138</p>
	Sonja Haws	Web	<p>We are against the closing of Valley View Rd. It would cause a great inconvenience getting to and from Birch Bay Rd and I-5. It would mean taking Arnie road to Birch Bay road which is quite a detour. It would also delay emergency vehicles. Arnie road from Birtch Bay Lynden and Portal way is a curvy road versus Valley View from Portal which is a straight shot.</p>
	Richard Hann	Web	<p>I would like to support Whatcom County Public Works Department's request for a hearing on this road closure request. I believe this request is meant to accommodate the proposed coal port and should be studied as part of EIS for this project. I am also concerned that any expansion of the oil train deliveries to the refineries beyond what is currently permitted should be studied before the railroad expansion and road closure is considered.

The location of this "holding" area also concerns me as it is part of the Birch Bay Watershed and any potential contamination of this precious system is to be avoided.</p>
	Christine Westland	Web	<p>I am writing to object to the removal of the Valley View Road rail crossing in Ferndale by BNSF, and to support those who have petitioned the Whatcom County Council for their comments.</p> <p>It seems odd to me that the draft EIS for the Gateway Pacific Terminal is not even completed, yet BNSF (as it works in concert with the coal and oil train traffic)is proposing this extreme measure.</p> <p>I believe it should come under review by the Whatcom Council as well as SEPA regulations and I and many others are planning to write letters about this and also request a hearing by the Whatcom Public Works Commission.</p>

	Paula Rotondi	E-mail	<p>I am a Whatcom County resident and I am deeply concerned about BNSF's petition to close the Valley View Road crossing. I support the request for a public hearing by Whatcom County Public Works. My objections to closing the Valley View Road crossing are based upon the following concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Valley View Road provides a route accessing Custer Elementary School. Valley View Road > Arnie Road > Main St. > Custer School Rd. Closure of the Valley View Road crossing would eliminate one of the options for accessing/evacuating the school in the event of an emergency. Custer Elementary School campus is only about 1200 feet from the railroad track and the Custer Spur; and because of this, these children, their parents and staff are already exposed to continuous, significant and serious risks. People living and working in this area - so close to frequent train traffic on both the main track and spur - are exposed to high levels of diesel emissions which are known to increase a person's risk of cancer, cardiac problems and pulmonary problems. It is unconscionable to increase any way the risks and challenges that these children, their families and school staff are exposed to by eliminating a route accessing the school.2. The recent and vastly increased number of crude oil trains has brought with it a disproportionate rise in the number of these trains that derail and explode. A recent report says we can expect 10 crude oil trains to derail/explode in the U.S. each year. In hindsight it can be seen, that previous Whatcom County permits allowing rail "improvements" for rail transport of crude oil to refineries were granted in isolation and without sufficient information and projections regarding the compounding effects of the increased risks associated with multiple projects. The Valley View Road crossing closure petition calls into question whether or not BNSF presently does and in the future could adhere to the conditions of its existing permits and MDNS. The new petition provides grounds for Whatcom County to re-assess previous BNSF oil/refinery project permits and MDNS.3. Any consideration of changes to road crossing closures must be evaluated within the process of the EIS for the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT). The impacts of road crossing closures must be assessed as part of the project(s) requiring them. The actual need for road crossing closures cannot be known until GPT is either approved or rejected.4. Whatcom County cannot adequately evaluate petitions from BNSF with inadequate and incomplete information. BNSF testified in 2011 before the EB SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD Docket No. FD 35305 ARKANSAS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CORPORATION – PETITION FOR DECLARATORY ORDER (http://1.usa.gov/XWiWT2) that its own studies proved that coal dust from coal trains destabilizes rail beds, causes track failure and train accidents. To date, BNSF has denied requests to release these studies and its full testimony. It now is incumbent upon BNSF to make those studies and its full testimony available to Whatcom
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			<p>County so that Whatcom County can assess all BNSF petitions with an understanding of the compound risks of BNSF's escalating transport of crude oil and coal on the same track. BNSF uses the exact same track to transport coal, crude oil and chemicals through Whatcom County. What are the risks of crude oil trains derailing because of coal train traffic on the same route? What are the risks of the proposed GPT's 18 daily coal trains to crude oil trains using the exact same track through Washington State and Whatcom County? The potential impact of GPT's proposed 18 daily coal trains upon the safety of rail transport of crude oil and chemicals must be comprehensively assessed as part of the GPT EIS.</p> <p>Sincerely, Paula Rotondi</p> <p><additional comments, provided by Ms Rotondi at the 12-1 comment hearing in Bellingham, saved under Notes tab></p>
	R.W. (Bob) Garnett	E-mail	<p>Mr. Cupp:</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this request. Frankly, BNSF should show more consideration for local residents before filing such a request. There is no logical detour for the residents on Valley View if this crossing is closed. They will not have reasonable access to Highway I-5 and the Lynden-Birch Bay Highway. Therefore you should not allow this closure.</p> <p>Additionally, BNSF needs to train their engineers to respect local residents. Unfortunately, they do much shuttling of cars during the night. They should do this activity during the day when it will be more acceptable. If you can't require them to conduct these activities during the day, then they need to learn to use their horns as little as possible. I know there are certain requirements for horns at level crossings. However, some of their engineers greatly exceed the legal requirements and sit on their horns for extended periods of time throughout the night.</p> <p>Please keep me apprised as this matter moves through the system.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>R.W. (Bob) Garnett, CPA, CA, ICD.D 3147 Creasy Road Custer, WA 98240</p>
	Joan Carrington	E-mail	<p>John - I do have a couple of questions concerning the closing of the rail road crossing on Arnie & Valley View Rd in Ferndale.</p>

			<p>First let me say, I have lived here for 43 years... change is seldom easy. I am hoping that closing this crossing will eliminate a lot of the traffic going up & down Valley View Rd.</p> <p>My questions; Will be be able to cross on foot? This is the route we use for our daily dog walks to Creasy Rd (a dead in road with no traffic.)</p> <p>Will the train whistle be able to stop blowing all hours of the night? With all the banging and blowing, it has become very difficult to sleep at night.</p> <p>Will train activity increase? Our tranquillity has already so been compromised.</p> <p>What about safety? Will Fire trucks or 1st aid vehicles be able to cross? What about risk of derailments with loaded crudes going to & from the refineries. Is there a written safety/response plan?</p> <p>Yes, it will be inconvenient, but it is also inconvenient to wait for switches now. If I really had a choice, No I would not want to have the crossing closed. (But I know it's already in the works and asking for input is just a formality.)</p> <p>Thanks for reading this, waitiing for your response..... Joan Carrington, 7577 Valley View Rd, Ferndale WA.</p>
	Phyllis Graham	E-mail	<p>I request there be a hearing on Burlington Northern's request to close Valley View Road, docket #150189. It is NOT an insignificant action to those of us living in the county, where alternative roads aren't as prevalent as in a city. It seems to me the request is in anticipation of GPT's request for a coal port at Cherry Point with its anticipated coal train traffic. Since that coal port has not yet been approved, BNSF is putting the cart before the horse. If the port is approved, there will be plenty of time at that point to request a closure if it is truly deemed necessary. And "necessary" to whom? And inconvenient to whom? And are there alternatives???? Perhaps a crossing like Birch Bay Lynden Road is a better choice.... And perhaps adding this request to the EIS for the coal port would be in order....</p> <p>I would appreciate acknowledgment of receipt of this email.</p> <p>Phyllis Graham 5447 Tsawwassen Loop Blaine, WA 98230</p>

	Sally Hann	Web	Another toxic industrial site a coal and oil seeping site, draining into Terrell creek and Birch Bay, and surrounding private wells is unthinkable. Not a good idea, except for the company with an unpermitted proposal. We do not have an alterative route, nor one that would not add to the already overcrowded B.B. Lynden road No benefit to the entire N Wcorner and all living, breathing beings therein.
	Tammy Long	Web	I oppose the proposal to close the railroad crossing. I use this crossing several days a week and the closure of this crossing would require the use of longer and undesirable alternate routes. This crossing is the main route of travel for all who live in this area and travel to Blaine and Lynden.
	Ryan Long	Web	I oppose the proposal to close the railroad crossing. This crossing is the main link between several square miles of land and the businesses in Birch-Bay Square and for travel to Blaine and Lynden. Every time the trains block the road, travel times increase significantly to find an alternate route.
	Jan Hasselman, Earthjustice	E-mail	<p>March 31, 2015</p> <p>Via Email and First Class U.S. Mail David Pratt Assistant Director, Transportation Safety Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W. P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, WA 98504-7250</p> <p>DPratt@utc.wa.gov RE: TR-150189—Closure of Highway-Grade Rail Crossing; Valley View Road, Whatcom County</p> <p>Dear Mr. Pratt:</p> <p>This is a letter of objection to the above-named road closure and request for hearing pursuant to RCW 81.53.070 and WAC 480-07-660(1) on behalf of RE Sources for Sustainable Communities, Washington Environmental Council, Sierra Club, ForestEthics, Evergreen Islands, and Climate Solutions (hereinafter, “RE Sources”). These groups seek to participate in this proceeding as interested parties pursuant to WAC 480-07-660(3) and respectfully request courtesy copies of all filings filed after the date of this letter. As required by these rules, full addresses for these organizations are included at the end of this letter; however, communications and filings should be directed to undersigned counsel.</p> <p>We ask that the road closure be denied and request an opportunity to elaborate on these concerns at a public hearing. There are several reasons why denial is appropriate here.</p>

First, we have significant concerns that the proponent and its partners are engaging in unlawful “piecemealing” of legally connected projects to avoid thorough review under the State Environmental Policy Act (“SEPA”). SEPA regulations explicitly forbid division of a project “into exempted fragments” that “avoid discussion of cumulative impacts.” WAC 197-11-060(5)(d); see also WAC 480-11-020 (UTC incorporating Ecology SEPA regulations). As the court stated in *Merkel v. Port of Brownsville*, 8 Wn. App. 844 (Wash. App. Div. 2, 1973), “[t]he question, therefore, is whether the Port may take a single project and divide it into segments for purposes of SEPA and SMA approval. The frustrating effect of such piecemeal administrative approvals upon the vitality of these acts compels us to answer in the negative.” *Id.* at 850-51. “Piecemeal review is impermissible where a ‘series of interrelated steps [constitutes] an integrated plan’ and the current project is dependent upon subsequent phases.” *Murden Cove Preservation Council v. Kitsap Cnty.*, 41 Wn. App. 515, 526 (Wash. App. Div. 1 1985); see also *Manza v. Shorelines Hearings Bd.*, 128 Wn. App. 2d 1023 (Wash. App. Div. 2 2005) (“Any

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project significantly affecting the environment and the shorelines of the state should be reviewed comprehensively to ensure that all of the environmental aspects of the project have been fully considered.”).

The concern over “piecemealing” is relevant here. The proposed road closure is a component of a construction project to extend the size of the rail sidings along the Custer Spur. The stated purpose of the closure is to allow existing customers using the line to receive and depart “full length trains” without blocking the main line, switches, or roads. However, it appears that the line has served existing customers for many years without causing such blockages. This situation evidently changed when Whatcom County and other agencies authorized construction of crude-by-rail facilities at two refineries, enabling them to receive mile-plus-long unit trains of crude oil via the Custer Spur. Tellingly, in the SEPA documentation for those projects, the proponents claimed that they would not require additional infrastructure improvements or impact existing traffic patterns. For example, in the MDNS for the Phillips 66 Crude Unloading Rail Project, issued in April 2013, the County relied on the proponent’s claim that the project “will not result in any undue conflicts or congestion.”¹ Similarly, the MDNS for the BP Rail Logistics Project concluded that “existing roadways will not be blocked during transfer operations.”² In the SEPA checklists for both projects, proponents asserted that no future additions or expansions were planned.

Now that both projects have been built and begun operations, that picture has evidently changed. BNSF claims that it is necessary to build additional sidings—and permanently close Valley View Road—to accommodate the mile-long unit trains that now use the Custer Spur to reach the two refineries. Community members have long suspected that proponents of terminal projects have manipulated project descriptions to avoid full disclosure of project impacts and to facilitate

controversial projects. This road closure request raises precisely those questions. Similarly, the closure of Valley View Road (and the extension of sidings at Intalco) is also an explicit part of the controversial Gateway Pacific Terminal coal export project. The 2011 Project Information Document identifies construction of sidings to accommodate 8,500 foot long trains through Intalco Yard and Valley View Road, to “avoid blockage of at-grade public crossings or blocking of the BNSF Railway’s main lines.” This component of the project is part of the ongoing full SEPA review required by that project.

Accordingly, given what appear to be unfounded claims that the refinery projects would not require additional track construction, and given that this work appears to be part of the ongoing GPT SEPA review, we believe it would be inappropriate to move ahead with authorizing this project in the interim. At a minimum, BNSF should be required to explain, in

1 Whatcom County, Phillips 66 SEPA Mitigated Determination of Non-significance, SEP2013-0005 (Apr. 29, 2013) at 3.

2 Whatcom County, BP SEPA Mitigated Determination of Non-significance, SEP2012-00059 (Oct 18, 2012) at 3.

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detail, why additional siding was not included in the SEPA documentation for the refinery projects. If those projects could not accommodate mile-long trains without either blocking the rail line, or without substantial new construction that closes Valley View Road, why was this not disclosed at the time and made part of the public review? Given the failure to disclose the need for additional infrastructure, why shouldn’t the refineries simply receive shorter trains until the siding construction is fully reviewed as part of the GPT process?

A second reason to deny the requested road closure is that the application appears to contain significant factual errors. Specifically, while BNSF claims that the average daily traffic over the tracks is 90 vehicles, the County has reported a significantly higher number. A traffic analysis prepared for the GPT project, which specifically analyzed the closure of Valley View Road, stated that the road has a volume of 48 vehicles per hour, and that closure of the crossing could cause congestion at the Main Street crossing nearby.³ Plainly, there are factual questions that need further analysis before proceeding.

Finally, the request does not meet the standard for road closure included in RCW 81.53.060, which is based on a single consideration: public safety. There is no evidence presented in the petition that public safety requires closure of Valley View Road: indeed, the public’s safety would be compromised by such closure due to the increase in emergency response times. Instead, the closure appears to be solely a convenience for BNSF and its customers. The Commission should consider whether the impact to the community is warranted in light of the small number of trains using the Custer Spur and the availability of other options

to reduce blockage of the main line by crude oil unit trains. The community should not have to bear the impact of BNSF's preference to run longer trains, and its inability to schedule deliveries so that blockage of the main line is necessary. With only four trains per day under current conditions, there should be ample room to accommodate both the volume of traffic and leave Valley View Road open. Closure of the road should be addressed as part of the GPT process, not before.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jan Hasselman

Earthjustice

705 Second Avenue, Suite 203

Seattle, WA 98201

jhasselman@earthjustice.org

3 <http://eisgatewaypacificwa.gov/sites/default/files/content/files/20120727-REP-CusterSpurTrafficStudy.pdf>.

David Pratt

March 31, 2015

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ADDRESSES OF SIGNATORY ORGANIZATIONS

RE Sources for Sustainable Communities

2309 Meridian Street

Bellingham, WA 98225

Washington Environmental Council

1402 Third Avenue, Suite 1400

Seattle, WA 98101

Sierra Club

180 Nickerson Street, Suite 202

Seattle, WA 98109

ForestEthics

1329 N State Street, Suite 302

Bellingham, WA 98225

Evergreen Islands

P.O. Box 223

			Anacortes, WA 98221 Climate Solutions 219 Legion Way, Suite201 Olympia, WA 98501
	Ray Poorman	Web	Docket# 150189, closure of Valley View crossing. This road is the main north south connector for many residents along valley view, and bay rd to I-5 and Birch Bay square the only grocery store within 5 miles. This crossing is often blocked by load/unload traffic which can be an inconvenience and requires us to go around, but permanent closure adds a couple of miles to the reroute. It is the most direct route north/south. Please do not close this crossing.
	John Hruby and Bertha Safford	E-mail	Dear MR Cupp, Thank You for the letter sent to me as " an interested party" as we own 2 properties in close proximity to this proposed action. Please add me to the commission's mailing list and notification announcements. We will be submitting our written comments and concerns via website and may want to testify at your up coming hearing. Sincerely, John Hruby and Bertha Safford 7401 Valley View Rd Ferndale, WA 98248 John Hruby, CFO Safford Connors Specialized Services, Inc Phone 360-868-6438 Ext 102 john@saffordconnors.com Cell: 360-961-8735
	Kevin Wolter & Natascha Delacourt	E-mail	I would like to strongly object to the closing of Valley view RD. This is a key rail crossing that we need. The rail way wishes to close this in order that they can add more shutting lines and create a northern rail yard.

			<p>The approval of this decision would be very detrimental to the community that uses these roads. The railway already blocks the rail crossing many time a day as well as the main street crossing. This will make traveling and crossing into the county much harder.</p> <p>To close this crossing will mean adding miles to the detour when we use the birch bay exist and come from Lynden.</p>
	Gerald & Julia Couchman	E-mail	<p>Dear Mr. Cupp,</p> <p>Reference number TR-150189, Burlington Norther's petition to close the Valley View crossing in Whatcom County. This crossing is in a rural part of Washington near our home. There are many local residents residing in our area that frequently use this crossing. It is the most efficient route to reach I-5, the nearest grocery store and several other business located in Birch Bay Square (intersection of I-5 and Birch Bay Lynden Road.) We are used to the occasional delays caused by the trains, but that is a minor inconvenience compared to their proposal to close the crossing. We strongly oppose their petition.</p> <p>Gerald Couchman Julia Couchman 3450 Meadow Wood Lane Ferndale, WA 98248 (360)366-5169 (360)255-1984</p>
	Mike Rouse	E-mail	<p>We live on Valley view and this would be a huge inconvenience for us because we go through that stop multiple times a day. However, I don't want to be egocentric about it. My question is has anyone done the analysis to evaluate how many people use this section of the road and what would be the impact on the homeowners and the travelers who go through that stop?</p> <p>Mike Rouse</p>
	Daniel Statema	Web	<p>valley view rd closer this is a very bad idea I have to cross railroad tracks no mater witch way i go. closing this road I would have to cross more tracks to get to the only grocery store in our area. all other ways is way around and extra miles and time.It is not fair to residents of whatcom county that there are more and more trains they have to put in overpasses at their expens not ours. they are the ones making money at our cost. totaly unfair. doc# tr-150189</p>
	David & Camille Robertson	Phone	<p>Ms. and her husband have lived on Creasy Rd. for 32 years. She said Valley View Road is the only safe road around their home for biking or walking. Closing the crossing will take away their ability to run errands by bike or on foot. Portal Way is very unsafe.</p>

			<p>This closure would add miles to their everyday trips, and closing this busy crossing would inconvenience a lot of people. It is the only convenient route to the freeway for many.</p> <p>Ms mentioned that the road was there before the tracks were installed.</p>
	Shawna Rouse	E-mail	<p>We live on Valley view and this would be a huge inconvenience for us because we go through that stop multiple times a day. However, I don't want to be egocentric about it. My question is has anyone done the analysis to evaluate how many people use this section of the road and what would be the impact on the homeowners and the travelers who go through that stop?</p>
	Reed Gillig	E-mail	<p>John,</p> <p>Thanks for your time on the phone today regarding the petition to close the railroad crossing on Valley View Road near Ferndale, WA. While I understand that there will likely be public hearings and other opportunities to comment on this issue, I wanted to register a few of my concerns ahead of the April 1st deadline noted on the road posting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Statists show that many citizens no longer rely on printed newspapers for new and public notice. Therefore, adequate notice has not been provided to all of the stakeholders that may be affected by this road closure. I request that the UTC notify residents within not less than a 5 mile radius directly by mail. This is an agricultural area that is quite spread out and those impacted are well beyond a 1 mile radius. 2. The public notices posted at the crossing are printed too small to read while driving. Additionally, they are posted on either side of the crossing - not a place to stop and read. In addition, this crossing is located in a rural/agricultural area and many of the users travel the road seasonally. Farm workers and ranchers will not have the opportunity to see the signs until the growing/harvest seasons. 3. I am given to understand that this is not a main train route serving the region, it is a local side spur for local business. I can appreciate that it may be inconvenient for railroad workers to work around local traffic in this area, but I argue that the inconvenience of the road being closed is even greater for residents in the surrounding community. Additionally, the road pre-dates the railroad crossing by some time and should be given preference. 4. The issue of safety at this crossing is of no greater or lesser importance than similar crossings in the area. The operators are welcome to have a crossing, however it is incumbent on them to make the crossing safe - not by eliminating the crossing, but by employing proven safety measures.

			<p>5. This is a community and we have become accustomed to the minor inconveniences of a closed crossing while trains jockey cars. We like to see local industry working, and, while it seems like a long wait, in most cases, it is accomplished in a reasonable amount of time. I suggest that this arrangement continue - so long as the waits do not increase.</p> <p>Thanks again for your time on the phone today. I look forward to your email with a link to more information. I have secured a spot on the agenda at an upcoming water association meeting and will share the information there. There generally aren't a lot of people at these meetings, but perhaps word of mouth can spread from there.</p> <p>Regards, Reed Gillig 7190 Ham Road Ferndale, WA 98248</p>
	Craig Baker	Phone	<p>Mr said he does not drive, and the bus he takes uses the Valley View crossing. Closing the crossing would be a big inconvenience.</p> <p>Mr said he is willing to wait 10-15 minutes, like he does now, for trains to back up, or hook up; and perform the tasks they currently perform that require people to wait.</p> <p>His other concern is emergency vehicles. He is concerned about the extra time it will take emergency vehicles to reach some people via an alternate route.</p> <p>Mr wants to know why the railroad cannot build an overpass for cars to go over the tracks safely. He said he pays taxes for this road and does not want the crossing to be closed.</p>
	Jennifer Schneider	E-mail	<p>I am a resident of the community around that crossing. Closing the Valley View crossing would make the traffic much worse on the two other big roads Grandview and Birch Bay Lynden Rd. Those are already very busy roads. Please do not close that crossing, as it will be a big nuisance. Thank you for taking the time to read. Jen Schneider</p>
	Dave Monks	E-mail	<p>I use this road to access I-5 and to shop at Birch Bay outlet center. Please don't close Valley View Rd.</p>
	David Tucker	E-mail	<p>This decision to close Valley View Road Crossing, demanded by BNSF, is too complicated without a thorough review of traffic activity. Stop the closure and study it. Which crossing will be next? BNSF does not say. How about all of them north of Bellingham (I ask jokingly)? When do we get to learn about their master plan? Counties, cities and states have to publish a master plan.</p>

			<p>Why not the railroads?</p> <p>The whole process could be solved by eliminating oil trains.</p> <p>David Tucker -----</p> <p>Please include the following public comment as part of the record for this proceeding:</p> <p>Dear John Cupp, Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. The closure of Valley View Road proposed by BNSF appears unnecessary and raises several community and environmental concerns, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- this project is part of piecemealing with several other BNSF and oil refinery projects and violates the SEPA process; -- if this project is part of the Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT) project, it should be included in GPT's SEPA process; -- this road closure would impact emergency response times; -- this road closure would significantly impact detoured traffic, both private and commercial as well as three school buses; -- this road closure would impact safety of alternative crossings; -- parked trains on the railway may increase contamination on rail tracks and pollution to local waterways, including salmon-bearing streams, as well as air pollution of idling trains. <p>Thank you for your time and consideration to the community that would have to unfairly make sacrifices for the convenience of Cherry Point industry.</p> <p>David Tucker Bellingham, Washington 98229</p> <p>(Comment was submitted by David Tucker on 11/24/2015.)</p>
	Paul James	E-mail	<p>Valley View road is an important part of Whatcom county transportation infrastructure. The BNSF proposal to close it is not in the public interest.</p> <p>The road accommodates 350 vehicles per day on average while BNSF suggests only 90 which is incorrect. Seasonally more cars as well as emergency services vehicles would be impacted.</p> <p>BNSF or specific clients should acquire sufficient property for the staging of any increased train loading operations in place of taking from public infrastructure for their financial gain.</p>

			<p>If BNSF were charged for the actual value of the impacts they wish to create through the taking of this public road, in terms of added driving times, then it would not be economically feasible for them.</p> <p>For these reasons it is imperative that you deny the BNSF proposal and suggest that any additional loading is completed on privately owned land were it will not impair the established vehicular public right of ways of Whatcom county.</p> <p>Please inform me of your final decision on this matter.</p> <p>Thank you for your time, Paul James 409 Donovan ave. Bellingham, wa 98225</p>
	Jake Locker	E-mail	<p>We live just up valley view from this crossing. The birch bay village is one of our frequent stops. We are concerned that closing this road will lead to congestion and larger backups at the crossing on ham as well as the one down by tony tavern. This adds a lot of travel time to daily trips, so we are not real supportive of this closure. Thank you</p> <p>God bless Jake</p>
	Bob Butterfield	E-mail	<p>RE: proposal by BNSF to close Valley View Road to vehicle traffic in Whatcom County</p> <p>Dear Washington Government:</p> <p>I request that a full and new environmental impact report be completed before any consideration is made to close the Valley View Road to car traffic.</p> <p>Specifically the Environmental Impact Statement needs to include, but not limited to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How will trains carrying coal, or oil, that may be parked near Valley View Road (VVR) impact water resources: salmon, drinking water, etc. Under BNSF proposal trains are likely to be parked near the Valley View Road before delivery to a proposed coal or oil terminal. The coal cars are not covered and wind and rain will wash coal into the air, ground and water. Empty coal trains also have coal residue: dust and small lumps of coal are also likely to be washed into the air, ground and water if empty coal trains are parked here. 2. How will coal, or oil, trains parked near the VVR impact the air quality to people living

nearby? Will diesel trains parking train cars be allowed to idle thus emitting fumes harmful to people's lungs?

3. How will this impact emergency vehicles responding emergencies?
4. How will this impact the Lummi Tribes native rights including salmon, air and ground water quality?
5. How will this impact local farms?
6. How will this impact local car traffic?
7. What would be the impacts of an overpass being constructed at VVR and how much would BNSF pay?
8. What would be the noise impacts to locals, those living within 3 miles of the tracks? How much sleep would they lose, what stress would it cause, what are the total health impacts of loss of sleep from extra train noise?

County officials believed the closure would be required later to make room for trains headed to a proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point.

BNSF says closing Valley View is needed so trains heading west don't block the main line between Seattle and Vancouver, BC?

The obvious solution is for BNSF to have fewer train cars so Valley View Road does not have to be closed.

County officials believed the closure would be required later to make room for trains headed to a proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point.

The county says 350 vehicles use the Valley View crossing a day and BNSF says just 90.

Who do we believe?

Let's see, Costco said the price of liquor would go down if they and other businesses were allowed to sell, but as we all know prices actually went up statewide. They were flat out wrong. It seems like they would say anything to get their way.

BNSF figures are highly suspicious. Only the county figures should be used.

DO NOT close Valley View Road to car traffic.

County officials believed the closure would be required later to make room for trains headed to a proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point.

Extend the comment period to 120 days. The short comment period should be illegal!

County officials believed the closure would be required later to make room for trains headed to a proposed coal terminal at Cherry Point.

Read the full story

CLOSE Valle View Road to All TRAIN TRAFFIC NOT Car traffic.

. . . Or require BNSF to pay ALL (100 percent) the costs for an overpass.

Do not close the road to cars.

Sincerely,

Bob Butterfield
Ferndale, wa

Dear UTC:

I request that the stretch of railroad track line from Portal Way west to the coast be designated as a Quite Zone and that this be taken into account regarding BNSN proposal to close Valley View

Road.

Sincerely,

Bob Butterfield

Dear UTC:

Since I moved to north of Ferndale in 2003 train traffic has increased and will likely continue to increase even more. Now BNSF is proposing to close Valley View Road. I live about a mile south of the tracks.

I request that the negative impacts of this proposal address property values and its effect not only on home owners but also decreased tax revenue to the county.

Please take into account: train noise including negative impacts of sleep loss on individuals, loss of direct access of emergency vehicles who must take longer routes, air pollution caused by diesel exhaust and its impact on our lungs for parked or cars being parked, water quality, pollution of soil by coal and/or oil leaking or being rain washed into the soil and groundwater from parked train cars, etc.

I will have to downsize to a smaller home as I get older and I am very concerned that my home value will be significantly reduced because of the proposed closing of Valley View Road.

Sincerely,

Bob Butterfield
Ferndale, Washington

April 8:

I would like to know if BNSF is also considering closing Hamm Road, a mile west of the proposed Valley View Road crossing and/or Kickerville Road also west of Valley View?

I live about a mile from the tracks and use both Hamm Road and Valley View Road often. When Valley View Road is closed by BNSF one can go to Hamm Road and there are no trains.

I would like to know the vehicle use statistics of school bus, cars, trucks, etc. for traffic on Hamm Road and Kickerville Road versus Valley View Road. Have they been done? To get a valid statistical basis one needs data from all 4 seasons, not just the rainy season or the summer months.

If vehicle use surveys have not been done then the County or independent survey company (NOT BNSF) needs to provide comparison statistics to see if Hamm Road or Kickerville Road should be closed as opposed to Valley View Road.

When one looks at a Google earth air photo of the area it is not clear to me at all why BNSF wants to close Valley View Road as compared to Hamm Road or even Kickerville. What are BNSF reasons? This needs to be thoroughly studied and submitted to public comment for a minimum of 120 days before the government makes any decision.

Thanks,

Bob Butterfield
Bay Road
Ferndale, WA

April 8:
Dear UTC:

RE: BNSF's proposal to close Valley View Road

This is a follow up to my question if vehicle use statistics have been done for Hamm and Kickerville Roads and compared to Valley View Road vehicle use.

Has BNSF considered modifying their track and switching system to offer more options along the route west of Interstate 5 to allow: Kickerville road being temporarily blocked 1/3 of the time, Hamm Road being temporarily blocked 1/3 of the time and Valley View Road being temporarily blocked 1/3 of the time for train switching? Then no road would have to be permanently closed.

Why can't BNSF spread out so it would allow each crossing to be impacted more evenly rather than one crossing be impacted 100 percent of the time?

Bob Butterfield
Bay Road
Ferndale, WA

	Karl Foslien	E-mail	<p>Please add my name to the list of residents voting NO to the closure of Valley View Road.</p> <p>I live on Yukon Way, not far from the proposed closure. I use this crossing daily on my commute to work as well as to visit my 89 year old mother. It would be a major inconvenience to myself & my family if this crossing were to be closed.</p> <p>Yours truly</p> <p>Karl Foslien</p>
	Jon Kornelis	E-mail	<p>I would like to comment on BNSF rail crossing closures in Whatcom county. My feeling on this is that as a very profitable business, they should be keeping these crossings open, and modifying them at a cost to the rail road and not the Tax payers. I have my own crossing that I have been in a losing legal battle with the rail road over, and I know from experience that there are old commerce laws that protect them, and allow them to bully their way through. With this being said, if the crossing goes, it will never come back until the county comes up with the millions it takes to put an overpass in. This may not seem like a big deal to those who don't live in the particular area, but all these crossings serve people in a given area, and are important. In my case, the rail road has been downright nasty. Something that may cost them a little bit of their bottom line, will absolutely bankrupt me. I think the county should also think twice before working with them because the rail road starts with "Oh, we are doing this for safety, or we just can't make this work" and before you know it, they are cutting you off from being able to get where you need to go and telling you "Tough, It's our legal right". I know from experience, the rail road just does not care.</p> <p>Thanks Jon Kornelis Cell 360-927-6797</p>
	Walter Haugen	E-mail	<p>I recently read an article in the Bellingham Herald that the state is considering closing Valley View Road in Whatcom County, simply because Burlington Northern Santa Fe wants it.</p> <p>I say, NO, NO, NO, NO, NO!</p> <p>Is that clear enough for you?</p> <p>Walter Haugen 5890 Barr Road Ferndale, WA 98248 360-312-0335</p>

	Agnes Schewe	Web	I was JUST contacted by a friend about the proposed closing of the railroad crossing on Valley View Rd just off Portal Way. My husband and I are both retired, in our 70's. We purchased our home here 3 years ago. We live just to the south of the crossing they want closed. If they closed that crossing there would be times we would be trapped on Valley View unable to get out. My husband is an asthmatic. I have had to be taken to the ER by ambulance 3 times in the recent years. When they are putting oil cars onto the siding to go to Cherry Point, you can not go south. In the case of an oil accident, now you can usually get out either north or south, they seldom block both crossings, but with only one outlet, I doubt we'd be able to get to safety. I feel our lives would be in extreme danger if that crossing is closed. We do not have the money or desire to leave this home. Please take out concerns into account when you are making this decision.
Undecided			
	Dan and Laura Long	E-mail	We would like to be added to the commission's mailing list to be notified of the public hearing, date regarding the BNSF Railway petition seeking permission to close the railroad crossing at Valley View Road in Whatcom County, Washington. Thank you Dan and Laura Long
Yes			
	Shiraz Balolia	Mail	Letter saved as attachment. Mr. Balolia has "no objection to this project."
	Brittin Olson	E-mail	I have no problem with the valley view closure. I take it occasionally but the intersection at Valley view and Bay Rd is so dangerous I tend to take a different route. I also have been stuck waiting for the train at that crossing for almost a half hour. That was my own fault but if the crossing was available I wouldn't have that problem. Anyway I think the benefit would outweigh the inconvenience. Thank you Brittin Olson North Star rd