

Docket # TR-041051 Walkways Wac 489-60-035

As a switchman-brakeman for 34 years I have seen the decline in the maintaining of the yards and walkways the last several years. The maintenance gangs have been reduced or eliminated in many areas.

As a Legislative Representative for the men and women north of Seattle and east to Stevens Pass, I can say that the walkway issues are more numerous and take longer to get resolved, if at all.

The walkways in Everett yards are an example of BNSF not being able to solve walkway issues without state help. Washington State has been involved with the Delta west lead in Everett over a year and still hoping for a resolution.

I believe the issue in Everett would have been resolved easier and sooner if the walkway rules had been simplified and mandatory.

Our primary concern is for safety and ease of walking, not tripping or stumbling on rock that is too large to safely walk on, or falling in holes because of a lack of gravel.

When we work on the leads we are walking next to or touching the equipment when it is moving.

We work 24 hours 7 days a week, snow, rain and darkness, having the safest smoothest walkways possible should be our goal in our quest to protect our railway workers.

I believe the size of rock where employees regularly work should be reduced to 1" minus. Where they work on SW leads it should be 5/8" minus.

Thank You,  
Bruce Noot