

November 6, 2004

In regards to: Amendment to Wac 480-60-035, Walkways, To Address Rock Size For Walkways; Docket No. TR-041051.

To interested persons:

My name is Jim Jackson and I have worked as a switchman for the Great Northern, Burlington Northern, and now the Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

I began working in Everett for the Great Northern in September 1968, and for those 36 years, times to numerous to count, I have slipped, tripped, plodded, twisted ankles, and strained to accomplish the work given me by the railroads I have worked for,

The cause for many of these mishaps are, large rocks on the walkways, rocks and gravel that do not mesh to form a level non moving surface to walk on, because to walk heel toe is to strenuous, which in turn causes leg and back strain in the performance of ones duties.

Add to this the remote control box, added weight strain to the back, and a sight prohibiter causing even more danger to the employee walking on a walkway already in need of repair. Very dangerous!

The BNSF RR uses the word safety in any a number of slogans, implying a concern for their employees, and yet when an unsafe condition is brought , in writing, to an officer of the company it is ignored. The reporter of the unsafe condition is left with the belief the BNSF RR; A) does nor care about safety, or B)the cost of safety is prohibitive.

We are asked by the BNSF RR to work safely, and rightly so, but it's a constant battle. A battle that will be made easier if at least two things take place; 1) Wac 480-60-035 is implemented, and, and 2) the BNSF RR begins and continues to follow it's own engineering instructions, (walkway section construction 8.2.3 dated January 2, 1998, in particular item number 4. "when placing walkway material does not move."

To the interested persons addressed at the beginning of this letter, I ask you to help us help the BNSF RR eliminate repetitive walkway injuries from becoming major problems in their employees futures by adopting Wac 480-60-035 for our safety and everyone's well being.

Sincerely,

J. M. Jackson