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"Phinney, Elizabeth"
<PhinneE@wsdot.wa.gov>
08/09/2007 04:10 PM

To <Christa.Dean@stb.dot.gov>, <RutsonV@stb.dot.gov>, "Wood, Andrew" <WoodA@WSDOT.WA.GOV>, "Gregory, Lynnette" <GregorL@WSDOT.WA.GOV>,
cc

bcc

Subject FW: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

From: Alan Heroux [mailto:alanheroux@johnlscott.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 09, 2007 12:28 PM
To: Phinney, Elizabeth
Subject: Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project

Elizabeth Phinney
Rail Environmental Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation

Dear Ms. Phinney:

This letter is to address the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project.

I do believe that rail service is very important to the continued economic vitality of Moses Lake and therefore support rail service to the Port of Moses Lake. I also believe that the idea of moving the rail line so that it does not go through downtown has great merit.

However, I do not agree with the current proposal to bring rail service from the Wheeler Rd. area crossing the Crab Creek along State Route 17 then joining the existing line. This proposal does eliminate the rail line coming through the heart of Moses Lake which is a huge improvement for the community. However, if this line were completed as proposed it would have several road crossings in areas that will create traffic issues, goes through residential areas, and adjoins a school which creates additional safety concerns. Although we have not had a train related accident to my knowledge, the increase in train traffic and train speed is a cause for great concern.

As a alternative I propose to take the rail service from the North end of the line at road N. N.E. in the Wheeler area, reclaiming the old right of way to the point where is crosses the Bureau of Reclamations waste way North of Rd. 5.6, then turn West along the North side of the waste way to the edge of the hill. At this point the line can turn North along the hill taking in the grade over the 1.2 miles to Road 7, then turn West again with a straight shot into the port area. The impact on traffic and property owners should be far less by staying away from more populated areas. At Road 7 Crab Creek is a creek not a large wetland area thereby having less of an environmental impact. This route takes the rail line around Moses Lake in the direction of the rail users at the Port. I recognize that this

· route is longer than the current proposal but in the long run will serve the needs of the area better.

We need to think beyond the economics of the project and put public safety as our highest concern. It just doesn't make sense to move the rail line and create a different set of problems in the process.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,

Alan Heroux
Broker/Owner
John L. Scott Real Estate/Moses Lake

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