

Get the Facts About... Rail Transport in the Northwest

No matter how you look at it, trains are the best, safest and most environmentally friendly way to move products, including coal.

Here are some facts about rail transport in the Northwest:

1. Trains are the most environmentally sound way to move freight over land. According to a recent independent study by the Federal Railroad Administration, on average, railroads are four times more fuel-efficient than trucks, and a single train can move freight equivalent to 280 trucks.
2. BNSF Railway and Union Pacific pay for any freight rail capacity needed on its network with private funds, not taxpayer dollars. In 2012, BNSF and Union Pacific invested almost \$8 billion in order to maintain and improve freight rail capacity across their networks. These investments create new, long-term jobs that help local communities grow.
3. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, every dollar invested in rail infrastructure results in three dollars into the economy in terms of jobs, business efficiency and local economic opportunities.
4. Coal represented 43% of all cargo shipped by rail in the United States in 2011. It has been traveling by rail through the Northwest for decades, safely and largely unnoticed.
5. The Northwest Clean Air Agency, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency and Spokane Clean Air Agency have not received a coal dust complaint in the decades trains have been carrying coal through the Northwest.
6. The Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency reports that it is fairly confident that coal dust emissions from uncovered trains will not be an issue for local quality impacts. The potential for coal dust emissions is greatest at the point of loading and unloading, which is not occurring in Spokane County.
7. All coal transported by rail to these projects will be treated with a sealant and loaded properly to address coal dust.

Source: *Railroads and Coal, Association of American Railroads (June 2011)*

Source: *Air Quality & Coal Trains, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency (November 2012)*