

**Gesl, David W NWD**

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**From:** McMahon, John R BG NWD  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 09, 2012 12:21 PM  
**To:** Gesl, David W NWD  
**Cc:** Rux, Lori NWD; Ponganis, David J NWD; Zinszer, Shawn H NWP; Walker, Michelle NWS; Lear, Gayle HQ @ NWD; DeRosa, Jason HQ @ NWD  
**Subject:** RE: HQ Regulatory Significant Actions--Mentions NW Port facilities (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED  
Caveats: NONE

Roger, David. What's the status of the letter back to GOV Kitzhaber et al? Thanks.  
VR, John McMahon

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Gesl, David W NWD  
**Sent:** Friday, June 08, 2012 2:34 PM  
**To:** McMahon, John R BG NWD  
**Cc:** Rux, Lori NWD; Ponganis, David J NWD; Zinszer, Shawn H NWP; Walker, Michelle NWS; Lear, Gayle HQ @ NWD; DeRosa, Jason HQ @ NWD  
**Subject:** HQ Regulatory Significant Actions--Mentions NW Port facilities (UNCLASSIFIED)

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Sir:

HQ asked that I inform our leadership of the following, contained in their "Regulatory Significant Actions 4-8 June 2012". I participated on the CEQ call.

**Proposed Coyote Island Terminal at Port of Morrow, Oregon**

- A Rivers and Harbors Act Section 10 application is being evaluated by the Regulatory Branch in Portland District a proposed shipping terminal on the Columbia River in Boardman, Oregon.
- Governor Kitzhaber (D-OR) sent Secretary McHugh, Interior Secretary Salazar, Director Abbey of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and MG Temple a letter in which he requested the Federal government conduct a programmatic EIS to evaluate proposed coal export facilities in the Pacific Northwest.
- OASA(CW), Regulatory, BLM, and Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), have been coordinating on draft responses to the Governor's letter.
- The Council on Environmental Quality facilitated a teleconference on 7 June to summarize statutory authorities and involvement in the review of the proposed terminal facilities and to provide preliminary feedback on what direct, indirect and cumulative effects may be considered within each agencies' control and responsibility.

**BNSF Coordination Meeting**

- Represented USACE at a coordination meeting with the BNSF Railway Company to discuss Corps involvement in various items of interest to their company. The meeting was held in accordance with the provisions of the MOU signed by the Corps and BNSF in October 2008.
- BNSF's overall railway operations were discussed with focus on their involvement in the proposed Gateway Pacific bulk export terminal located on Puget Sound near Bellingham, WA.

- BNSF acknowledged the direct local impacts to waters of the United States associated with construction of the terminal facilities and a rail spur to service the terminal would involve approximately 190 acres of impacts to wetlands. The Seattle District has made a significance determination and will begin scoping for preparation of an EIS in the near future.

- The Gateway facility, along with two proposed port facilities on the Columbia River, have generated substantial public controversy and opposition. BNSF representatives expressed their desire that the scope of the EIS focus on the direct impacts to WOUS and not be used as a referendum on the much broader issues of global warming, climate change, air quality impacts, rail traffic concerns, etc. They also expressed their opinion that a programmatic EIS analyzing impacts (including cumulative impacts) of all similar contemplated facilities in the Pacific Northwest would be speculative and inappropriate.

- BNSF expressed their appreciation for the excellent cooperation they have received thus far from NWS staff working on this permit applications

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