



PUBLIC COMMENT TO BEGIN ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF PROPOSED CHERRY POINT TERMINAL

The environmental review process of the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal and associated railway improvements is about to kick into high gear. Although the official start date has not been determined yet, Lummi Nation tribal members, as well as the Lummi Nation, will have opportunities to submit comments about the environmental impacts that should be evaluated and the geographic area that should be considered in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Comments can be submitted between July and October 2012. This process, beginning this summer and lasting for 120 days, is called "scoping" because it will define the scope of work for the environmental review. Below, we outline the scoping process for the EIS and explain how you can get involved.



What is an Environmental Impact Statement?

An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) details the impacts of a proposed activity on the human environment. An EIS is developed by appropriate and careful consideration of both the environmental impacts of proposed actions and measures to avoid and minimize potential adverse effects of these actions. The EIS is used to inform decision makers as they decide whether to approve or deny a permit application.

What issues will the Environmental Impact Statement evaluate?

- The EIS will ensure that the environmental impacts from the proposed development are considered before decisions are made about the future of this project. Likely issues include:
- Cultural properties
 - Vessel traffic (safety, fishing interference)
 - Oil spills
 - Cumulative effects
 - Environmental justice
 - Storm water quantity and quality
 - Wetlands
 - Air emissions (public health, climate change)
 - Noise
 - Railroad traffic

Who is leading the EIS?

Two separate permit applications have been submitted: one by SSA Marine and one by Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. Because the two proposed projects identified in the applications are inter-related (i.e., one can not happen without the other), a single EIS that evaluates the effects of both projects will be developed. A cooperative agreement between the following organizations governs the administration of the EIS in the following ways:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ensures compliance with federal law.
- Washington Department of Ecology ensures regional and statewide interests are addressed and compliance with state law.
- Whatcom County reviews project for compliance with state and county laws.
- CH2M Hill, an international environmental consulting firm, has been contracted to develop the EIS on behalf of the three agencies.

How does the government decide what the scope of the EIS is?

The three government co-lead agencies will receive public comment for 120 days. At the end of this period, the government agencies and the consultant will decide what issues and geographic area need to be evaluated as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

What is the geographic area for the EIS?

- The geographic area will be one of the most important issues decided in the scoping process. Which geographic area(s) should be studied in the EIS is under consideration, based upon where the environmental impacts will be felt.
- Should it be focused on the local area immediately surrounding the development?
 - Should it include the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the Strait of Georgia, which will be used by vessels calling at the terminal?
 - Should it include all areas impacted by increased rail traffic?
 - Should an even a larger area be included, considering the effects of burning fossil fuels on global climate change?

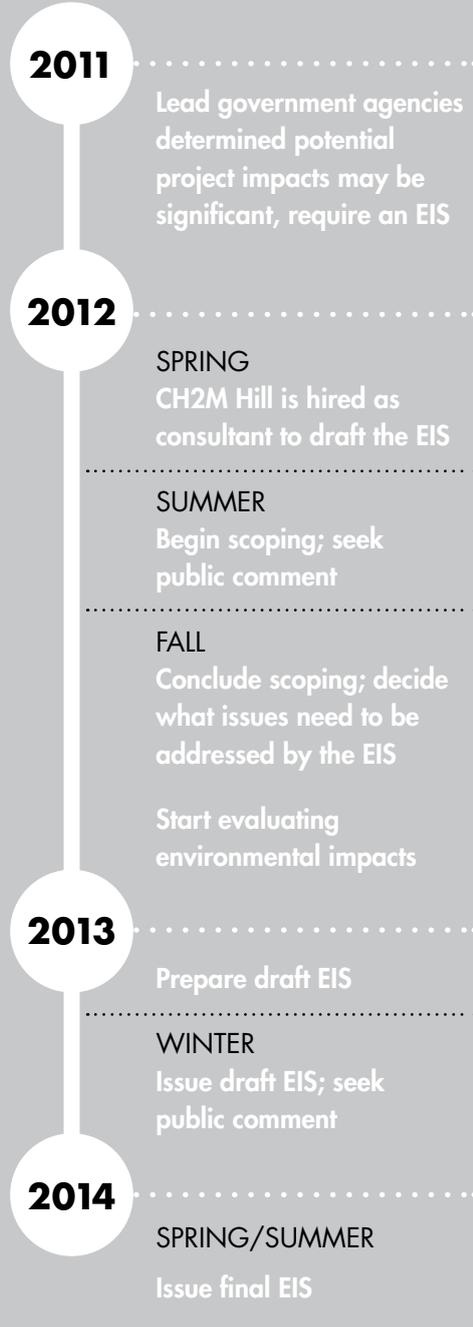
How will the Lummi Nation make its voice heard?

The Lummi Indian Business Council, working with the Cherry Point Team, will submit a comment letter during the scoping period that defines the official position of the Lummi Nation.

Can Lummi Nation tribal members submit comments during the scoping phase?

- Yes, Lummi Nation tribal members can share their own opinions in two ways:
1. Tribal members can provide their comments at public meetings that will be organized by the co-lead agencies or in writing by mail, email, or on the websites of the co-lead agencies.
 2. Tribal members can make their voices heard at General Council meetings.
- Watch the Lummi Nation Awareness Project website, <http://www.lummi-nsn.gov>, for meeting dates and times, and for specific information on how you can submit your comments.

ANTICIPATED TIMELINE:



The Lummi Nation Awareness Project Website

For more information, and to learn when public meetings are scheduled, visit www.lummi-nsn.gov and click on the Awareness Project link.

