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## **General Statement concerning the Gateway Pacific Terminal**

Northwest Clean Air Agency (NWCAA) is the air quality regulatory agency primarily responsible for permitting stationary air pollution sources in Island, Skagit and Whatcom counties.

Over the last several months, the NWCAA has received a few requests for information about, or related to, the proposed Gateway Pacific Terminal (GPT). GPT, as it has been discussed in the media, is a proposal for a bulk commodity terminal to be located at Cherry Point, Whatcom County, Washington. To date, the discourse about the proposal has focused on the transport and transfer of coal for shipment to the Far East.

If the GPT project does proceed with an application for construction of a shipping terminal facility in Whatcom County it will be required to obtain a permit from the Northwest Clean Air Agency.

### **Current status:**

NWCAA has not received a permit application from GPT and has no permitting activity underway related GPT. The NWCAA is aware of the project and is participating in the Multi-Agency Permitting (MAP) team related to GPT to remain engaged as the proposed project develops. The NWCAA has no detailed information regarding what might be contained in a future permit application for the proposed project.

### **Involvement if NWCAA receives an application:**

If the agency receives a permit application from GPT, it will be reviewed on the basis of its compliance with federal, state and local air quality regulations, the Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) and numerous other legal/regulatory regimes. The focus of NWCAA will be on compliance with air quality laws and regulations and, potentially, providing input in the SEPA process related to air quality issues/impacts.

### **Monitoring / pollutants of concern:**

In the absence of a permit application, it is speculative to identify all pollutants which might be of concern.

It is reasonable to conclude that emissions of both fine and coarse particulate material are likely to be factors which receive close evaluation should a permit application be received.

**Agency Posture at this time:**

The NWCAA has no 'position' concerning the utility of the GPT proposal.

As a regulatory Agency, we pride ourselves in the scientific and factual basis we employ in the decision making process of the Agency.

Furthermore, the Northwest Clean Air Agency Board of Director's has formally stated that the Agency has no 'position', as such, on this proposal. If the Agency receives an application, it will be fully and fairly evaluated on the basis of science and the law.

Any statement contrary or inconsistent with this memo constitutes a misstatement of the Agency posture concerning the GPT proposal.

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