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BERNERT BARGE LINESU.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Walla Walla District
201 North Third
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1875

Feb. 25, 00

Re Appendix P Air Quality Environmental Impact Statement

Gentlemen

There is an enormous error on page P3-6, table 3-6 "Energy Requirements by Transportation Mode".

To move one ton one mile by inland barge will consume 266 BTU/ton mile or will move one ton 514 miles per gallon of diesel fuel. This is the national average by inland barge carriers in the United States.

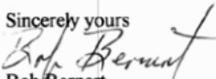
If Lee and Casavant would like to see proof they are invited to make a trip or partial trip on our tug, the Kathryn B, on it's weekly run between Longview and Lewiston. This tug has sight glasses on the fuel tanks so you can easily and accurately measure the fuel consumed. We also have a GPS system giving your position at all times within a few feet of accuracy and a constant readout of speed. Radar and navigation charts are on board to assist in determining speed and location. All of our barges have buoyancy charts giving exact tonnage on board. If Lee and Casavant have any doubt that barge transportation is more than twice as efficient as rail and more than 9 times more fuel efficient than truck, I suggest the spend a few days on board our tug.

On a normal trip, we will push empty wood chip and/or empty container barges from Longview and Portland to Boardman and Lewiston, returning with 5,000 tons of wood chips from Lewiston and 5,000 tons of wood chips and container cargo from Boardman, delivering the containers to Portland and the wood chips to Longview. This trip will take about 6 or 7 days and we will burn about 5,000 gallons of fuel in two 850HP Cat diesel engines.

On this trip we will burn about 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel, and move 2,810,000 cargo ton miles which will figure out to be 562 ton miles per gallon of diesel or 253 Btu/ton mile. The distance from Longview to Lewiston is 396 miles and the distance between Portland and Boardman is 166 miles. These are one way statute miles. Our GPS and radar read in nautical miles.

How did Lee and Casavant come up with the numbers on table 3-6? They are not even close to reality.

Sincerely yours


 Bob Bernert