

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Thirteenth District

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July 15, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE (04-15)

This availability of Public Notice pertains to corrections made to, Public Notice (01-15).

All interested parties are notified that the Commander, Thirteenth Coast Guard District has received an application from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF), requesting approval of location and plans for the modification of a bridge over a navigable waterway of the United States. The public is highly encouraged to review this notice with attached plans carefully and provide comment on the proposed project.

WATERWAY AND LOCATION: Steamboat Slough mile 1.0, at Everett, Washington, approximate: Latitude: 48° 02' 06" N, Longitude: 122° 11' 03" W. Steamboat Slough is a navigable waterway of the United States as defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

CHARACTER OF WORK: BNSF proposes to remove the bridge's existing, structurally deficient, creosote-treated timber piles (48) and deck south approach and replace it with a new approach comprised of a pre-stressed concrete double cell box girder and 24-inch, concrete and rebar filled steel-piles (9). All work would occur on or through the tracks with staging on adjacent BNSF property.

MINIMUM NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES :

	<u>Existing</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Horizontal: Normal to axis of channel	87 feet	87 feet (No change)
Vertical (above MHW):	7.5 feet, unlimited when open	7.5 feet, unlimited when open (No change)

ENVIRONMENT:

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) as lead Federal agency, has prepared a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the potential effects of the BNSF Steamboat Slough Bridge South Approach Replacement project which is available for review at (<http://www.uscg.mil/d13/dpw/bridges.asp>). USCG initiated consultation with the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP), the

Tulalip Tribes, the Suquamish Tribe, the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, and the Lummi Nation pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 800, implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act USCG anticipates that the proposed bridge modification project would have No Adverse Effect on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-eligible BNSF Steamboat Slough Bridge or on any historic properties. DAHP concurred with this determination May 11, 2015.

Species protected by the Endangered Species Act expected to be present in the area include Marbled Murrelet, Bull Trout, Chinook Salmon, and Steelhead. A Biological Assessment has been completed and consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is also complete. USFWS issued their opinion April 23, 2015 that the affects of the proposed project, including implementation of conservation measure, on Bull Trout and Bull Trout Critical Habitat would be insignificant and on Marbled Murrelet would be non-measurable. NMFS issued their opinion May 7, 2015 that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect the subject listed species and designated critical habitat.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) reviewed the work pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), with applicable provisions of State water pollution control laws and the Coastal Zone Management Act. Ecology issued a Water Quality Certification (Order #10779) for the project and agreed the project was consistent with Washington's Coastal Zone Management Program on June 8, 2015.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:

Mariners and all other interested parties are requested to express their views, in writing, on the proposed bridge modification project including its possible impact on navigation and the environment, if any, giving sufficient detail to establish a clear understanding of their reasons for support of, or opposition to, the proposed work. Comments will be received for the record at the office of: Commander (dpw), Thirteenth Coast Guard District, 915 2nd Ave, Rm 3510, Seattle, WA or via email at D13-PF-D13BRIDGES@uscg.mil. Comments should be mailed to arrive on or before 23 July, 2015. Map of location and plans attached.

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STEVEN M. FISCHER
Chief, Bridge Program
Thirteenth Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

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