

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD TO HOLD PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE WITH  
WASHINGTON STATE DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION ON "NORTHERN COLUMBIA  
BASIN RAILROAD PROJECT"**

The Surface Transportation Board (STB) announced today that its Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will hold a **July 19, 2007 Public Open House** concerning the proposed "Northern Columbian Basin Railroad Project" (Project).

STB and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will hold the **Thursday, July 19** Public Open House **from 4:00--7:00 p.m.** at the **Grant County International Airport, 7810 Andrews Street, N.E., Moses Lake, Washington**. The STB and WSDOT are working together as co-lead agencies for the environmental review of the Project, and the two agencies will co-host the Open House.

The Public Open House will provide interested persons and parties the opportunity to learn about the proposed Project, view maps of the environmental-study area, meet with representatives from STB and WSDOT, and provide input on potential environmental impacts and possible alternatives to be evaluated in the STB-WSDOT environmental review.

The purpose of the Project is to attract new rail-dependent businesses to the Moses Lake area and to encourage continued use and preservation of rail service in the region. The three components of the proposed project include: building a new rail line from Wheeler Road to the area known as Parker Horn; improving existing track between Parker Horn and Grant County International Airport; and extending existing Columbia Basin Railroad track to industrial areas just south of the airport.

For further information concerning the proposed Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project, please contact **Christa Dean, Attorney and SEA Project Manager, at (202) 245-0299, [christa.dean@stb.dot.gov](mailto:christa.dean@stb.dot.gov), or Elizabeth Phinney, WSDOT Rail Environmental Manager, at (360) 705-7902, [phinnee@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:phinnee@wsdot.wa.gov). Information is also available at the Project web site at:**

**<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Rail/Freight/WheelerToSoapLakeRailEngineering>.**

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