

News Release
For Immediate Distribution

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13 Arrested at railway blockade

Lower Mainland District: On Saturday May 5, 2012 at approximately 7:00am a group of protesters which fluctuated between 25 and 40 adult individuals from the British Columbians for Climate Action congregated in the 15000 Block of Marine Drive in White Rock, BC near the White Rock Pier to protest the export of coal from BC's ports.

Members of the group were served with a Supreme Court Order issued on behalf of Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). White Rock RCMP and CN Police were on hand to ensure the safety of the protesters and the public, and if necessary enforce the order. Ongoing negotiation with demonstration organizers throughout the day resulted in a designated venue for the protest site.

At approximately 6:00pm 14 protesters proceeded to walk onto the right of way of the rail line just east of the pier. They erected a large banner and awaited the arrival of the BNSF train which stopped some 50 yards from their location. Other members of the group congregated off the right of way on the promenade. The injunction was once again read followed by an explanation that by their actions they were disobeying an order of the court under the Criminal Code of Canada. They were advised that failing to immediately depart would result in arrest. Protesters were granted an opportunity to provide brief statements to the on site media prior to being arrested.

Those protesters who remained after being ordered to leave were subsequently arrested for Disobeying a Order of the Court under Section 127 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

"Thirteen protesters were arrested without incident and were respectful of the Police and the process that was required to affect their arrest as a result of their actions" says Sgt Peter Thiessen of the Lower Mainland District RCMP.

The 13 people, 12 males and 1 female were arrested and transported to the White Rock RCMP Detachment where they were processed, served with a \$115.00 Contravention Ticket for Trespassing on the Railway contrary to the Railway Safety Act and subsequently released.

Sgt. Peter Thiessen
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