

Pacific Extension

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Hill to E. H. Beckler, Chief engineer, Helena

The more I think of the question the more I am impressed with the importance of the northern line via Flathead and Kootenai if it can be accomplished. If the information such as it is to date is not all wrong the northern line will be very much shorter to the coast than any other. I have seen a sketch of some line run by Donovan from the mouth of the Skagit, up the Sauk and across to the Twitsp, a branch of the Methow.... If a line could be connected through from Spokane to the mouth of the Methow without such enormous work & heavy grades in

crossing the Grand Coulee it would make the shortest and best line possible. There is what seems to me by no means a bad line coming south from Missoula to the LoLo and over to Lewiston thence up the river to Riparia where the line would climb out and take a southwesterly course to Wallula Junction, crossing the Columbia at that point and going west through Horse Heaven, Goldendale and the Klikitat through to a point opposite Kalamac; thence south to Portland and north to the Sound."

JJH LetterBook, 10/24/89 - 6/9/90, p.77