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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

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7 **BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON**
8 **ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL**

9 In the Matter of:
10 Application No. 2013-01

11 TESORO SAVAGE, LLC

12 VANCOUVER ENERGY
13 DISTRIBUTION TERMINAL

NO. 15-001

COUNSEL FOR THE
ENVIRONMENT'S PRE-FILED
DIRECT EXPERT WITNESS
TESTIMONY OF ERIC P. ENGLISH

14 **I. EXPERT QUALIFICATIONS**

15 1. I am an economist specializing in natural resource issues, and I am principal of
16 Bear Peak Economics, a sole proprietorship in Boulder, Colorado. I received a Bachelor of
17 Arts degree from Williams College and a PhD in economics from Cornell University.

18 2. I have 20 years of experience in economics and litigation support, including
19 seven years as lead economist for Atlantic Coast cases at the Damage Assessment,
20 Remediation, and Restoration Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
21 Administration, and six years as an economist at Stratus Consulting (now Abt Associates) in
22 Boulder, Colorado. I have led numerous studies of the economic impacts of oil spills,
23 including the 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill in San Francisco Bay (Stratus Consulting, 2010) and
24 the 2010 *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (English and McConnell, 2015). I
25 have published and lectured on the econometrics and theory of valuing outdoor recreation and
26 on determining appropriate compensation for natural resource damages. My resume is
attached as Exhibit 1502 ENV.

ORIGINAL

1 **II. SUMMARY OF OPINIONS**

2 3. I have been asked to evaluate the potential economic impacts related to
3 commercial and recreational fishing from an oil spill on the lower Columbia River. My
4 analysis relates to a potential tanker accident that results in a discharge of eight million gallons
5 of Bakken crude oil into the river at Vancouver, Washington (Etkin and Moore, 2015). My
6 conclusions are based on information about recent levels of commercial and recreational
7 fishing activity on the Columbia River provided by the Washington Department of Fish and
8 Wildlife, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, information from public reports
9 evaluating impacts to fishing from past spills in the United States, and other publicly available
10 sources. I received assistance with data gathering and analysis from staff at Abt Associates.

11 4. While past spills at sites throughout the country have not always resulted in
12 fishing closures, some spills have resulted in closures lasting from several weeks to a year or
13 more (Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 2005; Leggett and Curry, 2010;
14 USFWS et al., 2015). Given the large amount of the release under consideration and the
15 confined river environment of the potential spill, I conclude that a six-month closure of all
16 fishing on the lower Columbia River is a likely outcome for the specified spill scenario. This
17 closure would eliminate both commercial and recreational fishing for the full six-month period.
18 Impacts to recreational fishing would likely continue even after a closure is lifted, based on the
19 results of previous spill assessments (Byrd et al., 2001; English, 2004; Leggett and Curry,
20 2010). For the spill under consideration, I assume that impacts to recreational fishing decline
21 linearly from one hundred percent at the end of the closure period to zero a full year after the
22 spill.

23 5. I calculated three different types of fishing losses, summarized below. A
24 complete description of the methods and results is included in Chapter 3 of the Abt Associates
25 and Bear Peak Economics report included as Exhibit 1503 ENV.
26

ORIGINAL

1 Byrd, H., E. English, D. Lipton, N. Meade, and T. Tomasi. 2001. Chalk Point Oil Spill: Lost
2 Recreational Use Valuation Report. Prepared for the Chalk Point Trustee Council.
3 March.

4
5
6 English, E. 2004. Ever Reach Oil Spill Lost Recreational Use Valuation Report. Prepared for
7 the Ever Reach Trustee Council. March.

8
9 English, E. and K. McConnell. 2015. Memorandum re: An Overview of Recreation
10 Assessment. To: Craig O'Connor, NOAA. September 1.

11
12 Etkin, D.S. and C. Moore. 2015. Vessel Spill Risk Analysis for EFSEC DEIS for Vancouver
13 Energy. Appendix J to the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal
14 Facility: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, prepared for the State of Washington
15 Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, Olympia, WA. November.

16
17
18 Leggett, C. and M. Curry. 2010. Recreational Fishing Damages due to the Cosco Busan Oil
19 Spill. Prepared by Industrial Economics, Inc., for Cosco Busan Natural Resource
20 Damage Assessment. December 30.

21
22
23 Stratus Consulting. 2010. Damage Estimate for Shoreline Recreation. Prepared for Cosco
24 Busan Natural Resource Damage Assessment. December 22.

1 USFWS, Nottawasepi Huron Band of the Potawatomi Tribe, and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish
2 Band of the Pottawatomi Indians. 2015. Draft Damage Assessment and Restoration
3 Plan Environmental Assessment for the July 25-26, 2010 Enbridge Line 6B Oil
4 Discharges near Marshall, MI. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Nottawasepi Huron Band
5 of the Potawatomi Tribe, and Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of the Pottawatomi
6 Indians. Prepared in cooperation with National the Oceanic and Atmospheric
7 Administration, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan
8 Department of Natural Resources, and the Michigan Department of Attorney General.
9
10 May.

11 IV. EXHIBITS

12 Exhibit 1502 ENV: Resume of Eric P. English

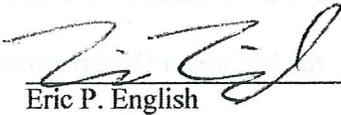
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16 Exhibit 1503 ENV: Potential Fishing Impacts and Natural Resource Damages from Worst
17 Case Discharges of Oil on the Columbia River: Report in the Matter of Application No. 2013-
18 01, Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal, EFSEC Case Number 15-001. Prepared for
19 Matt Kernutt, Washington Attorney General's Office. Prepared by Abt Associates and Bear
20 Peak Economics. May 6, 2016.
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I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Washington that the foregoing is true and correct.

DATED this 12th day of May, 2016.

Bear Peak Economics



Eric P. English
Principal