

BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF:

APPLICATION NO. 2013-01

TESORO SAVAGE, LLC

VANCOUVER ENERGY DISTRIBUTION
TERMINAL

CASE NO. 15-001

EXHIBIT NO. _____ (-TRB)

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF:
N. KATHRYN BRIGHAM.

SPONSORS: CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF
THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION,
CONFEDERATED TRIBES AND BANDS
OF THE YAKAMA NATION AND
COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH
COMMISSION

UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION
Mission, Oregon

Q. Please state your name, affiliation and occupation.

A. My name is N. Kathryn “Kat” Brigham, I am a member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and am currently a housewife who assists my husband and family in fishing activities on the Columbia River.

Q. Please briefly summarize your experience and qualifications as related to fishing on the Columbia River.

A. I have been fishing on the Columbia River for about 50 years. I have been a tribal representative for 39 year years working on treaty rights as a former member of the CTUIR Board of Trustees and former chair of the CTUIR Fish and Wildlife Committee as well as former chair of the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission. On each of these entities I had direct, day-to-day involvement in fisheries management decisions and was able to see and hear first-hand the impacts of increased train traffic along the Columbia River.

Q. Can you please describe what you have seen over the last few years regarding rail traffic on the Columbia?

A. Recently, particularly on the Washington side, I’ve noticed an increase in trains and train traffic. This has created significant problems to getting to our fishing sites. The problem

is most pronounced at our scaffold on the Washington side, just down-stream from the Bridge of the Gods.

Q. How long have you fished at this site?

A. For many years, decades. We weren't able to fish below the Bridge of the Gods for the longest time due to restrictions by the tribes, states and federal agencies. When that restriction was eased up, I remember when state fish and wildlife biologists from Oregon and Washington would spy on us with binoculars to see how many fish we were catching. It was that bad. It's not that bad anymore..

Q. What problems do you have specifically at that site now?

A We used to just cross tracks to the site, but for the last several years during fishing season there's been a train parked there that we have to crawl over. This is a serious problem when you are hauling fish for me and my daughter. It is extremely hard to crawl over the train with our salmon.

Q. What concerns you most about increased crude-by-rail traffic along the river?

A. I haven't been on the river as much as my husband, Robert, but I have seen the changes along the river. There are more trains along the river and in areas we're fishing, they go very fast. I'm concerned about derailments and spills as well as tribal fishers being hit by trains when crossing tracks or crossing with boats.

May 11, 2016
Date

N. Kathryn Brigham

STATE OF OREGON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF UMATILLA _____)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this 11 th day of May, 2016.

Carmen Melanie Chalakee
Notary Public for Oregon
My commission expires: 1-26-18

