

Tesoro Savage CBR
Agency Scoping Comment
#006



COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE

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REFERENCE:

Governor Inslee
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Stephen Posner
Interim EFSEC Manager
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
PO Box 43172
1300 S Evergreen Park Dr. SW
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

RECEIVED

DEC 17 2013

**ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL**

December 16, 2013

RE: Proposed Tesoro Savage crude-by-rail uploading and marine loading facility at the Port of Vancouver, Washington

Dear Governor Inslee, Mr. Posner and Washington EFSEC,

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is opposed to the proposed Tesoro Savage crude-by-rail uploading and marine loading facility at the Port of Vancouver, Washington.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe (Tribe) resides on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation in the panhandle of Northern Idaho. The Coeur d'Alene Reservation covers approximately 345,000 acres and spans the rich farming country of the Palouse to the western edge of the Northern Rocky Mountains. The Reservation encompasses the beautiful Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers and the lower half of Coeur d'Alene Lake itself. The Reservation is home to a vast number of native flora and fauna species that exist and thrive in the abundant habitat types found throughout the Reservation. The Tribe's aboriginal territory extends north to encompass the entirety of Pend Oreille Lake and east to the amazing mixed conifer woodlands of the Clark Fork River and the Bitterroot Range and as far south as the Clearwater mountains of north central Idaho.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is a sovereign nation and the sovereignty of Indian Tribes is *inherent* and has existed since time immemorial. Tribes were here many thousands of years before there was a United States or even an Idaho, Washington or Oregon. The sovereignty of Indian Tribes is recognized in the

Constitution of the United States and Tribes have equal legal and constitutional status in their dealings with the U.S. federal government.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe has witnessed the devastation of the legacy of mining impacts on the Coeur d'Alene Basin from irresponsible mining activities for over a century. Historic mining activities have left area ecosystems tattered and native wildlife populations poisoned and in decline. In an effort to restore these critical ecosystems and wildlife populations the Tribe is heavily involved in the Basin-wide clean-up of historic mining related contamination. The Tribe, as co-Trustee to natural resources, is also at the forefront of developing a basin wide Restoration Plan to restore those natural resources that were found injured due to the release of mining related heavy metals. As the original stewards of Coeur d'Alene Lake the Tribe understands and realizes that any more contamination to area ecosystems from the derailment and spill of crude oil would imperil native ecosystems and wildlife potentially beyond human kind's ability to restore, replace, or rehabilitate.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe urges you to assess the full impact of Tesoro Savage's proposal to ship close to 400,000 barrels of oil each day through Northwestern communities, specifically Spokane Washington. Due to the nature of the material proposed to be transported and shipped (crude oil) as well as the proximity of the facility to area wildlife preserves and Vancouver Lake, The Coeur d'Alene Tribe requests a full and comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will assess the negative impacts shipping crude oil will have on public health and safety as well as on the greater environment.

Within a comprehensive EIS, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe would like you to analyze, examine alternatives and propose mitigation for the projects' negative impacts on the following;

- The potential impacts of large train-related oil spill(s) along the entire rail route from extraction site to port.
- The transportation, emergency response capability, and public health impacts of additional train traffic through communities along the proposed oil by rail route.
- Impacts to area Tribal cultural resources, air, waters, wildlife and fisheries from a train-related oil spill.

The Coeur d'Alene Tribe believes that you, Jay Inslee and the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) have a fundamental responsibility to consider *all* of the impacts with the utmost attention said oil by rail transport would have on the Pacific Northwest as the Northwest is interconnected through the families, tribes, resources and waterways that these oil shipping routes would traverse.

Sincerely,



Alfred M. Nomee

Natural Resource Director

Wraspir, Kali (UTC)

From: Amy Anderson <aanderson@cdatribe-nsn.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 2:45 PM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Comments CDA Tribe Tesoro Savage Crude by Rail
Attachments: FINAL Tesoro Savage Crude by Rail.pdf

Categories: Agency

The following attached comments are directed to **Stephen Posner Interim EFSEC Manager, Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council**. These comments are from the Coeur d'Alene(CDA)Tribe of Idaho. The CDA Tribe would like to receive a confirmation email from EFSEC that this comment letter has been received and entered into the official scoping comment log for this proposed Tesoro-Savage crude-by-rail uploading and marine facility at the Port of Vancouver, WA. project.

Amy Anderson
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