
From: Charles Young <charlesandrewyoung@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 09, 2013 2:59 PM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Please protect our town from the TSVEDT
Attachments: TSVEDT Opposition.pdf

Categories: Comment, Blue Category

Charles and Kassondra Young
315 W 25th Street
Vancouver, WA 98660

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

For the Attention of Stephen Posner, Interim EFSEC Manager

Dear Sir:

I wish to express our community's strong objection to the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal (Application No. 2013-01, Docket No. EF-131590.) After careful examination of the proposal we have determined that the risk of this project would far outweigh the minor rewards to our community and the broader area. This project would enrich a few out of state parties while placing a completely unreasonable burden of risk on the city of Vancouver. These risks are to safety, real estate value and our local environment.

My primary concern is the questionably safety of this project. This proposal involves a MINIMUM of four, mile-plus long unit trains of crude oil per day going through dense residential and commercial zones at main line speed. Contrary to popular belief, crude oil DOES explode. Sadly this has

already been witnessed this summer in Lac Megantic Quebec, where almost 50 residents were incinerated by a relatively small unit-train of Bakken crude. Just yesterday there was another derailment and explosion of an oil train in Alabama. A simple internet search illustrates past oil-industry catastrophes and aftermath. While hazardous material does already travel by rail through our community, this proposal would exponentially increase the number of carloads, and thus exponentially increase the risk to us all. Is this fair to our community?

The people hurt most by the mistakes of the petrochemical industry are those who live nearby. Large companies such as Tesoro and Savage have no stake in our state or our community. If an accident were to occur, they pay some fines and go to court with a team of lawyers. This is a minor speeding ticket for them. Meanwhile our community would be left to pick up the pieces on our own. In the aftermath of the Lac Megantic tragedy, no party is admitting fault and the province is on the hook for much of the recovery. Why would we expect a different outcome from a mishap involving this project? Tesoro already has a highly questionable safety and environmental record. This is not disputed fact.

The city of Vancouver is in the process of renewing our downtown and clawing back from the economic ravages of the great recession. Our property values are on the rise and life is looking brighter for our town. Unit oil trains do not fit into this broader picture of investment and real estate development. The rail line would run right through our waterfront project. Who would want to invest in real estate adjacent to this? This proposal would negatively impact our recovery and the value of our real estate.

With regard to our local environment, this project is a potential environmental disaster. Large-scale transport and transshipment of oil has a long history of disastrous spills. In addition, the industry has an atrocious record of cleanup and compensation. The Columbia River is a resource that belongs to us all. By allowing these out of state corporations to use our riverbank we accept the risk of spills and damage to our renewable resources with no benefit to us. In addition, it is the height of hypocrisy that Washington State be a part of the Pacific Coast Action Plan while approving the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal. This would turn our community into a hub of carbon export.

In summary Tesoro and Savage would be exploiting OUR resources for THEIR profits. This project will produce negligible job creation and minimal revenue generation, with maximum risk to safety, real estate and our environment. This is entirely unacceptable and we implore you to not approve this project.

Sincerely,

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