

From: Sierra Club <information@sierraclub.org> on behalf of Pamela Allee
<alleepa@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 16, 2013 11:33 AM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Comment on Docket No. EF-131590, Application No. 2013-01

Nov 16, 2013

Mr. Stephen Posner
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, WA 98504-3172

Dear Mr. Posner,

I'm writing regarding Docket No. EF-131590, Application No. 2013-01 to urge the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) to assess the full environmental and public safety impact of the joint Tesoro-Savage proposal to turn the Port of Vancouver into a major crude oil export terminal. By full impact I mean that global implications must be considered! For instance, the possibility that the continued extraction and use of fossil fuels (especially from the Bakken fields or the Canadian oil sands) will eventually reduce rainfall in the northwestern US, greatly impacting our agriculture and forestry yields.

If approved, the plan would result in 380,000 barrels of dirty Bakken oil each day being shipped through Spokane, the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, Vancouver and other Northwest communities. Oil-by-rail is a bad deal for Washington State. The project comes at a steep price for rail communities and the Columbia River, yet offers few jobs in return. Based on the far reaching impacts of this project, I want you to reject Tesoro-Savage's proposal.

The public safety and environmental impacts of this proposal deserve close scrutiny. For example, EFSEC must assess:

1) The potential safety and environmental impacts of a large train-related oil spill or explosion along the rail route in Washington and beyond. Recent derailment disasters in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec and Alabama have shown that these risks are far too real. The tragedy in Quebec, in particular, highlighted the extreme danger of the same type of oil and tankers that would be traveling through our communities.

Forty-seven people died in that explosion, which also devastated the town. Since I live very close to the railroad "cut" in North Portland, I am quite concerned about the very real danger to our property and to our AIR.

2) The increased risk of an oil tanker spill on Washington State waters and along the shipping route. You need to realize that the Astoria Bar requires expert piloting and a craft able to respond nimbly to safely cross over to the ocean. Please realize that a tug and barge is NOT the nimblest of craft!

3) The transportation and public health impacts of additional unit train traffic through communities along the proposed oil-by-rail route.

This includes evaluating emergency response capabilities in Vancouver, where oil trains would deliver and store oil, and other communities along the rail and shipping route.

4) The project's impact on climate change. This analysis should include climate change impacts from crude oil as well as tar sands oil from cradle to grave. This cannot be emphasized enough!

5) The impact of the project's cradle-to-grave CO2 emissions on the viability of the large oyster industry in Washington state. The oceans have already been changed enough by CO2 and other emissions from fossil fuel use to impact the viability of marine life worldwide.

After carefully considering the safety, environmental, and climate risks associated with the proposed oil terminal, I really want you to recommend the rejection of Tesoro-Savage's application.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Pamela Allee
7425 N Portsmouth Ave
Portland, OR 97203-4242
(503) 285-6371