
From: johnson-ml@comcast.net
Sent: Monday, November 25, 2013 4:43 PM
To: EFSEC (UTC)
Subject: Tesoro Savage Oil Terminal - Please Deny this Activity

Categories: Green

Dear Members of the Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council,

I urge you to deny the Tesoro Savage proposal for the Vancouver Washington oil terminal. I have many concerns regarding the proposal:

1) **Transporting crude oil by rail is unsafe and oil spills will happen.** The proposed oil terminal would require at least four, mile-and-a-half long unit trains per day traveling through the heart of Spokane and along the Spokane River. As evidenced by the tragedy in Lac Megantic, Canada that killed at least 47 people, in addition to numerous more recent rail accidents since then, transporting crude oil by rail is a risky venture. The risk is not only to Spokane but to Sandpoint, Cheney, and the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Oil spills have the potential to cause dramatic harm to fish habitat and nearby neighborhoods and businesses along the proposed rail route.

2) **Heavy Toll of Rail Traffic.** The rail traffic would include at least four full unit trains and four empty unit trains of oil each day. According to Tesoro Savage, each train includes 120 cars or more and extends almost a mile and a half long. These long, heavy trains would exacerbate traffic delays in communities along the rail lines in Washington, such as Sandpoint, Spokane, Spokane Valley and Cheney. The eight oil unit trains could come in addition to proposed coal unit trains – over a dozen of them – destined for Longview and Bellingham.

3) **Public Health is Threatened by Toxic Diesel Pollution from Crude Oil Trains**
. More rail traffic through Spokane and at the Port of Vancouver equals dirtier air for people to breathe in surrounding neighborhoods. The health dangers of diesel particulate emissions from rail yards are well-known. Increased incidence of cancer, asthma, and respiratory and cardiac conditions are attributed to inhaling diesel particulate matter. I have asthma and my health is very sensitive to these emissions.

4) **Numerous Impacts.** The proposed oil terminal is initially intended to ship shale oil from the Bakken formation in North Dakota and Montana to West Coast refineries. Oil companies extract Bakken oil through the process of hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”), a notoriously dirty method of producing fossil fuels that has polluted aquifers and damaged

agricultural lands. In 2011 the oil and gas industry reported over 1,000 spills of wastewater, drilling fluids, or other materials in North Dakota, alone.

5) **We can do better than** The proposed oil terminal will increase access to and consumption of dirty oil. At 360,000 barrels of oil per day, the terminal will ship over 131 million barrels of crude oil per year. The combustion of this oil, alone (not counting the energy cost of producing the oil) will release over 56 million metric tons of carbon dioxide each year, as much as almost 12 million cars worth of greenhouse gas pollution. The community of Vancouver—and Washington State— can do better than becoming a trafficker of dirty fossil fuels.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

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