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**From:** Friends of the Columbia Gorge <Advocacy@GorgeFriends.org> on behalf of Walt Mintkeski <mintkeski@juno.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2013 10:25 PM  
**To:** EFSEC (UTC)  
**Subject:** Docket No. EF-131590 Application No. 2013-01 Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal Comments

**Categories:** Comment, Blue Category

Nov 6, 2013

Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council  
WA

Dear Site Evaluation Council,

Please deny the permit for the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal.

This proposed project would transport 360,000 barrels of oil per day through the Columbia River Gorge and would have significant impacts on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. Therefore, the scope of review under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) should include the following:

1. The purpose statement of the project must include not only the construction of an oil terminal for distribution of oil through the region, but also providing for the energy needs of the region and providing opportunities for appropriate waterfront development which benefits the local community.
2. Is there a need for this project? This proposal, in conjunction with other existing and pending oil terminals, would result in a glut of oil in the Northwest that would far exceed current consumption. There are alternative waterfront development opportunities that would create jobs and generate greater benefits for the local community.
3. Project alternatives should include: A "no action" alternative; an alternative relying on other oil terminals that already exist, are in the permitting process or under construction; and an alternative reducing reliance on fossil fuels. Transport routes that do not pass through congressionally protected areas, like the Columbia River Gorge must be included in the alternatives analyses. The EIS should also consider reasonably foreseeable waterfront development opportunities that would be incompatible with an oil terminal, such as mixed use development with waterfront amenities.
4. The direct, indirect, and cumulative effects of the proposal, including transportation impacts on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, must be considered. This should include:
  - Increased air pollution from train diesel emission.
  - Rail expansion into sensitive areas. Rail lines in the Gorge are currently near capacity. This proposal and other oil by rail and coal export proposals would result in rail infrastructure expansion into sensitive areas in the Gorge, including wetlands, fish and wildlife habitat, rare plant habitat, and cultural resource sites.

- Likelihood of accidents. Current coal train traffic in the Gorge has resulted in coal dust escaping the open topped rail cars, which weakens the train ballast and causes accidents. The U.S. Surface Transportation Board has determined that coal dust is a "pernicious ballast foulant," weakening rail lines and resulting in derailments. The likelihood of oil train derailments, the likely effects on Gorge resources and the impacts on communities must be analyzed.

Thank you for considering these comments and including them into the official record.

Sincerely,

Mr. Walt Mintkeski  
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