Tesoro Savage CBR
Scoping Comment
#004

Docket EF-131590

RECEIVED

OCT 08 2013

ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

CITY OF SPOKANE
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201-3335
(509) 625-6255

October 4, 2013

Ms. Bumpus:

We are representatives of Spokane as elected City Council members, but we are writing today as concerned citizens of the City of Spokane. We are requesting that EFSEC host a public informational hearing in Spokane, Washington to inform citizens about the Tesoro/Savage Crude-by-Rail terminal, proposed for the Port of Vancouver.

Over the last twelve months, we have each individually gone on record during two separate public scoping hearings for proposed coal export terminals in western Washington, raising concerns about the potential negative impacts of increasing coal by rail shipments through Spokane.

Before we got to those public hearings, we used our positions as leaders in the Spokane community to call on state and federal regulatory agencies to host the aforementioned public hearings in Spokane. We felt then, and continue to believe it important for information to be shared to citizens of Spokane, and for there to be a venue for citizens to raise concerns. While we understand this is a separate project, not connected to the coal export projects, we cannot ignore the similarities in the concerns.

The terminal itself would be sited in Vancouver, Washington, however, citizens of the Spokane stand to bear significant adverse impacts resulting from increased rail traffic carrying crude oil to the proposed terminal.

The Tesoro/Savage proposal contemplates transferring up to 360,000 barrels per day of crude oil from rail lines to marine vessels at the proposed site in Vancouver. The company's application to EFSEC states that on average four trains per day will arrive at the terminal, meaning an additional 8 trains per day (traveling to and from) will cut through Spokane on the rail lines.

As alluded to earlier, Spokane is already likely to face negative impacts from increased rail traffic due to the coal export terminals proposed in Cherry Point and Longview, Washington, as well as the Port of Morrow terminal proposed for Boardman, Oregon.

The public hearing concerning the Cherry Point coal export terminal, held last December at the Spokane County Fairgrounds drew over 800 people, and the public hearing concerning the Longview coal export terminal, held on September 25, 2013 at the Spokane Convention Center, drew over 400 people. The majority of those in attendance at each hearing spoke in opposition to the projects and raised concerns about impacts to public health, the environment, traffic congestion, emergency response being delayed, an increase in the likelihood of accidents, rail infrastructure impacts and the costs associated with the projects.

CITY OF SPOKANE
SPOKANE CITY COUNCIL
808 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
Spokane, WA 99201-3335
(509) 625-6255

For this proposed project in Vancouver, our concerns mirror those addressed in the coal export discussion, and can be summed up by simply stating that the City of Spokane would be negatively impacted by an increase in crude oil shipments via trains through Spokane, and the best people to bring up those concerns are those living in Spokane, not those attending public meetings in or near Vancouver, Washington.

EFSEC's own rules only require a public informational hearing "in the general proximity of the proposed project," WAC 463-26-025, yet it is our understanding that EFSEC intends to include a discussion of scoping for the project pursuant to the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) during the public informational hearing near the end of October. The purposes of SEPA are to encourage harmony between humankind and the environment, prevent or eliminate damage to the environment, stimulate the health and welfare of human beings, and enrich understanding of the natural resources important to the state and nation. *See* RCW 43.21C.010. Consistent with these purposes, EFSEC should provide the citizens of Spokane an opportunity to weigh in on the Tesoro/Savage Crude-by-Rail proposal.

Sincerely,

Ben Stuckart Council President	Jon Snyder Councilmember	Amber Waldref Councilmember