

Steven V. King  
Executive Director and secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

September 3, 2015

Re: Docket TR-151079

We are adamantly opposed to allowing an oil transfer terminal to be sited in Vancouver, WA. I am equally opposed to routing 'oil trains' through the Columbia River gorge and Vancouver. My concerns are both personal and relating to the well being and future of our community.

The personal issues relate to critical safety issues for my family as well as financial liability to our property. First and foremost, 'oil trains' represent a very serious, life threatening, danger to my family. My house is located less than 250 feet from the railroad tracks leading north out of Vancouver. If one of those trains has an explosion/ fire similar to those that have already occurred across the country there would be nothing left of my house and anyone in the house would be killed. The argument that the "new" rail car design is "safe" is laughable. At least one of the explosion/fires was with the newly designed cars.

I also have some concern with the condition of the tracks in my area. It seems that much work is done on tracks near my home. This leads me to believe there is an inherent problem with this area of track. My house is located at the 'yard limit'. Trains are supposed to slow to 30 mph at this point. That does not happen all of the time and is far less frequent at night. Failure to comply with this requirement creates another safety issue. Rapid acceleration and deceleration at the yard limit undoubtedly causes stress on the tracks and a potential for derailment.

The secondary personal issue is financial. In addition to the notorious danger imposed by these 'oil trains', there will be a significant increase in train traffic and noise. These factors will cause a significant devaluation of our house. This is a financial punishment that neither the railroad nor the oil company will provide restorative compensation.

In regard to the community concerns, there is serious long term damage that will occur. I recognize that, initially, jobs will be created for the construction of the facility. These jobs are for a limited time and not as many as projected. The long term staffing of the facility will be minimal. These short term benefits will clearly not outweigh the long term damage the oil terminal will do to our community. Our Port is in an excellent location and can be developed for more profitability with environmentally friendly industry that will provide a much better future for the city of Vancouver and Clark County.

We implore you to reject placement of an oil transfer terminal in Vancouver, WA.

Sincerely,

  
Richard and Sharon Erspamer

7900 NW Fruit Valley rd  
Vancouver, WA 98665

STATE OF WASH.  
UTIL. AND TRANSP.  
COMMISSION

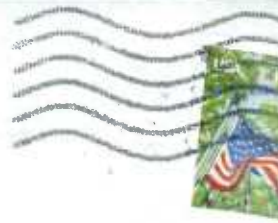
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