

George Taylor

As a citizen living in Spokane, Washington I am concerned about the safety of the oil and coal trains running through downtown Spokane at the rate of over 20,000 cars per year. I live in the "blast zone" of a potential de-railment of such RR cars. Last week a train de-railed in nearby Spokane Valley. The Spokane Fire Department has reported in public testimony that they do not have the proper equipment to fight a derailment involving oil or coal trains that would catch on fire in the blast zone running through downtown Spokane and would just have to "let the fire burn out on its own." That is not an acceptable risk to take, with schools, residences and two hospitals in the blast zone. The Rail companies themselves, BNSF and Union Pacific have yet to produce effective emergency plans of their own to combat such a derailment and potential fire and explosion that would result. Much more planning and research has to go into fire and explosion abatement in the event of such a disaster in Spokane.