

WA Oil Spill Contingency Plan
Rule Update Hearing
Spokane, September 19, 2019

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My name is David Hunt, and I live in Spokane.

Thank you for welcoming public input on the update of our Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Washington is not adequately prepared for the risks and potential hazards that tar sands crude oil poses to our communities, our waters, and to both human and aquatic life. As you, who work in this field know, there is a significant difference between RISK and HAZARD. The oil industry, and the oil transport industry regularly refer to the "RISK" of oil spills.

However, it is the catastrophic HAZARDS which HAVE and WILL again occur involving crude oil, including tar sands crude, which necessitates improving this plan, rule, and regulations.

Many oil spills have occurred. Period! Oil spills WILL continue to happen. Period. We MUST be prepared, and the responsibility for adequate preparation must be Required by Ecology and paid for by those who profit from oil and oil transportation.

The unique characteristics of tar sands crude - especially the fact that it can and does sink, rather than float - requires more stringent response time and response protocol and equipment regulations.

The state legislature gave Ecology a directive to utilize this rule update to improve protections for this non floating oil. I respect and appreciate Ecology's work in Washington State, and I encourage you to USE this

directive to do more.

The Kalamazoo River spill in Michigan demonstrates both the unique risks and hazards and the catastrophic results of being inadequately prepared, as we in Washington State are. The loss of 47 lives and massive destruction from the Lac-Mégantic oil train disaster speaks to the importance and urgency of your job.

We must not postpone, prolong, or compromise any longer on improving the plan, especially while oil trains and pipelines continue to rumble through our communities and waterways, posing catastrophic risks and hazards.

Thank you,
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