

April Barker

Thank you for your work and the opportunity to comment. My constituency has shared with me the urgency and commitment to protecting our Bay, ensuring policies discourage the use of fossil fuels as well, banning unsafe transport of those fuels and ensuring efficient, appropriate and detailed clean up when spills occur. Please strengthen the spill response requirements to address the unique risk that non-floating oils such as diluted bitumen poses to waters in Washington State and the Salish Sea.

Please establish more stringent requirements for non-floating and update models to ensure we will have appropriate response capacity.

Suggestions-

- Ecology should require a fast, aggressive, and well-coordinated response to contain and recover potentially non floating oils before they submerge and sink.

- require time frames that will ensure and be sufficient to respond to a worst-case spill.

- update modeling that overestimates our response capabilities.

Suggestions for the wildlife response operations:

- consider accelerated time frames and details on the amounts and types of resources and equipment needed to respond to a worst case spill of non-floating oil.

- distinguish in the policy all potentially non-floating oils and diluted bitumen, which is likely to sink quickly and therefore demands more stringent equipment and response time requirements to protect our communities, underwater habitats, and shorelines.

- add commitments to promptly and continually updating overall response capacity modeling tools and requirements.

- enhance planning standards for wildlife response in the event of a spill. Specify deterrence actions that keep wildlife from entering a spill are critical to have underway immediately after a spill.

I appreciate your work!

Sincerely,