

Rein Attemann

Public testimony provided 9-17-19.

Good afternoon. My name is Rein Attemann. I work At Washington Environmental Council and we appreciate Ecology's work updating the oil spill contingency plan and hint oil spill preparedness and response for nonfloating crude oil. We certainly echo Lovel Pratt's comments earlier. And we thank you for this forum because I think the Q&A was a really informative way of engaging the public today.

Washington is already at risk of tar-sands crude oil or diluted bitumen moving through our state by vessel, train, and pipeline. Unfortunately, our protections have not kept up with the changing risks these oils pose. Tar-sands oil can sink when spilled and are virtually impossible to clean up, causing irreparable damage to shoreline communities and ecosystems. Spills of these oils in other states such as Kalamazoo River in Michigan have had catastrophic results leading to years-long response efforts and limited recovery of sunken oils. And at a tune of \$1,300,000,000.

And according to NOAA's recovery plan for the southern resident orca population, major oil spills are potentially catastrophic to killer whales as witnessed with Exxon Valdez accident in 1989. 30 years later, that orca pod in Prince William Sound is functionally extinct because of that spill. So it is essential that strong wildlife response standards and requirements from oil spills, especially tar-sands, must be enhanced. Similar to what Lovel Pratt outlined earlier.

Ecology received a clear directive from the legislature in nineteen -- or 2018 to use this rule update to enhance our protections for nonfloating oils. However, this rule is too narrow in scope and does not establish the protections we need from these types of oils. The draft rule is right to require a faster timeframe from the initial assessment of the oil spill. However, the rule provides no assurance that the current response times and capability will be sufficient to respond to the worse case tar-sands oil spill.

The draft rule continues to use outdated models that overestimate our response capacity and by delaying needed improvements. Ecology needs to update the current model being used sooner versus later. Ecology should require a fast, aggressive, and well-coordinated response to contain and recover tar-sands crude oils before they submerge and sink. And lastly, as stated in the Q&A, we are dismayed and irked by the time of day the three public hearings are being held. Public hearings must be accessible to the public and most importantly the community most impacted like the San Juan's and Puget Sound. One p.m. time during the middle of the week in the middle of the weekday is contrary to this process. And thankfully, there were hearings in eastern Washington and Vancouver, both areas that are impacted by oil -- crude oil movement and transportation. So thank you for that. And that's it. Thank you.