



MULTNOMAH COUNTY AGENDA PLACEMENT REQUEST

(Revised: 6/9/2014)

Board Clerk Use Only

Meeting Date: 1/21/16
Agenda Item #: R.3
Est. Start Time: 9:45 am
Date Submitted: 1/13/16

Agenda Title: RESOLUTION Opposing Oil Shipment by Rail, and Endorsing Comments on the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Note: Title should not be more than 2 lines but be sufficient to describe the action requested.

Requested: District 1 **Time Needed:** 60 minutes
Department: Non Departmental **Division:** _____
Contact(s): Tim Lynch (Multnomah County Office of Sustainability), Megan Beyer (D1)
Phone: 503-988-4094 **Ext.** x84094 **I/O Address:** 503/6/Sust
Presenter Name(s) & Title(s): Tim Lynch (Senior Policy Analyst), Allyson Boyd (Continuity and Resilience Planner), Elizabeth Clapp (Senior Research Analyst), Dr. Patrick O'Herron (Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility, President), Jared Smith (ILWU Local 4, President), Dan Serres (Columbia Riverkeeper, Conservation Director), Michael Lang (Friends of Columbia Gorge, Conservation Director), and other invited guests.

General Information

1. What action are you requesting from the Board?

Adoption of a resolution opposing the shipment of oil by rail through Multnomah County, and endorsing comments on the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal draft environmental impact statement.

2. Please provide sufficient background information for the Board and the public to understand this issue. Please note which Program Offer this action affects and how it impacts the results.

Prompted by the rapid increase of oil by rail shipments through Multnomah County, the Office of Sustainability, in collaboration with the Office of Emergency Management and Health Department, completed a risk assessment of oil by rail transport through Multnomah County. The report found that:

- Up to 12 trains a week currently carry 1,000,000 gallons of crude oil through Multnomah County.
- Proposed new or expanded oil facilities in the Pacific Northwest will increase volumes of oil transported by rail through Multnomah County.
- The lifting of the United States oil export ban is likely to increase pressure for additional oil facilities in the Pacific Northwest.
- More than a quarter of Multnomah County's population lives within the half mile "evacuation zone" adjacent to oil transport routes.
- People of color are more likely to live within a half mile of a rail line.

- 108 schools and 100 child care facilities are within the evacuation zone.
- Over 25 billion dollars of improved property is within a half mile of rail lines in Multnomah County.
- The potential negative impacts of an oil train accident are heightened due to the volatility of the oil and the special equipment needed to extinguish an oil fire.
- Emergency responders do not have adequate equipment to respond to a large scale oil by rail incident.
- New safety requirements for rail cars carrying crude oil won't be fully implemented until 2025.

Approval of the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal at the Port of Vancouver would be the largest oil by rail terminal in the country, and would transport on average 360,000 barrels of oil per day by rail for transfer onto ocean going vessels. This facility is likely to increase oil by rail traffic in Multnomah County, and would pose a threat to commerce, natural areas, cultural assets and public health from potential spill, fire, or other industrial accidents. Due to the public health and safety concerns of oil by rail shipments and the proposed oil terminal facility at the Port of Vancouver, this action opposes oil by rail shipments, further development of oil by rail infrastructure in general, and the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal specifically.

3. Explain the fiscal impact (current year and ongoing).

N/A

4. Explain any legal and/or policy issues involved.

This resolution declares that it is the policy of Multnomah County to oppose projects and proposals that have the potential to increase the amount of crude oil being transported by rail through Multnomah County. This resolution also authorizes the Office of Sustainability to submit comments on the Tesoro Savage Vancouver Energy Distribution Terminal draft environmental impact statement to Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council on behalf of the County.

5. Explain any citizen and/or other government participation that has or will take place.

The Office of Sustainability has asked for input on this report from the City of Portland Fire and Rescue and Washington State Department of Ecology. Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility and Columbia Riverkeeper have also provided input into the drafting of this resolution.

Required Signature

**Elected
Official or
Department**

Director: _____ /s/ _____

Date: _____

Note: Please submit electronically. Insert names of your approvers followed by /s/ - we no longer use actual signatures. Please insert date approved.