

Union Pacific plans to hike Bakken oil shipments through Gorge

By HILLARY BORRUD
Capital Press



SALEM — Union Pacific Railroad plans to increase shipments of oil from North Dakota's Bakken formation through the Columbia River Gorge, according to the Oregon Department of Transportation.

The notice, which ODOT Rail and Public Transit Division Administrator Hal Gard said the state received on Thursday, means the railway could increase shipments through the Gorge by as much as 3 million gallons or more per month.

Gard told the Oregon Transportation Commission during a briefing session Thursday that the state

had just received notice that morning that Union Pacific planned to haul up to three train loads of Bakken oil per month through the corridor. Under a 2014 order by the U.S. Department of Transportation, railways must notify state emergency officials of estimated weekly Bakken oil-by-rail shipments that are 1 million gallons or larger, the equivalent of approximately 35 tank cars. Railways only file the reports when the vol-

ume increases or decreases 25 percent from the previous report.

Some thought shipments slackened

An Oregon Department of Transportation spokeswoman said earlier this year convention wisdom was that oil-by-rail shipments through Oregon slackened this year, although Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway and Union Pacific trains carried 24,199 carloads

of crude oil, natural gas and natural gasoline on Oregon rail lines in 2014. That was a 340 percent increase from 5,491 carloads in 2012, according to data from ODOT.

John Johnson, manager of the transportation agency's Rail Safety Section, wrote in an email that Union Pacific's actual weekly estimate filed this week was that between zero and one oil-by-rail shipments of at least 1 million gallons will pass through the Columbia River Gorge. The state Fire Marshal's Office posts the federal notices on its website, but had not noticed the latest Union Pacific notice by Friday afternoon.

Gard said during the Oregon Transportation Commission meeting that the increase in Union Pacific oil-by-rail ship-

ments will provide an opportunity to put into practice the new rules the state adopted over the summer. For example, the state now requires railways to file quarterly reports on hazardous materials shipments and immediately notify first responders about "incidents involving hazardous materials," according to ODOT. The state also hired more rail inspectors earlier this year in response to concerns about the oil shipments.

'Strict safety practices'

Francisco Castillo, a spokesman for Union Pacific's western region, said the railway will move up to three "unit trains," or single commodity trains, of Bakken oil through Oregon, Washington state and Idaho starting as early as this week.

Castillo said crude oil accounted for approximately 1 percent of Union Pacific's freight carloads in 2014, and roughly 2 percent of the company's freight shipments through Oregon were oil.

Castillo said he could not provide any information on the destination of the Bakken oil shipments or the reason for the increase.

"We just transport the commodity at the request of the customer," Castillo said.

Castillo said the railway follows "strict safety practices" and "regardless of what we're hauling, safety is our highest concern."

The Capital Bureau is a collaboration between EO Media Group and Pamplin Media Group.

Local woman wins Nurse of the Year

The Daily Astorian

Laura Brown from Columbia Memorial Hospital was named the 2015 Nurse of the Year in Women's Health for Oregon and southwest Washington by the March of Dimes during an award ceremony Friday in Portland.

Brown is a labor and delivery nurse and lactation consultant with the hospital's Family Birthing Center. She was one of 15 Nurse of the Year finalists employed by the hospital.

"We are truly blessed to have a nurse of Laura's caliber among our CMH family," said Trece Gurrad, the hospital's vice president of patient care services.

Brown, who joined the hospital in 2006 to establish an inpatient lactation program, has been instrumental in expanding resources for breastfeeding women in Clatsop County. She has grown the program to include two nurses with phone consultation coverage every day of the week and partnerships with regional organizations, including Bras2Moms and the Northwest Mother's Milk Bank.

Brown makes follow-up phone calls to check in with discharged families and



Laura Brown

helps them find gently used nursing bras at the hospital's Lactation Program office through the Bras2Moms program. Lactating women can also donate breast milk to the Northwest Mother's Milk Bank through the hospital.

Brown was also awarded the International Lactation Consultant Association's Care Award for lactation services and education in 2011 and 2013.

The hospital's other Nurse of the Year finalists were Ingrid Boettcher, Colleen Fletcher, Kendra Gohl, Lisa Harris, Jenny Jacques, Amy Karsten, Shannon Lackey, Rose Larson, Michaela Lebo, Jamee Meier, Zachary Melton, Brooke Roberts, Sarah Salerno, and Becky White.

OSU adds distilled spirits teacher, researcher

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Paul Hughes jokes that he hasn't caused an accident on the road yet. So far, so good, when you're accustomed to driving on the left in Great Britain and have to adjust to American traffic patterns.

When it comes to making whiskey, vodka and other distilled spirits, however, Hughes will be happy to share his way of doing things.

Hughes, a chemist who spent the past 10 years teaching at a university in Scotland, has been hired as a researcher and instructor at Oregon State University's Fermentation Center. The program teaches students how to make wine, beer and cheese, and is branching out into the fast-growing distilled spirits industry.

According to OSU, distilled spirits made in Oregon now account for \$69 million in gross annual sales, nearly 13 percent of the state's liquor revenue. Oregon has close to 80 distilleries, up from 12 eight years ago, said Christie Scott, spokeswoman for the Oregon Li-

quor Control Commission.

Hughes said one of his priorities is to meet with distillers and establish good relations with the industry.

Hughes also is setting up the first distilling course, which will be offered in January.

"There's a lot of commonality around the fermenting techniques used in brewing, wine-making and distilled spirits production," he said in an OSU news release. "But distilling requires additional steps. So there will be a need for additional courses about those techniques."

Hughes most recently taught and did research at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, Scotland.

At OSU, the fermentation sciences program is part of the Food Science and Technology department.

The state Legislature provided money for the distilled spirits position on campus.



Paul Hughes, a chemist from Scotland, will teach classes and conduct research on whiskey and other distilled spirits at OSU's fermentation center.

Courtesy of Oregon State University

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