

Environmental review: oil-by-rail terminal could hurt fish

Ship traffic could nearly triple

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
Associated Press

PORTLAND — An environmental assessment for a proposed oil-by-rail terminal in Vancouver, Washington, says the project could have negative consequences for endangered salmon and other fish in the Columbia River.

The study, released Tuesday by Washington state's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, says the number of vessels added to pick up oil at the terminal could lessen water quality, induce bank erosion, reduce shoreline and wetland vegetation and harm essential fish habitat. It would also lead to the destruction of some archaeological resources located along the shoreline.

If the terminal was permitted, the river's annual ship traffic of about 1,500 vessel trips per year would nearly triple.

"The increase in deep-draft vessel traffic associated with the proposed facility could result in a

moderate to major long-term effect on near-shore fish including listed salmonids and eulachon species in the lower 33-mile portion of the Columbia River," the assessment says.

Strand juvenile salmon

Wakes from the ships could wash juvenile salmon onto the shore, leaving them stranded — a moderate to major impact, according to the study. Stranding would occur in the Lower Columbia where shorelines are not shielded from wave action. The area contains some of the highest quality shallow-water shoreline habitat.

The vessels could also suck in aquatic larvae and eggs, which would hurt fish reproduction, population size, or distribution of fish and reduce species such as salmon, especially during vulnerable times such as extremely high temperatures.

Other concerns include soil liquefaction under the proposed facility in case of a large earthquake and impacts to rail transportation

in the region, including shipment delays and delays at crossings. The project could also increase train-wildlife collisions.

Oil spill response

Another concern is local oil spill responsiveness: many local firefighters aren't trained and equipped to respond to a train derailment with resulting oil spill and fire, and have no access to oil spill containment equipment, the study says.

The \$210 million project by Tesoro Corp. and Savage Cos. would be the Pacific Northwest's largest oil train terminal. It would receive an average of 360,000 barrels of Bakken crude per day by rail, store it and transfer it to ships for delivery to refineries along the West Coast. Vancouver is just across the river from Portland.

The crude would be transported by unit trains composed of up to 120 tank cars. An average four

unit trains per day would roll along the river and to the terminal. Most of the crude would arrive from the Bakken formation in North Dakota, Montana, and Canada.

Intense opposition

The project has faced intense opposition because of recent accidents involving oil trains. In July 2013, a runaway oil train derailed

director of Columbia Riverkeeper.

Port and company officials have said the project would be an economic boon to the community and that safety is a priority for them. All tank cars used to transport oil to the terminal would be required to meet the new standards issued earlier this year.

Tesoro officials say the environmental study is an important milestone for the project. Tesoro declined to comment on specific issues raised by the assessment.

"We are currently reviewing the document and will be able to address specific issues and respond to more

detailed questions over the coming weeks," said Tesoro spokeswoman Tina Barbee.

The public can comment on the assessment until early January. After a review, state officials will make a recommendation to Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, who has the final say on the project.

'The study demonstrates one thing: Tesoro's oil trains and shipping terminal are too dangerous.'

Brett VandenHeuvel,
executive director of Columbia Riverkeeper

and exploded in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec, killing 47 people.

Critics are concerned about potential oil spills and explosions, and other environment and safety risks.

"The study demonstrates one thing: Tesoro's oil trains and shipping terminal are too dangerous," said Brett VandenHeuvel, executive

For online updates: www.dailyastorian.com

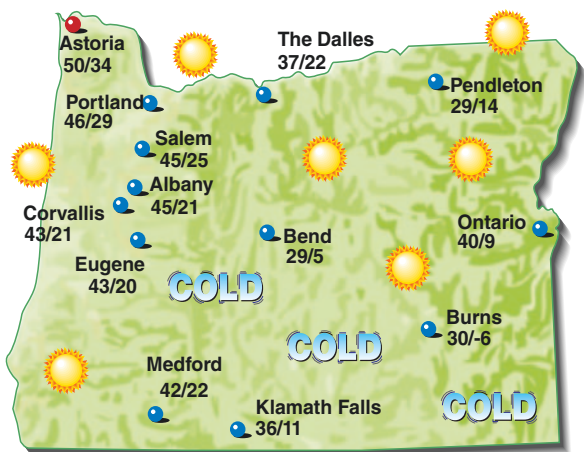
ACCUWEATHER® FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

Astoria 5-Day Forecast

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are Today's highs and tomorrow night's lows

Day	High	Low
Today	50°	34°
Friday	52°	34°
Saturday	51°	33°
Sunday	50°	34°
Monday	49°	37°

Oregon Weather



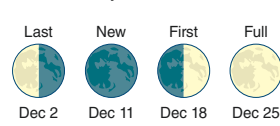
Almanac

Astoria through Tuesday.

Category	Value
High	47°
Low	32°
Normal high	51°
Normal low	39°
Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	14.77"
Normal month to date	9.16"
Year to date	53.22"
Normal year to date	55.38"

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	7:31 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:32 a.m.
Moonrise today	5:50 p.m.
Moonset today	8:02 a.m.



Regional Cities

City	Today	Fri.	City	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W		Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Baker City	31 3 s	30 1 s	Olympia	43 23 s	43 23 s
Bend	29 5 s	30 5 s	Pendleton	29 11 s	28 14 s
Brookings	55 36 s	55 36 s	Portland	46 29 s	47 29 s
Eugene	43 21 s	41 20 s	Roseburg	41 28 s	43 26 s
Ilwaco	49 39 s	49 39 s	Salem	45 25 s	44 25 s
Klamath Falls	36 14 s	36 11 c	Seaside	50 37 s	50 36 s
Medford	42 23 s	43 22 s	Spokane	33 17 s	33 18 s
Newport	49 34 s	49 33 s	Vancouver	46 29 s	46 27 s
North Bend	52 33 s	55 33 s	Yakima	39 16 s	39 18 s

Under the Sky

Tonight's Sky: Aries the Ram resembles shape of a 'slice of pie' for Thanksgiving.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

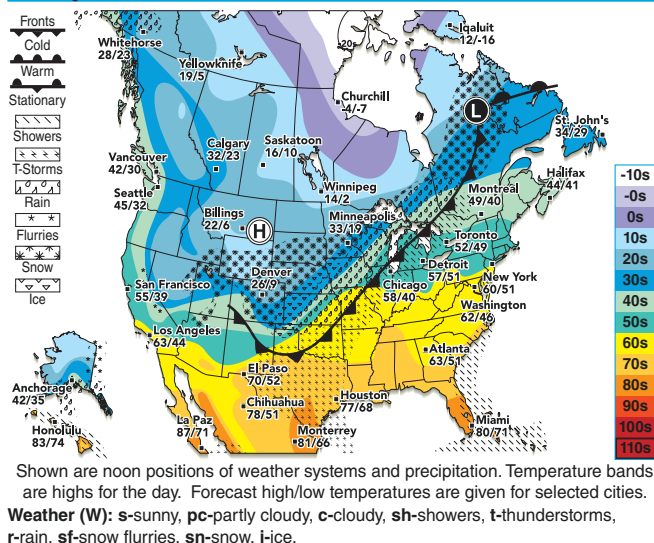
Today's Tides

Time	High	Time	Low
2:14 a.m.	8.5 ft.	7:48 a.m.	2.3 ft.
1:37 p.m.	10.0 ft.	8:40 p.m.	-1.2 ft.

National Cities

City	Today	Fri.
	Hi Lo W	Hi Lo W
Atlanta	63 51 pc	66 49 pc
Boston	55 48 c	62 49 pc
Chicago	58 40 sh	42 30 r
Denver	26 9 sn	22 8 sn
Des Moines	46 26 r	34 22 c
Detroit	57 51 c	56 33 r
El Paso	70 52 t	60 40 sh
Fairbanks	32 20 sn	32 18 c
Honolulu	83 74 c	84 74 pc
Indianapolis	60 53 c	59 37 r
Kansas City	61 29 r	35 26 i
Las Vegas	55 37 s	54 35 pc
Los Angeles	63 44 pc	62 40 sh
Memphis	70 59 c	69 58 t
Miami	80 71 sh	80 69 sh
Nashville	69 55 pc	68 54 c
New Orleans	76 66 c	78 64 c
New York	60 51 c	64 51 pc
Oklahoma City	68 33 r	37 29 r
Philadelphia	65 45 c	68 49 pc
St. Louis	67 55 c	57 37 r
Salt Lake City	37 20 sn	32 16 pc
San Francisco	55 39 s	56 38 s
Seattle	45 32 s	46 31 s
Washington, DC	62 46 pc	64 49 pc

Today's National Weather



Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day. Forecast high/low temperatures are given for selected cities.

Weather (W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

Career exploration event planned

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College is holding a career exploration event, "Ring In A New Career," from 5 to 7 p.m. Dec. 8 in Room 117, Columbia Hall, 1651 Lexington Ave.

There is no cost, and dinner is being provided.

This event provides an opportunity for participants to identify career paths that make the most of their skills and interests, informs them about what's hot on the career front regionally, and introduces them to college students and graduates. Information will also be given about the college admis-

sions process and how to earn six free credits while building skills through the college's Lives in Transitions program.

Sign up today to reserve a seat. Register online at www.clatsopcc.edu/new-career. For questions, call Student Services at 503-338-2411.

College's Keefe examines energy policy

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop Community College and the Fort George Brewery and Public House's next Ales & Ideas community lecture is being held Dec. 3 at the Lovell Showroom at the corner of 14th and Duane streets.

College physics instructor Pat Keefe is presenting "Can Anybody Here Count? Developing an Energy Policy for the U.S." The doors open at 6 p.m., and the pro-

gram begins at 7 p.m. Minors are welcome.

In this interactive presentation, Keefe helps audience members come up with their desired energy policy for the U.S.

He will begin by introducing a spreadsheet that can be used to complete all calculations necessary to help anyone develop a realistic energy policy that considers all the energy needed to assure a cold beer on tap for one's enjoyment.

Personal laptops are encouraged but not required.

Keefe holds a master's degree in physics from Portland State University, and has taught physics at the college since 1991. He has presented over a dozen invited talks and workshops on energy in the 21st century to the American Association of Physics Teachers, the Pacific Northwest Association for College Physics, and the National Science Teachers Association.

Death

Nov. 22, 2015
SKAGGS, Bonnie Jean,

73, of Astoria, died in Portland. Hughes-Ransom Mortu-

ary in Astoria is in charge of the arrangements.

On the record

Theft

• At 2:04 p.m. Nov. 19, Warrenton Police arrested Miguel Garcia-Villanueva, 38, of Warrenton, for first-degree theft after an investigation into Garcia-Villanueva, an employee at Fred Meyer, for stealing items from the store, not ringing up items and giving items away. He allegedly stole \$1,339 worth of merchandise.

• At 2:46 p.m. Monday, Warrenton Police arrested

James Stacy Leach, 47, of Clatskanie, for unlawful possession of heroin and methamphetamine, second-degree theft, first-degree criminal trespass and for a felony warrant at Home Depot. Leach allegedly stole \$216 worth of merchandise.

Crash

• At 4:26 p.m. Monday, Dennis Nelson, 68, of Kent, Washington, was cited for making a dangerous left turn from U.S. Highway 101 onto

Ensign Lane that resulted in a two-vehicle crash. Nelson was driving a Toyota Avalon with his wife in the passenger seat when the car collided with a Subaru Forester traveling northbound on Highway 101. Crews had to extract Nelson and his wife from the car using the Jaws of Life. Nelson's wife was transported by Medix for cuts and chest pain. The 27-year-old woman driving the Subaru had neck pain, but was not transported.

OBITUARY POLICY

The Daily Astorian publishes paid obituaries. The obituary can include a small photo and, for veterans, a flag symbol at no charge. The deadline for all obituaries is 9 a.m. the business day prior.

Obituaries may be edited for spelling, proper punctuation and style. Death notices and upcoming services will be published at no charge. Notices must be submitted by 9 a.m. the day of publication.

Obituaries and notices may be submitted online at www.dailyastorian.com/obituaryform, by email at ewilson@dailyastorian.com, placed via the funeral home or in person at The Daily Astorian office, 949 Exchange St. in Astoria. For more information, call 503-325-3211, ext. 257.

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