



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
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**DIRECTIVE OF THE GOVERNOR  
14-06**

June 11, 2014

To: Washington State Department of Ecology

From: Jay Inslee, Governor

Subject: Oil Transport

The Pacific Northwest is experiencing rapid changes in how crude oil is moving through rail corridors and over Washington waters, creating new safety and environmental risks. As petroleum shipments from Alaska decline, transport of crude oil from the Bakken region via rail is increasing. At the same time, shipments of Canadian crude oil into British Columbia ports are increasing. These shipments also travel through Washington waters. The changing sources and transport of crude oil bring new risks to our communities along rail lines and to the Columbia River, Grays Harbor, and Puget Sound waters. Since 2008, rail traffic hauling crude oil has increased more than 40-fold nationwide and major accidents have occurred over the past year in both the United States and Canada.

Public interest in this issue is growing, and an increasing number of Washington State communities are calling for improved safety measures. Public safety is of paramount concern to our residents, citizens, and local governments. While the State will do all it can within its authority to ensure that safety, the federal government must also exercise its authority to improve the safety of oil transported by rail. In addition, both governments must work to enhance our collective ability to prevent and respond to spills that can harm our natural resources.

This directive outlines key components to be addressed by state agencies in their charge to assess the safety of oil transport in Washington. With respect to the transportation of oil by rail within Washington State, the Department of Ecology, in consultation with the Department of Transportation, Utilities and Transportation Commission, Washington Military Department's Emergency Management Division, the Federal Railroad Administration, and tribal governments, will:

- Characterize risk of accidents along rail lines.
- Review state and federal laws and rules with respect to rail safety and identify regulatory gaps.
- Assess the relative risk of Bakken crude with respect to other forms of crude oil.

- Identify data and information gaps that hinder improvements in public safety and spill prevention and response.
- Begin development of spill response plans for impacted counties.
- Identify potential actions that can be coordinated with neighboring states and British Columbia.
- Identify, prioritize, and estimate costs for state actions that will improve public safety and spill prevention and response.

In advance of its update to the Legislature, the Department of Ecology will prepare a draft report with initial findings and recommendations by October 1, 2014, that addresses these and any other issues necessary to ensure public safety and environmental protection with respect to the transportation of oil in Washington State. The Department of Ecology will also propose a strategy for consideration in the Governor's 2015-17 budget to meet funding needs that would increase the safety and spill response and prevention capacity related to transport of oil by rail.

The concerns of Washington citizens with respect to the safe transport of oil through our State must be re-examined in light of the rapid changes taking place. This directive will help ensure that we respond to these changes to protect our communities and environment.