

Docket No. 35952
Environmental Comments

Attention:

Dave Navecky, Phillis Johnson-Ball and Vicki Rutson

The lack of regulations concerning safety features on rail cars that transport volatile Bakken Crude Oil shows that the dangers of this practice are ignored or at best overlooked. Many of these cars used to transport this oil leak oil onto the tracks and allow the soil contamination to happen and also air pollution from the vapor creates another very serious environmental problem.

But even more troubling is the lack of oversight and regulation concerning a process that allows this volatile crude oil to travel at high speeds over the rails knowing that this crude oil is highly explosive. What makes this particular crude oil so explosive is that it contains natural gas liquids mixed in with the crude oil.

These trains are literally bombs flying across the country. Most of the time these trains explode and burn when they derail. On average in the United States alone, three (3) trains derail each and every day. By allowing another rail line to be constructed that will travel through pristine farm land and rural landscape new contamination will be caused to both soil and air as a result of this action. New areas will be at high risk for derailed trains, explosions and fires.

Most of these rural areas have emergency services, such as fire protection, that is manned by volunteers that are trained and equipped to handle their current risks and situations. They are not equipped to handle massive explosions and fires that would result from train derailments or accidents caused by trains flying through railroad crossings where motorists can be struck by these flying bomb trains.

Likewise, the ambulances and emergency responders would be overwhelmed if an incident such as the derailment in Mosier, Oregon on June 3, 2016 and endangered communities or schools located too close to these rails.

The unintended consequences created by this rail line would forever change the climate for safety in these communities and endangering the lives of the residents as well as the first responders.

For these and many other reasons this rail line project should be denied.

Thank you for your consideration.

Pat Mussman
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