

The Mesa Refinery Watch Group



Newsletter: October 14, 2019

FACT-CHECKED REASONS TO REJECT THE PHILLIPS 66 RAIL TERMINAL

CRUDE-BY-RAIL:

- Only Phillips 66 Wins
- Citizens Become Collateral Damage

Why MRWG Continues To Publish This Newsletter ...

While we're pleased P66's crude oil rail terminal in SLO County was rejected, Californians must remain vigilant. We face dramatic shifts in government policies. So there are no assurances P66 will not submit a new proposal. Therefore, we must stay aware of related developments.

This newsletter will continue to be a primary resource. If a new threat arises, the Mesa Refinery Watch will advise you about actions that need to be taken.

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DON'T HAVE TIME TO READ IT ALL?

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A. WHAT'S NEW THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Ongoing Refinery Accidents Remind Us To Beware Of Promises About "Safe" Oil Trains

During the battle against P66's crude oil trains, we were told there was nothing to worry about regarding safety issues on the tracks. In fact, a Union Pacific spokesperson stated -- *"The rail industry is safer than a grocery store."*

The reality is that we continue to see crude oil and other freight train accidents. But not only is **train** safety highly suspect, so too are the **refineries** where the trains are headed ...

a. Philadelphia, PA; June 21, 2019: Massive Fire & Explosions Rock Refinery

The Philadelphia Energy Solutions refinery is the largest on the East Coast. At 4AM sirens sounded and a shelter-in-place order was issued for the area around the complex.

Explosions and a huge fire had erupted, "jolting people awake miles from the scene", knocking artwork from their walls. Blasts were felt in Southern New Jersey. **A**

weather satellite recorded the flames from space. A resident thought a meteor had hit.

"Large pieces of debris were thrown **blocks away** and rained down onto streets. Thick, black smoke billowed over South Philadelphia, the Delaware River and into South Jersey."

An air quality expert stated - "Immediate exposure can trigger asthma and other issues. If it were me, what I would do is leave the area."

A day later, the fire still burned because it was too dangerous to access the scene. The likely cause - a vat of butane exploded, leading to additional fires/blasts. Five workers were injured.

A month later, the refinery's owner, Philadelphia Energy Solutions, **filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy.**



**b. Baytown, TX; July 31, 2019:
One Of The U.S.'s Largest Oil Refineries Explodes**



Exxon/Mobil's Baytown refinery (outside Houston) is one of the country's largest. A petrochemical unit reportedly exploded, leading to a fire and a warning to **5,000 residents** to shelter-in-place and close air conditioners. Flames and clouds of smoke poured out of the plant. "People in nearby suburbs claimed to have felt an explosion loud enough to 'shake windows.'"

Burning was "polypropylene material, a thermoplastic polymer used in items such as plastic piping and laboratory equipment."

Sixty-six ExxonMobil employees and contractors were transported out for medical evaluation, with **37 suffering injuries**.

In one previous event at the same plant, "57 tons of sulfur dioxide spewed into the atmosphere in just 18 hours."

The plant stores multiple types of hazardous materials, including ethylene, ammonia, benzene, and propylene.

https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/wjvwm9/the-site-of-one-of-the-largest-us-oil-refineries-is-on-fire
<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/66-people-receiving-medical-attention-after-exxonmobil-refinery-explosion-texas-n1037581>
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2019/07/31/exxon-mobil-explosion-fire-texas-refinery-injures-37/1883778001/>
<https://abc13.com/66-treated-in-exxonmobil-plant-fire-in-baytown/5432696/>
<https://heavy.com/news/2019/07/baytown-fire-exxon/>

2. 265,000 Gallons Of Chevron Oil Leak Into A Kern County, CA Dry River Bed

On May 10, 2019 a Chevron crew attempted to seal off a "damaged and abandoned well in a Kern County oil field." It's believed the work initiated a chain of events leading to the release of 855,000 gallons of oil and water over a two-month period (approximately 30% of which was oil).



Note the **size of the vehicle** at the top of the photo, indicating the relative size of the incident.

California state officials have issued an order to "take all measures" to stop the spill.

"The well was one of 40 or so Chevron typically abandons each year in the oil field 35 miles west of Bakersfield."

<https://www.kqed.org/news/11762422/chevron-says-attempt-to-seal-off-well-may-have-triggered-big-kern-county-oil-spill>
<https://www.kcbx.org/post/state-orders-chevron-stop-massive-crude-oil-release-kern-county-well>

3. Texas Town Suspicious About Constructing A Phillips 66 Offshore Oil Terminal

P66 wants to build an oil terminal 20 miles off of Corpus Christi's coastline, enabling them to handle oil export shipments.

The Port of Corpus Christi had **previously opposed** a similar project proposed by the Trafigura energy company. But the Port then **supported the P66 proposal**.



The city's mayor "was surprised when the port came out in support of the Phillips 66 project, because six months ago, the City Council passed a resolution opposing Trafigura's project **at the port's request**." He continued - "I don't want to think we were manipulated into opposition, not necessarily for the right reasons."

The resolution that first rejected the project was based on environmental concerns. If the city fails to meet federal environmental standards heavy fines would follow. The mayor stated - "I would have a hard time opposing a project, and then six months later supporting a project if they're the same type of project."

<https://www.kristv.com/city-leaders-reserving-judgement-on-phillips-66-project-until-they-know-more>

4. U.S. Wants To Dredge San Francisco Bay In Support Of Oil Companies, Like P66

As per *KQED*: "The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers wants to dredge 13 miles of the (San Francisco) bay in order to deepen a channel for ships carrying imported crude oil. The intention is to **lower the cost of crude by making it cheaper to ship to the Phillips 66, Valero, Shell and Marathon refineries.**"

The dredging would coincide with the refineries' intention to **process additional Canadian tar sands.**

"Environmentalists are aggressively pushing back, saying the project will worsen air pollution around the refineries and increase the number of ships loaded with oil. (They) sent a joint letter to the federal government arguing the project would (also) increase the risk of a spill." Spills of tar sands oil are incredibly hard to clean up.

<https://www.kqed.org/science/1944034/trump-administration-wants-to-dredge-san-francisco-bay-to-help-oil-shipping>
<https://www.kqed.org/news/11744480/phillips-66-fined-again-for-polluting-san-pablo-bay>
<https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2019/06/28/18824266.php>



5. Phillips 66 To Be Sued For Violating Hazardous Waste Laws In Southern Cal

As per *The Daily Breeze*: In August -- "Environmental groups* announced their intention to sue Phillips 66, four years after the EPA discovered violations of hazardous waste laws at the Carson and Wilmington refineries (known as the Los Angeles Refinery).

"The federal lawsuit comes after a 2015 inspection of the two linked refineries by the EPA. Regulators found the company was storing, treating and disposing of hazardous waste without the required permits. **The violations included failures to manage run-off from waste piles, follow air pollution regulations from storage tanks, maintain operating records or determine whether wastes were indeed hazardous.**"

"The EPA issued Phillips a formal notice of violation in January 2017, but since then the EPA has **not** issued citations, fines or clean-up orders." A group spokesperson stated - "These are very serious violations at a large facility that have been **left unaddressed for years.** The state isn't doing anything. EPA isn't doing anything."

*Environmental Integrity Project, Environmental Advocates, Communities For a Better Environment

<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2019/08/07/environmental-groups-threaten-lawsuit-over-possible-hazardous-waste-at-carson-and-wilmington-refineries/>
<https://www.dailybreeze.com/2019/03/16/crews-probe-cause-of-carson-refinery-fire-market-impact-unknown/>



6. Montana and North Dakota Dislike The Way Washington Is Now Protecting Its Citizens ... So They're Asking The DOT To Kill The State's New Law

As per *KTQV*: "Montana and North Dakota are petitioning the federal government to overturn a Washington state law that **tightens restrictions on rail cars carrying Bakken crude oil**.



"Washington lawmakers approved a bill prohibiting the unloading of crude oil by rail if its vapor pressure is greater than nine pounds per square inch. Supporters said the law was needed to protect against possible fires and explosions in rail cars following derailments."

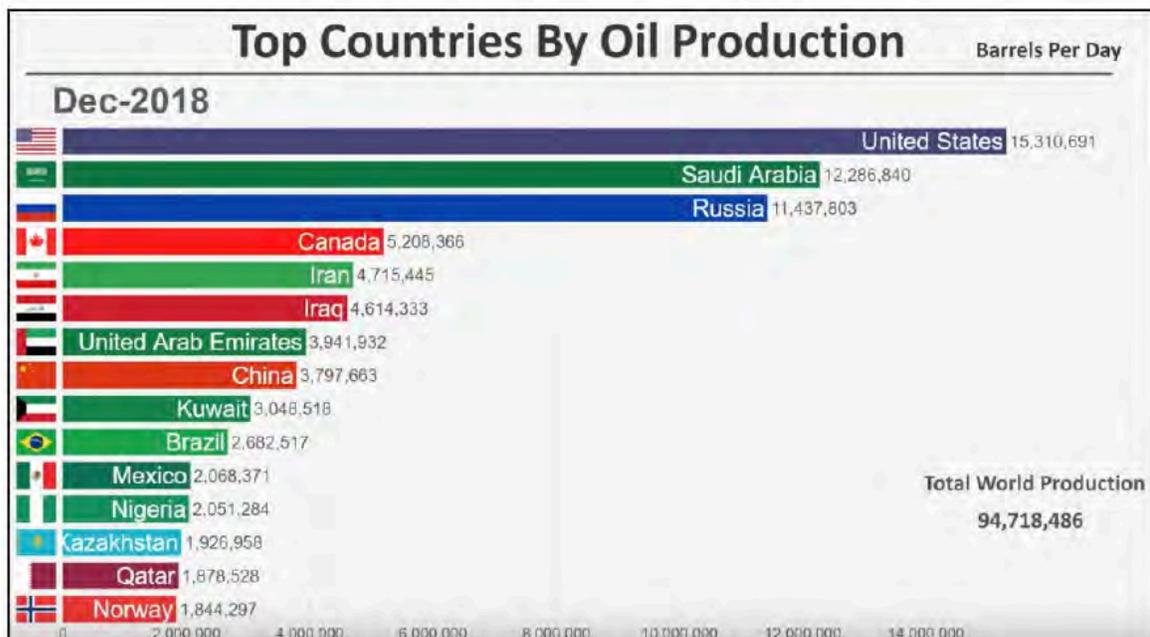
"Montana and North Dakota officials say the regulations render Bakken crude oil **uneconomical to unload** at Washington refineries ... (and that) that coastal states shouldn't dictate what commodities interior states bring to market." The DOT has until January, 2020 to respond.

<https://www.ktvq.com/news/montana-news/2019/07/17/montana-north-dakota-seeking-to-strike-washington-state-law-aimed-at-crude-oil-trains/>

7. The U.S. Has Evolved Into The World's Largest Producer Of Oil

Supporters of P66's crude-by-rail plan for California claimed it was required to help our nation become "energy independent." The organization *RankingTheWorld* has created an **innovative video** tracking how the U.S. has evolved into the **global leader** of oil production. Therefore, "independence" is not dependent on P66's rail plan. **Click on this link** to watch the video ...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZjOjO_5gjQ



8. Coastal Commission Is Requiring State Parks To Make Serious Changes To Reduce Dust From Riding On The Oceano Dunes. However, State Parks Is Failing To Develop An Effective Plan.

Residents near the Oceano Dunes already suffer from particulate/dust pollution generated by off-highway vehicles. The **P66 crude-by-rail project** would have exacerbated conditions by adding to this unhealthy air.



The California Coastal Commission has now stepped in on the dust issue. In July the Commission issued directives to State Parks. These include a limit on vehicle use, fencing to protect vegetated dune areas, **and an airborne particulate matter emission control and monitoring program** (www.mesarefinerywatch.com/newsletters-docs2.html). However, the commission failed to impose a sense of urgency ... i.e., forcing Parks to comply with the directives in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, State Parks was to have submitted an Annual Work Plan for dust mitigation to the SLO County Air Pollution Control District (APCD). The plan is based on a legal order that State Parks had agreed to, to cut emissions by 50 percent by 2023. Two plans were submitted, and **both rejected** by APCD and its Science Advisory Group.

"Jimmy Paulding, an APCD board member, said both reports outlined strategies that were 'woefully inadequate' and fell way short of what needs to be done to improve air quality. 'We see this lack of willingness to work in good faith, to get the job done.'"

Most recently, APCD board members **have** moved with a sense of urgency -- directing its chief officer to convene a **hearing board*** in November to decide if State Parks is violating the board's abatement order to reduce dust. The hearing board could fine State Parks, close portions of the dunes to ATVs, or take other actions.

*The hearing board enters the picture when the air district and industry or government agencies are in conflict. The hearing board serves a judicial function, enforcing rules and regulations passed by the APCD board.

https://santamariatimes.com/news/local/huckfest-grows-by-leaps-and-bounds/article_91e42374-0ee0-11e3-80be-001a4bcf887a.html
<https://www.newtimeslo.com/sanluisobispo/oceano-dunes-workshop-canceled-after-issues-with-state-parks-dust-reduction-plan/Content?oid=8879888>
<https://www.sanluisobispo.com/news/local/environment/article235695987.html>

Newsletter continued below ...

9. Ongoing Reversals To Environmental & Safety Regulations Remind Us To Remain On Alert Regarding Renewed Crude-By-Rail Proposals

There continue to be ongoing attacks on federal policies and regulations related to environmental protection. With a "business first" attitude radiating from Washington, D.C., we must stay on guard against attempts to revive P66's crude oil rail terminal. Here are further examples of recent assaults on our health, safety and environment (sources listed on page 14):

a. Trump Administration Bending To Trucking Lobby, Allows Truckers To Drive Longer Hours

Associated Press - The federal Transportation Department is working to ease regulations that limit the number of consecutive hours truckers can be behind the wheel. It's **"a long sought goal of the trucking industry and a move that would highlight its influence with the Trump administration.** Interest groups have lobbied for revisions they say would make the rigid 'hours of service' rules more flexible."



"But highway safety advocates are warning the changes would dangerously weaken the regulations, resulting in truckers putting in even longer days at a time when they say **driver fatigue is a serious problem.** They point to new government data that shows fatal crashes involving trucks weighing as much as 80,000 pounds have increased."

This newsletter has previously reported on accidents involving crude oil trucks, including those locally in San Luis Obispo County (see photo). Plus, proposals to **increase** the number of oil trucks through SLO and Santa Barbara Counties are now being evaluated.

b. White House Refuses To Ban "Chlorpyrifos", A Chemical Linked To Childhood Health Issues

New York Times - "The Trump administration took a major step to weaken the regulation of toxic chemicals when the EPA announced it would not ban a widely used **pesticide that its own experts have linked to serious health problems in children.**" (The product is already banned from household use.)



"The decision represents a victory for the **chemical industry and farmers** who have lobbied to continue using the substance chlorpyrifos, arguing it is necessary to protect crops."

c. In The Face Of Collapsing Honey Bee Populations, EPA Approves Pesticide That Will Kill Even More Bees

Huffington Post - "Honey bee colonies, which pollinate a third of all the crops Americans consume, have plummeted from 6 million in 1947 to 2.4 million in 2008." Incredibly, data tracking the endangered colonies in an annual federal survey **"will no longer be collected by the USDA due to undisclosed budget restraints."**



To make matters worse - "The EPA has dropped restrictions on the use of a pesticide (sulfoxaflor) **known to be lethal** to honeybees." Even at low doses, the chemical is toxic to honey bees. "Yet the EPA said the agency was 'thrilled' to approve new uses and lift past restrictions."

Sulfoxaflor is produced by DowDupont, a company that "contributed **\$1 million** to President Trump's inauguration committee."

Beekeepers are petitioning in court to block the EPA's decision regarding sulfoxaflor.

d. Trump Administration Strips Protections Out Of The Endangered Species Act

New York Times/Huff Post - "The administration announced it would change the way the Endangered Species Act is applied, significantly weakening the nation's bedrock conservation law.

"Republicans say it **burdens landowners, hampers industry and hinders economic growth.**" Interior Secretary Bernhardt wrote - "the act places an 'unnecessary regulatory burden' on companies."



"One change removes language that prohibits the consideration of **economic factors** when deciding whether a species should be protected. Under the current law, such determinations must be **made solely based on science**, 'without reference to possible economic or other impacts of determination.'"

A spokesperson for Earthjustice said - "If we make decisions based on short-term economic costs, we're going to have **a whole lot more extinct species.**" Seventeen states plus New York City and Washington D.C. are suing the administration to block the rollback.

e. 22 States Sue The Administration Over Its New Rules For Coal

KSBY - "The administration (has) rolled out its Affordable Clean Energy rule, **shifting regulatory authority to states and offering hope to the struggling US coal industry**. It replaces one of the Obama administration's plans to address climate change, the Clean Power Plan.



"The EPA says the (new) rule could **result in 1,400 more premature deaths** by 2030 than the Obama-era plan it will replace."

"A coalition of states and cities will ask a federal court to block the Trump administration's overhaul of emission regulations for coal-fired power plants ... claiming the rule disregards requirements of the federal Clean Air Act."

f. EPA Cuts Regulations Designed To Limit Methane Leaks Into The Atmosphere

NY Times - "The Trump administration intends to sharply curtail the regulation of methane emissions, **a major contributor to climate change**. Carbon dioxide is the most significant greenhouse gas, but methane is a close second. It lingers in the atmosphere for a shorter period of time but packs a bigger punch while it lasts.



"The EPA will eliminate requirements that oil and gas companies install technology to inspect for and fix methane leaks from wells, pipelines and storage facilities. The new rule must go through a period of public review, and would most likely be finalized early next year."

A United Nations representative stated - **"At a time when the federal government's job should be to help move faster toward cleaner energy and a cleaner economy, the government is walking off the field."**

g. U.S. Energy Department Supportive Of Light Bulbs That Increase Climate Change

NY Times - "The Trump administration plans to weaken rules that would have forced Americans to use energy-efficient light bulbs, **a move that could contribute to greenhouse gas emissions that cause global warming**. The changes would eliminate requirements that most bulbs sold in the U.S. must be LEDs or fluorescent to meet efficiency standards.



"The rules would have ended the era of the incandescent bulb. Eliminating inefficient bulbs would **save electricity equivalent to 25 power plants**. The administration said the changes would keep prices low and eliminate government regulation."

"The actions are the latest to weaken rules designed to fight climate change."

h. White House Attempting To Revoke California's Long-Standing Ability To Reduce Car Emissions

Reuters/NY Times/Vox -

- **April '19:** "The Trump administration has settled on details of its plan (that would) weaken Obama-era rules restricting vehicle pollution. The new rules would freeze standards at 37 mpg, compared to 54.5 mpg required by current rules."
- **July '19:** "Four automakers (Ford, BMW, Volkswagen, Honda) have reached an agreement with California on fuel efficiency rules, bypassing an administration effort to strip the state of the right to fight climate change by setting its own standards. Automakers had worried that court battles between state and federal governments could create years of uncertainty (about emissions) for manufacturers."
- **September '19:** The administration "will roll back a waiver to the Clean Air Act dating to 1968 that allows California to set higher emission standards for cars than the federal government does. State AG Becerra said Trump had 'no basis and no authority' to revoke the waiver.



"The revocation is part of (the) administration's attempt to roll back fuel economy standards. Thirteen states have adopted California's rules. So the California waiver was a **big impediment to the administration's larger goal** of rolling back regulations that combat climate change." Twenty-three states have now sued the administration over this issue.

i. Repeal Of Clean Water Regulations Means More Industrial Pollution Will Flow Into Waterways

NY Times - "The Trump administration announced the repeal of a major clean water regulation ('The Waters of the United States' rule) that had placed limits on polluting chemicals used near streams, wetlands and other bodies of water.

"An effect is that **polluters will no longer need a permit to discharge harmful substances into streams and wetlands.**"



"Critics fear (the repeal would) be difficult for future administrations to undo because the ideological balance of the Supreme Court has shifted to the right."

"For conservative states (which) view the Clean Water Act as burdensome for farmers and industry, this is an opportunity to drive a stake through the heart of water protection."

j. Trump Administration Opens Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge To Oil Drilling

Los Angeles Times - "The administration announced its plan to open (1.5 million acres within) Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling, **giving the petroleum industry access to the pristine wildland for the first time.** Until President Trump's election, Democrats and environmentalists successfully fought off these efforts.



"Supporters argue it will result in a windfall for the federal Treasury and revive Alaska's struggling economy. Opponents have said opening the refuge to oil leasing could do irreversible damage to a region already destabilized by warming temperatures and other effects of climate change. The refuge is home to large numbers of polar bears, caribou, wolves and migratory birds.

"The plan is expected to face legal challenges from environmentalists."

Sources for the environmental issues listed above ...

<https://apnews.com/5cf6c7d728b44834bea7f2ebf5121088>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/07/18/climate/epa-chlorpyrifos-pesticide-ban.html?action=click&module=Top%20Stories&pgtype=Homepage>
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sulfoxaflo-epa-honeybee-colonies-usda-data-200-million-acres_n_5d2bf580e4b0060b11eb5f1
<https://www.ksby.com/news/national/states-sue-to-block-epas-coal-power-plant-emissions-rollback>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/29/climate/epa-methane-greenhouse-gas.html>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/04/climate/trump-light-bulb-rollback.html?searchResultPosition=1>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/10/climate/auto-emissions-cale-rollback-trump.html>
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-autos-emissions/california-four-automakers-defy-trump-agree-to-tighten-emissions-rules-idUSKCN1UK1OD>
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/06/climate/automakers-california-emissions-antitrust.html>
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/sulfoxaflo-honeybee-earthjustice-epa-insecticide-lawsuit_n_5d72de89e4b0fde50c266d16
<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/12/climate/trump-administration-rolls-back-clean-water-protections.html?searchResultPosition=1>
<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2019-09-12/interior-finalizes-plan-to-open-alaskas-arctic-national-wildlife-refuge-to-oil-drilling>
<https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2019/9/18/20872226/trump-california-car-emission-standards>
<https://www.npr.org/2019/09/20/762763138/23-states-sue-trump-administration-in-escalating-battle-over-emissions-standards>
https://www.huffpost.com/entry/states-lawsuit-endangered-species-act_n_5d8b92f4b0c6d0cef532dc

Newsletter continued below ...

10. It's Non-Stop -- Serious Railroad & Oil Industry Safety Problems (see sources on page 22)

a. Caliente, NV; July 10, 2019: Union Pacific Train Crashes, Wrecking Dozens Of New Automobiles

"Dozens of brand-new vehicles were destroyed due to a Union Pacific derailment. The train came off the tracks causing a massive wreck and destroying several train cars." Wrecked were Jeeps, Chevrolets and GMCs. No injuries reported.



"The train was also hauling hazardous materials but those weren't damaged in the accident."

b. Dupu, IL; Sept. 10, 2019: Accident In Union Pacific Rail Yard Generates Massive Chemical Fire

Fourteen cars derailed, including tankers carrying the flammable solvent methyl isobutylene ketone.

Smoke and flames shot into the air. Schools and residences were evacuated to prevent exposure to the chemical, which can cause skin rashes. Firefighters worked to prevent the flames from spreading to a nearby chemical plant.



Air quality was being measured five miles from the site. No injuries were reported.

c. Hays, KS; July 14, 2019: Tankers Loaded With Alcohol Fall Over On Union Pacific Train

Three tankers filled with alcohol were tossed onto their sides, with another coming off the tracks from a Union Pacific freight train. The tankers did not leak.

One employee was injured. Houses in the vicinity were evacuated.



**d. Mercer County, MO; July 25, 2019:
Cars Filled With Sand
Fall From Union Pacific Train**

Nearly 70 cars fell from a Union Pacific train, with many spilling sand up and down the tracks. The cause was under investigation.

The cleanup was expected to take "some time."



**e. Nebraska City, NB; July 31, 2019:
Bridge Collapse Derails
Union Pacific Train**

"A timber railroad bridge was damaged and a Union Pacific train derailed. There is no official word on what caused the derailment. (But) there are some witness reports that the timber bridge collapsed, sending two rail cars into South Table Creek.



"Over seven train cars hauling corn were involved. One car is on top of portions of the bridge in the ravine. There have been no reports of injuries."

**f. North Portland, OR; June 25, 2019:
Union Pacific Being Sued Over Allowing
Thousands Of Gallons Of Oil Into
The Willamette River**

"Federal lawyers are prosecuting a plant operator for Union Pacific, alleging he allowed thousands of gallons of oil to seep from an overflowing tank into the Willamette River.

"(He) is accused of negligently discharging oil from a storage tank at Union Pacific's Albina Yard into the river, causing a visible dark film on the water." The charge is a violation of the Clean Water Act.



**g. Pocatello, ID; July 14, 2019:
Union Pacific Locomotives
Fall Off Tracks**

While in a rail yard, two Union Pacific engines derailed and ended up tilting precariously. Seven rail cars also came off the tracks, including tankers. One of the locomotives spilled diesel fuel. The cause is under investigation.



**h. Spokane, WA; July 7, 2019:
Union Pacific Train Carrying
Molten Sulfur Derails ...
A Day Later Another
Derailment Occurs**

Six mixed-freight Union Pacific cars came off the tracks inside a rail yard, with two tipping over. Less than 24 hours later two more cars derailed from a different train in the same yard.



The initial accident involved cars carrying molten sulfur and diesel fuel. No leaks were detected. Lumber was spilled.

"According to records from the Federal Railroad Administration, 34 derailments have occurred in Spokane County since 2009 ... 22 were human-caused."

**i. Tama County, IA; June 19, 2019:
Multiple Union Pacific Cars
Derail, Crushing One Another**

"A Union Pacific train derailed ... (with) several cars completely off the tracks laying on their sides — and others crunched together further down.

Twenty-eight cars were involved. The train was carrying sugar and soda ash."



**j. Tucson, AZ; Aug. 14, 2019:
A Dozen Union Pacific Cars
Derail In Central Tucson**

Twelve cars came off the tracks at a Union Pacific rail yard.
"Authorities said four tank cars derailed upright with no releases of any hazardous material.

In addition, two hopper cars derailed ... those cars spilled plastic pellets."



**k. Itasca, TX; Aug. 19, 2019:
Union Pacific Train Hauling
Hazmat Materials Derails**

Flatbed cars in Texas left the tracks and turned over in multiple directions.

The train was also carrying hazmat materials ... the tankers fortunately stayed put. A tanker containing diesel fuel derailed, but didn't leak.



**l. Pine Bluff, AK; June 25, 2019:
A Dozen Tankers Derail From
Union Pacific Train**

About 12 tankers were involved in a Union Pacific accident. Hazmat materials were not reported and none of the tankers ruptured.

The local railroad crossing was closed indefinitely. A second derailment happened at the exact same location in 2014.



**m. Portland, OR; Sept. 7, 2019:
Union Pacific Train Carrying Liquefied Gas
Comes Off The Tracks; Collides With Bridge Beams**

"Union Pacific says two locomotives and three tank cars containing liquefied petroleum gas derailed, striking and cracking a support beam to an overpass providing access to a major industrial area." Ultimately, "engineers observed that the locomotive struck and damaged two concrete beams and potentially the bridge deck itself." The cause -- a broken rail.

"The beams rest on concrete footings, which sit on top of pilings driven deep into the ground to keep the bridge stable. It's possible those structures were also damaged."

The bridge was closed until damage to the overpass was determined. Luckily, none of the tankers leaked and there were no injuries.



**n. Kennesaw, GA; Sept. 1, 2019:
Train Derails Then Slams
Into Bridge**

At least four shipping containers on a CSX train came off the tracks. One car hit a support beam on a local bridge. The bridge was then closed to keep the public safe.

It was ultimately determined there was no structural damage to the bridge. The incident is being investigated.



**o. Alberta, Canada; Sept. 3, 2019:
Chemical Leaks From Rail Tankers
Cause Widespread Evacuations**

Twenty-one cars and a locomotive derailed from a Canadian Pacific Railway train. Three of the cars contained octane and began leaking. Octane is a volatile, flammable component in gasoline.



Evacuations were ordered for 1.2 miles around the site, including a campground and golf course. Hazmat teams used vacuum trucks to clean up the spills. The accident occurred because an emergency brake had been applied as the train was moving.

**p. Alberta, Canada; Aug. 2, 2019:
Chemical Train Derails Closing
The Trans-Canada Highway**

"A (Canadian Pacific) train derailed, leaving several cars in a pile of ruins just off the tracks" on the side of a major highway. A state of emergency was declared. One car was on fire. There was a spill of styrene* from two cars. Fear of chemical exposure and fires prompted the evacuation of residents for almost 4.5 miles. There were no reports of injuries.



The Trans-Canada Highway was closed until further notice. The derailment was the second in Alberta in a single week. Previously 14 cars came off a CN train.

*A flammable, synthetic chemical used to manufacture rubber, plastic and fiberglass.

**q. Glen Haven, WI; July 1, 2019:
Mudslide Sends Train
Into The Mississippi River**

Fifteen cars from a BNSF train were hit by a rock or mudslide, sending them to the banks and into the waters of the Mississippi River. The slide was blamed on heavy rain.



Although the containers were empty, Federal and state officials were still assessing the impact on the environment.

**r. Walton, KS; Aug. 19, 2019:
Heavy Winds Cause 140
Rail Cars To Topple Over**

"Winds caused 140 rail cars from two (BNSF) trains to derail in central Kansas. The cars were all empty and many were double stacked. Wind gusts at a nearby airport measured as high as high 67 mph around the time of the derailment."



"93 train cars, stacked and parked in a nearby storage yard also blew over."

**s. Port Huron, Ontario;
July 8, 2019:
Train Derails In Tunnel,
Spilling 13,000 Gallons Of
Sulfuric Acid**

Forty rail cars on a CN train derailed in a tunnel under the St. Clair River.

The result - more than 13,000 gallons of sulfuric acid leaked from tankers. The spilled acid was recovered or "neutralized."

The tunnel sustained major damage, including breakage of pumps and piping systems.



**t. New Underwood, SD;
Aug. 2, 2019:
Major Derailment Sends
Two To The Hospital**

Three locomotives and 15 cars went off the tracks of a Rapid City, Pierre & Eastern Railroad train. They were loaded with clay, cement and scrap metal.

The train had hit "a significant washout due to flash flooding."



The two-person crew in the lead cab were trapped under the train, with the locomotive partially submerged in water. The crew sustained non-life-threatening injuries and were taken by ambulance to the hospital.

**u. Portlock, VA; June 25, 2019:
Rail Cars Full Of Coal
Fall Into The
Great Dismal Swamp**

"Thirty-six rail cars full of coal went off the tracks and landed in the Great Dismal Swamp" (a marshy region on the coast of Virginia and North Carolina). The 3,600 tons of coal on the Norfolk Southern train that went into the water has a fine consistency, almost like sand.



The refuge manager said - "Holy cow, what a mess. It was 36 cars all piled up like an accordion, most of them sideways and perpendicular to the tracks. Just debris and coal everywhere."

There is a major concern about the coal's impact on wildlife -- woodpeckers, deer, bears, frogs, turtles, snakes and amphibians. Heavy metals in the coal can leach out and into the water. Coal contains toxins such as arsenic, lead, mercury, nickel, chromium and selenium.

The equipment and coal first has to be removed from the tracks, then from the refuge, all of which was to take many weeks.

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B. A SYNOPSIS OF WHAT OCCURRED DURING THE BATTLE TO STOP PHILLIPS 66's CRUDE-BY-RAIL PLAN ...

In 2013, Phillips 66 proposed changing its business model at their Arroyo Grande, CA refinery on the Nipomo Mesa. After 60 years of receiving California crude oil by relatively safe underground pipelines, they asked San Luis Obispo County for a permit to build a rail terminal to receive cheaper (more profitable), tar sands crude oil from Canada via rail tankers.



Citizens formed the *Mesa Refinery Watch Group*. We identified the many dangers of "rail" and fought along with other groups opposing the project. It took almost four years, ongoing hearings and testimony at SLO County agencies, as well fending off a Phillips 66 lawsuit. It also required obtaining official opposition from 8 different counties and 28 cities (see map below).

But in October, 2017 it all came to an end when the company withdrew the lawsuit. The rail terminal would not be built and P66's crude oil trains would not traverse California's counties. P66 has not renewed its application to construct a rail terminal, but we must remain vigilant.

For a detailed account go to "History of the Project & The Opposition" -- <http://goo.gl/h8Fo9L>.

Counties Officially Opposed (see map)

- Alameda County
- Los Angeles County
- Monterey County
- San Luis Obispo County
- Santa Barbara County
- Santa Clara County
- Santa Cruz County
- Ventura County

Cities Officially Opposed

- Berkeley
- Camarillo
- Carpinteria
- Davis
- Emeryville
- Fremont
- Gilroy
- Goleta
- Grover Beach
- Los Angeles
- Mar Vista
- Milpitas
- Moorpark
- Morgan Hill
- Oakland
- Oxnard
- Paso Robles
- Pismo Beach
- Richmond
- Sacramento Area Council of Governments
- San Jose
- San Leandro
- San Luis Obispo
- Santa Barbara
- Santa Cruz
- Santa Margarita
- Simi Valley
- Ventura



C. MRWG STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS; LOGISTICS OF THIS NEWSLETTER

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