

Energy - Docket Optical System

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California Energy Commission

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The metal on the tracks at Haste Street is lifted up making the railway tracks in Berkeley compromised, broken. There have been heavier loads running on the tracks without environmental impact and maintenance. Running crude oil on damaged tracks is dangerous.

This is an Environmental Impact issue. Until there environmental impact adjustments are made this project of transporting crude oil should not occur. There needs to be a study and scrutiny of how many families reside within a quarter mile of the railway where crude oil will be transported.

Whether it is a spill or fire, there is serious environmental impact. An oil spill alone would cause properties in the proximity of the crude transportation to be damaged and a possible domino effect and fire due to Lehigh Hanson's and Pacific Steel having burners on site. There are multiple accelerators nearby from hazardous, flammable substances to the jet fuel line. If the train has a fire and it is accelerated by underground fuel sources like jet fuel and PG&E natural gas, what will happen? The City of Berkeley's fire department found there was no fire hydrant on the other side of the railroad when the Wood Duck caught on fire. In terms of emergency preparedness there are too many hazardous, flammable substances and accelerants in close proximity to peoples residences. There needs to be a simulation of what a low impact train crash of the crude oil in Berkeley would do and how there would be an adequate, fast response that would not result in catastrophic loss of life.

What is the exit plan for families in the case of emergency? Would an amber alert type of warning even arrive to us in time? People had to evacuate during the Wood Duck fire. There is a push for high density housing close to the railway as well, which only heightens the chance of a major emergency should there be a spill or accident. Further, the railway runs alongside the 1-80 and multiple manufacturing plants in Berkeley which have hazardous, flammable substances on site.

The Pacific Steel and Casting plant is right in the line of fire. If the steel mill is going and the crude oil hits the steel factory, what is the impact of that? There is also a jet fuel line and a PG&E gas line alongside the railroad line in Berkeley. Adding crude oil shipments into this area is the making of a catastrophe.

From my view, as the Beneficiary Decendent, of one of the First Five, the Bay Area receives an F for the response to the Chevron fire. A gigantic cloud of smoke came directly over Berkeley. If that was Richmond, what happens when the crude oil hits Berkeley?

The California Energy Commission has an obligation to find an alternate route rather than compromising the community.

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