



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

June 24, 2014

Motion 14155

Proposed No. 2014-0164.2

Sponsors Dembowski and Phillips

1 A MOTION related to: petroleum transport by rail through
2 King County; an updated emergency management plan to
3 specifically address the risk from increased transport of
4 Bakken formation petroleum transport by rail; and railroad
5 company partnership to identify and mitigate risks, and to
6 jointly plan and train for an emergency response.

7 WHEREAS, the region's railway network is fundamental to King County's
8 manufacturing and shipping economy, and is an environmentally responsible method of
9 moving passengers and freight, and

10 WHEREAS, new technologies have resulted in the production of historic amounts
11 of domestic and foreign petroleum, which will significantly increase the volume of
12 petroleum and petroleum products moving by rail through Washington, and

13 WHEREAS, the state of Washington is a destination for petroleum produced in
14 western states, due to its refining capacity and proximity to shipping infrastructure, and

15 WHEREAS, the volume of petroleum-by-rail moving through King County to
16 petroleum refineries in northwestern Washington is expected to triple to over one million
17 barrels per week, and

18 WHEREAS, the primary source of the petroleum anticipated to be transported by
19 rail through King County is from the Bakken formation, which the U.S. Department of

20 Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has warned is
21 more explosive than traditional crude oil, and

22 WHEREAS, rail companies operating in Washington state are committed to the
23 safe transport of commodities and freight, and according to the Federal Railroad
24 Administration in 2013 had one of their safest operating years in history despite growing
25 volume of cargo, and

26 WHEREAS, the rail lines that carry petroleum run through King County's rural
27 and urban cities, our neighborhoods and parks, business and industrial areas, near
28 schools, sporting arenas and stadiums, through our mountain passes, atop our watersheds
29 and along our waterfront, rivers and other natural areas, and

30 WHEREAS, rail traffic also moves beneath downtown Seattle in an underground
31 tunnel with no fire protection systems and limited emergency egress or ventilation, and

32 WHEREAS, as illustrated by the 2013 derailment of an oil carrying train in
33 Quebec and other communities, derailments, spills and fires can have catastrophic
34 impacts on communities, their residents and the environment, and

35 WHEREAS, rail companies operating in Washington state have demonstrated a
36 willingness and desire to partner with local governments and emergency response
37 agencies to prepare for any possible emergency, and

38 WHEREAS, King County is concerned about the threat to life, safety, our
39 regional economy and the environment from potential spills and fires resulting from the
40 transport of petroleum by rail and the need to plan and prepare for a potential emergency,
41 and

42 WHEREAS, the current Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan does not
43 specifically address the unique risks associated with rail transport of petroleum products,
44 including Bakken formation crude;

45 NOW THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

46 A. The council requests that the office of emergency management, in
47 consultation with local governments, emergency response entities and rail companies
48 operating in the state of Washington, review and update the county's Comprehensive
49 Emergency Management Plan to specifically address the risk from increased transport of
50 petroleum by rail, as soon as is practicable, but in no event, later than March 1, 2015.
51 The update shall be named the Annex to the Comprehensive Emergency Management
52 Plan. The development of the annex shall include a needs assessment report, which shall
53 be transmitted to the council by October 31, 2014. The needs assessment report shall
54 assess the county's capability and resources available to respond to an oil train fire. Both
55 the needs assessment and Annex to the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan
56 shall be filed in the form of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the
57 council, who shall retain the original and provide an electronic copy to all
58 councilmembers, the council chief of staff, and the lead staff for the transportation,
59 economy, and environment committee or its successor.

60 B. The council further requests that the office of emergency management explore
61 coordinating and conducting multijurisdiction emergency preparedness training activities
62 in conjunction with the Washington state Department of Ecology, the Washington
63 Military Department Emergency Management Division, the Washington Department of

64 Fish and Wildlife, the United States Coast Guard, local governments, emergency
65 response entities and rail companies operating in the state of Washington.

66 C. The council strongly urges rail companies operating in the state of Washington
67 to share with emergency management agencies and first responders the following, so that
68 the state and local communities can be fully informed of and plan for the risks posed by
69 the transport of petroleum by rail: types of petroleum, petroleum products and petroleum

70 derivatives; transportation routes; the frequency and duration of transfers of petroleum;
71 and efforts and actions to ensure the safe transport of such commodities.
72

Motion 14155 was introduced on 4/21/2014 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 6/23/2014, by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Hague, Ms. Lambert,
Mr. Dunn, Mr. Dembowski and Mr. Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 2 - Mr. Gossett and Mr. McDermott

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None