

No: 14-05
Date: March 5, 2014

RESOLUTION
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF SANDPOINT

TITLE: A RESOLUTION TO PROTECT THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ECONOMIC WELL BEING OF LOCAL CITIZENS AND SANDPOINT'S DRINKING WATER SUPPLY AND NATURAL RESOURCES FROM THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF INCREASED CRUDE OIL RAIL TRAFFIC PASSING THROUGH THE CITY OF SANDPOINT AND ADJACENT TO LAKE PEND OREILLE, RESULTING FROM PROPOSED TERMINAL PROJECTS

WHEREAS: The City of Sandpoint is committed to the protection of its citizens, as well as the natural resources on which the City depends;

WHEREAS: Rail infrastructure in northern Idaho runs adjacent to land resources and Lake Pend Oreille and its aquatic resources, as well as the City's major source of drinking water;

WHEREAS: The City is uniquely situated between mountains and Lake Pend Oreille, where multiple rail lines converge and come into close proximity of the City and the lake;

WHEREAS: Increased train traffic threatens emergency response times and pedestrian safety, can cause traffic circulation issues, and increases the likelihood of derailment;

WHEREAS: Rail transportation through the Sandpoint region includes both ground level and elevated tracks through the City;

WHEREAS: The City Council is concerned about the potential impacts on public safety and economic disruption from a possible derailment and increased rail traffic;

WHEREAS: An increase in the amount of rail traffic threatens property values and has no economic benefit to the City of Sandpoint;

WHEREAS: The Federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a major safety alert on January 2, 2014, declaring oil obtained in the Bakken Shale is more explosive than other oils;

WHEREAS: On July 6, 2013, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Lac Megantic, Quebec, killing over 40 people, destroying thirty buildings, and requiring the evacuation of over 1,000 people;

WHEREAS: On November 8, 2013, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Aliceville, Alabama, causing explosions, fire, and contamination of a wetland environment;

WHEREAS: On December 30, 2013, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Casselton, North Dakota, causing violent explosions and a hazardous plume of smoke;

WHEREAS: On January 7, 2014, a train carrying crude oil derailed in Plaster Rock, New Brunswick, forcing dozens of evacuations;

WHEREAS: On January 20, 2014, a train carrying crude oil derailed on a bridge over the Schuylkill River in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania;

WHEREAS: On December 24, 1991, a train derailed, dropping a freight car 80 feet onto an interstate highway just west of downtown Spokane above Latah Creek; and

WHEREAS: More oil was spilled from trains in 2013 than the previous four decades.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council strongly requests the potential impacts to Sandpoint's public safety, environment, economy, and traffic be studied by the agencies conducting all environmental reviews and requests that Sandpoint be included in any environmental studies or impact statements pertaining to any project that may cause an increase in associated oil rail traffic travelling via Sandpoint.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council supports the creation of clear Federal guidelines for tracking the chemical composition of transported fuels so that local governments, citizens and first responders can better understand and plan for the risks associated with the specific type of fuel flowing through or to their communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council requests the Federal Government immediately implement safety regulations regarding older tank cars, train speeds, and other identified hazards associated with flammable crude oil.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council requests the Emergency response and evacuation plans pertaining to the derailment of an oil train, which have been or will be developed by the Federal Government and/or railroad companies responsible for developing such emergency plans, be reviewed and that the City of Sandpoint be included and participate in any review of such plans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Sandpoint City Council hereby adopts this Resolution.


Carrie Logan, Mayor

ATTEST:


Maree Peck, City Clerk

City Council Members:

		YES	NO	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
1.	Rognstad	Motion	X		
2.	Eddy		X		
3.	Aitken		X		
4.	Williamson	Second	X		
5.	Camp		X		
6.	Fragoso		X		