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OIL TRAIN SAFETY SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD APRIL 27

LAKEWOOD, WASHINGTON – Transportation of oil by rail has greatly increased over the past several years, creating higher potential for safety risks in the region along with economic activity.

To address emerging safety issues concerning oil-by-rail including industry procedures, incident response and the development of regulations, the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region's Center for Regional Disaster Resilience is hosting the Oil Train Safety Symposium from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. April 27 at Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood, Washington. This event is focused on safety and spill response and will not address other concerns related to the movement of oil by train.

The symposium will bring together government and environmental regulators, first responders, leaders in private industry, experts in spill response and state legislators to address oil train safety issues in a regional context. Legislators to speak include Sen. Chuck Winder of Idaho, Reps. Gael Tarleton, Jessyn Farrell, and Luis Moscoso from Washington and Rep. Barbara Smith-Warner of Oregon.

"It is important that we understand all the ramifications for the movement of crude oil by rail. This event will help attendees understand the sources of oil and what is being done to facilitate its safe movement across the Pacific Northwest," said Winder, co-chair of the PNWER Transportation Working Group and member of the Idaho Senate Transportation Committee. "We need to be doing everything possible to prevent accidents and understand the best ways to respond if there is a derailment. I appreciate the broad participation by government and industry."

Topics will include:

- Overview of oil-by-rail in the region: demand, current shipments, roles and responsibilities of companies, railroads, federal, state and provincial governments and tank car manufacturers
- Public safety planning for potential oil-by-rail incidents
- Current and proposed oil train safety regulations
- Ecological spill response: local capabilities and capacities to respond
- Response from public officials and stakeholders

[See the agenda](#)

"This event is focused very specifically on safety and will give a comprehensive update on what is being done by those involved in the shipment of crude oil by rail to mitigate the potential for an accident. First responders from the public and private sectors will also share how they are preparing for an accident or spill. Safety is the number one priority here and I'm excited to be a part of an event that looks at oil train safety in a regional context," said Bruce Agnew, director of the Cascadia Center and co-chair of the PNWER Transportation Working Group.

ABOUT THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST ECONOMIC REGION

The [Pacific NorthWest Economic Region](#) (PNWER) is a public/private non-profit created by statute in 1991. Member jurisdictions include Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and Washington, and the Canadian provinces and territories of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, the Northwest Territories and Yukon. PNWER's mission is to increase the economic well-being and quality of life for all citizens of the region while protecting the environment; identify and promote "models of success;" and serve as a conduit to exchange information.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR REGIONAL DISASTER RESILIENCE

The [Center for Regional Disaster Resilience](#) works on emergency preparedness and disaster resilience projects across the Pacific Northwest from its Seattle office. The CRDR operates under the umbrella of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER), and is committed to working with states, provinces, territories, and communities to create public-private partnerships, develop action plans, and undertake pilot projects and activities to improve regional disaster resilience cooperation.

Interview inquiries can be directed to Mark Stayton.
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