



INSPIRING AMERICANS TO PROTECT WILDLIFE FOR OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE.

Fact Sheet

Oil By Rail: Lake Champlain & Hudson River Region

Explosive crude oil is being transported by trains through eastern New York communities and along the shores of Lake Champlain and the Hudson River at an increasing rate, risking the region's people, fish, wildlife, and economy. With regional oil use dropping and policies being considered to achieve further reductions, this fossil fuel invasion of the Lake Champlain and Hudson River region is all risk and no reward.



National Transportation Safety Board

The Threat

At least 15-30 million gallons of explosive crude oil per week is transported through New York communities and along the shores of Lake Champlain and the Hudson River—only a few miles from Vermont's biggest city and through 33 New York towns, including half a mile from the New York Capitol building in Albany. This new and increasing threat in the Lake Champlain and Hudson River region brings unnecessary dangers to hundreds of thousands of people and wildlife.

Rail cars and infrastructure are disturbingly outdated. Eight of ten tanker cars are deemed inadequate to carry oil safely and rail bridges along the Lake date back to the post-Civil War era. Each tanker carries 30,000 gallons of crude oil (equivalent to 600 full bathtubs) accompanied by up to 100 other cars. Each train carries more than 2 million gallons of volatile oil. Emergency responders—from local to Federal—caution that no response plan can ever be adequate enough to clean-up an oil train derailment along Lake Champlain or the Hudson River. It can take billions of dollars to address an oil spill with toxins still persisting indefinitely.



Learning from Tragedies

Nothing illustrates the extreme risk currently facing communities and natural resources along Lake Champlain more than the tragic July 2013 disaster in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec. On a summer night, an improperly secured train of oil cars rolled unattended into this quaint lakeside town that resembles many towns in Vermont and northern New York. The ensuing crash and explosion

incinerated the downtown, killed 47 people, and released approximately 1.5 million gallons of oil, much of which polluted the lake and nearby river. More than 250 other oil carrying trains have derailed in the U.S. since 2013 while we have seen trains carrying 40 times more oil in 2012 than in 2008 nationally.

Contact:

Ross Saxton

(802) 383-8400

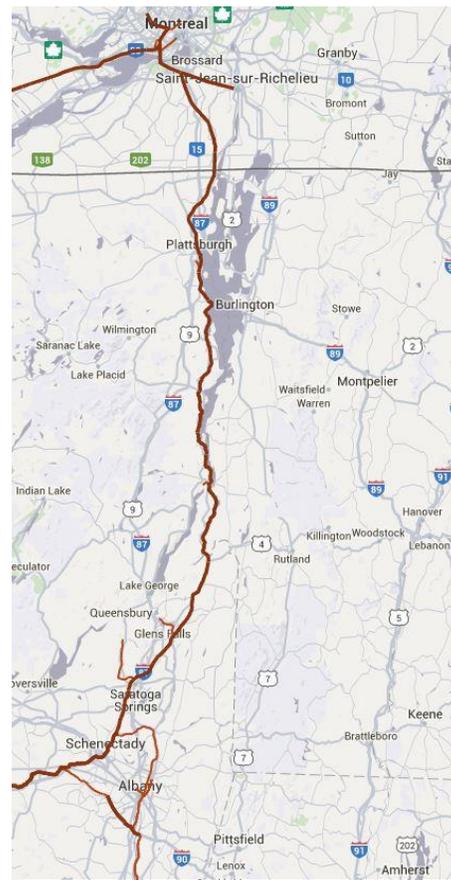
rosssaxton@gmail.com



Fact Sheet

All Risk, No Reward

Oil spills from train derailments often quickly lead to horrific conditions for people, fish, and wildlife. For instance, 63.5% of small mammals impacted by the 2010 Kalamazoo River tar sands oil spill died. Again, an oil by rail derailment in Illinois caused one of the largest fish kills in the state's history. Trains are now transporting tens of millions of gallons of explosive crude oil through dozens of cities and small communities while utilizing decrepit infrastructure and equipment. **It is a matter of when, not if a disaster happens in the Lake Champlain region.**



What's At Stake

- Drinking water for more than a million New Yorkers, Vermonters & Quebec residents.
- \$10 billion in tourism revenue; \$200 million in fishing related revenue in Vermont alone.
- 100+ fish species, 300+ bird species, 20+ amphibian & reptile species, 50+ species of mammals, and countless plants & insects.
- Centuries of culturally-based recreation.
- The region's economy and vibrancy.

Take Action

Protect your community: Join a coalition of diverse organizations, businesses, towns, cities, and community leaders from across Vermont, New York, and Quebec to support a ban on oil by rail transport in the Lake Champlain and Hudson River region.

Email or call Ross Saxton at rosssaxton@gmail.com and (802) 383-8400 to learn more and join the coalition.

Learn more:

Oil by Rail report by NWF

<http://www.nwf.org/News-and-Magazines/Media-Center/Reports/Archive/2015/05-28-2015-Tar-Sands-at-our-doorstep.aspx>
(Alternative link: <http://bit.ly/nwfoilbyrail>)

Lac-Mégantic news coverage, Canadian Broadcasting Network
<http://www.cbc.ca/montreal/features/lac-megantic/>



Duck Photo: Martin Correns, Wiki Commons

Salmon Photo: Jack Rowell for Lake Champlain International