

Proposed Project

Skagit County and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) are overseeing the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) for a project proposed at the Shell Puget Sound Refinery (PSR). The applicant, Equilon Enterprises, LLC (Shell), proposes to construct and operate a rail unloading facility at the Shell PSR located near Anacortes, Washington.

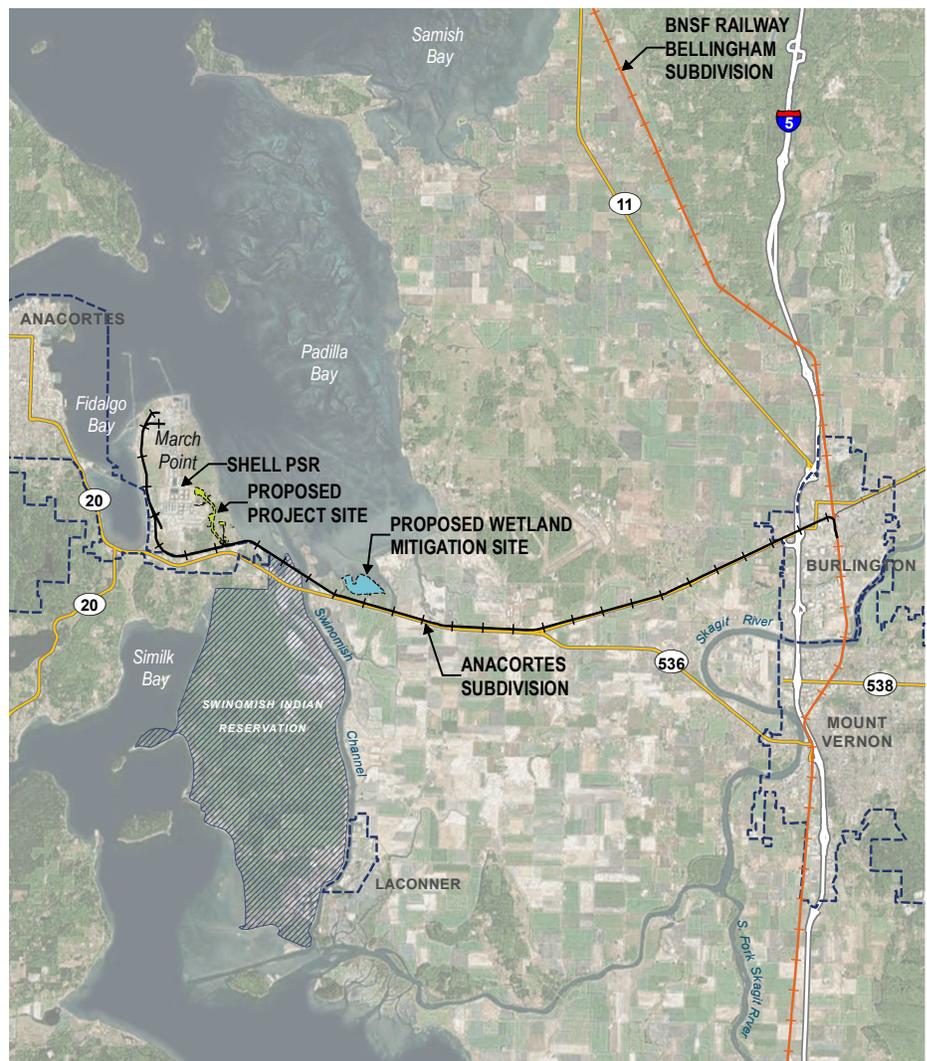
Where is the project?

The Shell PSR is near Anacortes, Washington, in unincorporated Skagit County. The refinery is located on a peninsula called March Point, which is bordered by Fidalgo Bay to the west and Padilla Bay to the east. The Shell PSR is within the Anacortes Urban Growth Area and is designated as a Heavy Manufacturing District by the Anacortes Comprehensive Plan.

BNSF Railway Company (BNSF Railway) operates and maintains the existing rail line that runs adjacent to the Shell PSR. The rail line, known as the Anacortes Subdivision, is approximately 12.5 miles long, extending from the Bellingham Subdivision in Burlington, Washington, to the western side of the March Point peninsula, west of the Tesoro Anacortes Refinery. The Anacortes Subdivision is currently used by Shell, Tesoro, and other neighboring industries.

What is the proposed project?

The proposed project, known as the Shell Anacortes Rail Unloading Facility, includes building a rail spur from the existing adjacent BNSF Railway line onto Shell PSR property to accommodate trains transporting crude oil from the mid-continent area, e.g., the Bakken region of Montana and North Dakota.

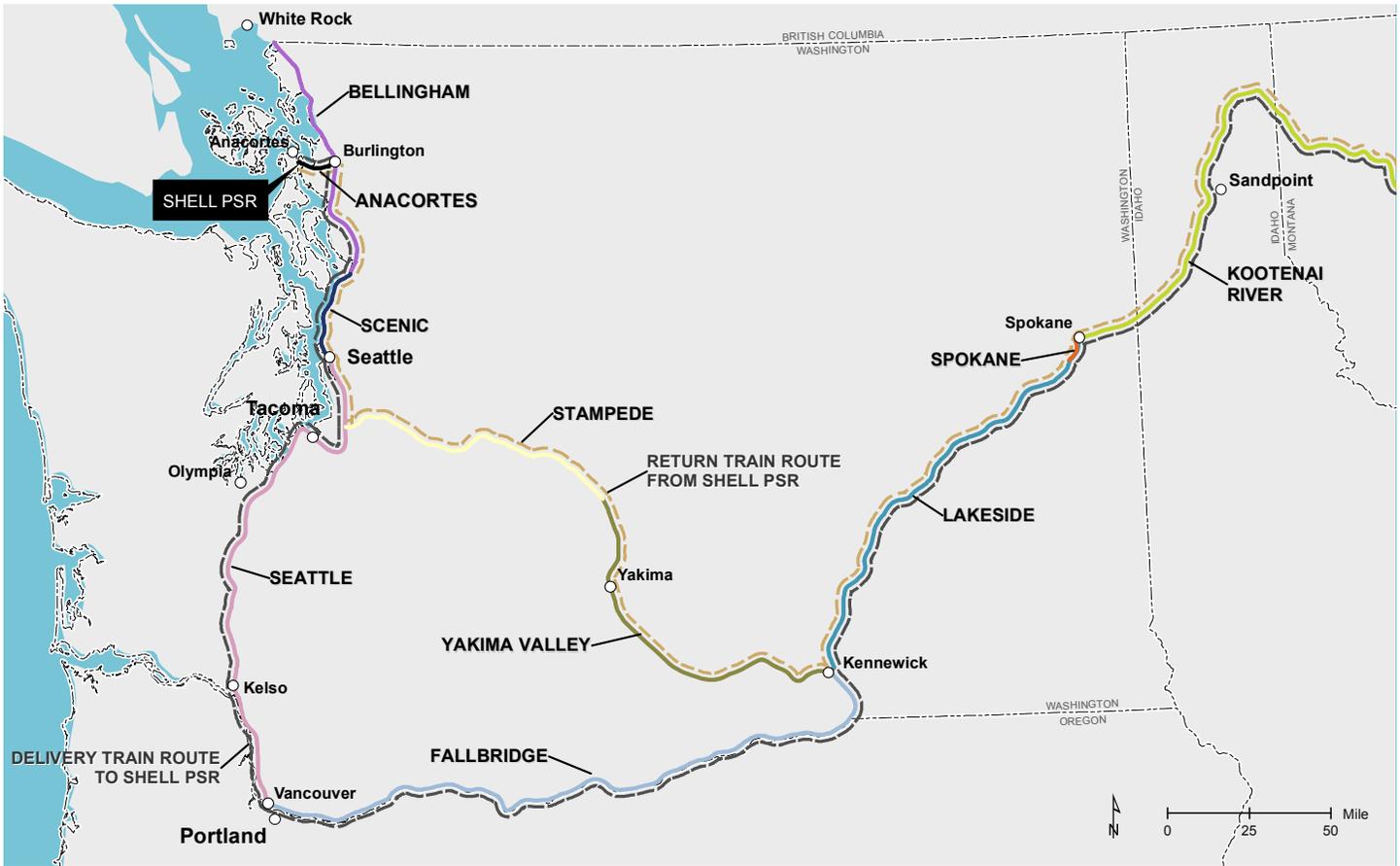


Project Vicinity

Each train arriving at the rail unloading facility would carry approximately 60,000 to 70,000 barrels of crude oil. The facility would receive six trains per week, with each train having up to 102 tank cars.

The proposed project would not result in a change in the refining capacity of the Shell PSR. The refinery currently receives delivery of crude oil primarily via marine vessel from the Alaska North Slope. Overall production from the North Slope is declining and that trend is expected to continue. The crude oil received at the Shell PSR by rail would be used to replace the declining North Slope supply.

In addition to building the rail spur, the project would include installing equipment and facilities to pump oil from rail cars to existing tanks within the refinery, constructing stormwater detention ponds, and installing safety and spill response measures.



Proposed project rail routes through Washington State

Shell proposes mitigation for on-site wetland impacts by restoring a portion of a nearby diked and now defunct tree farm adjacent to Padilla Bay. The activities necessary to implement this wetland mitigation are included as part of the proposed project.

Proposed Project Rail Route

The map above illustrates the rail route that would most likely be used to transport crude oil to the Shell PSR. BNSF Railway would be responsible for delivering the trains to and from Shell PSR. The EIS often references the Anacortes and Bellingham subdivisions, which are indicated above.

All U.S. freight railroads, including the BNSF Railway corridors highlighted above, are private organizations that are responsible for their own maintenance and improvement projects. The railroads are subject to safety and operations regulations from the Federal Railroad Administration, a division of the USDOT. The Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995 (49 USC 101) identifies the Surface Transportation Board as the sole

regulatory jurisdiction of transportation by rail carriers. Rail line construction, operation, and facilities development is regulated at the federal level and preempts state and local authority.



Shell Puget Sound Refinery

LEARN MORE shellraileis.com

To request ADA accommodation or materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at (360) 407-7668, Relay Service 711, or TTY (877) 833-6341. Si necesita información en español sobre el proyecto, por favor comuníquese con Gretchen Newman, (360) 407-6097, preguntas@ecy.wa.gov.

