

## Project Title

Shell Anacortes Rail Unloading Facility

## Project Description

Equilon Enterprises, LLC (Shell) proposes to construct and operate a rail unloading facility at the Shell Puget Sound Refinery (PSR) located on March Point in Anacortes, Washington. The proposed project includes building a rail spur from the existing adjacent BNSF Railway Anacortes Subdivision onto the Shell PSR property to accommodate trains transporting crude oil from the mid-continent area, e.g., the Bakken region of Montana and North Dakota.

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

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

The objective of the Shell Anacortes Rail Unloading Facility is to provide the capability to receive crude oil from the mid-continent area to maintain operations at the Shell PSR at the current level. Two alternatives are evaluated in this draft environmental impact statement (EIS): the no action alternative and the proposed project. Chapter 2 – Proposed Project and Alternatives, of this EIS provides a detailed description of these alternatives.

## Project Proponent

The project proponent is Equilon Enterprises, LLC (Shell). The projected date for implementation of the proposed project is 2017.

## Project Proponent Contact Information

Shell Oil Products  
Puget Sound Refinery  
8505 South Texas Road  
Anacortes, WA 98221

## Co-lead Agencies and Responsible Officials

Skagit County and the Washington State Department of Ecology are the co-lead agencies. The following are the responsible officials for the project:

Dale Pernula, AICP, Planning Director  
Skagit County  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Josh Baldi, Regional Director  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Northwest Regional Office  
3190 160th Avenue SE  
Bellevue, WA 98008

## Authors and Principal Contributors

Chapter 7 – List of Preparers, of this EIS identifies the personnel who contributed materially to the preparation of this EIS.

## Date of Issue and Availability of the Draft EIS

The draft EIS was issued on October 4, 2016. It is available for viewing at several public reading rooms around the state. Chapter 8 – Distribution List, of this EIS provides a list of public reading room locations.

The draft EIS is available for download at the project website: [www.shellraileis.com](http://www.shellraileis.com). To obtain a printed copy or a USB drive with an electronic copy of the draft EIS (for the cost of production and shipping), follow the instructions provided at [www.shellraileis.com](http://www.shellraileis.com) or [www.ecy.wa.gov/services/disclosure/disclose.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/services/disclosure/disclose.html).

To request ADA accommodation for disabilities, call Hannah Waterstrat at Ecology, 360-407-7668. Persons with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. Persons with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Accommodations for limited English proficiency (LEP) populations are available at [www.shellraileis.com](http://www.shellraileis.com). To request materials in alternate formats, follow the instructions at [www.shellraileis.com](http://www.shellraileis.com).

## Comments on the Draft EIS

The public comment period is October 4, 2016 through December 2, 2016. There are multiple ways to provide comments on the draft EIS. All comments are treated equally regardless of the method of submittal.

### By Mail

The public mailing address for comments is:

Shell Rail EIS  
P.O. Box 21206  
Seattle, WA 98111

### By Email

Comments may be submitted by email to: [comment@shellraileis.com](mailto:comment@shellraileis.com).

### Online

Comments may be submitted online at [www.shellraileis.com](http://www.shellraileis.com).

### By Phone

Comments may be submitted by voicemail message at (844) 254-9668.

### In Person

Comments may be submitted verbally and in writing at the public hearings. Written comments may also be submitted in person to Skagit County at:

Skagit County  
Planning and Development Services  
1800 Continental Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

## Dates and Locations of Draft EIS Public Hearings

Verbal and written comments on the draft EIS can be submitted in person at the following public hearings. Doors open 30 minutes before verbal comment begins for sign-in and lottery registration.

November 12, 2016

Doors open at 9:30 am

Verbal comment sessions held from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, and from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Open house and verbal comment session end at 4:00 pm

Anacortes Senior Center

1701 22nd Street

Anacortes, WA 98221

November 16, 2016

Doors open at 1:30 pm

Verbal comment sessions held from 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm, and from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Open house and verbal comment session end at 8:00 pm

Skagit Valley College, McIntyre Hall

2501 E. College Way

Mount Vernon, WA 98273

November 19, 2016

Doors open at 9:30 am

Verbal comment sessions held from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm, and from 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm

Open house and verbal comment session end at 4:00 pm

Washington State Convention Center

705 Pike Street

Seattle, WA 98101

## Projected Date of Issue of Final EIS

The projected date of issue of the final EIS is 2017.

## Agency Action and Projected Date for Action

After completion of the EIS, Shell will need to obtain permits and authorizations to construct and operate the proposed project. Agencies can use the EIS when making permitting decisions.

Chapter 1 – Introduction, of this EIS provides a summary of the anticipated permits and approvals that would be needed to implement the proposed project. The projected date for action is 2017.

## Subsequent Environmental Review

There are no subsequent environmental reviews expected at this time.