



DEPARTMENT OF  
**ECOLOGY**  
State of Washington

# **Crude Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline**

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*Quarterly Report: April 1, 2019 through  
June 30, 2019*

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# **Crude Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline**

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Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program  
Washington State Department of Ecology  
Olympia, Washington

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# Introduction

To enhance crude oil spill preparedness and response in Washington State, on August 24, 2016, Ecology adopted the rule, [Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification](#). The rule establishes reporting standards for facilities that receive crude oil by rail and pipelines that transport crude oil in or through the state.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, the rule identifies reporting standards for Ecology to share information with emergency responders, local governments, tribes, and the public.

This rule is the result of 2015 Legislative direction to provide a better understanding of the changing risk picture for crude oil transported in Washington State as a result of the introduction of crude oil transport by rail and the associated changes in both the volume and properties of crude moving through Washington.

Timely notice of oil movement information is necessary for emergency responders and planners to effectively prepare for and respond to oil spills and other incidents associated with transporting crude oil by rail and pipeline. Providing adequate information about the dates, routes, and properties of crude oil can help protect people living and working near railroads and pipelines, the economy, and environmental resources of Washington State.

Ecology is required to publish information collected under the rule to its website on a quarterly basis. The quarterly reports provide:

- Aggregated information on crude oil transported by rail to facilities in Washington.
- Information about crude oil movement by pipeline in or through the state.
- Reported spills during transport and delivery of crude by rail and pipeline.
- Volume of crude oil transported by vessel.

The reports are intended to inform the public about the nature of crude oil movement through their communities.

The reporting period for this quarterly report is April 01, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

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<sup>1</sup> Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

# Crude Oil by Rail Summary

Movement of crude oil by rail in Washington State began in 2012 and has continued to increase since that time. Rail routes transporting crude oil enter the state from Idaho near Spokane and from British Columbia near Bellingham, and Ecology continues to monitor other potential routes. Large segments of the rail routes travel along the I-5 corridor, and cross or run next to major waterways, including the Columbia River and Puget Sound. (See Appendix A for a map of railroad routes in the state.)

Capturing information on the properties of crude oil, the volume transported, and the routes used to transport it allows for proper planning, placement of resources, and opportunities to provide detailed information to responders in the event of a spill, ensuring a more effective overall response. The rule directs Ecology to gather this information by requiring facilities receiving crude oil by rail to report all scheduled crude oil deliveries to be received by the facility each week for the succeeding seven-day period. Facilities enter this information into Ecology's Advance Notice of Transfer (ANT) database.

Information reported by facilities on scheduled crude oil deliveries includes the region of origin of crude oil, the railroad route taken to the facility within the state (if known), scheduled time and volume in barrels (bbls) of the delivery, and gravity of the oil. Ecology uses the standard American Petroleum Institute (API) gravity ranges to define the crude type in the ANT database. (See Appendix B for the API gravity definition and crude type ranges.)

Ecology is required to aggregate the information provided on a statewide basis by route, week, and type of crude oil. Aggregate information from the ANT database is provided in [Table 1](#) for the period April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, representing the 2nd Quarter of 2019. Each week is numbered by calendar week and is aggregated by route and type of crude. The information provided includes:

- Total weekly volume in barrels (bbls) of crude oil transported by rail
- Route
- Region of origin
- Crude type
- Route volume
- Estimated number of railcars per route delivering crude oil (assumes each car holds 680 bbls)

Fourteen calendar weeks are reported in the 2nd Quarter of 2019 starting at calendar week 14 and ending at calendar week 27.



**Table 1: Crude oil movement by rail****Calendar week 14**

Week 14 consists of only six days of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period.

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	139,684	205
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	426,000	626
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	116,606	171
5	Alberta	Light Crude	20,800	30
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,093,090</b>	<b>1,605</b>

**Calendar week 15**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	137,865	202
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	325,000	477
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	568,000	835
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	58,770	86
5	Alberta	Light Crude	6,500	9
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,096,135</b>	<b>1,609</b>

**Calendar week 16**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	129,186	189
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	569,000	836
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	57,084	83
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,145,270</b>	<b>1,681</b>

**Calendar week 17**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	190,994	280
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	455,000	669
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	639,500	940
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Medium Crude	57,154	84
3	Alberta	Medium Crude	56,874	83
5	Alberta	Light Crude	14,300	21
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,413,822</b>	<b>2,077</b>

**Calendar week 18**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	269,314	396
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	833,000	1,225
5	Alberta	Light Crude	7,800	11
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,500,114</b>	<b>2,205</b>

#### Calendar week 19

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	189,712	278
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	641,500	943
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Medium Crude	114,979	169
5	Alberta	Light Crude	11,460	16
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,347,651</b>	<b>1,979</b>

#### Calendar week 20

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	191,718	281
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	763,019	1,122
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	57,311	84
5	Alberta	Light Crude	10,710	15
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,412,758</b>	<b>2,075</b>

#### Calendar week 21

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	257,228	378
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	455,000	669
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	628,026	923
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	56,937	83
5	Alberta	Light Crude	8,190	12
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,405,381</b>	<b>2,065</b>

#### Calendar week 22

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	193,368	284
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	690,650	1,015
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Medium Crude	56,735	83
4, 5	Alberta	Medium Crude	57,342	84
5	Alberta	Light Crude	7,560	11
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,395,655</b>	<b>2,050</b>

**Calendar week 23**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	135,633	199
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	455,000	669
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	627,007	922
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	115,331	169
5	Alberta	Light Crude	5,670	8
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,338,641</b>	<b>1,967</b>

**Calendar week 24**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	201,369	296
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	390,000	573
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	617,221	907
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	58,183	85
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,266,773</b>	<b>1,861</b>

**Calendar week 25**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	136,616	200
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	455,000	669
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	617,410	907
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	57,049	83
5	Alberta	Light Crude	11,970	17
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,278,045</b>	<b>1,876</b>

**Calendar week 26**

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Crude	342,260	503
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	455,000	669
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	700,488	1,030
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	58,097	85
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>1,555,845</b>	<b>2,287</b>

**Calendar week 27**

Week 27 consists of only one day of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period.

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3, 4	North Dakota	Light Crude	65,000	95
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Crude	71,849	105
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Crude	59,103	86
<b>Weekly totals</b>			<b>195,952</b>	<b>286</b>

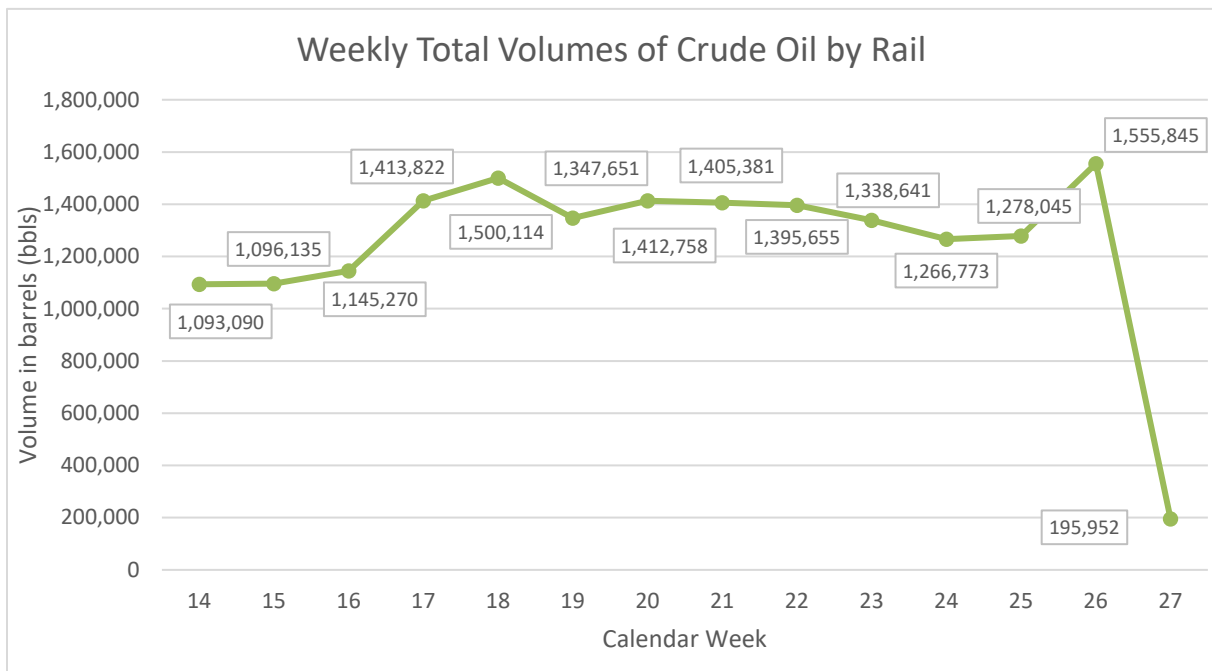
*Note:* The data provided in Table 1 was reported to Ecology by the receiving facility into the ANT database as required by Chapter 173-185 WAC. Ecology cannot confirm the data or verify its accuracy.

**2019 Quarter 2 total volume (bbls): 17,445,132**

A summary of the data shows:

- Two regions of origin were reported: North Dakota, Alberta.
- Three types of crude oil were reported: heavy, light, and medium.
- Routes 1A, 1B, and 2 through 5 were used to transport crude by rail.
- The total volume of crude oil transported by rail during the quarter was 17,445,132 barrels (732,695,554 gallons).
- The average weekly volume of crude oil transported by rail was 1,341,933 barrels (56,361,196 gallons).
- The total number of rail cars moving crude oil by rail was 25,623 cars.
- The average number of rail cars per week moving crude oil by rail was 1,971 cars.
- 94.05 percent of crude oil transported by rail was light crude, 3.98 percent was heavy crude, and 1.97 percent was medium crude.
- North Dakota was the region of origin for 93.45 percent of crude oil transported by rail. Alberta was the region of origin for 6.55 percent of crude oil transported by rail.

Figure 1 shows the weekly total volumes of crude transported by rail for each calendar week in the 2nd Quarter of 2019.



*Note: Week 14 consists of only six days of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period. Week 27 consists of only one day of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period.*

**Figure 1: Weekly total volumes of crude oil by rail for the 2nd Quarter of 2019**

The lowest weekly volume was 1,096,135 barrels (46,037,670 gallons) in Week 15. The highest weekly volume of crude transported by rail was 1,555,845 barrels (65,345,490 gallons) in Week 26.



## Crude Oil by Pipeline Summary

Pipelines exist inland and may be located near waterbodies and populated areas. Knowing the types and quantities of crude oil transported through pipelines in Washington State helps Ecology properly plan for and execute a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response to a spill.

Under the rule, transmission pipelines that transport crude oil in or through the state must provide Ecology biannual notice of all crude oil transported in or through the state.<sup>2</sup> Biannual notice must be submitted each year by July 31 for the period from January 1 through June 30, and by January 31 for the period from July 1 through December 31. Biannual notice provided by pipelines includes contact information for the pipeline and the total volume of crude oil transported in or through the state during the reporting period by state or province of origin.

The most recent biannual notices from pipelines covered the period from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. [Table 2](#) below provides the total volume of crude oil transported in or through the state by pipelines during this period.

**Table 2: Crude oil movement by pipeline**

Period	State or Province of Origin	Volume (bbls)
July 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018	Alberta	25,909,914

*Note: The data provided in Table 2 was reported to Ecology by the pipelines transporting crude oil in or through the state, as required by Chapter 173-185 WAC. Ecology cannot confirm the data or verify its accuracy.*

The next biannual notices from pipelines will cover the period from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019 and must be submitted to Ecology by July 31, 2019.

## Crude Oil Spills – Rail and Pipeline

Oil spills can have significant impacts to the public, environment, and economy. Ecology strives to protect Washington’s environment, economy, and public health and safety through a comprehensive spill prevention, preparedness, and response program.

The rule directs Ecology to provide the number and volume of spills to the waters of the state during the transport and delivery of crude oil by rail and pipeline in each quarterly report.<sup>3</sup> For the period of April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, zero crude oil spills to the environment by rail or pipeline were reported. In the event there are spills to report in the future, Ecology will provide this information and include the date of the spill, the county where the spill occurred, the source, material, and volume of the spill.

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<sup>2</sup> Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

<sup>3</sup> Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

# Crude Oil Movement by Vessel

In 2006, the state adopted rules for advance notice of oil transfers for vessels and facilities. Ecology has been receiving advance notice of transfer data for all transfers to or from vessels in Washington State since that time.

In order to provide a full picture of crude oil movement in Washington State, a summary of crude oil movement by vessel is provided below, which is in addition to the requirement for this quarterly report as described in the rule.<sup>4</sup>

Table 3 below provides the total volume of crude oil in barrels of inbound and outbound vessel transfers for the period of April 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019. Inbound vessel transfers refers to crude oil movement from vessels to facilities, while outbound vessel transfers refers to crude oil movement from facilities to vessels.

**Table 3: Crude oil movement by vessel, April – June 2019**

Vessel transfers	Volume (bbls)	Volume (gallons)
Inbound	17,021,377	714,897,832
Outbound	247,854	10,409,850
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,269,231</b>	<b>725,307,682</b>

*Note: The data provided in Table 3 was reported to Ecology into the ANT database as required by Chapter 173-180 WAC and Chapter 173-184 WAC. Ecology cannot confirm the data or verify its accuracy.*

A summary of vessel transfer data for the quarter shows:

- There were 68 total vessel transfers of crude oil (inbound or outbound).
- The average volume of crude oil transferred to or from vessels per week was 1,328,402 barrels (55,792,899 gallons).

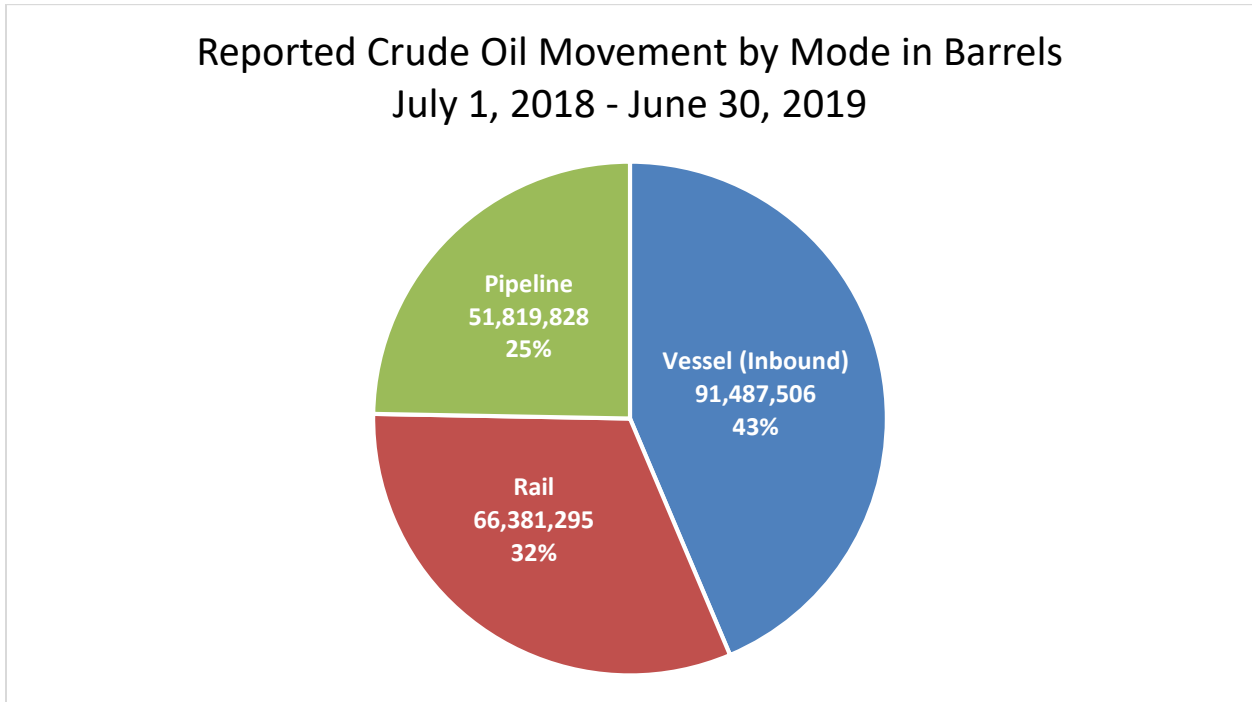
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<sup>4</sup> Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

# An Overview of Crude Oil Movement in Washington

A broad view of crude oil movement in Washington State can be seen when comparing the movement of crude oil transported into the state by vessel, rail, and pipeline.

Figure 3 shows the estimated percentage of crude oil transported by vessel (inbound only), rail, and pipeline for the last four quarters, covering the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.<sup>5</sup>



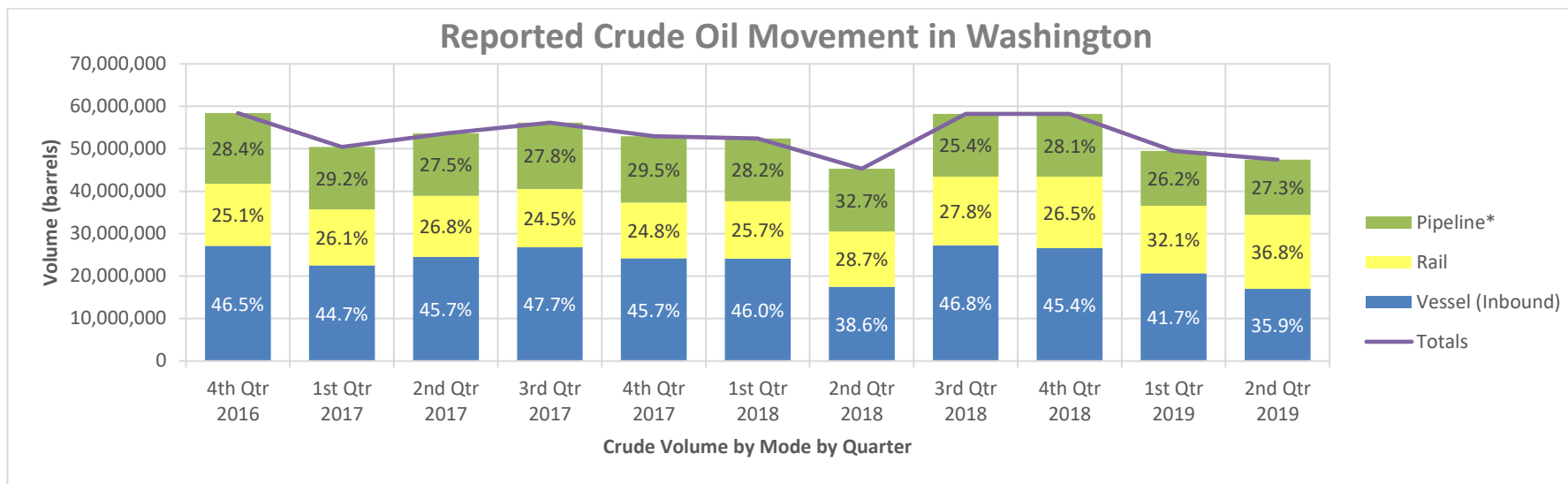
**Figure 3: 12-month crude oil movement by mode**

Between July 1, 2018 and June 30, 2019, vessels were responsible for 43 percent of reported crude oil movement into the state, rail was responsible for 32 percent, and pipeline for 25 percent.

<sup>5</sup> The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. The next biannual notices submitted by pipelines will cover the period from January 1, 2019 through June 30, 2019, and must be submitted to Ecology by July 31, 2019.



Figure 4 shows crude oil movement, by mode, for each quarter that rail and pipeline crude oil data has been collected, covering the period of October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018.



Mode	4th Qtr 2016	1st Qtr 2017	2nd Qtr 2017	3rd Qtr 2017	4th Qtr 2017	1st Qtr 2018	2nd Qtr 2018	3rd Qtr 2018	4th Qtr 2018	1st Qtr 2019	2nd Qtr 2019
Vessel (Inbound)	46.5%	44.7%	45.7%	47.7%	45.7%	46.0%	38.6%	46.8%	45.4%	45.1%	35.9%
Rail	25.1%	26.1%	26.8%	24.5%	24.8%	25.7%	28.7%	27.8%	26.5%	27.0%	36.8%
Pipeline	28.4%	29.2%	27.5%	27.8%	29.5%	28.2%	32.7%	25.4%	28.1%	27.9%	27.3%
Total %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

*\*Note: The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2018, through December 31, 2018. For some quarters, Ecology estimated crude oil movement by pipeline for the period based on data provided in previous biannual notices.*

**Figure 4: Quarterly crude oil movement by mode, October 2016 – June 2019**

Ecology will continue to receive information about crude oil movement and use the data to summarize changes over time.

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# Appendix A – Washington Railroad Routes

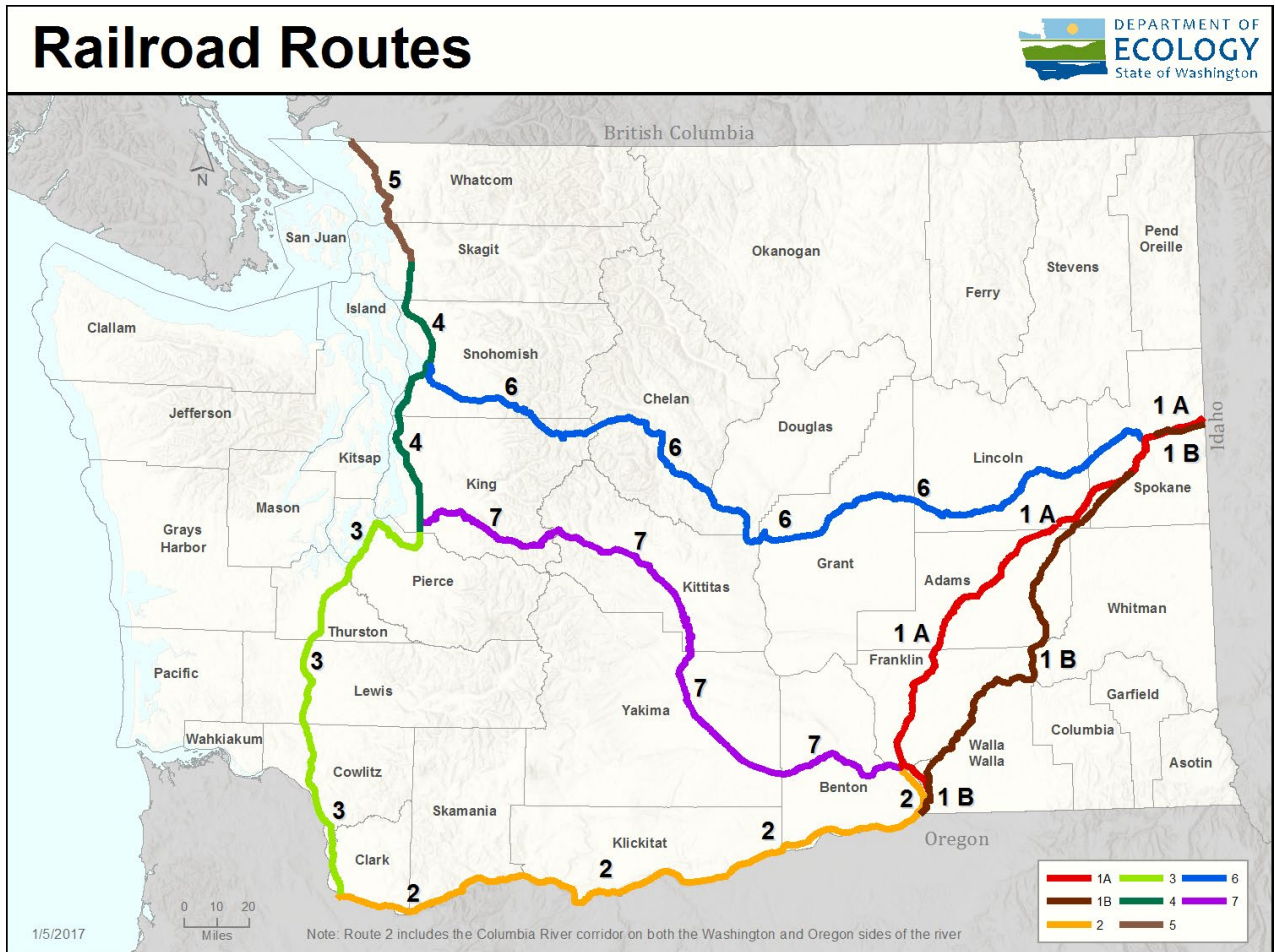


Figure 5: Railroad routes in Washington

## Appendix B – API Gravity and Crude Oil Types

Information reported by facilities on scheduled crude oil deliveries includes the gravity of the oil. Ecology uses the standard American Petroleum Institute gravity (API gravity) ranges to define the crude type in the ANT database.

API gravity is the measure of the density of petroleum liquid in relation to the density of water and is used to classify oils as light, medium, heavy, and extra heavy. The lower the API gravity, the more likely it is to sink in water. Crude type by API gravity is shown in the table below.

**Table 4: Crude type by API gravity**

Crude Type	API Gravity Range
Light Crude	31.2-50 API
Medium Crude	22.3-31.1 API
Heavy Crude	10-22.2 API
Extra Heavy Crude	0-9.9 API