



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Crude Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline

*Quarterly Report: January 1, 2022, through
March 31, 2022*

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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.¹ 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 January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022.

¹ 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 the gravity, sulfur content, and vapor pressure 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 and sulfur content definitions 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 January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022, representing the 1st Quarter of 2022. 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 (combining API gravity range and sulfur content)
- Route volume
- Estimated number of railcars per route delivering crude oil (assumes each car holds 680 bbls)

Fourteen calendar weeks are reported in the 1st Quarter of 2022 starting at calendar week 1 and ending at calendar week 14.

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

Week 1 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, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	71,034	104
Weekly totals			71,034	104

Calendar week 2

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	138,603	203
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	210,007	308
1B, 2, 3	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	121,485	178
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	53,690	78
Weekly totals			523,785	767

Calendar week 3

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	257,966	379
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	215,965	317
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	183,671	270
Weekly totals			657,602	966

Calendar week 4

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	68,913	101
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	353,234	519
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	243,371	357
Weekly totals			665,518	977

Calendar week 5

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	70,491	103
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	210,923	310
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	61,807	90
Weekly totals			343,221	503

Calendar week 6

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	60,963	89
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	276,143	406
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	59,038	86
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	184,530	271
Weekly totals			580,674	852

Calendar week 7

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	132,555	194
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	207,925	305
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	59,214	87
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	64,995	95
Weekly totals			464,689	681

Calendar week 8

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	499,933	735
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	188,598	277
Weekly totals			688,531	1,012

Calendar week 9

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	132,199	194
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	348,520	512
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	118,241	173
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	195,269	287
Weekly totals			794,229	1,166

Calendar week 10

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	71,456	105
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	484,836	712
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	59,058	86
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	191,153	281
Weekly totals			806,503	1,184

Calendar week 11

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	195,246	287
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	285,544	419
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	58,954	86
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	190,422	280
Weekly totals			730,166	1,072

Calendar week 12

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	142,405	209
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	356,141	523
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	126,575	186
Weekly totals			625,121	918

Calendar week 13

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	202,476	297
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	280,312	412
4, 5	Alberta	Heavy Sour Crude	59,291	87
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	322,869	474
Weekly totals			864,948	1,270

Calendar week 14

Week 14 consists of only five 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 Sweet Crude	71,225	104
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	287,444	422
4, 5	British Columbia	Medium Sour Crude	59,314	87
5	Alberta	Light Sweet Crude	62,841	92
Weekly totals			480,824	705

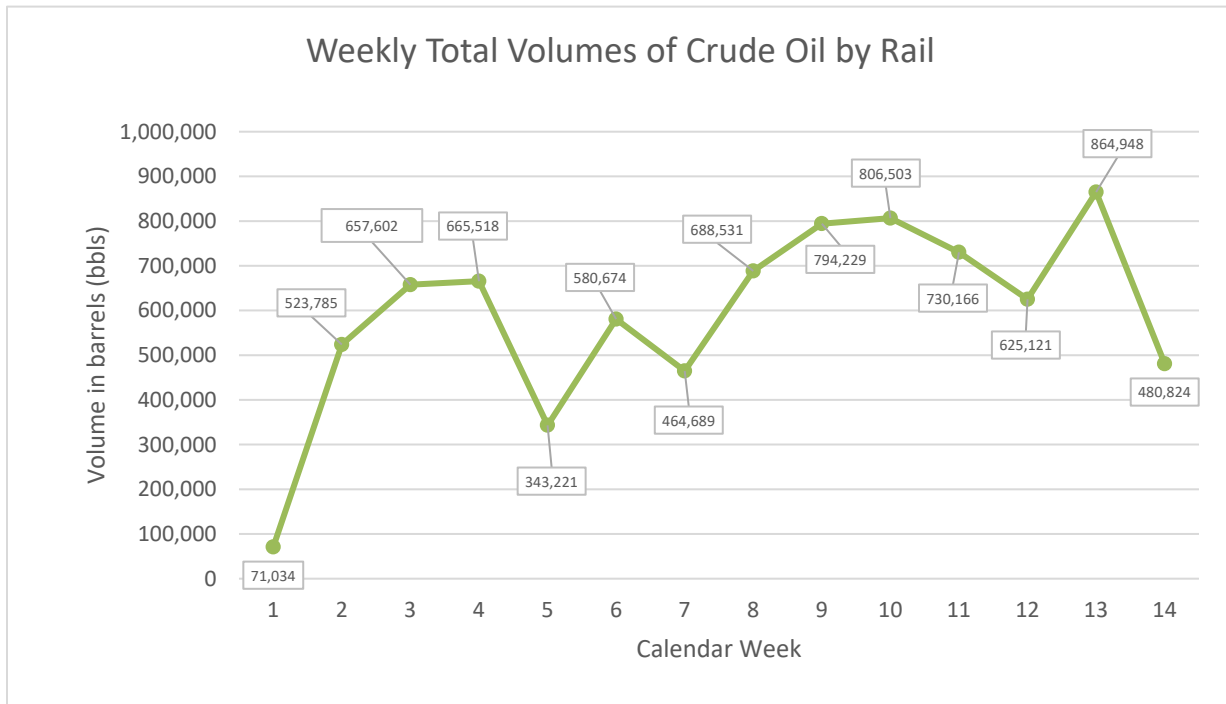
Note: The data provided in Table 1 was reported to Ecology by the receiving facility into the ANT database as required by Chapter 173-185 WAC. Ecology cannot confirm the data or verify its accuracy.

2022 Quarter 1 total volume (bbls): 8,296,845

A summary of the data shows:

- Three regions of origin were reported: North Dakota, Alberta, and British Columbia.
- Three types of crude oil were reported: heavy, medium, and light.
- 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 8,296,845 barrels (348,467,490 gallons).
- The average weekly volume of crude oil transported by rail was 645,310 barrels (27,103,027 gallons).
- The total number of rail cars moving crude oil by rail was 12,177 cars.
- The average number of rail cars per week moving crude oil by rail was 947 cars.
- 92.09 percent of crude oil transported by rail was light crude.
0.71 percent of crude oil transported by rail was medium crude.
7.20 percent of crude rail transported by rail was heavy crude.
- 92.09 percent of crude oil transported by rail was sweet crude.
7.91 percent of crude oil transported by rail was sour crude.
- North Dakota was the region of origin for 67.89 percent of crude oil transported by rail.
Alberta was the region of origin for 31.40 percent of crude oil transported by rail. British Columbia was the region of origin for 0.71 percent of crude oil transported by rail.
- Crude oil originating in North Dakota had reported vapor pressure ranging from 3.8 to 11.5 pounds per square inch.
Crude oil originating in Alberta had reported vapor pressure ranging from 9.0 to 12.4 pounds per square inch.
Crude oil originating in British Columbia had a reported vapor pressure of 10.5 pounds per square inch.

Figure 1 shows the weekly total volumes of crude transported by rail for each calendar week in the 1st Quarter of 2022.



Note: Week 1 consists of only 1 days of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period. Week 14 consists of only 5 days of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period.

Figure 1: Weekly total volumes of crude oil by rail for the 1st Quarter of 2022

The lowest weekly volume was 343,221 barrels (14,415,282 gallons) in Week 5. The highest weekly volume of crude transported by rail was 864,948 barrels (36,327,816 gallons) in Week 13.

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.² 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, 2021, through December 31, 2021. 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/Province of Origin	Mean API Gravity & Range	Sulfur Content	Volume (bbls)
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	Alberta	35.4 (Light)	Sweet (≤0.5%)	17,200,878
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	Alberta	35.8 (Light)	Sour (>0.5%)	7,262,792
July 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021	Alberta	21.0 (Heavy)	Sour (>0.5%)	5,945,932

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, 2023, through June 30, 2023 and must be submitted to Ecology by July 31, 2023.

² Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

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.³ For the period of January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022, 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.

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.⁴

Table 3 below provides the total volume of crude oil in barrels of inbound and outbound vessel transfers for the period of January 1, 2022, through March 31, 2022. 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

Vessel transfers	Volume (bbls)	Volume (gallons)
Inbound	25,670,611	1,078,165,662
Outbound	2,044,000	85,848,000
Total	27,714,611	1,164,013,662

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 67 total vessel transfers of crude oil (inbound or outbound).
- The average volume of crude oil transferred to or from vessels per week was 2,155,581 barrels (90,534,396 gallons).

³ Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

⁴ 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 April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022.⁵

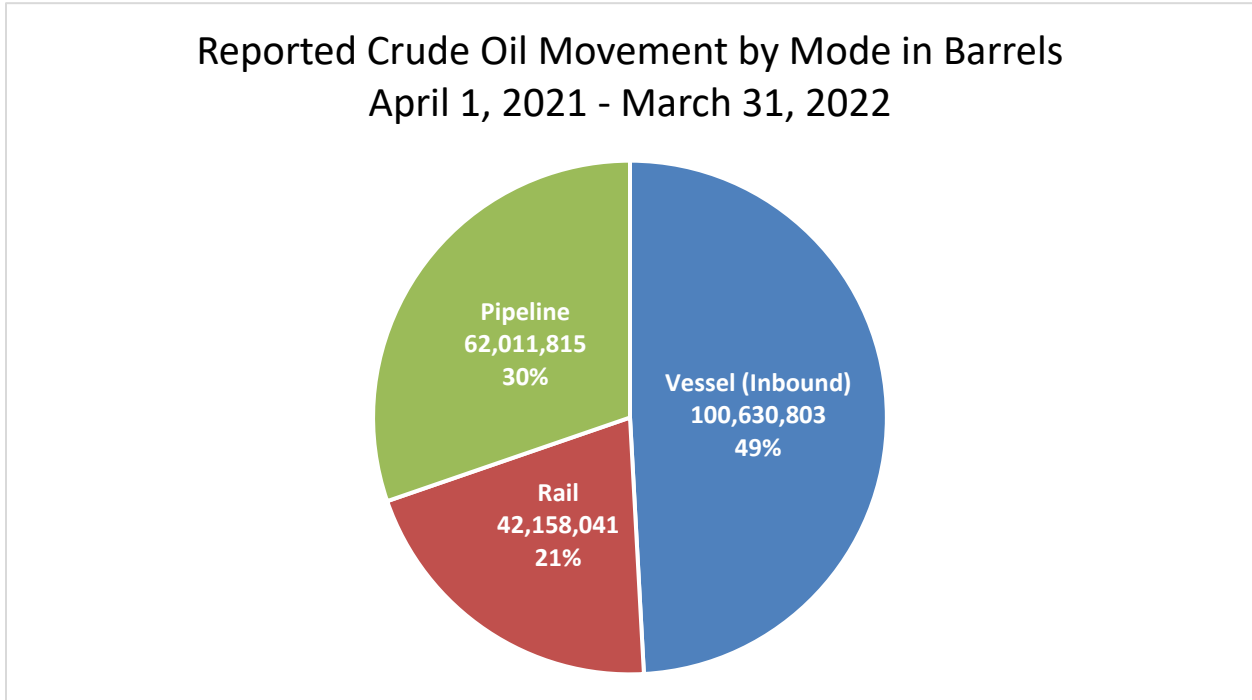
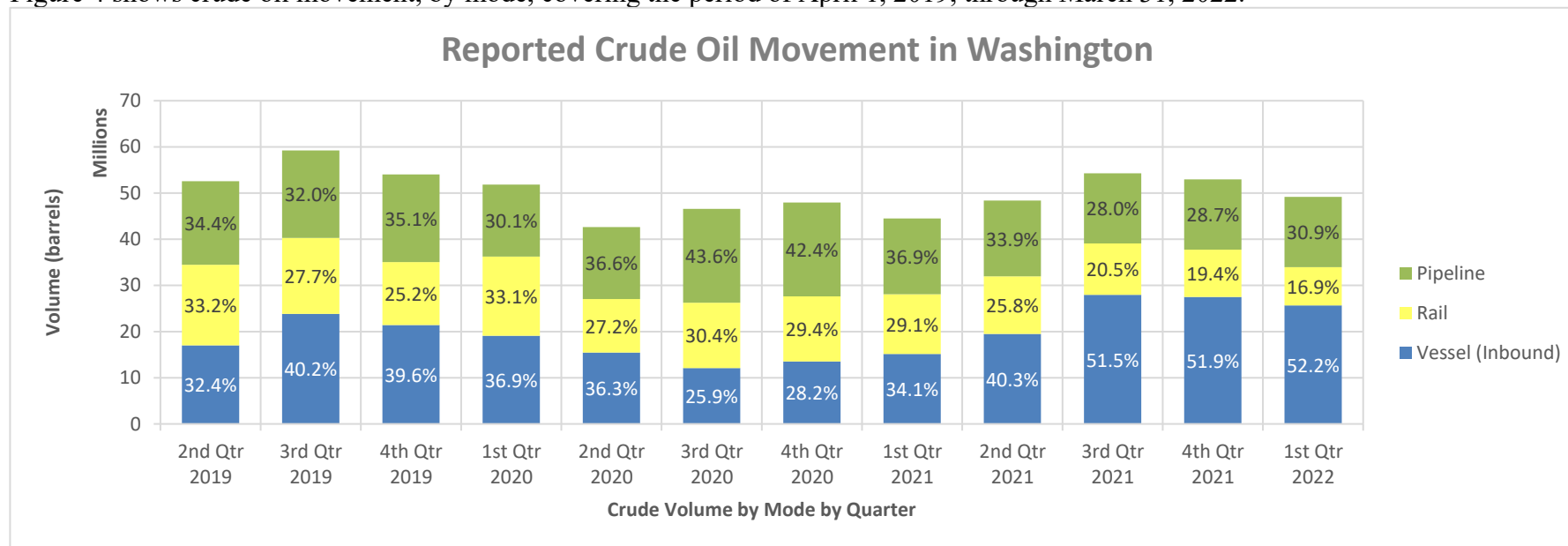


Figure 3: 12-month crude oil movement by mode

Between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022, vessels were responsible for 49 percent of reported crude oil movement into the state, rail was responsible for 21 percent, and pipeline for 30 percent.

⁵ The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021. The next biannual notices submitted by pipelines will cover the period from January 1, 2023, through June 30, 2023, and must be submitted to Ecology by July 31, 2023.

Figure 4 shows crude oil movement, by mode, covering the period of April 1, 2019, through March 31, 2022.



Mode	2 nd Qtr 2019	3 rd Qtr 2019	4 th Qtr 2019	1 st Qtr 2020	2 nd Qtr 2020	3 rd Qtr 2020	4 th Qtr 2020	1 st Qtr 2021	2 nd Qtr 2021	3 rd Qtr 2021	4 th Qtr 2021	1 st Qtr 2022
Vessel (Inbound)	32.4%	40.2%	39.6%	36.9%	36.3%	25.9%	28.2%	34.1%	40.3%	51.5%	51.9%	52.2%
Rail	33.2%	27.7%	25.2%	33.1%	27.2%	30.4%	29.4%	29.1%	25.8%	20.5%	19.4%	16.9%
Pipeline	34.4%	32.0%	35.1%	30.1%	36.6%	43.6%	42.4%	36.9%	33.9%	28.0%	28.7%	30.9%

**Note: The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2021, through December 31, 2021. For more recent quarters, Ecology estimated crude oil movement by pipeline for the period based on data provided in that previous biannual notice.*

Figure 4: Quarterly crude oil movement by mode, April 2019 – March 2022

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

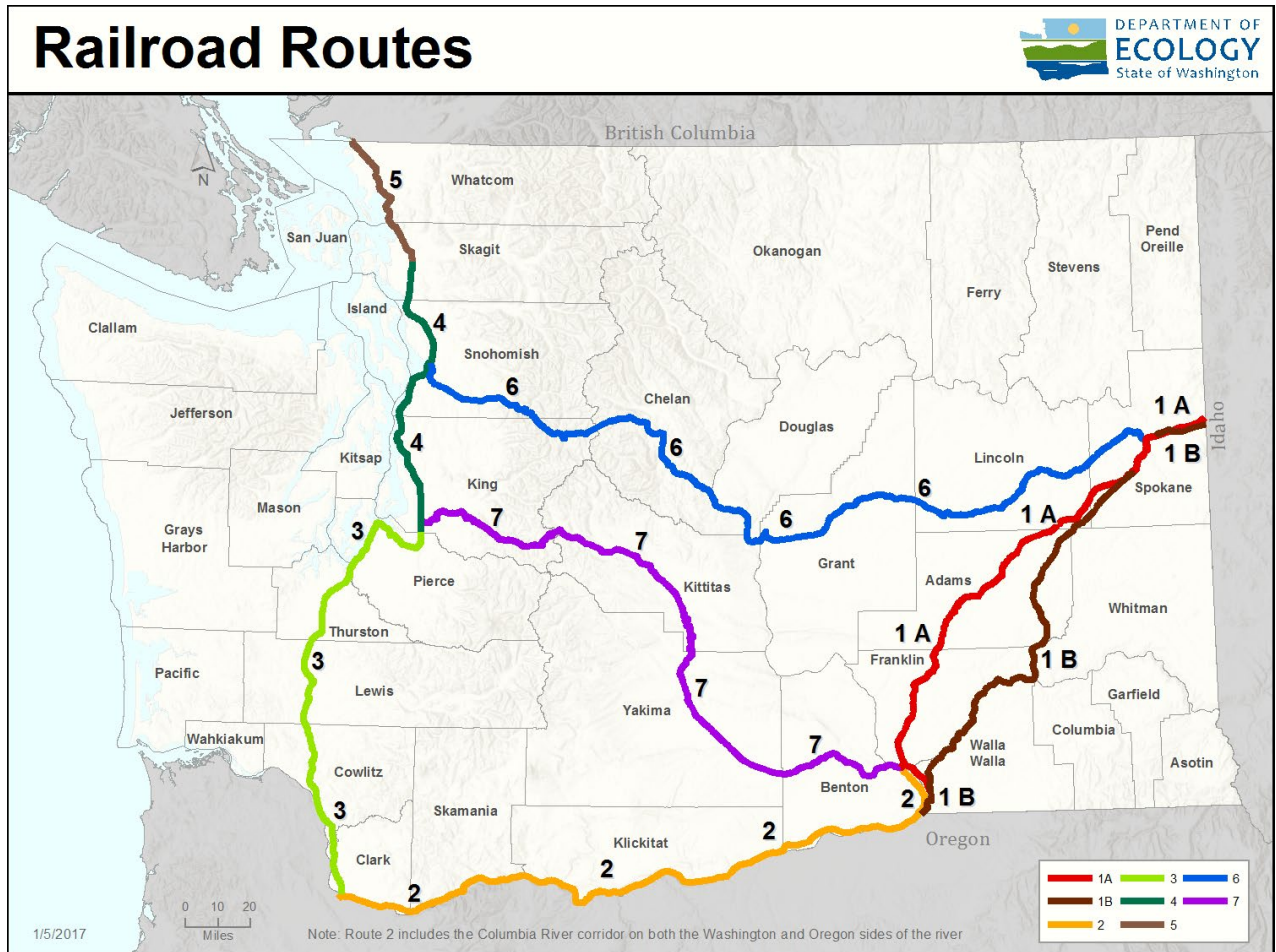


Figure 5: Railroad routes in Washington

Appendix B – API Gravity and Crude Oil Types

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

Sulfur content is measured as the percent of sulfur, by weight, of the crude oil. Oil is categorized by its sulfur content as either sweet or sour. Sour crudes contain greater than 0.5% sulfur. Sweet crudes have less than or equal to 0.5% sulfur.

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