



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Crude Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline

*Quarterly Report: January 1, 2024, through
March 31, 2024*

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

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Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
List of Figures and Tables.....	ii
Introduction.....	1
Crude Oil by Rail Summary	2
Crude Oil by Pipeline Summary	8
Crude Oil Spills – Rail and Pipeline.....	9
Crude Oil Movement by Vessel.....	9
An Overview of Crude Oil Movement in Washington.....	11
Contact Information	13
Appendix A – Washington Railroad Routes.....	14
Appendix B – API Gravity and Crude Oil Types	15

List of Figures and Tables

Page

Figures

Figure 1: Weekly total volumes of crude oil by rail for the 1 st Quarter of 2024	6
Figure 2: Crude oil movement by route for the 1 st Quarter of 2024	7
Figure 3: 12-month crude oil movement by mode.....	11
Figure 4: Quarterly crude oil movement by mode, April 2021 – March 2024.....	12
Figure 5: Railroad routes in Washington.....	14

Tables

Table 1: Crude oil movement by rail	3
Table 2: Crude oil movement by pipeline.....	8
Table 3: Crude oil movement by vessel.....	10
Table 4: Inbound – vessel crude oil by region.....	10
Table 5: Crude type by API gravity	15

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, 2024, through March 31, 2024.

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, 2024, through March 31, 2024, representing the 1st Quarter of 2024. 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 2024 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 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 Sweet Crude	70,748	104
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	408,863	601
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	120,341	176
5	Alberta	Medium Sweet Crude	54,792	80
Weekly totals			654,744	961

Calendar week 2

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	141,032	207
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	418,649	615
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,265	88
Weekly totals			619,946	910

Calendar week 3

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	65,384	96
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	356,305	523
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,400	88
5	Alberta	Medium Sweet Crude	53,578	78
Weekly totals			535,667	785

Calendar week 4

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	58,545	86
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	187,540	275
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,288	88
Weekly totals			306,373	449

Calendar week 5

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	69,095	101
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	547,011	804
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	120,655	177
Weekly totals			736,761	1,082

Calendar week 6

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	197,672	290
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	326,620	480
Weekly totals			524,292	770

Calendar week 7

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sour Crude	67,136	98
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	131,122	192
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	264,391	388
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	179,835	264
Weekly totals			642,484	942

Calendar week 8

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	140,239	206
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	465,877	685
Weekly totals			606,116	891

Calendar week 9

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	198,896	292
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	349,270	513
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	59,606	87
Weekly totals			607,772	892

Calendar week 10

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	65,176	95
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	466,032	685
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,216	88
Weekly totals			591,424	868

Calendar week 11

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	260,872	383
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	539,445	793
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,350	88
Weekly totals			860,667	1,264

Calendar week 12

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	198,167	291
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	527,107	775
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,269	88
Weekly totals			785,543	1,154

Calendar week 13

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	134,096	197
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	423,105	622
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,338	88
Weekly totals			617,539	907

Calendar week 14

Week 14 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	123,914	182
Weekly totals			123,914	182

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.

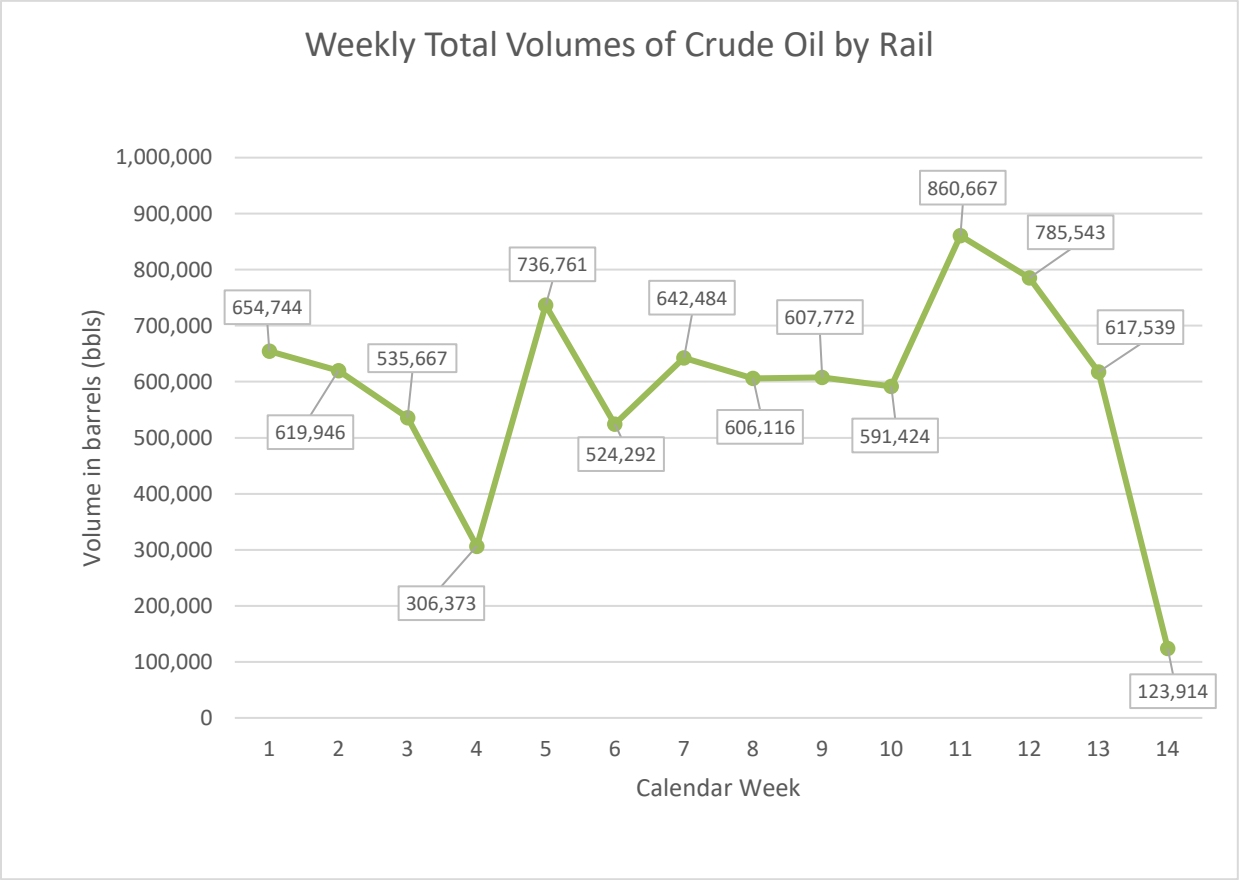
2024 Quarter 1 total volume (bbls): 8,213,242

A summary of the data shows:

- Three regions of origin were reported: North Dakota, British Columbia, and Alberta.
- Three types of crude oil were reported: light, medium, and heavy.
- Routes 1A and 2 through 5 were used to transport crude by rail.
- The total volume of crude oil transported by rail during the quarter was 8,213,242 barrels (344,956,164 gallons).
- The average weekly volume of crude oil transported by rail was 631,788 barrels (26,535,090 gallons).
- The total number of rail cars moving crude oil by rail was 12,057 cars.
- The average number of rail cars per week moving crude oil by rail was 927 cars.
- 87.69 percent of crude oil transported by rail was light crude.
1.32 percent of crude oil transported by rail was medium crude.
10.99 percent of crude rail transported by rail was heavy crude.
- 88.19 percent of crude oil transported by rail was sweet crude.
11.81 percent of crude oil transported by rail was sour crude.
- North Dakota was the region of origin for 87.69 percent of crude oil transported by rail.
Alberta was the region of origin for 1.32 percent of crude oil transported by rail.
British Columbia was the region of origin for 10.99 percent of crude oil transported by rail.

- Crude oil originating in North Dakota had reported vapor pressure ranging from 3.5 to 12.3 pounds per square inch.
Crude oil originating in Alberta had reported vapor pressure of 6.7 pounds per square inch.
Crude oil originating in British Columbia had reported vapor pressure ranging from 8.9 to 11.4 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 2024.



Note: Week 1 consists of only 6 days of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period. Week 14 consists of only 1 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 2024

The lowest weekly volume was 306,373 barrels (12,867,666 gallons) in Week 4. The highest weekly volume of crude transported by rail was 860,667 barrels (36,148,014 gallons) in Week 11.

Figure 2 displays crude transported by rail, by route, for the 1st Quarter of 2024.

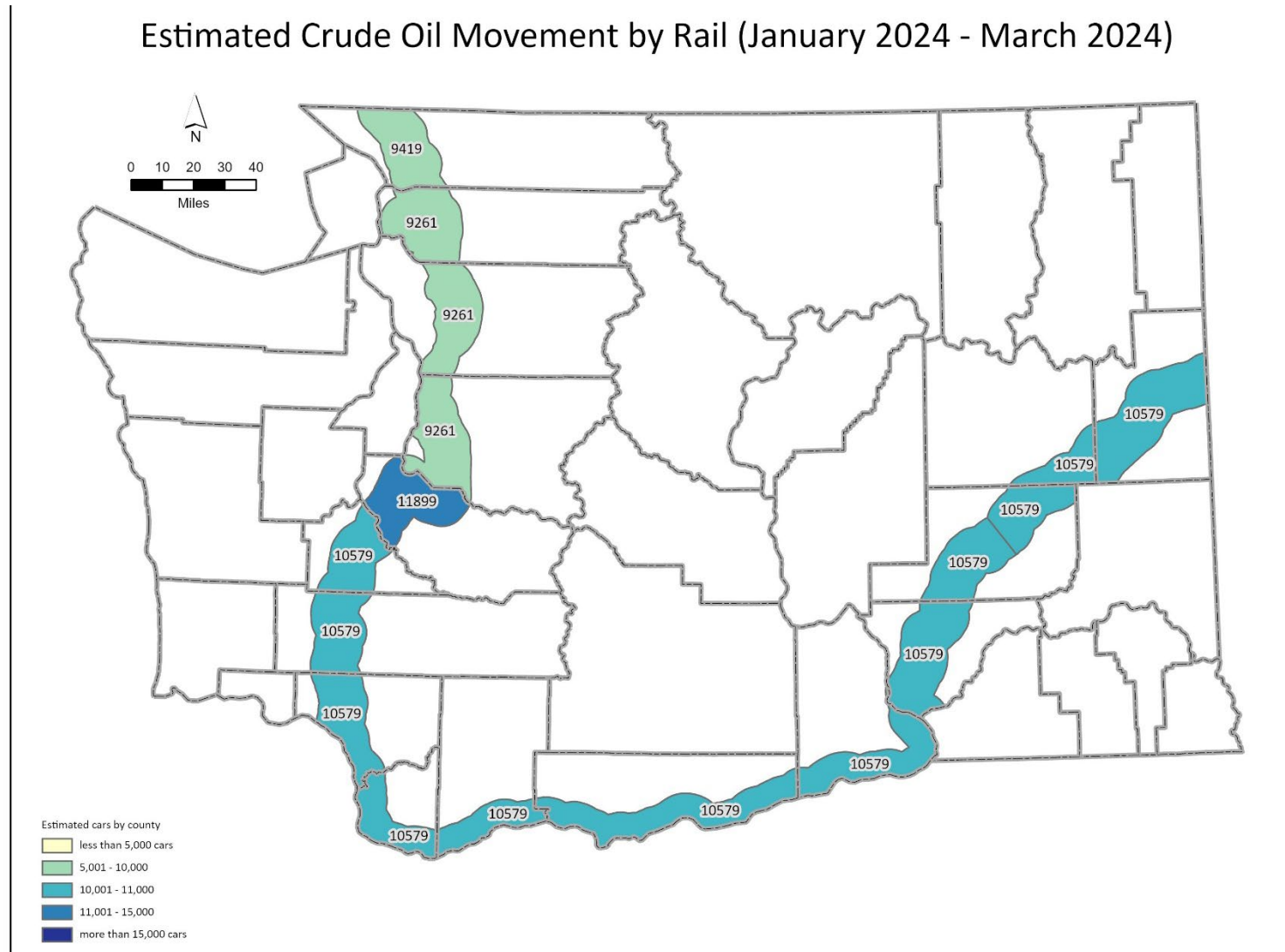


Figure 2: Crude oil movement by route for the 1st Quarter of 2024

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, 2023, through December 31, 2023. 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, 2023 – December 31, 2023	Alberta	37.2 (Light)	Sweet (≤0.5%)	27,138,560
July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	Alberta	36.5 (Light)	Sour (>0.5%)	10,988,672
July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	Alberta	21.4 (Heavy)	Sour (>0.5%)	4,161,542
July 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023	Alberta	22.9 (Medium)	Sour (>0.5%)	337,006

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, 2025, through June 30, 2025 and must be submitted to Ecology by July 31, 2025.

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, 2024, through March 31, 2024, 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, 2024, through March 31, 2024. 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 4 below provides the region of origin of crude oil delivered on inbound vessel transfers.

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

⁴ Chapter 173-185 WAC, Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline Notification

Table 3: Crude oil movement by vessel

Vessel transfers	Volume (bbls)	Volume (gallons)
Inbound	25,220,017	1,059,240,714
Outbound	802,000	33,684,000
Total	26,022,017	1,092,924,714

Table 4: Inbound – vessel crude oil by region

Region of crude origin	Volume (bbls)	Volume (gallons)
US – Alaska North Slope	19,364,000	813,288,000
Argentina	4,182,017	175,644,714
Brazil	649,000	27,258,000
US – Bakken Formation	560,000	23,520,000
Canada	300,000	12,600,000
Nigeria	165,000	6,930,000
Total	25,220,017	1,059,240,714

Note: The data provided in Tables 3 and 4 were 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 64 total vessel transfers of crude oil (inbound or outbound).
- The average volume of crude oil transferred to or from vessels per week was 2,001,694 barrels (84,071,132 gallons).

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, 2023, through March 31, 2024.⁵

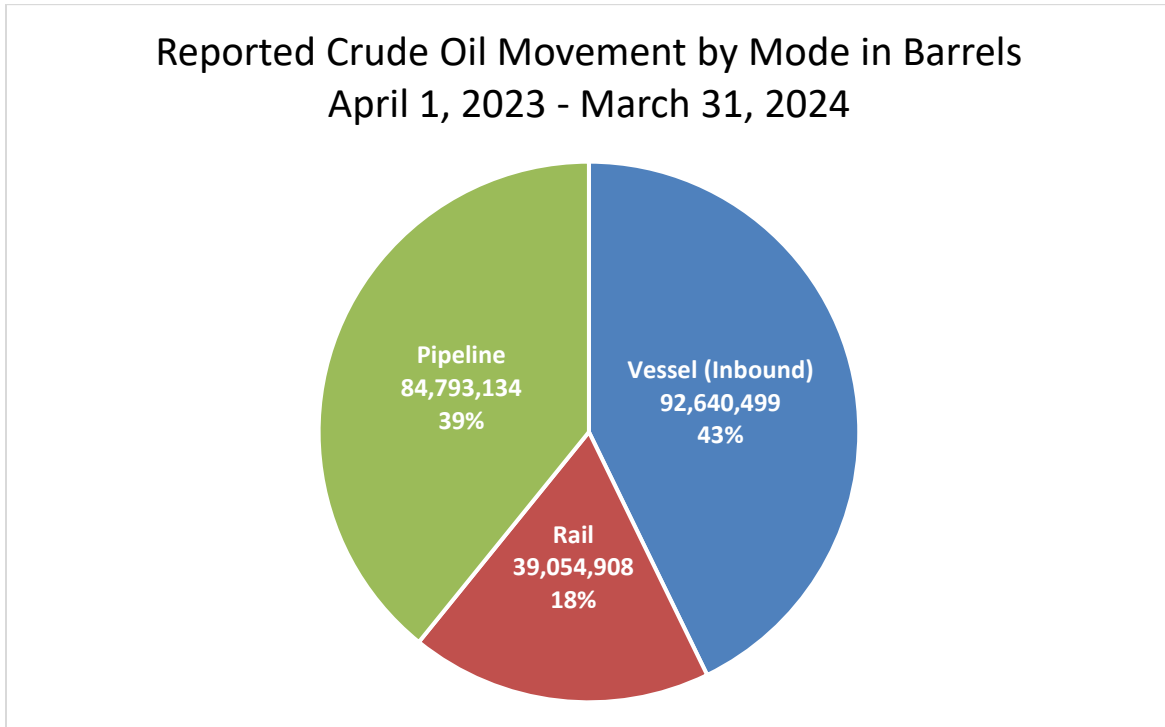
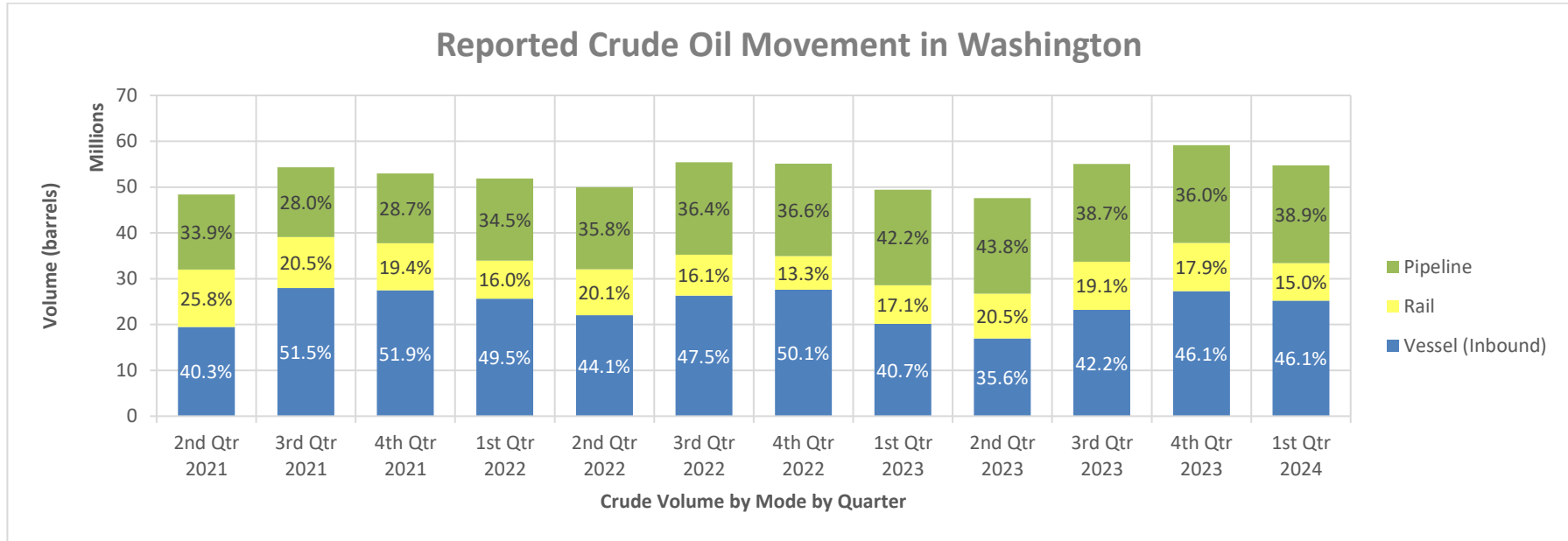


Figure 3: 12-month crude oil movement by mode

Between April 1, 2023 and March 31, 2024, vessels were responsible for 43 percent of reported crude oil movement into the state, rail was responsible for 18 percent, and pipeline for 39 percent.

⁵ The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023. The next biannual notices submitted by pipelines will cover the period from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025, and must be submitted to Ecology by July 31, 2025.

Figure 4 shows crude oil movement, by mode, covering the period of April 1, 2021, through March 31, 2024.



Mode	2 nd Qtr 2021	3 rd Qtr 2021	4 th Qtr 2021	1 st Qtr 2022	2 nd Qtr 2022	3 rd Qtr 2022	4 th Qtr 2022	1 st Qtr 2023	2 nd Qtr 2023	3 rd Qtr 2023	4 th Qtr 2023	1 st Qtr 2024
Vessel (Inbound)	40.3%	51.5%	51.9%	49.5%	44.1%	47.5%	50.1%	40.7%	35.6%	42.2%	46.1%	46.1%
Rail	25.8%	20.5%	19.4%	16.0%	20.1%	16.1%	13.3%	17.1%	20.5%	19.1%	17.9%	15.0%
Pipeline	33.9%	28.0%	28.7%	34.5%	35.8%	36.4%	36.6%	42.2%	43.8%	38.7%	36.0%	38.9%

**Note: The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. 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 2021 – March 2024

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

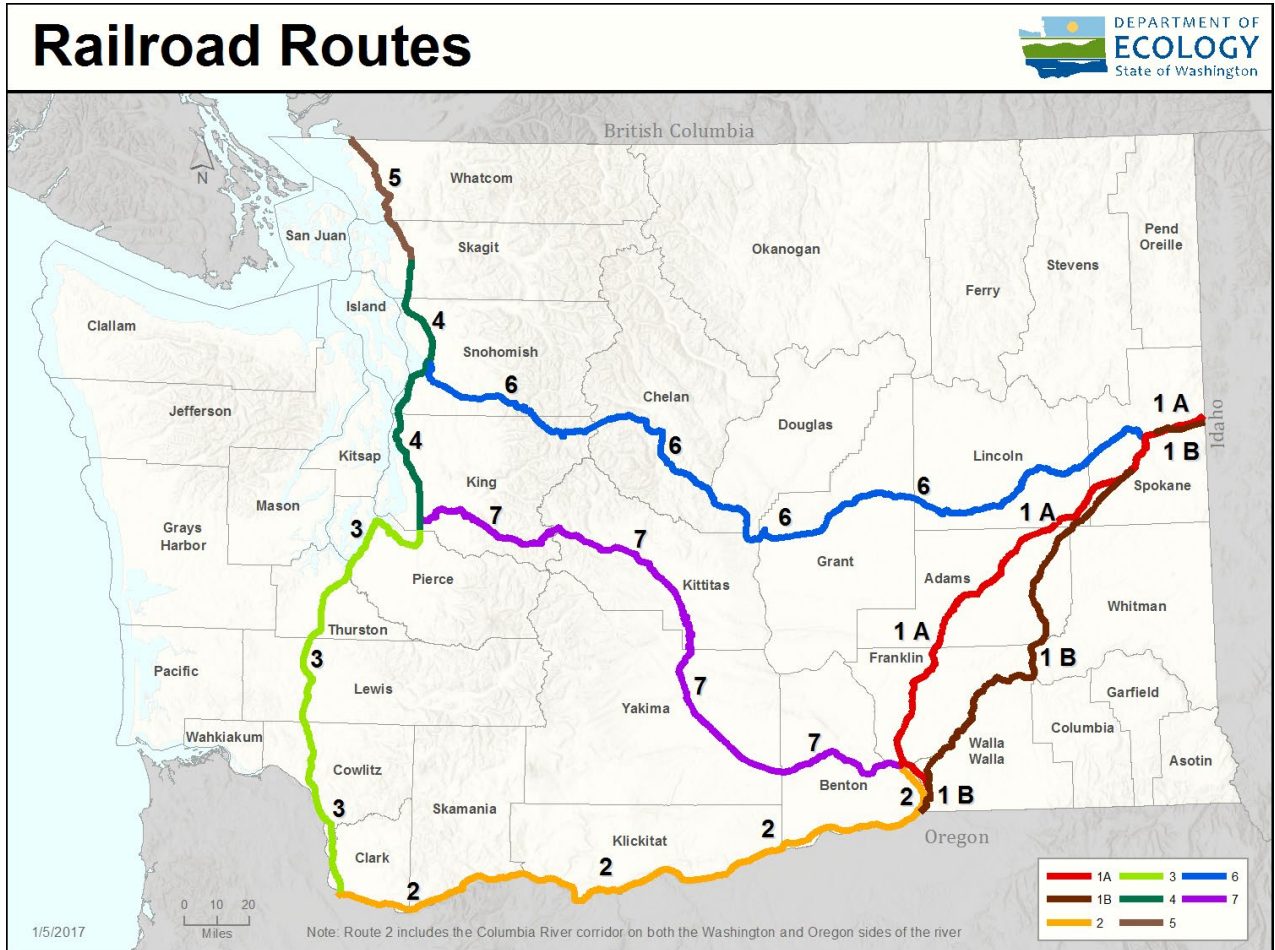


Figure 5: Railroad routes in Washington

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 5: 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