



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Crude Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline

*Quarterly Report: October 1, 2024, through
December 31, 2024*

January 2025
Publication 25-08-001

Publication and Contact Information

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/publications/SummaryPages/2508001.html>

For more information contact:

Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program
P.O. Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600
Phone: 360-407-7455

Washington State Department of Ecology – www.ecology.wa.gov

- Headquarters, Olympia 360-407-6000
- Northwest Regional Office, Bellevue 425-649-7000
- Southwest Regional Office, Olympia 360-407-6300
- Central Regional Office, Union Gap 509-575-2490
- Eastern Regional Office, Spokane 509-329-3400

To request ADA accommodation including materials in a format for the visually impaired, call Ecology at 360-407-6831 or visit <https://ecology.wa.gov/accessibility>. People with impaired hearing may call Washington Relay Service at 711. People with speech disability may call TTY at 877-833-6341.

Crude Oil Movement by Rail and Pipeline

Quarterly Report: October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024

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

This page is purposely left blank.

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Table of Contents.....	i
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.....	8
Crude Oil Movement by Vessel.....	9
An Overview of Crude Oil Movement in Washington.....	10
Contact Information	12
Appendix A – Washington Railroad Routes.....	13
Appendix B – API Gravity and Crude Oil Types.....	14

List of Figures and Tables

Page

Figures

Figure 1: Weekly total volumes of crude oil by rail for the 4 th Quarter of 2024.....	6
Figure 2: Crude oil movement by route for the 4 th Quarter of 2024.....	7
Figure 3: 12-month crude oil movement by mode.....	10
Figure 4: Quarterly crude oil movement by mode, January 2022 – December 2024.....	11
Figure 5: Railroad routes in Washington.....	13

Tables

Table 1: Crude oil movement by rail.....	3
Table 2: Crude oil movement by pipeline.....	8
Table 3: Crude oil movement by vessel.....	9
Table 4: Inbound – vessel crude oil by region.....	9
Table 5: Crude type by API gravity.....	14

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 October 1, 2024, through December 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 October 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, representing the 4th 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 4th Quarter of 2024 starting at calendar week 40 and ending at calendar week 53.

Table 1: Crude oil movement by rail**Calendar week 40**

Week 40 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	138,940	204
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	284,074	417
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	59,861	88
Weekly totals			482,875	709

Calendar week 41

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	128,436	188
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	336,367	494
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	119,444	175
Weekly totals			584,247	857

Calendar week 42

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	207,305	304
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	428,020	629
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	59,839	87
Weekly totals			695,164	1,020

Calendar week 43

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	65,530	96
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	549,851	808
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	119,802	176
Weekly totals			735,183	1,080

Calendar week 44

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	198,508	291
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	487,491	716
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	119,758	176
Weekly totals			805,757	1,183

Calendar week 45

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	256,978	377
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	481,814	708
Weekly totals			738,792	1,085

Calendar week 46

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	70,134	103
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	491,508	722
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	179,464	263
Weekly totals			741,106	1,088

Calendar week 47

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	197,821	290
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	552,515	812
Weekly totals			750,336	1,102

Calendar week 48

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	198,062	291
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	487,614	717
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	119,741	176
Weekly totals			805,417	1,184

Calendar week 49

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	254,361	374
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	683,959	1,005
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,150	88
Weekly totals			998,470	1,467

Calendar week 50

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	136,195	200
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	351,128	516
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	59,941	88
Weekly totals			547,264	804

Calendar week 51

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	254,785	374
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	487,703	717
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	59,999	88
Weekly totals			802,487	1,179

Calendar week 52

Route Segments	Region of Origin	Crude Type	Volume (bbls)	Est # Cars
1A, 2, 3	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	70,418	103
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	413,068	607
4, 5	British Columbia	Heavy Sour Crude	60,137	88
Weekly totals			543,623	798

Calendar week 53

Week 53 consists of only three 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	121,620	178
1A, 2, 3, 4, 5	North Dakota	Light Sweet Crude	278,895	410
Weekly totals			400,515	588

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.

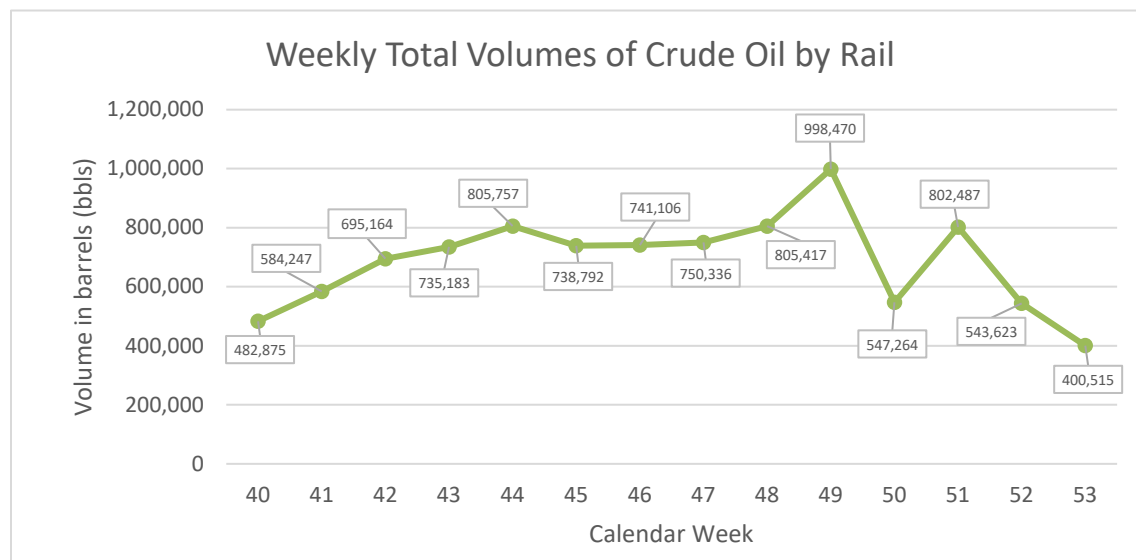
2024 Quarter 4 total volume (bbls): 9,631,236

A summary of the data shows:

- Two regions of origin were reported: North Dakota and British Columbia.
- Two types of crude oil were reported: heavy and light.
- 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 9,631,236 barrels (404,511,912 gallons).
- The average weekly volume of crude oil transported by rail was 732,811 barrels (30,778,080 gallons).
- The total number of rail cars moving crude oil by rail was 14,142 cars.
- The average number of rail cars per week moving crude oil by rail was 1,076 cars.
- 89.43 percent of crude oil transported by rail was light crude.
10.57 percent of crude oil transported by rail was heavy crude.
- 89.43 percent of crude oil transported by rail was sweet crude.
10.57 percent of crude oil transported by rail was sour crude.
- North Dakota was the region of origin for 89.43 percent of crude oil transported by rail.
British Columbia was the region of origin for 10.57 percent of crude oil transported by rail.

- Crude oil originating in North Dakota had reported vapor pressure ranging from 4.3 to 11.5 pounds per square inch.
Crude oil originating in British Columbia had reported vapor pressure ranging from 10.1 to 11.1 pounds per square inch.

Figure 1 shows the weekly total volumes of crude transported by rail for each calendar week in the 4th Quarter of 2024.



Note: Week 40 consists of only 5 days of reported ANT volumes due to the dates of the reporting period. Week 53 consists of only 3 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 4th Quarter of 2024

The lowest weekly volume was 543,623 barrels (22,832,166 gallons) in Week 53. The highest weekly volume of crude transported by rail was 998,470 barrels (41,935,740 gallons) in Week 49.

Figure 2 displays crude transported by rail, by route, for the 4th Quarter of 2024.

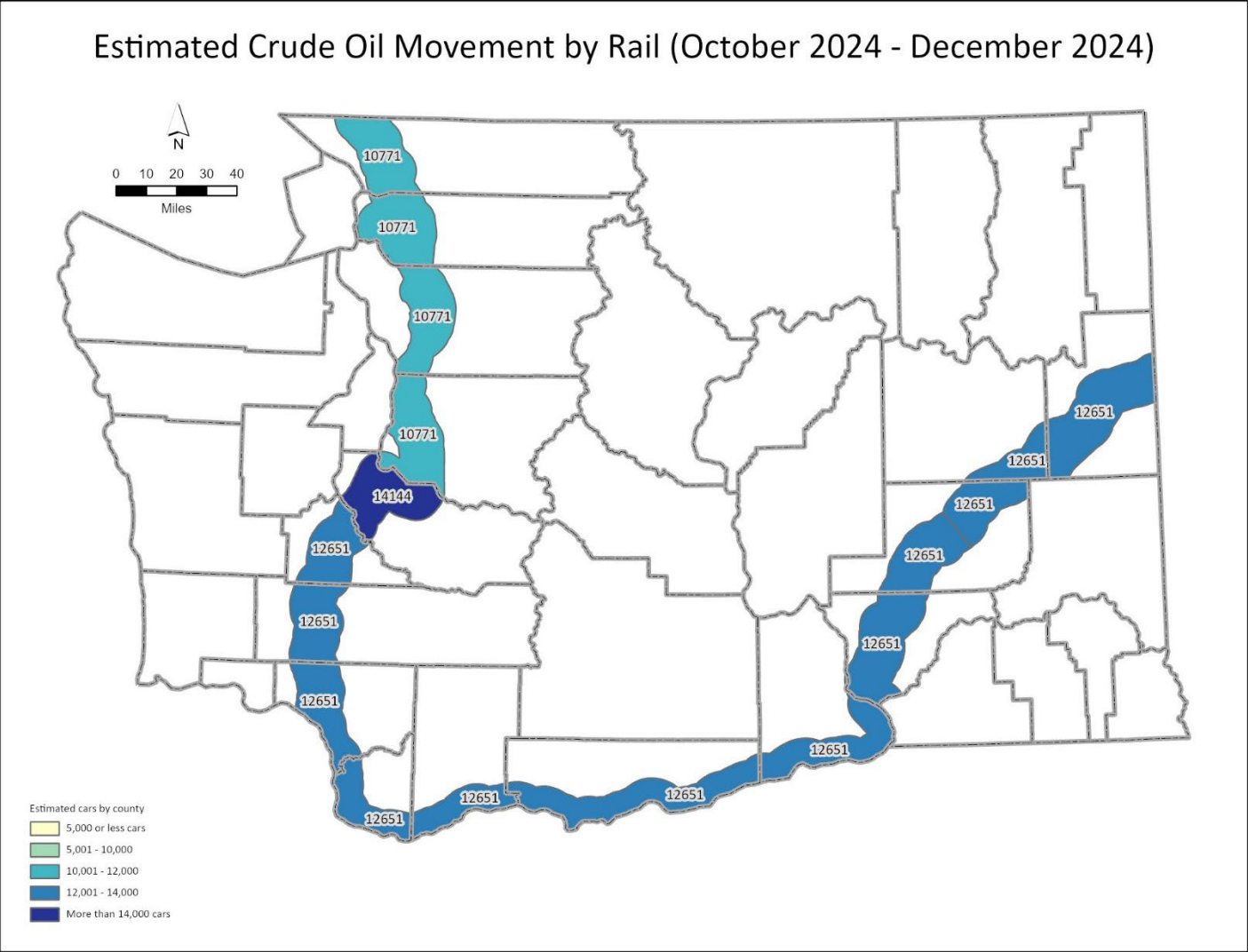


Figure 2: Crude oil movement by route for the 4th Quarter of 2024

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, 2024, through December 31, 2024. 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, 2024 – December 31, 2024	Alberta	41.9 (Light)	Sour (>0.5%)	9,185,467
July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	Alberta	24.9 (Medium)	Sour (>0.5%)	278,593
July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	Alberta	21.7 (Heavy)	Sour (>0.5%)	5,264,128
July 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024	Alberta	38.2 (Light)	Sweet (≤0.5%)	28,369,992

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.

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 October 1, 2024, through December 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.

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

³ 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.⁴

Table 3 below provides the total volume of crude oil in barrels of inbound and outbound vessel transfers for the period of October 1, 2024, through December 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.

Table 3: Crude oil movement by vessel

Vessel transfers	Volume (bbls)	Volume (gallons)
Inbound	21,966,570	922,595,938
Outbound	310,000	13,020,000
Total	22,276,570	935,615,938

Table 4: Inbound – vessel crude oil by region

Region of crude origin	Volume (bbls)	Volume (gallons)
US – Alaska North Slope	16,312,213	685,112,946
Canada	3,185,599	133,795,158
Argentina	1,459,758	61,309,836
US – Bakken Formation	1,319,000	55,398,000
Total	22,276,570	935,615,938

Note: The data provided in Tables 3 and 4 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 53 total vessel transfers of crude oil (inbound or outbound).
- The average volume of crude oil transferred to or from vessels per week was 1,694,956 barrels (71,188,169 gallons).
- 93.67 percent of crude oil inbound by vessel was light crude.
6.33 percent of crude oil inbound by vessel was medium crude.
- 77.30 percent of crude oil inbound by vessel was sour crude.
22.70 percent of crude oil inbound by vessel was sweet crude.

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 January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.⁵

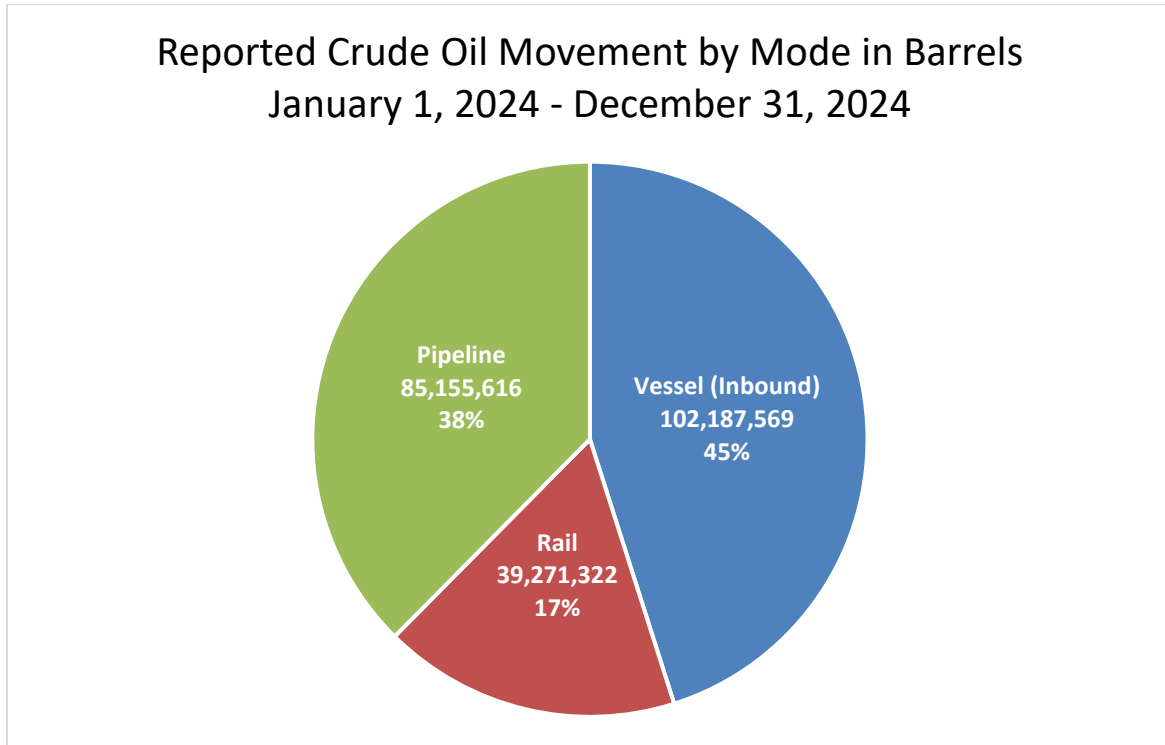
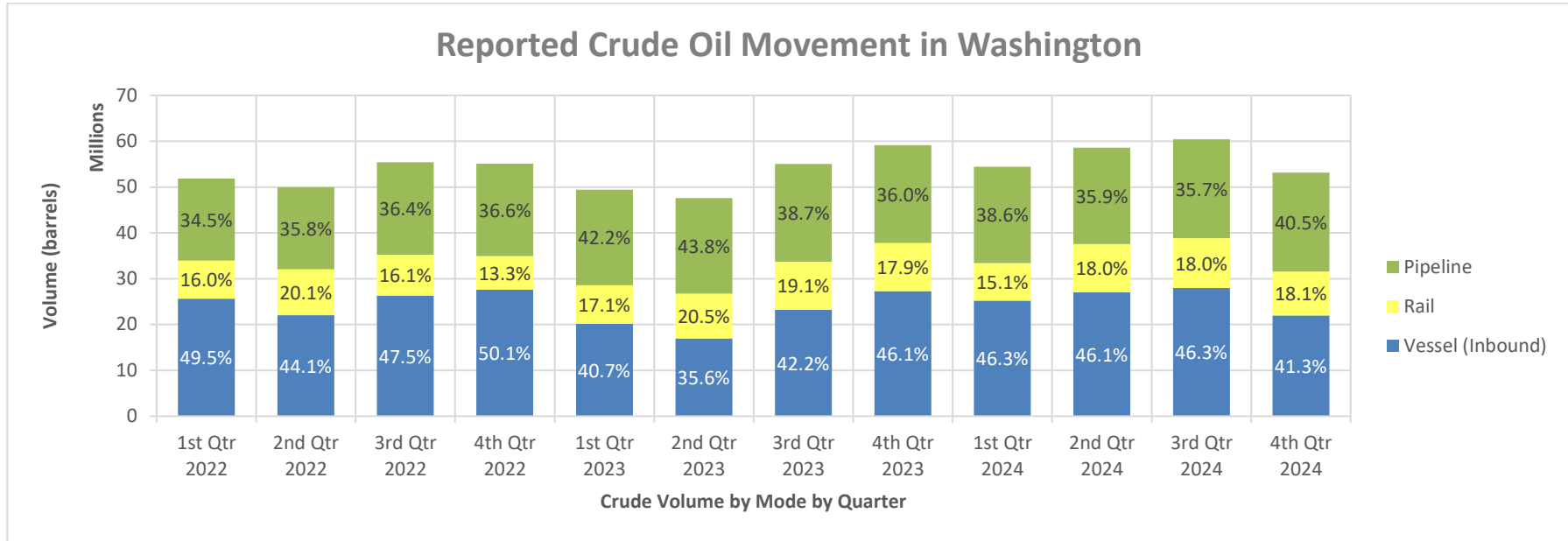


Figure 3: 12-month crude oil movement by mode

Between January 1, 2024 and December 31, 2024, vessels were responsible for 45 percent of reported crude oil movement into the state, rail was responsible for 7 percent, and pipeline for 38 percent.

⁵ The most recent biannual notices from pipelines were submitted to Ecology for the period from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024. 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 January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024.



Mode	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	2 nd Qtr 2024	3 rd Qtr 2024	4 th Qtr 2024
Vessel (Inbound)	49.5%	44.1%	47.5%	50.1%	40.7%	35.6%	42.2%	46.1%	46.3%	46.1%	46.3%	41.3%
Rail	16.0%	20.1%	16.1%	13.3%	17.1%	20.5%	19.1%	17.9%	15.1%	18.0%	18.0%	18.1%
Pipeline	34.5%	35.8%	36.4%	36.6%	42.2%	43.8%	38.7%	36.0%	38.6%	35.9%	35.7%	40.5%

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

Figure 4: Quarterly crude oil movement by mode, January 2022 – December 2024

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

Contact Information

Eli Seely

Department of Ecology

Spills Program

P.O. Box 47600

Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Phone: (360) 480-3095

Email: eli.seely@ecy.wa.gov

Appendix A – Washington Railroad Routes

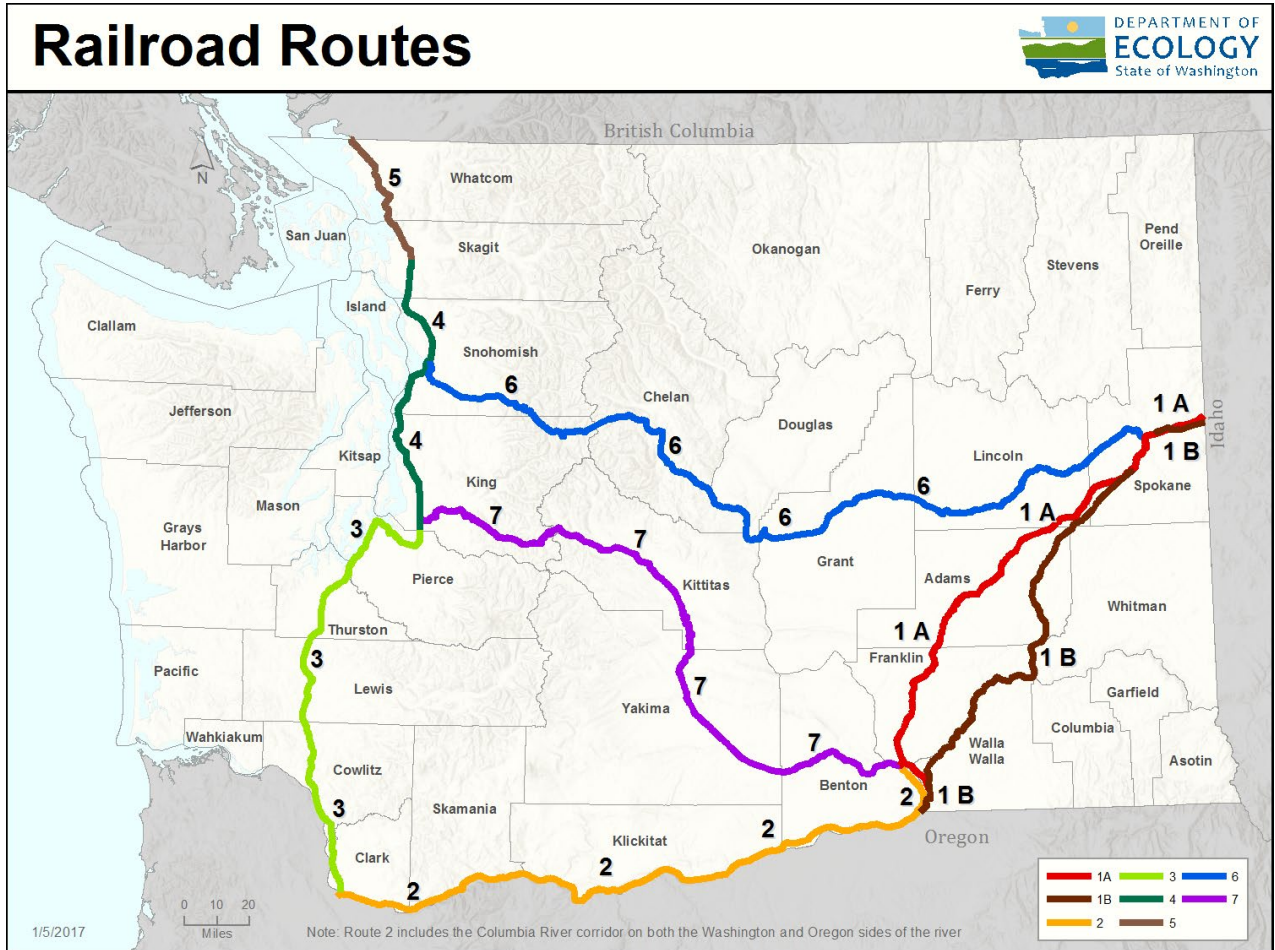


Figure 5: Railroad routes in Washington

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 percent sulfur. Sweet crudes have less than or equal to 0.5 percent 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