



Tesoro Anacortes Clean Products Upgrade Project (CPUP)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT: Frequently Asked Questions

March 2016

What is the proposed project?

Tesoro proposes additions and upgrades to its existing Anacortes facility in order to produce 15,000 barrels per day of mixed xylenes and to supply cleaner local transportation fuels. These xylenes would be loaded onto marine vessels from the Anacortes refinery wharf. Tesoro expects production and shipment of mixed xylenes to increase ship traffic by approximately five vessels per month.

What are mixed xylenes?

Mixed xylenes are made from hydrocarbons, distilled or extracted from reformate, a component used in blending gasoline. They are clear, water-insoluble liquids with a sweet odor, and are used to make clothing, plastics, and other synthetic products.

What impact would the project have on marine vessel traffic?

Tesoro anticipates an increase of approximately five marine vessels a month to manufacture and ship mixed xylenes from its facility.

How would this project affect the capabilities of the refinery?

The project would not increase the amount of crude oil processed at the refinery. Changes to the existing facility would support the production and shipment of mixed xylenes, reduce sulfur in the gasoline the refinery is currently producing, and control air emissions from marine vessels at the refinery.

What is the purpose of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)?

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requires an EIS if a project has the potential to have significant adverse environmental impacts. The EIS provides the public and decision makers with factual and objective analysis of possible impacts, and ways that those impacts can be avoided or minimized.

Who leads the EIS?

Skagit County is responsible for the EIS, and they have contracted Environmental Resources Management as a third party to facilitate the public participation process, scoping meeting, and to prepare the draft EIS for public review and comment. Skagit County will hold a public hearing on the draft EIS and initiate a public comment period. All comments received will be reviewed and addressed in the final EIS.

What factors will the EIS study?

The first step in developing the EIS is scoping. This activity identifies the environmental factors that will be studied and the extent of analysis, based on a project's potential significant adverse environmental impacts. These may include, but are not limited to, this list of topics from Washington's SEPA guidelines:

- Air
- Earth
- Energy and natural resources
- Environmental health
- Land and shoreline use
- Plants and animals
- Public services and utilities
- Transportation
- Water

Does an EIS approve or deny the project?

No, an EIS is a reference document that provides factual information and evaluation of a proposed project's likely impacts on the natural and constructed environment.

What role do public comments play in the EIS process? Will I get a response?

The public will have the opportunity to submit comments during the scoping phase and after the release of the draft EIS. Comments received during the public scoping period will be reviewed by Skagit County and considered in drafting the EIS. Skagit County will not respond to individual comments received during the scoping phase. A scoping report will be prepared and provided. Comments received during the draft EIS comment period will be reviewed by Skagit County. All substantive comments will be addressed in the final EIS.