

Fossil fuel connection:

Is proposed Inland Port intended to become a transloading facility for fossil fuels extracted from public lands in Utah?

For months members of the Coalition for Port Reform have been assured that we should not worry about the transfer and storage of fossil fuels at the inland port.

However, at their October meeting, several board members successfully lobbied for the inclusion of 3 entities with fossil fuel interests on the newly created “technical committee”. Port Board Chair Derek Miller introduced the technical committee concept to get help answering economic, transportation and environmental questions, and he suggested it include representatives from UDOT, the Gardner Institute, the Wasatch Front Regional Council and DEQ. But board members Frances Gibson and Stuart Clason argued successfully for the inclusion of a John Baza of the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining, someone from the Community Impact Fund Board and SITLA, all of which have a stake in the fossil fuel industry.

Why?

It appears there’s a plan to create a fossil fuel transloading facility as part of the port.

In a video from the October 2018 Uintah Basin Energy Summit ([link](#) starts at 38:00), oil and gas Industry lobbyist, Jeff Hartley describes how the proposed inland port will facilitate export of waxy crude from public lands in Utah, to ports in Mexico.

The goal is to eventually transport 400-500,000 barrels a day. Half a million barrels would require approximately 2,500 oil tanker truck trips per day. To get the crude oil from truck to train will require a transloading facility, and this transloading process will release VOC’s and other pollutants into our already unhealthy air and subject our communities and Great Salt Lake bird habitat to the risk of leaks and spills.

Air quality quote “The air pollution from a transloading facility combined with the additional pollution from thousands more diesel powered oil-tanker trucks, will further harm human health...”

“Great Salt Lake is migratory bird habitat for over 10 million birds, oil leaks and spills are devastating to bird populations,” said Heather (?)

Subsidizes fossil fuel extraction, damages our air

On Monday, November 26 the Utah Inland Port Board will further discuss the technical committee.

“In addition to answers to the questions about the role of fossil fuels in the port, we urge the port board to include scientists from local institutions of higher learning with expertise in air quality, environmental health, sustainable design and conservation biology,” said _____ (League of Women Voters?)

DRAFT