

Supervisor Sean Walter
Riverhead Town Hall
210 Howell Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901

Dear Supervisor Walter:

Attached to this letter are two lists. The first, entitled "Incidents and Accidents", is a listing of events reported on in media outlets (national television, local television, newspapers and the Internet) and by Sound Shore Road residents since we became aware of United Riverhead Terminal's (URT) application for a special permit to become a major gasoline distribution center on the East End of Long Island.

The second list, entitled "Incidents in NBCA History", represents actual situations occurring during the lifetime of the Northville Beach Civic Association (NBCA), founded in 1955.

You may look at these lists and feel that some of these events are not germane to the URT situation. But, in fact, they are all relevant. The common thread amongst all these situations, specific to the oil terminal or not, is that they all represent areas of concern to the residents of Sound Shore Road and the greater community of the North Fork. The list is long – oil on Northville Beach; tanker truck crashes/rollovers/spills; fire department response times and water pressure problems fighting fires; Riverhead Town's hazmat preparation; above ground storage tank leaks; pipeline leaks; oil smell and odors; oil clouds and puff backs; fires; potential explosions; leaks of flammable fuels when filling trucks; potential light and noise pollution with an expanded facility; oil spills due to valves breaking (see 1990); and so on.

There have been a total of twenty-one (21) incidents and accidents in the last seven and a half months, or almost 3 per month. There have been twenty four (24) incidents recorded in the 60 years of NBCA history, or about one every 2 ½ years on average. THIS OIL AND GASOLINE BUSINESS IS A DIRTY, DANGEROUS BUSINESS. Leaks endanger our aquifer and our precious Long Island Sound. Fires endanger our houses and properties. Tanker truck rollovers and fires on Sound Avenue (the route that URT's tank trucks are already taking) would present traffic nightmares and damage the North Fork's thriving agritainment business. Note that the danger of tanker truck rollovers is increased by the speed at which traffic already flows on Sound Avenue and by today's careless drivers (texting, phoning, passing on double yellow lines, etc.).

URT will tell us they have all the safety procedures in place so none of these things will happen. But they do happen, and they will happen again. People make mistakes and systems fail. We are human, after all.

There is a lot at stake here. The Riverhead Town Board saw fit to argue against the establishment of the oil terminal in 1955. They lost that battle to a decision made in Albany because there were no zoning regulations in Riverhead at the time.

This time around, there are zoning regulations in place, and the people of the Town of Riverhead have made their feelings known. The entire Northville Beach area is zoned residential in the Town's Master Plan, including the URT property. Your Town Board has the opportunity to draw a line in the sand with

its decision. Do not approve the URT expansion. No more commercialism in our residential neighborhood. It is the right thing to do. Thank you.

Sincerely,

David Gale

Noel J. Gale

Property owners and taxpayers:

____ Sound Shore Road
Riverhead, NY

cc. John Dunleavy
George Gabrielson
Jodi Giglio
James Wooten

Incidents and Accidents

7-28-14 Hubbardston, MA

A tanker/car crash occurred at the intersection of Routes 62 and 68. Roads were closed for more than 6 hours. The tanker rolled over, spilling propane. There was the sight and smell of a cloud of gas – it was “misting propane”. 8-10 families in a ½ mile radius were evacuated for much of the day.

10-20-14 Linden, NJ

A chemical leak at a refinery – about 1,400 pounds of Ethylaluminium dichloride in a hydrocarbon oil used in refining. This is a highly flammable and reactive chemical which can irritate the nose, eyes and skin. It can also cause rash and burns. The chemical was released in a cloud which dissipated after an hour. Employees were sheltered in place and neighbors told to close windows and doors.

10-25-14 New Haven, CT

A massive fire burned for hours inside a transformer at Cross Sound Cable Company. It was fueled by 16,000 gallons of mineral oil in the transformer. Created a massive fireball 50 feet high with a thick black cloud. Firefighters had difficulty fighting the flames due to electricity in the property – they could not douse the fire with water. They let it burn itself out. Portions of I-95, I-91 and route 34 had to be closed for several hours due to smoke.

11-13-14 Maidstone Landing, Jamesport, NY

A raging fire in 2 units at Maidstone Landing. Jamesport Fire Chief said, “It’s a nightmare up here” referring to the construction of the units and the fact that the water pressure at the hydrants is inadequate to battle a blaze. Tanker trucks from surrounding departments were called in.

11-17-14 Auburn, MA

A passenger car collided with a tractor-trailer carrying 7,500 gallons of diesel fuel on the Massachusetts Turnpike. The right lane was closed for hours during the evening commute. At least 3,750 gallons of fuel spilled. The State Department of Environmental Protection and the Auburn Water District were called to the scene.

12-2-14 Ashland, MA

The Ashland Middle School was evacuated for almost 2 hours after a gasoline spill at a nearby gas station. A tanker truck with about 11,000 gallons of fuel was delivering to a gas station when an underground hookup to the truck malfunctioned. Less than 100 gallons of gas spilled. The building was shut down and Rte. 135 was blocked. The MA DEP and a hazmat team were called to the scene.

12-6-14 Union Township, NJ

A fuel truck burst into a fireball on NJ Interstate 78 following a crash that left one person dead. The 1 p.m. crash involving another tractor-trailer and a passenger vehicle blocked the highway in both directions for several hours, with the westbound side closed until late that night. An explosion resulted in a large column of black smoke and flames. After the fire was extinguished, hazmat crews worked to clean up at least 9,000 gallons of fuel which spilled on the roadway.

12-19-14 Charleston, WV

A year after a West Virginia river spill, executives at Freedom Industries are facing criminal charges in the spill. A 400 square foot, 4 inch deep pool of chemicals oozed out of an old aboveground tank, through a dilapidated, cracked containment wall and into the Elk River, contaminating the drinking water for 300,000 people. More than 400 people were treated at area hospitals for symptoms such as vomiting, rashes and dizziness.

1-6-15 Western North Dakota (near Williston)

3 million gallons of brine (salty, toxic by-product of oil and natural gas production) leaked from a pipeline and contaminated two creeks. It will be tough to assess the damage till the ice melts. Brine is much saltier than sea water and can contain petroleum and residue from fracking. The new spill is three times larger than one in July 2014. Another 1 million gallon spill in 2006 is still being cleaned up.

1-14-15 Riverhead, NY

A strong oil smell was coming from United Riverhead Terminal. Sound Shore Road resident Neil Krupnick contacted the DEC. They said the smell was from a delivery of oil offloading at the offshore platform and that URT was taking steps to reduce/eliminate the odors. The smell was worse the next day and spreading east on Sound Shore Road.

1-19-15 Glendive, Montana

A major oil spill occurred along the Yellowstone River. At least some oil got into a water supply intake serving about 6,000 people. Up to 50,000 gallons of oil spilled in the pipeline accident. Officials were bringing in truckloads of drinking water. Residents began complaining that their tap water had an unusual odor. Crews trying to recover spilled oil were hampered by ice covering the river. An oil sheen was seen near Sidney almost 60 miles downstream from Glendive.

2-14-15 Ontario, Canada

A 100-car Canadian National Railway train, hauling diluted bitumen crude oil and petroleum distillates, had 29 cars derail in a remote area 50 miles south of Timmons, Ontario, spilling oil and catching fire.

2-16-15 Mount Carbon, WV

A train with more than 100 tankers carrying 3 million gallons of North Dakota crude oil derailed, with at least one tanker going into the Kanawha River leaking oil. At least 14 tankers burst into flame, shooting

fireballs 300 feet into the air and burning down a nearby house. Several hundred families were evacuated and nearby water treatment plants were shut down.

2-18-15 20 miles south of Los Angeles, CA

An explosion shattered a section of an ExxonMobil refinery – the structure was several stories tall. The material involved in the explosion was gasoline. The refinery processes 155,000 barrels of crude oil per day. 4 contractors were hospitalized. Nearby roads were closed and students at 13 nearby schools were kept indoors.

2-23-15 Pennsauken, NJ

A tanker truck carrying 8,000 gallons of fuel overturned and burst into flames near the Betsy Ross Bridge. Witnesses heard 5 or 6 explosions. There was thick, black smoke which could be seen for miles. Nearby residents were breathing in toxic fumes. Camden County said the major gas spill contaminated the ground, and the intense fire damaged the roadway.

3-5-15 Galena, Illinois

A train hauling crude oil derailed near waterways and preserves. Of 102 cars, 21 derailed, resulting in explosions and fire. Firefighters were forced to pull back – flames were too intense. The plan was to let it burn out - \$10,000 in firefighting equipment were lost. Homes within 1 mile were evacuated. The spilled contents of the cars plus the “clean-up” materials create a liquid runoff that easily makes its way into adjacent rivers and “threatens aquifers that we depend on for drinking water”. The nearby Galena River flows into the Mississippi River.

3-7-15 Riverhead, NY

Steve Weir reported a second oil smell at URT in less than two months. A large ship was offloading when there was a terrible, strong smell of oil on Sound Shore Road (SSR). Steve called DEC – spoke to two people - neither were knowledgeable of the URT site. DEC police visited his house on SSR and confirmed the odor along SSR east to Weir house from URT. URT will attempt to hide the oil odor with a citrus smell solution.

3-8-15 Gogama, Ontario, Canada

Train derailment caused numerous tank cars carrying crude oil to catch fire and spill into a local river system. Some 30 cars of 94 derailed. Some caught fire and some crude oil entered the Mattagami River System. This is the third such derailment on northern Ontario in less than a month. There are concerns over the effects of smoke inhalation by nearby residents, as well as environmental damage.

3-10-15 Rte. I-95 north of Baltimore, MD

A 7,500 gallon tanker truck overturned in a four vehicle crash on I-95 north of Baltimore. The truck lay across all five southbound lanes, blocking southbound traffic for about eight hours. Northbound lanes were also closed for about three of those hours. The truck leaked about 1,100 gallons of biodiesel fuel which were cleaned up. Traffic was backed up as much as five to eight miles in both directions.

3-10-15 Long Island Expressway (LIE), Melville, NY

There was a gasoline tanker truck fire on the LIE at 8:30 p.m. The fire was in the undercarriage of the truck. The 12,000 gallon tanker portion carrying gasoline was not involved, although it was impinged by the flames. There was a minor leak from the tanker. The fire resulted in complete closure of the LIE between Bagatelle Road and Route 110.

3-11-15 Dearborn, MI

Interstate Rte. 94 was closed in both directions near the border between Detroit and Dearborn, MI, following a tanker truck collision with 2 cars. The truck, which was hauling thousands of gallons of petroleum, burned for nearly 2 hours after the crash. Fuel also spilled into sewers, creating fires. Westbound lanes reopened the same day, but the crash, heat from the fire and leaked fuel prompted more work on the eastbound lanes. Michigan's Dept. of Transportation said part of the roadway needs replacement and work could run into Sunday. No serious injuries were reported.

Incidents in NBCA History

Source: NBCA History 1955-2001; Trustee and Annual Meeting Notes 2001-2014

- May, 1955 – beaches fouled with oil when tanker went aground on a shoal off Port Jefferson.
- Jan., 1958 – Fire of undetermined origin destroyed wooden pier at oil terminal. Caused beach contamination in form of charred debris and heavy oil which escaped from ruptured lines.
- Sept., 1958 – tanker unloading offshore separated from underwater pipeline and caused beach contamination (3rd such accident at oil terminal this year).
- 1972 – four oil spills soiled the beaches this year. The one in March affected Northville beaches the most. Northville Dock cleaned it up although apparently they were not responsible for it.
- July, 1973 – oil again contaminated the beaches. LILCO spill at Northport was the cause.
- 1974 – several oil spills reported this year. The one affecting Northville beaches the most occurred July 14th at Port Jefferson. Coast Guard cleaned up.
- Feb. 27, 1978 – Norwegian tanker spilled about 5,000 gallons of heavy oil while unloading at platform. Currents carried oil to Mattituck beaches which required extensive cleanup.
- 1986 – meeting held with Supervisor Joe Janoski about several concerns including Northville being used to store gasoline – strong odors have been noticed.
- 1990 – beach between Reeve’s Park and Northville had damage due to the oil spill March 31, 1990 at Montauk. Also, there was a 30,000 gallon oil spill at Northville due to a valve breaking that led to one of the storage tanks.
- Fall, 1998 – Sound Shore Road (SSR) west neighbors reported strong odors of oil coming from Tosco.
- July 10, 1999 – Tosco’s “PUFF BACK” incident of May 7th caused great concern to the west end neighbors of SSR. These residents found non-removable oily soot on their property, in grass, on clothing, on pets and on their cars. DEC was called. NBCA has requested the 5-7-99 incident report via the Freedom of Information Act. No report has been sent to date.
- Also, a large slab of tar/semi-soft oil washed up on the beach at Dave Gale’s in July. It weighed about 40 pounds. Trustees reported this to Tosco who sent a person to remove it. By law, Tosco must report any incident to DEC because they are considered “oil spills”. Lois Markowitz (Tr.) is looking into this.
- 2000 – strong crude oil odors from Tosco still bothering our west neighbors. Meetings with Tosco have been inconclusive re this matter.
- Oct. 14, 2006 – a #6 fuel oil spill, estimated to be 800 gallons, occurred on a barge berthed on the south side of CP’s offshore platform. The oil reached the shoreline extending 2 miles east of Pier Avenue in Riverhead. The Coast Guard, NYSDEC and Penn Maritime (barge owner) continue to supervise the cleanup.
- June, 2009 – Laurie O. said newly installed bright lights on CP pier are causing problems for nearby residents. She was asked to contact CP re this problem.
- January, 2015 – Strong oil smell detected due to tanker offloading at an alarmingly fast rate. DEC was contacted. URT asked the tanker to slow down. After the DEC left at noon, the tanker resumed its previous offload speed. By the end of the day, the smell had taken over the neighborhood. DEC visited again but no one was ever able to tell anyone why this was allowed to go on for three days.