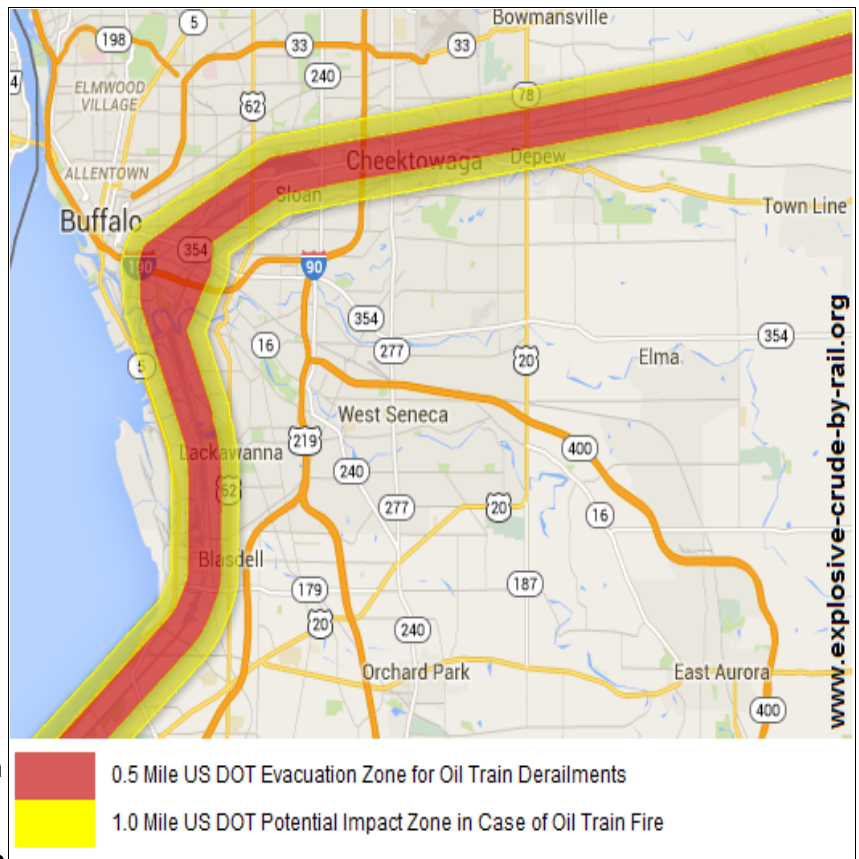


BAN THE BOMB TRAINS TRAVELING THROUGH BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY

Every week trains loaded with volatile crude oil “fracked” in North Dakota’s Bakken shale travel through Buffalo and Erie County. With very little public awareness and no study of environmental impacts, the gas & oil industry has made our region a dangerous hub for highly flammable oil using these “bomb trains.” Rail lines snake from the oil fields of North Dakota through Buffalo and to refineries on both coasts. The rail system was never built for this kind of dangerous cargo, yet these trains travel through population centers and next to schools, homes, and businesses. Rail safety standards for crude oil are weak and emergency responders are not equipped or trained for accidents.

Bakken crude oil carried by rail is more toxic and more volatile than conventional crude oil, and each car carries the explosive equivalent of 2 million sticks of dynamite. Crude oil is also more carbon intensive which further exacerbates climate disruption and extreme weather. According to the Wall Street Journal, Erie County sees about 27.5 trains weekly carrying Bakken crude oil. Oil trains are more than a mile-long with 100+ cars, which only concentrates the risk of an accident. **This means that at least 2,750 cars full of crude oil travel through Buffalo and Erie County in a week, presenting an immediate danger to our public health and natural resources.**

Unfortunately, this issue does not seem to be going away, as oil train traffic has increased more than 4,000% in the last five years. This increase is largely due to the gas & oil industry’s efforts to evade regulations and costs associated with building new pipelines to ship crude oil. What’s worse is that the dangerous DOT-111 cars, which make up the majority of U.S. oil tanker trains, are defective and prone to puncture during derailments. It seems each month another city or town is facing a terrifying oil train derailment, poisoned drinking water, or a deadly explosion. One of the most tragic incidences was the explosion of crude oil cars in Lac-Mégantic, Quebec in 2013, which incinerated 47 people and destroyed the downtown area. The legally responsible parties declared bankruptcy and left the taxpayers to foot the bill. **The same thing could happen here, to us, to our families and to our neighborhoods!**



Note: While this map shows the main train route that Bakken crude oil travels through Erie County, it is likely that smaller trains carrying the same oil take other routes, which are largely unknown. This is certainly true of North Buffalo, which is not listed on the map, but Bakken crude oil trains have been spotted there as part of a mixed cargo. The route of smaller trains may not be represented on the map as rail companies do not have to inform New York State that crude oil trains are passing through unless they exceed one million gallons of oil, or over 35 rail cars, at one time.

OUR RISK.



THEIR REWARD.

There are many solutions to stopping these “bomb trains,” including: putting an end to unsafe tanker cars, equipping and preparing emergency responders, re-routing trains around population centers and away from water supplies, and new, stronger rail safety rules that give citizens the information they need to protect themselves and give them the power to say “no” to dangerous crude oil trains in their community.

Now is the time for YOU to get involved!

Crude oil train resources:

www.explosive-crude-by-rail.org
www.projects.propublica.org/graphics/oil-trains
www.wsj.com/articles/oil-trains-hide-in-plain-sight-1417663983

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